

1 Wednesday, 23 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return this morning to oral
4 evidence, as promised when we rose yesterday afternoon,
5 and I'll turn to Mr MacAulay to introduce the first
6 witness.

7 Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The first witness
9 is an applicant. He wants to remain anonymous and he
10 wants to use the name "John" in giving evidence.

11 "JOHN" (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
13 I think it looks as if you're in about the right
14 position in relation to the microphone, John, but
15 I would ask you to make sure you stay in that position
16 so that the microphone picks you up. It's very
17 important.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay will explain what he needs you to
20 do with the red file in a minute.

21 Mr MacAulay.

22 Questions from MR MacAULAY

23 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, John.

24 A. Good morning.

25 Q. The first thing I want to confirm with you is not the

1 date of your birth but the year of your birth. Can
2 I confirm that you were born in the year 1959?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. In the red folder you'll find your statement, the
5 statement you've already provided to the inquiry. I'm
6 going to give the reference of that to the stenographers
7 and that is WIT.001.001.3831. Could I ask you to turn
8 to the last page? Can you confirm that you have signed
9 the statement?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If we look at the last paragraph, do you tell us:
12 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
13 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?
14 Is that right?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. And do you also go on to say:
17 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
18 statement are true"?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 I'll be asking you questions, John, based upon your
22 witness statement, but if I ask you something that you
23 don't remember, then just say so. Likewise if something
24 comes to mind that you hadn't mentioned and you now want
25 to mention again, feel free to do that. Do you

1 understand?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I just touch briefly on your life before care. What
4 you tell us in your statement is that you were taken
5 into care because it was thought that you were neglected
6 children, but that was not your own perception; is that
7 right?

8 A. No. My mum had a drink problem and my father worked the
9 railway. We stayed with my granny up in [REDACTED]. She
10 died and my mother went to hospital and my father took
11 us in to watch us. The Christian Action gave my mother
12 a house in Pollokshields and we went to live with her in
13 Pollokshields.

14 Q. And when you say "we", is that yourself and your three
15 sisters?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Because I think we understand from what you've told us
18 that you had two older sisters and one younger sister.

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. But there came a point when you were admitted to
21 Nazareth House Aberdeen; is that right?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. We've recovered the Sisters of Nazareth records, the
24 admission records, and so far as these records go to
25 show -- and we'll see if that's your own recollection or

1 not -- you were admitted to Aberdeen on [REDACTED] 1968
2 when you'd be aged over 9.

3 A. I was 8.

4 Q. You were 8? Okay. Well, that would --

5 A. I'd just maybe turned 9.

6 Q. You left Aberdeen, according to these records, on
7 [REDACTED] 1969. So you'd been there for over two
8 months. Is that roughly your own recollection?

9 A. I think it was [REDACTED] we left from the Nazareth House
10 records.

11 Q. So that's roughly in accordance with your own
12 recollection.

13 When you left Aberdeen, I think you went from
14 Aberdeen to Lasswade; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I'll come to look at Lasswade in a moment, but just to
17 be clear, you were admitted to Lasswade then in
18 [REDACTED] 1969 and you left Lasswade, according to the
19 records, on [REDACTED] 1970 when you'd be aged over 10.

20 Would that be --

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. -- about right?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. When you went to Nazareth House Aberdeen, did you go
25 there with your sisters?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. So there were four of you altogether?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. As you've told us, you'd be 9 or thereabouts. What's
5 your first recollection of being in Aberdeen?
- 6 A. Two sets of stairs, walking up two sets of stairs.
- 7 Q. When you got there on that first time, did you have to
8 go up one of the sets of stairs?
- 9 A. Aye, yes.
- 10 Q. What about your sisters?
- 11 A. They went up the other set.
- 12 Q. So was there a separation at that point?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Can I just understand some aspects of the set-up. Were
15 you allocated to a particular group when you got there?
- 16 A. I can't remember.
- 17 Q. But can you remember anything about the sleeping
18 arrangements then?
- 19 A. I think the boys slept in one bit and the girls slept
20 somewhere else. To be honest, I can't remember.
- 21 Q. Was it a dormitory set-up or what?
- 22 A. I think so, aye. A dormitory set-up.
- 23 Q. Can you remember the number of beds in the dormitory?
- 24 A. No, I can't remember.
- 25 Q. So far as your dormitory was concerned, I take it from

1 Q. And who was it that is slapped you?

2 A. I can't remember. It was Sister [REDACTED] LTX or that

3 [REDACTED] LFB

4 Q. Just to be clear, as we're going through your evidence,

5 when you were in Aberdeen, was it Sister [REDACTED] LTX --

6 and we know there's a Sister [REDACTED] LTX as well --

7 A. That's her I'm talking about, [REDACTED] LTX

8 Q. I think she was Sister [REDACTED] LTX rather than

9 Sister [REDACTED] LTX. Be that as it may, it was that sister

10 and Sister [REDACTED] LFB you say, that really dealt with you;

11 is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you come across another sister, because you mention

14 her in your statement, called [REDACTED] FAF

15 A. I think she dealt with [REDACTED] side of it, but

16 I remember a [REDACTED] FAF ...

17 Q. So [REDACTED], she was in the girls' side?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I ask you this: when you were in the building, did

20 you have much contact with your sisters?

21 A. I can't remember.

22 Q. You were only there, of course, as we've seen, for

23 a fairly short period of time, just over two months.

24 But can I ask you about one or two aspects of what

25 happened. Let's look at mealtimes. Was there

1 a particular thing that happened to you in connection
2 with food?

3 A. You got that tapioca, it was called, it was frogspawn.

4 Q. I just wonder whether the people at the back can hear
5 you, because it's --

6 LADY SMITH: Yes. Can I ask you maybe just to pull your
7 chair a bit further forward? Can you hear the volume
8 you get from me speaking into the microphone?

9 A. Yes, I can hear that.

10 LADY SMITH: That microphone will do the same for your
11 voice, even if you're speaking in an ordinary tone, and
12 it's really helpful so that everybody can hear, both
13 at the back and the stenographers.

14 Don't be afraid of it, but if you get too close
15 it'll go all fuzzy, but it should help you. Thanks.

16 MR MacAULAY: Sorry, I think I was asking you about
17 mealtimes and what happened at mealtimes, John. Can you
18 help me with that?

19 A. As I said in my statement, we used to call it frogspawn.
20 You were made to eat it, and if you were sick they made
21 you eat that and all.

22 Q. I think we know that's probably tapioca you're talking
23 about.

24 A. Tapioca, aye.

25 Q. Who would make you eat it?

- 1 A. It was either that Sister [REDACTED] LTX or that
2 Sister [REDACTED] LFB
- 3 Q. And how would you be made to eat it?
- 4 A. We ate it with a spoon and if you were sick on the plate
5 you had to eat that and all.
- 6 Q. So if you were being made to eat it, would you be told
7 things as to -- would they be trying to persuade you to
8 eat it?
- 9 A. If you didn't eat it, you starved, and that was it.
- 10 Q. So what happened to you then? Did you eat it?
- 11 A. I had to eat it, aye, to save you getting another slap.
- 12 Q. Did you get slapped?
- 13 A. Oh aye.
- 14 Q. By whom?
- 15 A. Whoever was there: [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] FAF, whoever.
16 Those are the only two names I can really remember.
- 17 Q. What about other children? Did you see what was
18 happening with them at mealtimes?
- 19 A. I can't recall, but if they probably done the same as
20 me, they'd get the same as I got.
- 21 Q. The other thing you talk about in connection with
22 Aberdeen is bed-wetting; did you wet the bed?
- 23 A. Aye, I wet the bed, aye.
- 24 Q. And others, did other children wet the bed?
- 25 A. Aye.

1 Q. And how were bed-wetters treated?

2 A. Like a concentration camp. You were slapped about.

3 Sometimes if you did wet the bed, you'd hide it to maybe

4 a day or two later and say, "I've wet the bed", so

5 that'd save you two days of slapping, so you'd probably

6 go to school smelling of pee but that didn't matter.

7 Q. Did anything happen -- if you found you had wet the bed,

8 what about the sheets, what happened to the sheets?

9 A. They were put round you, whoever was there, that

10 [REDACTED] LTX or [REDACTED] FAF whatever nun was there.

11 Q. What about getting washed? Did you have to wash

12 yourself?

13 A. Aye, you washed yourselves. I can't remember showers --

14 I remember getting a bath. That Sister [REDACTED] LFB used to

15 bath you and she'd duck your head under the water.

16 Q. Was this -- sorry, carry on.

17 A. I remember there was a big standing bath, it wasn't like

18 a bath, it was a standing bath in the middle of the

19 floor type thing, I remember that.

20 LADY SMITH: Would that be if you had wet the bed, you'd be

21 taken and put in this bath?

22 A. I remember being put in a bath. But wetting the bed,

23 I can't even remember getting a bath or shower.

24 LADY SMITH: So you're thinking generally about some memory

25 of bath times?

- 1 A. Bath times.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: When you had the bath that you do remember,
3 would the water -- what would the water be like?
- 4 A. I can't remember.
- 5 Q. To what extent were you allowed to speak to other
6 children when you were in Aberdeen?
- 7 A. I can't remember that, but I remember one
8 Christmastime -- I think ... people handed in toys or
9 something. I always wanted a Batman motor but I never
10 got a Batman motor.
11 Aberdeen ...
- 12 LADY SMITH: A Batman motor you wanted?
- 13 A. A Batman car. It came out in the 1960s.
14 And then we went to St Peter's Primary School.
15 There was a wee school play on and I just remember you
16 coming to pick your kids up ... and a van full of nuns
17 to get her down and getting slapped and battered about.
- 18 MR MacAULAY: You do remember going to St Peter's School?
- 19 A. I remember going to St Peter's School.
- 20 MR MacAULAY: How did you get the to the school?
- 21 A. A van.
- 22 Q. Who would be with you in the van?
- 23 A. One of the nuns, FAF -- I can't remember who was
24 driving the van or whatever.
- 25 Q. And would your sisters be in the same van?

1 A. Aye, I think so.

2 Q. Would you be able to talk to your sisters at that time?

3 A. No, you weren't allowed to speak.

4 Q. If you did, did you try to speak to your sister?

5 A. Aye, you'd get a slap or a kick.

6 Q. You have mentioned being slapped on a number of
7 occasions, John. Can you just describe what would
8 happen?

9 A. You'd get a (indicating): "Shut up, be quiet".

10 Q. And you made a movement with your arm.

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Where would that be directed to?

13 A. Anywhere on your face, basically your head.

14 Q. And you mentioned a kick; did you get kicked?

15 A. Aye, they kicked you. That's part of my statement,
16 I always remember the black shoes those nuns used to
17 wear. In fact I was giving my statement and they came
18 into my head, I just remember those black shoes giving
19 me a kick.

20 LADY SMITH: Can you remember what style the shoes were or
21 not?

22 A. Old granny shoes, they went square at the front.

23 LADY SMITH: Did they have laces or not?

24 A. I can't remember. I only remember the front of the
25 shoe.

1 MR MacAULAY: So generally, John, I know you're only in
2 Aberdeen for a relatively short period of time, but
3 overall what's your overall memory then of being there?

4 A. Just getting a bath, getting slapped, my father coming
5 to see us every -- once a month or two weeks and then
6 that big park in Union Street, being took there with my
7 father.

8 Q. Do you know why it came about that you were moved from
9 Aberdeen to Lasswade?

10 A. No, I don't know.

11 Q. Has anyone ever told you why that happened?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Can we then look at Lasswade -- and I think I've already
14 put to you that you were admitted to Lasswade on
15 [REDACTED] 1969 and you left on [REDACTED] 1970. So you
16 were there for about a year and a half.

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. That was a longer period than in Aberdeen, although
19 I think you yourself say in your statement you thought
20 you left in [REDACTED] 1971 rather than 1970.

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. That's your own recollection?

23 A. That's mine.

24 Q. Can I just look at the set-up at Lasswade then. Were
25 you, first of all, separated from your sisters at

- 1 Lasswade as you had been in Aberdeen or not?
- 2 A. No, there was no kind of mixture. There was a kind of
3 room and then there was a wee bit of corridor, like, and
4 my sisters were in that next room. So you could mix and
5 you could talk to them a bit more easier.
- 6 Q. So you had more contact with your sisters --
- 7 A. More contact.
- 8 Q. -- than you had in Aberdeen?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And what about the accommodation set-up for being in
11 bed, what was the set-up there?
- 12 A. There was a --wee Mrs **LJH** sewing room was there.
13 There was a dormitory with four beds there. That
14 Sister **LFD** slept in that wee room, and then there was
15 a -- it'd be from here to maybe that wall (indicating),
16 there was different sections, cordoned off, partitioned
17 off.
- 18 Q. By "from here to the wall", you're talking from where
19 you are to the wall behind me; is that right?
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. Can I just understand then, so far as the section you
22 were in where your bed was, how many children were
23 in that section?
- 24 A. I think it was about two beds in there, I think.
- 25 Q. And I take it, was it boys that were in your --

- 1 A. Aye, it was boys that were there.
- 2 Q. Were the boys and girl separate then for sleeping
3 arrangements?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. You mentioned Sister LFD in passing there, John. Can
6 I ask you about her: was she somebody that you had
7 dealings with when you were at Lasswade?
- 8 A. Oh aye.
- 9 Q. Was she in charge of you?
- 10 A. She was in charge of the group.
- 11 Q. How many were in your group?
- 12 A. I don't know, I couldn't tell you.
- 13 Q. Don't worry. In relation to boys or girls, was it
14 a mixed group or not?
- 15 A. It was a mixed group, aye.
- 16 Q. Were any of your sisters in the group?
- 17 A. Aye, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] -- because she used
18 to [REDACTED]'s hair. [REDACTED] had long auburn hair down her
19 back and she used to try and put it in ringlets and if
20 she moved, we used to call it a Nazi slap -- she slapped
21 her back and forth, "Just sit still", I remember that.
- 22 Q. Did you see that happening?
- 23 A. Oh, I seen that happen.
- 24 Q. Was there anybody who wasn't a nun also involved with
25 your group?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Who was that?

3 A. That was that Peter Blaney.

4 Q. What was his role?

5 A. I don't know what his role was, I couldn't tell you.

6 Q. But did he have a room there?

7 A. Sometimes he stayed there.

8 Q. And did he have a place where he could stay?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Was that close to where your sleeping arrangements were?

11 A. The next partition.

12 Q. So he was in the same area then?

13 A. Same area.

14 Q. One thing you say in your statement -- and I know this

15 didn't apply to you and I just want to understand where

16 this information came from -- you say that -- this is at

17 paragraph 22, it's on the screen:

18 "When boys reached the age of 11 or 12, they went to

19 St Ninian's."

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. How did you know that?

22 A. Well, I found out after ... once you come of mature age,

23 11, 12, 13, they didn't want boys and lasses mixing, so

24 they got sent off to St Ninian's. And I remember a guy

25 called [REDACTED]. He broke into the tuck shop and then

1 the next day he got sent -- I met him later on in life,
2 after it. He told me that's why he got sent to
3 St Ninian's. He was about 11 or 10.

4 Q. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: Just to be clear, that's St Ninian's, the
6 children's home in Fife he was sent to?

7 A. St Ninian's -- it was next to Aberfoyle --

8 MR MacAULAY: There's two, one in Falkland in Fife and
9 there's also Gartmore.

10 A. Gartmore.

11 LADY SMITH: So they were being sent to Gartmore from
12 Lasswade?

13 A. From Lasswade.

14 MR MacAULAY: I think in that instance the particular
15 individual you mentioned had done something wrong.

16 A. Aye, he'd broke into the tuck shop.

17 Q. And he was then sent to St Ninian's Gartmore. But were
18 others sent to Gartmore or to Falkland?

19 A. It was Ninian's anyway. It could have been that one you
20 were talking about in Fife.

21 Q. You mentioned bed-wetting and I'm going to come to that
22 in a moment. But can I ask you, just more generally,
23 about the routine at Lasswade. Let's take you in the
24 morning, for example, when you got up. What was the
25 routine after that?

1 A. I was in charge of -- if I was say 9, I'd be in charge
2 of somebody at 7, and somebody at 7 would be in charge
3 of somebody at 5. So if a boy at 5 wet the bed, you'd
4 get slapped and then you'd slap him. It was like
5 a domino effect.

6 Q. I am going to come and look at that again with you.
7 Once you were up and about, would you go for breakfast
8 or would you have church? What was the arrangement?

9 A. I was an altar boy there and I can't remember what time
10 Mass was, but the nuns used to go to Mass early.
11 I don't know -- whatever time it was. I always remember
12 one time one of my buttons was undone and I got my head
13 stotted off a wall by a priest just because I had
14 a button undone on my tunic thing.

15 Q. Do you know the name of the priest?

16 A. No.

17 Q. One thing you do tell us about Lasswade is that you
18 could watch television and you had contact with your
19 sisters; is that right?

20 A. Aye, there was a communal room.

21 Q. So far as TV was concerned, what were the arrangements
22 about watching TV?

23 A. Aye, you watched TV. We watched Batman, Top of the
24 Pops, the Eurovision Song Contest, My Boy Lollipop -- I
25 remember that.

1 Q. You were free to do that in your free time?

2 A. Aye, we were free, aye.

3 Q. One thing you tell us is that one of the jobs you had to
4 do was polish floors; is that right?

5 A. Aye, we would polish the floors with those big metal
6 bumper things. I don't know what they're called.

7 Q. How often did you have to do that?

8 A. Did that every day.

9 Q. So far as schooling was concerned, I think the school
10 you went to was St Mary's.

11 A. Aye, St Mary's in Bonnyrigg.

12 Q. And how did you get to that school?

13 A. Walk.

14 Q. And would you walk with the other children?

15 A. Aye, we all had to walk down with our Nazzie trenchcoats
16 on, we called them.

17 Q. Were there nicknames for you at school?

18 A. Nazzies.

19 Q. I think you tell us so far as schooling was concerned
20 that your teacher was a good teacher.

21 A. Aye, Miss Lindsay. She was all right, aye. She took us
22 to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

23 And as I said, I sat there and I wet myself because
24 I didn't like to go to the toilet, if I came back and
25 couldn't find her. You were just living on your nerves.

1 But she was a good teacher. In fact, I tried to
2 contact her through that Facebook and that and [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED],

4 [REDACTED]

5 Q. We touched upon Christmas at Nazareth House Aberdeen and
6 you would have been there for one Christmas, I think,
7 over the times you talked about. You would also have
8 been in Lasswade for Christmas. Was Christmas
9 celebrated so far as you can remember?

10 A. You got people from outside coming in for Mass,
11 midnight Mass.

12 Q. What about getting presents?

13 A. I can't remember getting a present.

14 Q. You mentioned the Batman --

15 A. The Batman motor. Aye, I still never got one.

16 Q. That's something you wanted?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. What about your birthday? Can you remember any
19 celebration on your birthday?

20 A. No.

21 Q. What about visits then from family?

22 A. My father -- he used to come up every other week and
23 visit us.

24 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is that he
25 would bring you sweets and --

- 1 A. Aye, bring us sweets and ...
- 2 Q. And chips and juice --
- 3 A. He'd take you to that Lasswade Park in Bonnyrigg town
4 centre, and take us to Dalkeith.
- 5 Q. And I think what you say in your statement in fact
6 is that you would share your sweets with --
- 7 A. Aye, you came back and gave -- with your pals in the
8 home that never had visitors. A Bar 6 broke into six
9 bits and you gave your pals a bit.
- 10 Q. Is it the case then, John, that, at least in Lasswade,
11 you were able to make pals with other children?
- 12 A. Aye, because there was more freedom. You had a big
13 swing and everybody got a shot of the swing. There was
14 a big wall dividing the girls' private school.
- 15 Q. So you could mix with other children in that area?
- 16 A. Aye.
- 17 Q. And make friends?
- 18 A. Within the home. You couldn't talk to these lasses
19 because they were in the private school. "The Cabbages"
20 I think we called them, or something, because they wore
21 a green uniform.
- 22 Q. What about your mother? Did your mother visit?
- 23 A. She visited once and she were drunk.
- 24 Q. And I think that caused a problem.
- 25 A. A Mrs LJH took her down and she stayed with

1 Mrs [LJH] that night and then Mrs [LJH] told us the
2 next day that she put her on a bus back to Glasgow, so
3 ...

4 Q. Can I just understand Mrs [LJH] role, because you
5 have mentioned her before. What did you see her job to
6 be?

7 A. [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]. She was all
9 right. I met her years later. I went to visit her.

10 Q. You were okay with her?

11 A. She was all right, she was a good woman.

12 Q. In relation to things that happened to you at Lasswade,
13 you've already mentioned the episode when you were an
14 altar boy and you had a button missing and a priest did
15 something to you.

16 A. Aye, he just slapped and he stotted my head right off
17 the wall.

18 Q. Was he slapping you because --

19 A. Because my button was undone.

20 Q. It was undone, not missing? It was there but --

21 A. It was there, aye, just never buttoned up right.

22 Q. You say that a couple of nuns died during your time at
23 Lasswade and you had to do something.

24 A. Aye, you had to parade by them or walk by them -- and
25 I can't remember if you touched their head or whatever

1 and made the sign of the cross. I can't remember, but
2 ...

3 Q. Do you have any recollection of that?

4 A. I remember walking by the nuns in the coffin, aye, when
5 one of them died.

6 Q. You also tell us about an incident when you had rhubarb
7 and you stole some sugar.

8 A. The rhubarb was growing wild. I meant to steal the
9 sugar -- there was a tin of sugar and that Sister LFD
10 -- I am saying aluminium -- it was a rod anyway, she
11 battered into you. She battered you -- just stealing
12 God's stuff (inaudible) stole the sugar.

13 Q. Where was she hitting you?

14 A. Everywhere, all over the place. I've still got a scar
15 down there from her nail. I was trying to run away and
16 got cut.

17 Q. You're pointing to your upper arm.

18 A. A wee thin scar line from a nail.

19 Q. How did that happen?

20 A. She grabbed me with her nail or whatever (inaudible) and
21 cut me down there.

22 Q. In relation to hitting you because of this business with
23 the sugar, what do you say she used for that?

24 A. Like a metal aluminium bar.

25 Q. Do you know where she got that from?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Just remind me, where was she hitting you with that?
- 3 A. Because we stole the sugar.
- 4 Q. But where was she hitting you?
- 5 A. Everywhere, on the head, everywhere. Just battering you
6 with a metal bar.
- 7 Q. And was there another boy involved in this?
- 8 A. Aye, I can't remember his name. There was two of us --
9 a group of us going and we stole the sugar from the
10 kitchen.
- 11 Q. And did that leave marks what she did?
- 12 A. It left marks, aye.
- 13 Q. Where were the marks?
- 14 A. On my legs, my arms.
- 15 Q. You also tell us about an incident where you had to
16 collect the eggs because the chickens were kept at
17 Lasswade.
- 18 A. Aye, they were. They used to keep pigs and all.
- 19 Q. Did something happen on one occasion when you were
20 collecting eggs?
- 21 A. Aye, if you dropped an egg then this old -- we used to
22 call her the witch -- to me she was about 100 years old
23 but she might have been younger -- and she battered you
24 and all because you broke an egg.
- 25 Q. What did she do to you?

- 1 A. Kicked you, slapped you. They were always kicking and
2 slapping.
- 3 Q. Was anything being said during these occasions when you
4 were receiving this form of treatment? Were the nuns
5 saying anything to you?
- 6 A. You're stupid, the usual ... shouting and bawling.
- 7 Q. You'll know what "the usual" is, but we don't; what
8 do you mean by saying "the usual"?
- 9 A. Stupid, for dropping an egg, that's cost money or
10 something, whatever. I can't remember. They just said
11 it cost money. Just -- I can't even remember. You'd
12 just got shouted and bawled at.
- 13 Q. Can I now look at bed-wetting. You have told us about
14 the Aberdeen situation. What about in Lasswade?
- 15 A. Lasswade was the same and all. If you wet the bed, you
16 just kept your mouth shut for a day or two until the
17 smell got too bad and you had to say, **LFD** you'd wet
18 the bed.
- 19 Q. What then would happen?
- 20 A. Same again. She'd get the sheet off the bed, bring it
21 down, stand out there -- because when we were there they
22 renovated the toilets and they put showers in and sinks
23 and stuff like that and you were told to stand there.
- 24 Q. What about the sheet? What did you do with the sheet?
- 25 A. You stood with that and all round about you.

- 1 Q. This business of leaving it for two days or so, would
2 that be something that would happen because the bed
3 wasn't checked or was the bed checked?
- 4 A. No, the bed wasn't checked, because if you told her
5 you'd wet the bed, you'd get thrown a slap down, and if
6 you told her the next day you'd peed the bed again,
7 you'd get that down, so you kept your mouth shut for
8 a day or two.
- 9 Q. So although you wet the bed one day, you'd say nothing
10 about it?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. You'd wet the bed the next day --
- 13 A. Say nothing about it or maybe the second or third day,
14 until the smell got too bad.
- 15 Q. You'd have to say something about it?
- 16 A. Aye.
- 17 Q. And was it then that you'd receive the treatment you
18 got?
- 19 A. Aye, you got the treatment you got.
- 20 Q. You told us about this situation with mealtimes at
21 Aberdeen. What was the position like at Lasswade?
- 22 A. Similar, because nobody liked tapioca.
- 23 Q. So what would happen?
- 24 A. If you were sick, you were made it eat it or starve.
- 25 Q. Who would make you eat it?

1 A. That was that Sister LFD She was in charge of us
2 down there.

3 Q. You mention in your statement a Sister LFF

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. Do you remember her?

6 A. I remember her, aye. [REDACTED].

7 Q. I'm sorry?

8 A. [REDACTED] -- I remember that about her.

9 Q. Did she have some involvement with you?

10 A. Aye, she'd give you a slap and all (inaudible) in a
11 corner and give you a slap. I think she enjoyed it,
12 just for nothing. She'd give you a slap but you'd not
13 done nothing.

14 Q. The incident about your sister who had the long hair,
15 you mentioned this already. I just want to understand
16 what happened. Who was dealing with her at the time?

17 A. That was Sister LFD

18 Q. And what happened?

19 A. If she moved, she'd get a slap, like stay still, because
20 she was putting ringlets in her hair.

21 Q. In your statement you describe that as a German slap --

22 A. Aye, a Nazi slap, we used to call it.

23 Q. Can you indicate to me what that is?

24 A. Somebody slapping you back and forth on your face
25 (indicating).

- 1 Q. So it's a slapping process that involves using the back
2 of the hand one way and the front of the hand the other?
- 3 A. That's correct, aye.
- 4 Q. Is that on the face?
- 5 A. Aye, on the face.
- 6 Q. Would that be done more than once?
- 7 A. Aye, she done that a few times to [REDACTED]
- 8 Q. At that time? At the time of the hair incident?
- 9 A. At the time when she's trying to put ringlets in her
10 hair.
- 11 Q. This business of German slapping, if I can use that
12 description, was that something you saw happen to other
13 children?
- 14 A. I seen it happen to [REDACTED] my sister.
- 15 Q. You've already mentioned this process whereby, even
16 at the age of 9, you would be in charge of another --
17 you would have some responsibility for another boy.
- 18 A. Aye.
- 19 Q. A child. Would it be a boy --
- 20 A. Aye.
- 21 Q. -- who would be a bit younger than you?
- 22 A. He'd be -- he'd be maybe 7.
- 23 Q. Would there be somebody above you, perhaps a bit older
24 than you?
- 25 A. No, because I was that age and then the one at 7 would

- 1 be looking after somebody at maybe 3 or 4.
- 2 Q. What was this arrangement designed to do? Can you tell
- 3 me?
- 4 A. To make sure you got ready for school, make sure they
- 5 made their beds, and, as I say, if they'd wet their
- 6 beds, they'd tell Sister **LFD**
- 7 Q. Did you have to do anything yourself? Did you in any
- 8 way have to chastise the child?
- 9 A. If you got a slap, you slapped him, and he slapped the
- 10 next one down. It was like a domino effect.
- 11 Q. I'm just trying to understand that: who would be
- 12 slapping you?
- 13 A. Sister **LFD** would be slapping me.
- 14 Q. Why would you be being slapped?
- 15 A. For maybe not getting them ready for school on time or
- 16 whatever. I can't really remember, but she slapped you
- 17 and you slapped him and he slapped the one underneath
- 18 him.
- 19 Q. You referred to this as the domino effect; how often did
- 20 this happen?
- 21 A. Once or twice a week, sometimes. I can't really say it
- 22 happened every day or it happened every Saturday. It
- 23 happened.
- 24 Q. How did you feel about having to slap the younger child?
- 25 A. Back then, nothing.

1 Q. Pardon?

2 A. Back then, nothing. You never felt nothing back then.

3 That was just normal.

4 Q. Can I now ask you about this person you've already

5 mentioned, Peter Blaney. Did Peter Blaney do something

6 to you?

7 A. Aye, he sexually raped me.

8 Q. Can I just ask you, first of all, in your time at

9 Lasswade, when did that happen?

10 A. I don't know when it happened. It happened when it

11 happened. I can't say a day or month or whatever, but

12 it happened.

13 Q. How did this come to happen? Where were you when it

14 happened?

15 A. In the dormitory, the top floor, in the bed bit, when

16 everybody else was down the stairs.

17 Q. And can you tell me what happened as best you can, and

18 to the extent that you want to tell me?

19 A. He took me into a room, touched me, pulled my trousers

20 down, made me masturbate him the first time, and the

21 second time he done it, he put his penis inside my back

22 passage, and there was blood, and he told me not to tell

23 anybody or he'd kill me.

24 Because there was blood coming out of my back

25 passage, I was told to -- because where the wall was

1 dividing the private girls' school, there was glass on
2 that wall, so he told me to tell a nun I sat on the
3 glass wall and the glass had cut my back passage.

4 Q. And is that what you did?

5 A. I told the nun -- she never even -- she wasn't even
6 qualified medically. That was it, nothing was done
7 about it.

8 Q. Did you get any medical treatment for this?

9 A. No.

10 Q. At the time when this was happening, were you crying?

11 A. Aye, I was telling him to stop doing it, what he was
12 doing.

13 Q. And the bleeding, could you stop the bleeding?

14 A. I put that toilet paper -- remember you used to get that
15 -- not this tissue, but remember you used to get the
16 paper and it was like that greasy paper you got in
17 schools, cheapskates and stuff --

18 LADY SMITH: Izal? I think it was Izal, really hard, a bit
19 like tracing paper.

20 A. Tracing paper, that was it. I put that on my thingummy.

21 MR MacAULAY: Do I take it, John, from what you've said to
22 us that you didn't tell the sister or a sister what had
23 actually happened?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Any reason why you didn't?

1 A. Scared. My dad came up one Saturday and I was greeting.
2 He said, "What are you greeting for?" and I was dying to
3 tell him, but I was scared in case my da got him and
4 then when my da went away on the way back, he would get
5 me.

6 Q. I think what you've said so far, John, is that the first
7 time he abused you but he didn't rape you in the way
8 you've described.

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you say it was the second time you were raped?

11 A. The second time.

12 Q. Thereafter, how did this --

13 A. It happened like that twice -- three times it happened.
14 That's what I say in my statement, I don't know -- if
15 you and your sister come into the home, I was happy
16 because he kind of focused on you and left me alone for
17 a wee while.

18 Q. Sorry, I just missed that. You said --

19 A. If you came into the home, you and your sister, that
20 Blaney would leave me alone and start -- it was called
21 grooming -- grooming you then or whatever. So that left
22 me alone for a wee while.

23 Q. But would he come back to you then?

24 A. Aye. Three times he raped me.

25 Q. So that's three times. What about other sexual

- 1 behaviour?
- 2 A. Other sexual behaviour, masturbating him.
- 3 Q. For how long did this go on for during your time at
- 4 Lasswade?
- 5 A. I don't know. I couldn't say a month or three months or
- 6 whatever; to me it felt like years.
- 7 Q. Are you saying that he did direct his attentions to
- 8 other children?
- 9 A. Aye. The police -- when I first came to this carry-on,
- 10 about 1997, there was a DC Cowan that came and told me
- 11 and I asked him, "Whatever happened to that guy Peter
- 12 Blaney?" and he said, "He got 12 years in jail, he
- 13 admitted everything he'd done", and I went, "Fine".
- 14 Q. But you didn't go to the police?
- 15 A. Oh no. Oh no. I was bringing up three kids of my own,
- 16 2, 5 and 9 years of age.
- 17 Q. I'll come on to that later.
- 18 I want to understand your understanding at the time
- 19 when you were in Lasswade, so far as you could see, was
- 20 Peter Blaney directing his attention at other children?
- 21 A. I didn't know that at the time, but obviously when I was
- 22 left alone I assume that was who he was doing.
- 23 Q. What was your reaction to what was happening to you,
- 24 John, at the time?
- 25 A. Confused. I didn't know what was happening to me.

1 Q. I think what you're saying is that he would leave you
2 alone, but you were assuming at that time that that was
3 because there was other children that might have been --

4 A. Being abused.

5 Q. -- by him.

6 How was he able to get access to you in the way
7 you've described on several occasions?

8 A. Well, basically, everybody was down the stair and he'd
9 tell you to come up the stair, so you'd go up the stairs
10 because Sister **LFD** and everybody else was down the
11 stairs, playing or whatever.

12 Q. Was it always in the same place that this happened?

13 A. Aye. There was a wee single bit with his bed in it, and
14 that guy **████████** he stayed in there as well -- I remember
15 somebody called **████████** came. But when he stayed in that
16 home overnight, he stayed in that bed there. I don't
17 know where that **████████** went. He went to another bed or
18 whatever.

19 Q. Okay. So it was in that location that this abuse
20 happened?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. In your statement, you tell us about an incident
23 involving shaving foam and Peter Blaney. Can you --

24 A. I was going to do my altar boy and you got dressed in
25 white and it was at Christmastime and people came in, so

1 that was a highlight of your thing, the altar boy
2 carry-on. So that's how I had an idea he was abusing
3 that [REDACTED] and all because he says to Sister LFD that
4 I put shaving foam on the bed, so I got a doing off her,
5 didn't get to do my altar boy, but that guy [REDACTED] got to
6 do the altar boy at Christmastime, with the white gloves
7 and all that hullabaloo, and that's how I got the idea
8 that he was being abused and all.

9 Q. You say -- the guy [REDACTED] you mentioned, that was another
10 boy?

11 A. That was another boy, aye.

12 Q. Was he the same sort of age as yourself?

13 A. Maybe a year younger or whatever.

14 Q. Had he come into the home after you?

15 A. Aye, him and his sister, [REDACTED]

16 Q. And what made you think that he might have been being
17 abused by Peter Blaney?

18 A. Because I got the blame for putting the shaving foam on
19 the bed, which I never done, and that got me to not be
20 doing the altar boy at Christmas.

21 Q. Do I understand from what you're saying then that
22 although this abuse that you've been telling us about
23 went on for quite a little while, from what you've said,
24 that for example Sister LFD in particular, who was in
25 charge of your group, would know nothing about it?

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: What work did Peter Blaney do in the home?

3 A. I don't know what he done. I don't know. I couldn't
4 tell you.

5 LADY SMITH: Was he there every day?

6 A. I can't even mind. I don't know what he done, what work
7 he done, if he was just looking after people or what.
8 I don't even know where he came from -- I know he ended
9 up staying in Kilsyth, that's what DC Cowan told me --
10 his partner says to me, "Peter Blaney, he stays in
11 Kilsyth".

12 But in the next police thing, when this all came
13 back up again, seemingly he died like in the last
14 year -- or not long ago he died, anyway.

15 LADY SMITH: Okay.

16 MR MacAULAY: At the time this was happening to you, did you
17 form any impression as to what age he was?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You've told us already about what you have referred
20 to -- as what you called the domino effect, of a child
21 who was a bit older being in charge of a child who was
22 a bit younger. You tell us about an incident about
23 a boy who was very badly scalded. Can you help me with
24 that what happened on that occasion?

25 A. That was that lassie -- I can't remember her name or

1 nothing, but she was -- I think there were workmen there
2 at the time and she used to flash her breasts at them or
3 something. So she was in charge of a wee boy, I don't
4 know, six months, three months, she put him into a bath
5 of scalding water and his skin just came off.

6 Q. Do you think this was a girl who had some learning
7 difficulties?

8 A. I think so, aye. His name was -- he was just a wee
9 bairn -- [REDACTED] (inaudible).

10 Q. And I think you say that he was badly scarred?

11 A. I think so, aye.

12 Q. Is this something you heard about at the time when you
13 were at the --

14 A. No, I seen it. There was a big shouting and bawling and
15 being out of line -- he was the colour of that folder
16 (indicating).

17 Q. How were you able to see this? Was it when children
18 were being bathed?

19 A. It was all the shouting and bawling and everyone would
20 run along and the nuns were all panicking.

21 Q. How did she have responsibility for doing this?

22 A. I don't know -- if she was 11, she must have been ...
23 The same as the domino effect: I was in charge of a boy
24 7, the one of 7 was in charge of a boy 4 or 5 or
25 whatever, so she must have been in charge of bathing

1 that wean or whatever or changing the nappy or whatever.
2 I don't know what she was, 10 or 11.
3 Q. But I take it this little boy was taken to hospital
4 then?
5 A. Aye.
6 Q. Did you run away on one occasion?
7 A. Aye, we ran away, me and my pal.
8 Q. Where did you go?
9 A. I don't know. We asked someone about the bus to Glasgow
10 and the next minute the police come and took us back.
11 Q. So you were taken to the police and they took you
12 back --
13 A. Aye.
14 Q. And why were you running away?
15 A. Just wanted to go back. I don't know. We just want to
16 get out of the home. We didn't know where we were going
17 to go, we just started walking.
18 Q. Did anything happen to you when you were taken back?
19 A. Aye, (inaudible) and that was it. Then you got a doing,
20 you were put in the room, left there for hours.
21 Q. When you say you got a doing, what happened?
22 A. Battered, kicked, slapped, and devil's child and that
23 you were called, and put in a room.
24 Q. The other boy that was with you, was he put in the room
25 with you or was he somewhere --

1 A. No, a different room, I don't know ...

2 Q. Did he receive the same treatment?

3 A. Aye, he received ... aye.

4 Q. And who did this?

5 A. It was [LFD] and that Sister [LFF] I remember her,
6 that [LFF] I remember her battering me for that.

7 Q. So were there two sisters involved in this?

8 A. Aye, because Sister [LFD] was in charge of the group and
9 they were rushing in this big room, everybody was
10 watching that Amen film and the police took us in there.

11 LADY SMITH: I think you said a minute ago that when you ran
12 away you were called the devil's child; is that right?

13 A. Aye. That that Sister [LFF] called me the devil's
14 child.

15 LADY SMITH: Is that the only occasion on which you were
16 called the devil's child?

17 A. That's the only occasion I remember.

18 LADY SMITH: Right.

19 MR MacAULAY: I think you said you were then put away in
20 a room on this occasion.

21 A. Aye. Sitting in a room for hours. Everybody was
22 watching the film. To me it was hours. It might have
23 been half an hour or an hour.

24 Q. But it seemed a long time?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Can we just move on a little bit, John, to when you left
2 Nazareth House. The records say you left in about
3 [REDACTED] 1970. You may think -- you say in your statement
4 you thought it was a bit longer than that. When you
5 left, did you go back to your mother and father?

6 A. They got back together, she came off the wine and they
7 got back together, and that lasted for -- I don't know
8 how long, months. And then my three sisters went back
9 into Nazareth House, but I never; I stayed with my pal

10 [REDACTED].

11 Q. And I think that was the position, you were looked after
12 by somebody else for --

13 A. Aye. [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] and I stayed with my pal.

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. My dad (inaudible) so I don't know what was wrong with
17 his nut -- his head.

18 Q. But your sisters, you say they went back to
19 Nazareth House?

20 A. Yes, they went back to Nazareth House.

21 Q. How did it come about that you did not come back?

22 A. I didn't want to go back. I never went back.

23 Q. And were you being asked to go back?

24 A. Miss Stevens, the social worker -- I said my friend's
25 mother said she would watch me. She couldn't watch my

- 1 three sisters and all.
- 2 Q. So there was an arrangement whereby you'd be watched by
3 your mother's friend and your sisters had to go back?
- 4 A. That was my friend's mother watched me.
- 5 LADY SMITH: But you're saying the social worker was keen
6 that you should go back to Nazareth House; is that
7 right?
- 8 A. Miss Stevens wanted me to go back. I said I'm not going
9 back anywhere. By that time I was more -- kind of
10 streetwise.
- 11 LADY SMITH: Did she ask you why not, why you didn't want to
12 go back?
- 13 A. No. Maybe she did and I just said, "I'm not going
14 back". Because you -- even if I'd said I was getting
15 battered or I was getting sexually abused, it didn't
16 matter what you said, you'd still have been put back.
- 17 MR MacAULAY: I think you got into trouble and you were sent
18 to Larchgrove Assessment Centre.
- 19 A. That was years later, that was 1973.
- 20 Q. Yes. Then, between coming out of Lasswade and up until
21 then --
- 22 A. I stayed with my friend's -- that was my mother's
23 friend, [REDACTED] I stayed with them in
24 Pollokshields.
- 25 Q. I think over that period, as you tell us in your

- 1 statement, that you weren't attending school?
- 2 A. No, because we were -- we called him my cousin -- me and
3 [REDACTED] just didn't go to school.
- 4 Q. In any event, you got in trouble over something and we
5 needn't look at the detail of that today.
- 6 A. It was boys' things, breaking into shops (inaudible) for
7 us and the usual.
- 8 Q. You were sent to Larchgrove and you were there for about
9 three to six months?
- 10 A. I think I was in Larchgrove for about three months
11 before I finally got sent to an approved school.
- 12 Q. And then you went, I think, to St Andrew's Approved
13 School and that's in Helensburgh, I think.
- 14 A. Aye, Shandon.
- 15 Q. Can I ask you about the reporting of what happened to
16 you? You've already told us you didn't tell any of the
17 nuns about the sexual abuse that happened when you were
18 in Lasswade; is that right?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. At some point you did speak to the police about it?
- 21 A. When this all started off in 1997, I gave the police
22 this report that I got battered and all of that
23 carry-on, but then -- my ex-wife was from [REDACTED] -- we
24 used to go to [REDACTED] every two years for a three-month
25 holiday. We went in 1990 and something happened -- she

1 met up with some guy and we came back to Edinburgh --
2 and to cut a long story short, 2, 5, and 8 my weans
3 were. So we -- I left the marital home, I was in the
4 room-and-kitchen, she went back to [REDACTED], I got the
5 weans off her, and me going to the social work
6 department saying, blah, blah, blah, all this happened
7 to me. Are you kidding me on? No, he's (inaudible)
8 history repeating itself.

9 So once [REDACTED] became 11, Community Housing they then
10 had to by law give us another, a bigger house. Because
11 their answer to me was, oh, your wife might come back.
12 I said, she's away back to [REDACTED] which part of this do
13 you not understand? So once [REDACTED] became a wee woman,
14 womanly stuff, by law they had to give me a house.

15 That was in (inaudible) and it was in 1997 when
16 I heard this on the radio. I gave a statement, but
17 I still never said anything --

18 Q. Just to stop you there so I can understand you, I think
19 what you're saying to us is you didn't want to tell
20 anyone, and in particular the police, about the sexual
21 abuse because you had three children and in case somehow
22 it impacted upon --

23 A. They basically say that the abused becomes the abuser,
24 or something like that, and they would have taken my
25 three weans off me. As soon as [REDACTED] turned 16, that's

1 when I went down and told Ross Harper about the abuse.

2 LADY SMITH: This was at a time when your wife had gone back
3 to [REDACTED]?

4 A. Aye.

5 LADY SMITH: She was living there, was she?

6 A. That's where she came from: her father came over here as
7 a [REDACTED] in 1974 --

8 LADY SMITH: So there was no option of the children living
9 with her mum, it was you or nothing that was going to be
10 a parent?

11 A. Aye. And there was no way I was putting my kids into
12 a home.

13 MR MacAULAY: As I understand it, then you did speak to the
14 police in 1997?

15 A. I gave my statement about all this, getting battered off
16 nuns and all that carry on.

17 Q. Did you mention Peter Blaney?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did there come a point in time when you did mention to
20 the police that you had been abused by Peter Blaney?

21 A. I told the solicitor first, Ross Harper. If you look at

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
23 responsible, 16, she was responsible against her two
24 brothers, so you can't take them into a home. Do you
25 know what I mean?

1 Q. So there came a point in time then when you did speak to
2 the police and told them about Peter Blaney?

3 A. They came and they took a statement off me.

4 Q. Can you remember when that was?

5 A. It was off Lothian and Borders Serious Crime Squad --
6 what they had before this Police Scotland came round
7 and started. It was a lassie from -- I gave the
8 solicitor, Ross Harper, a statement and it was somebody
9 from that Lothian and Borders Crime Squad -- she came to
10 Possilpark Police Station and I gave her a statement.

11 Q. And did you say in that statement what had happened to
12 you?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. By that time had Peter Blaney already been in court?

15 A. Aye, he'd been -- this is ... That DS Cowan, he's dead
16 now, he told me he got 12 years. They took everything
17 under the umbrella thing. If I broke into that shop and
18 that shop, I would say to the police, I've done those
19 two shops and all, so if I hadn't got done for that and
20 then two years later I got done for ... He got done --
21 umbrella -- they took all the abuse -- how do they know
22 -- never got done for abusing me. And then they went to
23 look for him and then said, well, he's dead.

24 Q. I think what you're saying is Mr Blaney was charged and
25 convicted for offences he committed at Lasswade, but not

- 1 offences that involved you --
- 2 A. Aye.
- 3 Q. -- because your account had not been made available at
4 that time, and once your account was available, there
5 was no further prosecution?
- 6 A. Aye, that's right.
- 7 Q. And I think what you're saying is you have learned more
8 recently that recently Mr Blaney has died.
- 9 A. Aye. Good.
- 10 Q. You tell us in your statement a little bit about your
11 life after care, John. Again, I'm not going to look at
12 the detail of that, but as you've explained already, you
13 did end up with having to look after two very young
14 children because your wife left.
- 15 A. Three young children. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], she's
16 a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] he's come back from
17 [REDACTED],
18 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
19 just lost his job [REDACTED] but he was
20 with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went bust and [REDACTED] took
21 over and [REDACTED] they laid
22 him off, paid him off. So that's him [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] (inaudible) with the union and all,
24 right enough.
- 25 Q. You do provide us with the personal circumstances

1 involving life after care in connection with your
2 children and so on. What I want to ask you now is what
3 impact you think your life in care has had on you. Can
4 you help me with that?

5 A. It has made me a lot tougher type of thing, more
6 streetwise, I suppose that's when you're 11, 12. There
7 is no way -- I wouldn't put a dog into a Nazareth House
8 home, and maybe that's partly how I wouldn't -- even at
9 that, I didn't want to put my kids into care. You
10 survive, you get by. That's how I always wondered --
11 never even asked my dad, why did you not watch us for?
12 And everybody always goes, oh, the 60s were tough. He
13 still could have watched his kids in the 60s if you're
14 a single guy. I never, ever asked him.

15 He had a big apartment, house on ... road where he
16 could have watched us. He did watch us when my ma was
17 took into hospital the first time for he nervous
18 breakdown, the alcoholic ward she was in. We stayed
19 with him and then, as I say, when Christian Action gave
20 us the house, [REDACTED] went back to stay in a house in
21 (inaudible) [REDACTED], Pollokshields. Then [REDACTED] went back
22 and I went back to stay with her and that's when we
23 started going off the rails and ended up in a home.

24 Q. But one thing you say towards the end of your statement,
25 John, is that there should be physical checks on people

1 working in homes and vetting and not just computers
2 checking paperwork; is that your position?

3 A. Here's an example: my boy lost his job [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED] I made sure they got on apprenticeships,
6 played football, and that's how that [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 So maybe the people that are building homes now make
9 up a CV on a computer. If I conned you a CV and say
10 I've worked for this one and the next one, you'll just
11 accept that. You go and ask that guy, is he a good
12 worker, and he'll say, aye, and then you go to the next
13 one. Check them, thoroughly check them so you're not
14 getting people like this working in homes.

15 Q. What you're saying, I think, is that if people are to be
16 involved with children, they should be absolutely and
17 thoroughly checked --

18 A. Vetted and vetted and vetted, over and over and over
19 again. (inaudible) work in those homes, have a wee
20 check of them and all.

21 As I say, these nuns, I mean, to be honest, you feel
22 sorry for them. They never had weans. When I was
23 sitting here, thinking about it -- maybe there was
24 a substitute wean that she wanted but she couldn't have
25 because she's a nun and taking it out on people. You

1 know what I mean? Half of them will be dead now,
2 probably, right enough.

3 They should be vetted and checked and double-checked
4 and triple-checked before they're allowed to touch
5 weans, much working with any weans at all.

6 MR MacAULAY: Okay, John, thank you for coming here to give
7 your evidence. I know it has been quite difficult for
8 you. I've asked all the questions I've been asked to
9 ask.

10 My Lady, unless there are any other questions, then
11 I think John will probably be able to go.

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

14 John, there are no more questions for you. It just
15 remains me to thank you very much for getting in touch
16 and both engaging with the inquiry to provide your
17 written statement and coming here today to answer the
18 questions as fully as you have. That's been of enormous
19 assistance to me and I'm now able to let you go.

20 A. Thank you.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I think I'm right in saying the
23 next witness will have screens; is that correct?

24 MR MacAULAY: That's correct, and the next witness was
25 programmed to come in after the break. We'll find out

1 what the position is once your Ladyship rises.

2 LADY SMITH: If we break now anyway and we can deal with the
3 screens and check about the availability of the next
4 witness. I can't say exactly when we're going to be
5 sitting again, but it'll be quite soon. Thank you.

6 (11.00 am)

7 (A short break)

8 (11.36 am)

9 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I gather the next witness is
10 ready; is that right?

11 MR MacAULAY: That is the case, my Lady. The next witness
12 is an applicant, he wants to remain anonymous, and to
13 use the name "John" in giving evidence.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 "JOHN" (affirmed)

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

17 John, that looks as though you're in a good position
18 for that microphone. I just need to explain: it's very
19 important that the microphone picks up what you're
20 saying so that everybody who wants to hear you can hear
21 properly, and particularly so that the stenographers can
22 pick you what you're saying, because they listen to you
23 through the sound system to record your evidence. So if
24 I can ask you to make sure that you're there where you
25 are at the moment, I think that'll work quite well.

1 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

2 Questions from MR MacAULAY

3 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, John.

4 A. Good morning.

5 Q. I'll be asking you questions essentially based on the
6 statement that you have already provided to the inquiry.
7 The first thing I want to confirm with you is the year
8 of your birth, not the date of your birth. Am I right
9 in thinking that you were born in 1951?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. I'm now going to ask you to look at that red folder in
12 front of you. You'll find within that the statement
13 that you have provided to the inquiry. I'm going to
14 give the reference of it to the stenographers and
15 that is WIT.001.001.3850. Can I ask you to turn to the
16 last page of the statement? Can I also ask you to
17 confirm that you have signed the statement?

18 A. Yes, I have signed it.

19 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph:

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

22 Is that correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Do you also say:

25 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

1 statement are true"?

2 Is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. John, I want to look at the position and your life when

5 you were in care in particular. You have told us in

6 your statement that you were taken into care at the

7 Sisters of Nazareth at Lasswade.

8 A. No, that wasn't the first place.

9 Q. It wasn't the first place, but that was the main place

10 you were in care or one of the main places then?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You're right in pointing out that when you were very,

13 very young -- really as a baby -- you were taken into

14 care, I think, at Clerwood Children's Home; is that

15 right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The dates that I think you may be aware of -- but

18 am I right in thinking, looking to information you've

19 already ingathered yourself, that you were taken to

20 Lasswade -- you were admitted to Lasswade on

21 [REDACTED] 1952?

22 (Pause)

23 LADY SMITH: Does that sound about right, John? You'd have

24 gone into Lasswade, Nazareth House, in [REDACTED] 1952,

25 from what you know? I'm not suggesting that as a baby

- 1 you particularly remembered that.
- 2 A. Yes, I think that's about right.
- 3 LADY SMITH: We don't need an exact recollection, but from
- 4 what you've been looking at, that would fit, would it?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 7 MR MacAULAY: According to the records that the Sisters of
- 8 Nazareth had, you left Lasswade first of all on
- 9 ██████████ 1958. Again, is that information you may
- 10 already have?
- 11 A. I'm a bit confused with dates.
- 12 Q. That's okay, don't worry about that. I think the point
- 13 I'm making there is you went to Lasswade as a very, very
- 14 young child. You might have been approaching 1 or
- 15 something of that sort. And you left when you were
- 16 still very young, in the first instance, when you
- 17 perhaps were about 6 to 7 years of age. Broadly
- 18 speaking, is that correct so far?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. When you left at that time, I think you were taken back
- 21 into the care of your parents; do you remember that or
- 22 not?
- 23 A. I can't remember who took me there. I just remember
- 24 arriving there, but I didn't know who they were.
- 25 Q. In any event, you had a bad experience, according to

1 what you tell us in your statement, when you went back
2 to your parents, and you were readmitted to Lasswade on
3 ██████████ 1960. Is that what your understanding now is?

4 A. So what do you want to hear from me?

5 Q. Does that accord with what you've learned since or not?

6 If I can just move on, according to the records, you
7 left on ██████████ 1961. So you left Lasswade when you were
8 about 9, approaching 10.

9 A. Um ...

10 LADY SMITH: John, don't worry about the dates, I don't need
11 you to confirm those. It's really just to get a feel of
12 whether it fits with your memory of your childhood that,
13 up to about age 9 or 10, most of the time you were in
14 Nazareth House at Lasswade. That's the period we're
15 interested in hearing about mainly today. Does that
16 sound about right?

17 A. It sounds right, but I'm not 100 per cent sure.

18 LADY SMITH: That's fine. Don't worry. That's fine.

19 MR MacAULAY: I think you yourself or someone on your behalf
20 did contact the Sisters of Nazareth and ask for details
21 from them as to what their records said about when you
22 were there; is that the case?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What happened?

25 A. I used to try and go and see my brother and I always

1 wanted to go and see the place again, and he said, "Can
2 I come down with you?"

3 LADY SMITH: So you're explaining you and your brother went
4 to the place. That must have been hard, was it?

5 A. Yes. And my daughter.

6 LADY SMITH: Your daughter too?

7 A. So we managed to get in because it's now a home for the
8 elderly. So we managed to get in, but there was one way
9 in I wanted to go and I wasn't allowed to go. I said,
10 "That's fine", and just as we were going to go out,
11 I saw two nuns. They approached us and asked us what we
12 were wanting, and I said, "I was here as a child, I want
13 to know if there are any photographs of me and my
14 brother". She said, "Do you want to come in and have
15 a cup of tea and have a word?" and I said yes.

16 So we sat there and had a cup of tea with them and
17 I asked them if there were any photographs, photographs
18 of the [REDACTED] She said, no, we didn't take
19 photographs or any records. Then I tried to ask them
20 other questions and I think I was trying to get the
21 questions I wanted to ask them, how they were so bad.
22 But they closed ranks and the older nun says, "We heard
23 about you boys". She said to me, "I know youse boys
24 went through a bad time", so that was it, the words
25 I remember.

1 MR MacAULAY: Okay. You mentioned your brother there, John.
2 Did a brother, one of your brothers, go with you when
3 you went to Lasswade?
4 A. Yes, my brother, was took at the same time, took from
5 the family home. I think I went to the nursery side of
6 Nazareth House because -- I didn't see it there; it must
7 have been knocked down or something. I don't know.
8 LADY SMITH: John, I'm sorry to take you back to what's
9 obviously an upsetting memory, but you said that these
10 two nuns that you had a cup of tea with were one older
11 than the other and the older one said something to the
12 effect, "I know youse boys", and then something else.
13 What was it she said? "I know you boys"?
14 A. "I know you boys went through a bad time."
15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
16 MR MacAULAY: I think you were telling us that when you were
17 at Lasswade, you had a brother there with you as well.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Was he an older or younger brother?
20 A. He's about a year a and a bit older than myself.
21 Q. And you also went on to say that you would have been in
22 the nursery area when you were there to begin with.
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Do you have any recollection, John, of being in the
25 nursery?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you this: what is your first recollection of
3 Lasswade?
- 4 A. It was my brother that told me.
- 5 Q. Your brother told you that you were in the nursery?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. But what's your own first recollection?
- 8 A. Being in the main house.
- 9 Q. Can I just ask you about that then, just moving on
10 through what your recollections were. When you were
11 in the main house, can I ask you about the set-up. Were
12 you in a particular dormitory? What was the set-up?
- 13 A. Yes, I was in a dormitory.
- 14 Q. How many beds, can you tell me, were in that dormitory?
- 15 A. I don't know that I could give you an exact amount, but
16 there was quite a few beds in it. Yeah, there were
17 quite a few beds in it.
- 18 Q. Was it just boys who were in the dormitory?
- 19 A. Boys.
- 20 Q. Did you have any contact with girls when you were at
21 Lasswade?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Did you see girls there when you were there?
- 24 A. Not very often.
- 25 Q. Can you tell me if there was a particular sister who was

1 in charge of you when you were there?

2 A. I'm sorry, I can't remember her name.

3 Q. Can I ask you this then, John: were you in a particular

4 group of children over whom a particular sister had

5 charge?

6 A. Sorry, I can't remember.

7 Q. Okay. Was your brother with you in the same dormitory?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you know where he was?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Can I ask you then a little bit about the routine. When

12 you got up in the morning, what would happen first of

13 all?

14 A. I'd have to set my bed. I had to set my bed because it

15 was wet.

16 Q. Did you wet the bed?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were there other boys who wet the bed?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And was that a problem for you?

21 A. It became a problem.

22 Q. Can you perhaps explain to us how that was the case?

23 A. How do you mean, explain?

24 Q. When you say it was a problem, what happened, what would

25 happen if you wet the bed?

1 A. You'd be taken into the hall and join the others that
2 wet the bed, which included my brother. So we had to
3 put our sheets in a big pile and stand in a line. My
4 brother would be there, but I wasn't allowed to speak to
5 him. Then we were put into cold baths and told to scrub
6 ourselves, which I found very unpleasant. By the time
7 we got into the baths, we were cold anyway, because we
8 were standing in our bare feet.

9 Q. What were you wearing before you went into the bath?

10 A. My underpants.

11 Q. And in the bath, you've just told us that you were told
12 to scrub yourselves; who told you that?

13 A. The nuns.

14 Q. How many nuns would be involved in this particular --

15 A. Quite a few, because there was quite a few bed-wetters.

16 Q. What exactly were you told that you can remember about
17 having to scrub yourself? Why were you scrubbing
18 yourself?

19 A. Because you had to scrub your sins.

20 Q. Was that what was said?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was bed-wetting a problem for you throughout your period
23 at Lasswade?

24 A. I had problems with bed-wetting all through my care
25 system.

- 1 Q. Okay. It was there throughout your time at Lasswade?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What you've been telling us about how you were treated,
4 was that essentially a daily occurrence?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did you try to not wet the bed?
- 7 A. I tried not to drink. I tried to stay awake as much as
8 possible. I always had to go to the toilet before
9 I fell asleep, but I still wet the bed.
- 10 Q. Was there any problem in going to the toilet? Were you
11 allowed to go to the toilet?
- 12 A. Because there would be a nun about, but I had to go to
13 the toilet. I didn't see problem going to the toilet,
14 but I had to go to the toilet for fear of wetting.
- 15 Q. You said earlier in one of your answers, John, that your
16 brother would also be lined up in the way you've
17 described.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. But you weren't allowed to speak to him?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Did you try to speak to him?
- 22 A. I looked over to him, but I was told to stand still.
- 23 LADY SMITH: This would be the brother who wasn't very much
24 older than you, about 11 months older than you?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 LADY SMITH: So you were quite close, were you?
- 2 A. Yes, because we went in there together and he stuck by
3 me -- because I was a bit younger -- once I got to the
4 house. I hadn't seen him when I was in the nursery
5 side. I never heard where he was or nothing.
- 6 MR MacAULAY: You've been telling us about the bed-wetting
7 regime and how you would be lining up for the bath. Was
8 this just boys or were there girls as well?
- 9 A. Boys.
- 10 Q. Did you ever see girls at that point in time?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. One thing you say in your statement -- and this is at
13 paragraph 29, it'll come on the screen in front of you.
14 John, I just want to ask you this, you say:
15 "It was always brutal."
- 16 A. Pardon?
- 17 Q. If you look at your statement on the screen, you say
18 there at paragraph 29:
19 "It was always brutal."
20 I just wondered what you meant by that.
- 21 A. Yes, it was, because once you were lined up and told to
22 strip down, they just sort of like pushed you and
23 grabbed you to the bath and you -- well, the second bath
24 I knew what I was going on to, so I tried to rebel
25 a bit, because I just didn't like it, and they forced me

- 1 in.
- 2 Q. Into the bath?
- 3 A. Yes. Because I knew I was going into it.
- 4 Q. After that, did you have to take a bath every time?
- 5 A. Yes. I got used to it, I knew it was coming, so there
- 6 was no good rebelling against them because you were on
- 7 a sticky wicket.
- 8 Q. Was it always a cold bath?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And I think the picture you're developing is that it
- 11 wasn't just you, there were other boys who were in the
- 12 same position?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Were boys, including yourself, upset?
- 15 A. Yes, I was upset.
- 16 Q. Were you crying?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Were there boys screaming?
- 19 A. Uh-huh. Yes, there were boys crying, the same ...
- 20 Q. Can I ask you how many baths there were; can you
- 21 remember?
- 22 A. There was quite a few baths. I just focused on the one
- 23 I was going to, that they put me in, but there was quite
- 24 a few baths.
- 25 Q. You also tell us in your statement that the only thing

- 1 you looked really forward to was your grandmother
2 visiting you.
- 3 A. Yes. Yes, I really looked forward to that. We used to
4 sit in the garden, me and my brother.
- 5 Q. And did she come with one of your aunts?
- 6 A. Yes, my Aunt [REDACTED] We sat there and we just talked,
7 but we couldn't say anything to them, what was
8 happening.
- 9 Q. Why not?
- 10 A. Because the nuns were milling about where we were
11 sitting and we were feart in case we got caught saying
12 about the cold baths or force-feeding or anything like
13 that, anything that was happening to the boys.
14 I daren't tell them. I'd have loved to have told them
15 we were getting cold baths, but it never happened.
- 16 Q. Did your grandmother or your aunt bring you things like
17 sweets?
- 18 A. Yes, they did.
- 19 Q. And what happened?
- 20 A. Once the visit was finished and they saw my granny
21 walking away, they took them.
- 22 Q. When you say "they", do you mean the nuns took them?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Did they say why they were being taken from you?
- 25 A. No. She said, "Just give me them".

1 Q. And did you see them again?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you ever tell your grandmother or your aunt that the
4 sweets that they were bringing for you were taken away
5 from you?

6 A. Did I tell my granny?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. No.

9 Q. Any reason why not?

10 A. I didn't want to upset her.

11 Q. You mentioned in passing there about food. Can I just
12 ask you about that now, John. First of all, was there
13 a large dining room where you and other children could
14 sit to have your meals?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And would that be -- can you say how many would be there
17 at a given time, how many children?

18 A. I can't give you the exact number, but quite a few boys
19 in that dining room. It was quite big.

20 Q. What about girls? Were there girls there?

21 A. No.

22 Q. What was the food like?

23 A. Horrible.

24 Q. What if you didn't want to eat it? Would anything
25 happen?

- 1 A. I was force-fed. They were grabbing my head and my
2 mouth and put it in.
- 3 Q. Who did this?
- 4 A. The nuns.
- 5 Q. How many nuns would be involved in this process?
- 6 A. Two: one holding my head, another one putting the food
7 in.
- 8 Q. How did you respond to that? Did anything happen?
- 9 A. I tried to spit it out.
- 10 Q. What would then happen?
- 11 A. I'd be hit.
- 12 Q. And what then? What happened after that?
- 13 A. They would put more in. They wanted me to eat the lot:
14 "You will eat".
- 15 Q. Was anything being said?
- 16 A. At the table?
- 17 Q. By the nuns to you when this was happening?
- 18 A. "You'll eat the food."
- 19 Q. In that way did you have to eat it?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Was it the same nuns or different nuns that were
22 involved in this procedure?
- 23 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure, but I did see other nuns
24 participating in the same process.
- 25 Q. So far as you're concerned, John, how regular was this

1 process?

2 A. Fairly regular because some things I did eat. More

3 times than others, I didn't like it.

4 Q. Was there particular food that you can now remember that

5 you didn't like?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What didn't you like?

8 A. Tapioca, bread and butter pudding, possibly stew.

9 Q. You're telling us about your own experience. What about

10 other children? Did you see how they were being treated

11 at mealtimes?

12 A. I think there was a few getting force-fed.

13 Q. Was your brother there at mealtimes?

14 A. I don't know because I didn't see him.

15 Q. If he was there, he must have been in a different part

16 of the dining room?

17 A. Yes, he probably was in the dining room, but once you

18 got to the tables and sat down, and said a prayer, you

19 kept focused to the front.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. So I couldn't really get a look around at the back of

22 me.

23 Q. Did you try to look round?

24 A. Well, I did try, but I was told to turn round. I didn't

25 want to say I was looking for my brother because I just

- 1 didn't want (inaudible).
- 2 Q. Were you allowed to talk when you were in the dining
3 room?
- 4 A. No. You were there for a purpose: to eat.
- 5 Q. If you talked, did anything happen?
- 6 A. Yes, you got hit.
- 7 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. When you got hit in those circumstances, are you able to
10 describe what did happen?
- 11 A. If I was sitting down, I got slapped over the head or
12 pulled by the ear and made to stand up, then get hit.
- 13 Q. When you stood up to get hit, what would the hitting
14 involve?
- 15 A. It was a stick or maybe a cane. I just focused to the
16 front, so it was sore, that's all I can say. So you
17 learn through time to abide by their rules if you didn't
18 want any punishment.
- 19 Q. Can I leave that aside just now and just look at
20 schooling. Do you have any recollection of schooling
21 when you were at Lasswade, either at any time?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Do you remember if you went to a school outside the home
24 or not?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you have some work to do when you were in the home?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell us about that?

4 A. I had to clean the chapel.

5 Q. Did you do that with other children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Just tell us about what sort of job that was, what it
8 involved.

9 A. You had to move the pews, sweep up the floor, wash it on
10 our hands and knees, then we had to buff it up with
11 cloths under our feet, walk up and down.

12 Q. And what age were you when you had to do this sort of
13 work?

14 A. I was a young boy. I can't really remember what exact
15 age I was. Just a young boy.

16 Q. Are you able to remember how long this whole process
17 would take?

18 A. About two hours, maybe more.

19 Q. How often would you have to do this?

20 A. Every day.

21 Q. At what point in the day would this work be done?

22 A. In the morning.

23 Q. So was this something you'd do after breakfast?

24 A. Yes. I'm almost sure that once we were dressed, before
25 breakfast, we went to the chapel. I'm not 100 per cent

1 sure, but I remember at one stage, I don't know if it
2 was after breakfast or before breakfast, we had to go
3 into the chapel to pray.

4 Outside the chapel there was, I think, holy water on
5 the wall, so I walked past it. I got caught and I was
6 dragged from the line, put to the back, and they walked
7 by me, dragging my ear. She made me bless myself.

8 Q. Are you talking about a nun here?

9 A. Yes. She made sure I didn't miss it again. She shouted
10 at me, "This is what you do before you go into the
11 Lord's house". And I just nodded to her yes. So I done
12 it ever since. Even when I went to work, I did it.

13 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about your birthday, John.
14 Was your birthday celebrated in any way in
15 Nazareth House?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you know when your birthday was when you were there?

18 A. I never thought about birthdays.

19 Q. But did you actually know the day on which your birthday
20 would fall?

21 A. Eventually.

22 Q. What age do you think you were when you became aware of
23 that?

24 A. Probably about 8 years old.

25 Q. What about Christmas? Was Christmas celebrated?

- 1 A. It was celebrated in a Christian manner, but not as
2 I would know what Christmas is now.
- 3 Q. Did you get some gifts?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement you do remember
6 getting cars and a football. Is that something you
7 remember getting?
- 8 A. I'm not sure if ... I can't ... I don't know if I got
9 it from my brother or Christmas ... probably some cars,
10 I think they were donated for the children of Nazareth
11 from the public because the public used to come in to
12 the church from the outside. So I think they were given
13 to the children. The cars, I think I got the -- I'm
14 almost sure I got the ball off my brother, we were out
15 playing together, he said, "Just keep it". I think
16 I was more into football than [REDACTED]
- 17 Q. Well, can I just look -- you've already told us about
18 some of the treatment you received at Nazareth House.
19 Can I just look at some aspects of how you were treated.
20 The thing you say in your statement, and I just want to
21 ask you about this, is that:
- 22 "[Your] first memory of Nazareth House was brutal."
23 You go on to talk about that. Can you tell me about
24 that? What was happening to you?
- 25 A. As a young boy, I went in, I was pushed about, hit.

1 I thought, "What is this? What have I come into?" That
2 was my thought. It was fear. I learned the word
3 "fear". If you didn't want hit, you done as you were
4 told. Well, fair enough, you've got to do as you're
5 told when you go into these institutions, but I think it
6 was very extreme. It was like we weren't allowed to
7 breathe. You would get hit with belts or sticks, even
8 the rosary beads. It was just really the shouting and
9 bawling and the other kids -- you hear it and "I'm glad
10 it's not me". It was a bad regime with the nuns.

11 Q. Do you remember having any fun at Nazareth House?

12 A. No. I think the only fun I got was -- we were allowed
13 to play in the gardens and I caught up with my brother
14 then. I think that's what I would call fun.

15 Q. So far as your older brother was concerned, and I think
16 as you indicated the gap between you wasn't that
17 large --

18 A. No.

19 Q. On a daily basis then, how often do you think you would
20 see him, or could there be days you wouldn't see him?

21 A. They were days I wouldn't see him.

22 Q. How long could pass without seeing him?

23 A. When I spoke to my brother, he told me he used to go to
24 school on a tractor. That's how I didn't see him much
25 during the day because he was at school.

1 Q. And you yourself don't remember school?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Do you remember making friends when you were there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you remember the names of other children that you
6 would come across?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you remember if any nun was, if I can put it this
9 way, nice to you at any time?

10 A. I can't remember of any, but there were probably some
11 that were maybe not as bad, but I didn't come across it.
12 I just hated them.

13 Q. How would you describe the level of care then that you
14 received from the nuns?

15 A. None.

16 Q. Why --

17 A. There was no care.

18 Q. Why do you say that?

19 A. Because it should have been a happy place to live in.
20 It was not.

21 Q. Were you shown any affection?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you speak to the nuns, trying to see your brother on
24 occasions?

25 A. Well, as time went by, I asked for my brother, and the

1 thing is -- what it is is that once we were left
2 Nazareth House, me and my brother together, and went
3 back to our parents' home, I can't remember if he came
4 back with me there. So I tried to look for him and
5 I couldn't see him, so I started to wonder, "Where is
6 he?"

7 I didn't want to ask the nuns that were supposed to
8 be looking after me, so I went to the Sister Superior,
9 a place I was not allowed to go. I thought, "Go for
10 it", so I went down and asked where my brother is. She
11 was quite abrupt, saying, "What the hell are you doing
12 here?" because I knew I wasn't allowed down there. So
13 I took a big chance. She said to me, "Your brother's in
14 isolation".

15 Q. What did you understand by that?

16 A. I don't know if he was ill that he was in isolation, or
17 had measles or anything like that. I don't know why.
18 I says, "What's wrong with him?" and she said, "There's
19 nothing wrong with him, go back to the dining room". So
20 I stayed for a couple of minutes and thought, should
21 I say anything else, put myself at risk, so I thought,
22 no, let's go back to the dining room.

23 Q. Did you see your brother at all then in this second time
24 that you were in Nazareth House?

25 A. No.

1 Q. I think I put the dates to you before, but you were
2 there, according to the records, from [REDACTED] 1960 to
3 [REDACTED] 1961 when you finally left Nazareth House, when
4 you'd then be coming up for 10. Does that fit in with
5 your own recollection?

6 A. I actually don't remember leaving there.

7 Q. Okay. But your brother, in any event, he'd be a year
8 older?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I ask you this, John: you've been telling us some of
11 the things that were being said to you by the nuns. For
12 example, scrubbing to scrub out sins, or something along
13 these lines you told us. Can you remember any of the
14 other things that were said to you by nuns, whether
15 about yourself, religion, your parents? Any of that
16 sort of thing.

17 A. About my parents?

18 Q. Yes. Was anything said to you about your family, your
19 religion? If you can't remember, just tell me.

20 A. No, I can't remember. Sorry.

21 Q. Then can I take you to when you left Nazareth House.
22 You say you don't remember leaving, but do you remember
23 being in a place called Redhall House Children's Home in
24 Edinburgh?

25 A. Yes, I do remember going, yes. I don't know who took me

1 there or who commissioned that I go there. I just don't
2 know who took me, I don't know. I can't remember who
3 took me.

4 Q. Do you have any knowledge as to why you were moved from
5 Lasswade to Redhall?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But you tell us in your statement that, according to
8 your GP records -- and I know you got some information
9 from your GP records -- that you went to Redhall on
10 ██████████ 1961. You go on to say:

11 "It was one of my happier homes."

12 Is that --

13 A. Yes, that is true. I was allowed to talk. I was
14 allowed to play. It was like freedom.

15 Q. Can you then compare life in that home at about the same
16 time that we're talking about, in the early 1960s, to
17 life in Nazareth House Lasswade?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What's the comparison?

20 A. What's different about it? I could talk, play, freedom,
21 pocket money, which I'd never had. I had bit of
22 schooling, not a lot, but I couldn't settle in school,
23 I didn't know any better. I had no trust for staff.
24 I couldn't trust anybody.

25 Q. What about the discipline at Redhall compared to

1 Nazareth House?

2 A. They were firm, but at that stage I learned just to do
3 as you're told, whether you like it or not.

4 Q. Were you still wetting the bed?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And how were you treated at Redhall as compared to
7 Nazareth House?

8 A. Slightly better. They were more understanding, I think,
9 so you just got on with getting yourself clean ...

10 Q. What you say in your statement is you were told to go
11 and have a shower and get on with it.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were not punished for it?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I think you also say in your statement that you went to
16 another place, either Mansfield Home or Muirfield Home,
17 but you have no real recollection of being there;
18 is that right?

19 A. This is correct. I don't remember Mansfield at all.

20 Q. Can I just come back to Redhall. Was your brother with
21 you at Redhall?

22 A. No.

23 Q. So from what you've been saying, had you last seen your
24 brother when you went home after you had been at
25 Lasswade before you went back in?

1 A. When we were sent back to our parents, or so-called
2 parents -- my father was quite brutal, but we knew
3 nothing better, so I don't know if my brother -- what
4 happened that we had to go back is my father beat me and
5 my brother quite severely. What for? Was it because
6 I wet the bed or done something outside? Because
7 I turned out to be quite rebellious, so my father beat
8 me and my brother that bad I couldn't sit down when
9 I went to school because of the injuries.

10 So the police were called because the school looked
11 at why we weren't sitting down ... So the police got
12 involved and I think they called the social worker,
13 anything like that, I don't know. And the [REDACTED] were
14 there, but I can't remember much more about that.
15 I know that I was put back into care.

16 Q. I think that's what caused you to be taken back to
17 Lasswade.

18 A. Yes. I remember going to school and couldn't sit down
19 when I was told to sit down and I said, "I can't sit
20 down". I was taken to the headmaster's office and from
21 there I can't remember. So I went back to
22 Nazareth House, but I don't remember seeing my brother.

23 Q. Do you know from having spoken to your brother since
24 where your brother went?

25 A. I can't speak to my brother because I don't want to

1 upset him.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. He doesn't want to talk about it.

4 Q. Let's leave that aside then, John, and just look to your
5 life after Redhall.

6 I think you went to -- you don't remember Mansfield,
7 but you went to St Ninian's School in Falkland in Fife.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were you about 13 by then when you went there?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So that would be about 1964/1965 when you'd be there;
12 is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think you're aware, John, that we in this inquiry may
15 very well be looking at St Ninian's, but this particular
16 case study is focused on the Sisters of Nazareth; do you
17 understand that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So we've taken in your statement your evidence for
20 St Ninian's and you cover that, I think, from
21 paragraphs 56 through to 78. I'm not going to look
22 at the detail of that with you because we're not doing
23 that today; that's something we'll leave aside for
24 another day.

25 What I want to look at now is where you went after

- 1 St Ninian's. I think there you went to another place
2 called Ponton House in Edinburgh; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. I think you say in paragraph 82 that you were about 14
5 when you went there.
- 6 A. Roughly, yes.
- 7 Q. That was a working person's hostel?
- 8 A. Yes, it was a working man's hostel, yes, it was.
- 9 Q. You were quite young to be in that environment.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. When you left, I think you tell us, when you are talking
12 about your life after being in care, that at least for
13 a while you were on the streets; is that right?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. You provide us with details of that. We can read that
16 and understand what your life was like.
- 17 There came a change in your life one day when you
18 were in a shop in Edinburgh; I think it was
19 Patrick Thomson's.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. That doesn't exist any more, but it was quite
22 a well-known shop.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. I think that's where you met someone who became your
25 wife and that changed your life.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Are you able to tell me, John, what impact you would say
3 your life in Nazareth House has had on you?
- 4 A. Not very good.
- 5 Q. Are you able to -- if you wish, would you like to
6 elaborate upon that?
- 7 A. Are you looking at just after Nazareth House?
- 8 Q. Just looking at your life in general.
- 9 A. Now? The present day? Well ...
- 10 (Pause)
- 11 Q. I don't want to make it difficult for you, John, because
12 you have given us information in your statement which
13 we can read for ourselves. I think one of the things
14 you tell us is you're very protective of your own family
15 and you look upon what happened to you in Nazareth House
16 at least as having a bearing on that; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. The other thing I'd like to take from you is your
19 relationship with your brother, who you went into
20 Nazareth House with. You have told us how you became
21 separated.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. When did you next see your brother after the incident
24 involving your father when you returned home?
- 25 A. I never saw him until probably after I was married

1 because me and my wife were sitting on a bus and
2 somebody came up and she says, "Are you a [REDACTED] "
3 I said, "Yes, why?" "That's your brother at the back".
4 So I looked round. I didn't feel happy because I think
5 the bond was broken. Then I started to go and see him,
6 but I found it very difficult. Through time,
7 I discovered he was missing a mother figure. I couldn't
8 give him any affection at all. I couldn't even cuddle
9 him, which is terrible.

10 But it's the way I felt. I can't even speak about
11 the past, but I did ask him where he went to because
12 when I was at Redhall, as I said, it was a better place
13 and they took us to Portobello for a day out, and as
14 I was going along in traffic, two buses were beside each
15 other and I spotted him. So I had to knock on the
16 window, but no. So that's the last I saw of him for
17 a good while.

18 Q. Are you saying there that you saw him on another bus --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- when you were on another bus?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you tell us in your statement you were aged
23 about 20 at that time; is that correct?

24 A. No, I think I was younger.

25 Q. This is when you were at Redhall?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: The two buses, that was a day out from Redhall
3 and you saw him on another bus; is that right?

4 A. I was on a bus from Redhall -- I think it was to
5 Portobello -- and I saw him because he was on another
6 bus. I don't know where that was going. So I tried to
7 catch his attention, but I never got it. The traffic
8 started to move, so that was my chance gone.

9 LADY SMITH: And then it wasn't until after you were
10 married, was it, you said, that you saw him again?

11 A. Yes, I was going about life, married, I was on another
12 bus with the wife, and somebody come up and says, "Are
13 you a [REDACTED]" I said, "Yes". "That's your brother
14 at the back". I can't remember who came up, the wife,
15 she would know because she's got a good memory. So
16 I went up and seen him and discovered that he was
17 staying in Wester Hailes, but I didn't feel the bond
18 from him. I had no feelings for him.

19 LADY SMITH: How old do you think you were then?

20 A. I must have been in my late teens.

21 LADY SMITH: How old were you when you got married? Did you
22 get married when you were a teenager?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: So it's some time just after that you're
25 talking about?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 LADY SMITH: Right. That's fine. We don't need exact
3 dates, but that gives me quite a clear picture.
4 Thank you.
- 5 MR MacAULAY: You already mentioned, John, about the visit
6 you made to Nazareth House Lasswade with your brother --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- and you spoke to the nuns there.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. One of the things you asked was in connection with
11 photographs.
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. Do I understand that you were keen to recover
14 photographs of yourself and possibly your brother?
- 15 A. Yes, I wanted to know what we looked like.
- 16 Q. Do you have any recollection of photographs being taken
17 while you were at Lasswade?
- 18 A. No. But then my daughter discovered some photographs on
19 the Internet of Nazareth House. She brought them up to
20 me, which I have. I tried to see if I could remember
21 anything or see if I could see myself there. No.
- 22 Q. I think you do tell us this in your statement, that you
23 did write to the Sisters of Nazareth to ask if they had
24 any photographs.
- 25 A. Yes, I did, and to London.

1 Q. And did you get a response to that letter?

2 A. She wrote back and said there's nothing.

3 MR MacAULAY: Very well, John. Those are all the questions
4 that I have for you. There are no other questions that
5 have been sent to me to put to you.

6 I'm not aware, my Lady, if there are to be any
7 further questions.

8 LADY SMITH: Could I just check whether there are any
9 outstanding applications for questions of this witness,
10 please.

11 MR MacAULAY: There's a nodding of heads.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 There are no further questions for you, John. It
14 just remains for me to thank you very much for engaging
15 with the inquiry as you have done, providing your
16 evidence not only about Nazareth House but about
17 St Ninian's, and I hope you understand what the position
18 is with that. The fact we haven't talked about that
19 today doesn't mean we're not interested in it; we are,
20 but at this stage we're just looking at Nazareth House.

21 I appreciate this has not been easy for you and it
22 has been a difficult morning, but thank you very much
23 for giving us your evidence today. I'm now able to let
24 you go.

25 A. Thank you very much.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay?

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is programmed to
4 come in for 2 o'clock, so may I suggest we rise a little
5 earlier than normal and come back for 2.00?

6 LADY SMITH: Certainly. We'll rise now and come back at
7 2 o'clock.

8 (12.45 pm)

9 (The lunch adjournment)

10 (2.00 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness is
13 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and wants to
14 use the name "Anne" in giving evidence.

15 "ANNE" (sworn)

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

17 That looks as though you're in a good position for
18 the microphone, Anne. I'm afraid we can't get it any
19 further forward on the desk, so I'd ask you to stay
20 quite close to it so we can pick up everything you say.
21 Mr MacAulay will explain what he wants with the red file
22 in a moment.

23 Mr MacAulay.

24 Questions from MR MacAULAY

25 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Anne.

1 A. Good afternoon.

2 Q. I'll be basing my questions to you on your statement,
3 but if I ask you something about something that you
4 can't remember, just say that you can't remember.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Likewise, if I ask you something and it triggers some
7 other memory that you want to tell us about, feel free
8 to tell us.

9 The first thing I want to confirm with you is your
10 year of birth, not your date of birth. Can I confirm
11 with you that you were born in 1962?

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. In the red folder in front of you you'll find your
14 statement. The reference for that, for the
15 stenographers, is WIT.001.001.3549. Could I ask you to
16 turn to the last page. That's at 3568. Can you confirm
17 for me that you have signed the statement?

18 A. I have, yes.

19 Q. In the last paragraph, do you say:

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

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Do you also say:

24 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
25 statement are true"?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can I just touch upon your background, in particular
3 your family background, before you went into care,
4 because we're going to look at the time you spent at
5 Lasswade, the Nazareth House in Lasswade. I think you
6 tell us in your statement that you lived with your
7 mother and your father, two brothers and a sister in
8 Edinburgh.
- 9 A. That's right, yes.
- 10 Q. Looking back, what you say in your statement is you
11 thought you were possibly a typical dysfunctional
12 family.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. At a point in time I think your mother left the family;
15 is that right?
- 16 A. That's right.
- 17 Q. Was it after your mother left that you were taken to
18 Nazareth House Lasswade?
- 19 A. Yes, it was.
- 20 Q. The information that we've obtained from the Sisters of
21 Nazareth records in relation to dates I'll put to you,
22 and you can see whether or not they ring a bell with
23 you. The first time that you were admitted on
24 [REDACTED] 1969, so you'd be about 7.
- 25 A. I think that's right.

1 Q. They haven't recorded when you left, but social work
2 records that we've managed to get hold of suggest that
3 you left on [REDACTED] 1976, when you were taken to your
4 mother.

5 A. That could be about right, yes.

6 Q. Aged about 14?

7 A. 13 or 14.

8 Q. What the records suggest is you were taken to [REDACTED]
9 Perthshire; is that right?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. That's the social work records that told you that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can I then look at your entry to Nazareth House
14 Lasswade. Did you go there with brothers and sisters?

15 A. I did, yes.

16 Q. I think you had two brothers and one sister?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. So far as the age range, without looking at the
19 particular ages, am I right in saying you're the oldest?

20 A. I'm the oldest, yes.

21 Q. There was a brother who was about a year or so younger
22 than you?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And then a sister who was about four years younger than
25 you?

- 1 A. That's right.
- 2 Q. And then another brother who was, when he went into
3 Lasswade with you, was under 2?
- 4 A. He was under 1 actually, yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. When then you went to Lasswade, particularly
6 insofar as your youngest brother would be concerned, did
7 he go to a different part of the establishment?
- 8 A. My sister and my younger brother went to different
9 parts.
- 10 Q. Do you know where they went?
- 11 A. They went to a part that was called Holycote. All the
12 ones under 5 went to that side of the house.
- 13 Q. And that's H-O-L-Y-C-O-T-E. Do you know yourself what
14 the arrangements were within the Holycote area?
- 15 A. No. I never got to see my brothers once they went --
16 I saw my brother and sister when they went to that side
17 of the house. I never seen them again until they were
18 about 5 or 6.
- 19 Q. When we talk about Holycote, is that building that's
20 quite separate from the main building?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. To walk from one to the other, how long would it take?
- 23 A. About maybe 10 minutes.
- 24 Q. So there's a little distance?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Do I take it then from what you've just told us, Anne,
2 that your other brother, who was a year or so younger
3 than you, went into the part of the building that you
4 went into?
- 5 A. That's right, yes.
- 6 Q. So would you see him on a regular basis?
- 7 A. I would.
- 8 Q. Just to be clear then, your younger sister and the
9 younger brother, they went to Holycote and you did not
10 see them again until much later?
- 11 A. Much later on when they came over to the part of the
12 house that I was in.
- 13 Q. Did they come over together?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Although there was about, what, a year or so of a gap
16 between them?
- 17 A. Yes, that's right.
- 18 Q. When you arrived then at Lasswade, was there
19 a particular sister that you became involved with?
- 20 A. The group sister was Sister [REDACTED] LFX
- 21 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that over the
22 time you were there that did change.
- 23 A. Yes, the nuns moved on to other homes up and down the
24 country.
- 25 Q. Insofar as your group is concerned, can you tell me

- 1 a little bit about that? What size of group was it,
2 first of all?
- 3 A. I'm not really sure how many children there was. There
4 was quite a few. Maybe 24 or 28, but I'm not
5 100 per cent sure.
- 6 Q. Was it mixed?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And was your younger brother in the group as well?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So far as the sleeping arrangements were concerned,
11 can you help me with that? What was the set-up?
- 12 A. It was dormitories and the boys had dormitories and the
13 girls had dormitories.
- 14 Q. So if you look at your dormitory, how many girls were
15 in the dormitory?
- 16 A. I think it was six, six or eight. I can't remember.
- 17 Q. Are you able to help with regard to the mix of boys and
18 girls? By that I mean were there more girls than boys?
19 What was the set-up?
- 20 A. I think there were more girls than boys. When the boys
21 got to, I think it was 12 or 13, they went to a place
22 for boys that was run by monks.
- 23 Q. Do you remember the name of that place?
- 24 A. St Ninian's.
- 25 Q. We know there are two St Ninian's at least, so was it --

1 there is St Ninian's Falkland and St Ninian's Gartmore
2 that we have heard about. Do you know which --

3 A. I can only remember the name St Ninian's.

4 Q. Okay. You've mentioned Sister [REDACTED] LFX as being in
5 charge of your group. Did she have any assistance?

6 A. There was a staff member that helped her with the
7 children.

8 Q. Was that a male or female member?

9 A. Female.

10 Q. Can you remember her name?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What was her name?

13 A. [REDACTED] LFX

14 Q. The age range of the group then, I think from what
15 you've told us, you'd be about 7 or so when you were
16 admitted and your brother was a year younger. Can you
17 help me with the range?

18 A. The age group was between 5 and 13, boys and girls.

19 Q. As you've indicated, the older boys tended to go
20 elsewhere?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. So at the top end, would it be more girls than boys?

23 A. More girls, uh-huh.

24 Q. Just following through the change in sisters, you've
25 mentioned Sister [REDACTED] LFX and we'll look at your

1 involvement with her in a moment. Do you remember who
2 followed Sister [LFX] in charge of your group?

3 A. I don't, no, sorry.

4 Q. You mention a Sister [LFZ] in your statement; was she
5 a sister that you had some involvement with?

6 A. Yes, she was.

7 Q. Was she in charge of the group at some point?

8 A. Yes. I'm not sure if she followed Sister [LFX]

9 Q. You also mention a Sister Bernadette; was that another
10 nun you had something to do with?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that in connection with the group or was that in
13 some other connection?

14 A. She looked after the group as well.

15 Q. The last one you mentioned was Sister [LKI]

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. She was young?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But you thought she was only about 18 at the time;
20 that's what you say in your statement.

21 A. I think so, yes, she was very young.

22 Q. If we go back to what you say about the staff, and you
23 mentioned [LFY], the way you describe her
24 is that -- in your statement at paragraph 15, you say:

25 "She was really nasty."

- 1 A. She was.
- 2 Q. Can you explain that for me?
- 3 A. For example, when it was lunchtime or evening mealtime,
4 she'd walk around the dining room with a really, really
5 thick wooden spoon and if anyone spoke, she would hit
6 them on the back of the head with it -- and other
7 things.
- 8 Q. We may look at these other things. What I want to take
9 from you is this: was she allowed to do that by the
10 sister in charge?
- 11 A. Yes. She was never stopped from doing it, so I assumed
12 she was.
- 13 Q. You say that the other staff were okay.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What do you mean by that? They didn't cause any trouble
16 or what was the --
- 17 A. They'd give you a row if you needed a row, but they
18 weren't like abusive or -- they didn't hit you or
19 anything like that.
- 20 Q. Looking at the sisters -- and I'll focus on
21 Sister LFX in a moment -- I think you say that
22 Sister Bernadette was a really nice nun.
- 23 A. She was, yes.
- 24 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?
- 25 A. Well, I never, ever witnessed her hitting any of the

- 1 children and she was always nice, she was approachable.
- 2 Q. Sister [REDACTED] LKI [REDACTED] who I think you tell us was there
3 when you left --
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. -- how did you get on with her?
- 6 A. I got on quite well with her. She actually arranged for
7 me to go to my aunt and gran's at the weekends.
- 8 Q. That was later on?
- 9 A. That was later on, yes.
- 10 Q. Can I just touch upon some aspects of the routine at
11 Nazareth House. Let's begin at the beginning when you
12 first went there. When you first went there, did you
13 meet with Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] ?
- 14 A. It wasn't her right away. I met with another nun;
15 I can't remember her name though.
- 16 Q. At an early point in time then, did you meet
17 Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED]
- 18 A. Yes, when I was taken over to her particular group,
19 that's where I was going to be.
- 20 Q. Was that on the first day?
- 21 A. That was, yes.
- 22 Q. How did that first meeting with Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] go?
- 23 A. Not very well.
- 24 Q. Why do you say that?
- 25 A. Because I was struck across the face the first time

1 I met her, and the way I fell, I bumped my head on the
2 window ledge; they were quite low.

3 Q. Was there a reason for that happening?

4 A. Well, yeah, there was. She was looking through my
5 brother and myself's hair to see if we had lice and
6 I said we didn't have lice and that's when she slapped
7 me and I fell -- well, off balance and struck my head.
8 I guess she must have thought I was cheeky or something.

9 Q. Did that cause you to be upset?

10 A. I was crying, yes.

11 Q. I think when you went there on the first day you had
12 something to eat; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did that mean you joined other children in the dining
15 room?

16 A. Yes, we went to the dining room.

17 Q. Can you help me a little bit about the dining room then?
18 What sort of size of room was this?

19 A. It was quite big and there was -- I can't remember if it
20 was four or five tables and the children sat round them.

21 Q. Was it mixed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you understand that this was the dining room that
24 was for your own group or for different groups?

25 A. It was for our group.

- 1 Q. But not another group then?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Do you know how many groups were being accommodated
4 in the main building, leaving aside the Holycote part?
- 5 A. There were three groups.
- 6 Q. Were they of roughly the same size?
- 7 A. Yes, they were.
- 8 Q. Did you get to know who the sisters were who were in
9 charge of the other groups?
- 10 A. We did.
- 11 Q. Can you perhaps tell us some names?
- 12 A. The ones that I can remember are Sister LQB
- 13 Q. LQB
- 14 A. LQB uh-huh, and a Sister LFD and Sister LFD
- 15 Q. Over the time that you were there, did you have much to
16 do with these sisters?
- 17 A. Well, as I got older and was friends with the other
18 girls in the other group, we'd go to each other's group
19 and have a chat and that's how we got to know the other
20 nuns.
- 21 Q. Insofar as the way in which you were treated -- and
22 we're going to talk about that -- did these other nuns
23 you have mentioned have anything to do with the way you
24 were treated?
- 25 A. Not really, no. No.

1 Q. Let's take you to your first night there then. I think
2 you've told us already you were in a dormitory and you
3 thought maybe there were about six or so children;
4 is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That'd be all girls?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How did you sleep that first night?

9 A. I don't think I slept very well. I can't remember.

10 Q. Were you being distracted by things?

11 A. Yes, there were children crying and children screaming,
12 you could hear, from the other groups as well. There
13 was big doors, but they were never closed.

14 Q. You mentioned the three groups. How close were the
15 dormitories that accommodated these groups?

16 A. They were quite close. There were only, as I say, big
17 doors that separated the corridor, but they were never
18 closed.

19 Q. What was your reaction to the crying and screaming that
20 you became aware of?

21 A. I was quite worried and quite frightened as to what was
22 going on.

23 Q. Let's look a little bit at some aspects of the routine.
24 What did you do in the morning?

25 A. We got washed and ready -- I think it was a school day,

- 1 I can't remember.
- 2 Q. Did you have to go to church on a daily basis or was it
3 more for the Sunday?
- 4 A. I'm not sure.
- 5 Q. One thing you tell us is that, as far as clothing was
6 concerned, your clothes were second-hand.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You also say that when you were older, about 12, you
9 started to get new clothes; is that right?
- 10 A. That's right, when we were going on holiday, we would
11 get new clothes.
- 12 Q. And how was that arranged? What happened?
- 13 A. We just went to the big room and the clothes were given
14 to you.
- 15 Q. One thing you do say is that you'd be taken to the C&A
16 shop in Edinburgh to buy new clothes?
- 17 A. That's before I went to the high school, we went to
18 C&A's in Edinburgh -- but that only happened once, it
19 wasn't a regular thing.
- 20 Q. Were you able to choose the clothes?
- 21 A. Yes, uh-huh, as long as they were appropriate.
- 22 Q. And what you're saying is these would be appropriate for
23 going to school?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can I ask you a little bit now about bath times.

1 Can you tell me what the arrangements were for when you
2 had to have a bath?

3 A. Well, the water was run and the first person that went
4 in, the water was scalding hot, then we queued up and
5 when that person was finished, someone else would go in
6 and then someone else would go in after that, until
7 everyone had had their bath.

8 Q. So let's go back a bit. Can I ask you first of all: how
9 many baths were there?

10 A. Just the one that I can remember.

11 Q. Was that for your group?

12 A. For our group, yes.

13 Q. You're talking about your group of, you thought, 20 to
14 24 children?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. How often a week would you have the bath?

17 A. Twice or three times maybe.

18 Q. This process that you've described of one child going in
19 after another, when you went there first of all was
20 there a particular pecking order? By that I mean did
21 anybody go to the front of the queue or the back? How
22 was it arranged?

23 A. I think if you got there first, you got there first and
24 it just went down the line, sort of thing.

25 Q. Are you saying that this would be a queue of boys and

- 1 girls?
- 2 A. Uh-huh, yes.
- 3 Q. Can you tell me the arrangements? You'd have to strip
- 4 off or what was the --
- 5 A. No, you didn't get stripped until you were in the actual
- 6 bath area.
- 7 Q. Was there privacy then in the bath area?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. As you got older though, did this remain the position?
- 10 A. When I was about 13/14, before I left to go and live
- 11 with my mum, I was allowed to have the bath myself when
- 12 I wanted to have a bath, it wasn't like everybody
- 13 queueing up and that. I could have a bath when
- 14 I wanted.
- 15 Q. Right. You've told us about how people would queue up
- 16 and how the water would be very hot to begin with. Were
- 17 you ever in a position to go into a bath that was very
- 18 hot?
- 19 A. Not that I can remember, no.
- 20 Q. But the same water was used for all the children?
- 21 A. Oh yes, definitely.
- 22 Q. Were you ever in a position where you were towards the
- 23 end of the queue and it wasn't quite so warm?
- 24 A. Probably I was, yes. Again, I can't remember for sure.
- 25 Q. There's something you say in your statement at

1 paragraph 28, which is on the screen, that when you got
2 to a particular age -- and you say it was 10 -- that you
3 became responsible for one of the younger children.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. Can you help me with that and explain how that happened?

6 A. You had to ensure that the younger, which was probably
7 maybe 6 or 7 sort of age, that you had to make sure they
8 were dressed and that their hair had been combed and
9 washed and dressed and hair combed and down the stairs
10 ready to have breakfast as well as doing things for
11 yourself.

12 Q. Would that be somebody then within your own group you'd
13 be allocated to?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you were at the age of 10, would there be somebody
16 responsible for you?

17 A. No, I'd be responsible for myself.

18 Q. But then if there was something wrong, if you hadn't
19 done your job properly or whatever, did anything happen?

20 A. You'd get into trouble from either the staff member or
21 the nun themselves.

22 Q. What does "getting into trouble" mean?

23 A. Well, you'd be hit and shouted at or ... shouted at and
24 hit and told that you needed to do it, it was my
25 responsibility.

1 Q. Did that happen to you?

2 A. Oh yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. Did it happen very much?

4 A. Maybe twice, but not any more than that that I can

5 remember.

6 Q. Who was involved with you when that happened?

7 A. That would -- who would give me --

8 Q. Yes.?

9 A. It would probably have been the nun.

10 Q. Sister [REDACTED] LFX

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. One thing you do also tell us is that after, I think,

13 a few years, you say the place was refurbished --

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. - you had smaller bedrooms. So how many would be in

16 each room now?

17 A. It'd be three. The first new room that I had, there was

18 three of us in that, and then, as I got older, I moved

19 to another room and it was just myself and an older

20 girl.

21 Q. So you had more privacy then?

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. Would anyone come into the dormitory when it was

24 a dormitory at night to check on the children?

25 A. Sometimes a nun or the staff member.

1 Q. I think you tell us about two girls who were in your
2 dormitory, who were sisters, and one would go into the
3 other's bed.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. Did that cause some concern?

6 A. They did get into a lot of trouble for that.

7 Q. What happened to them?

8 A. I think they got, like, smacked or hit and abused and
9 that. I mean, they were sisters, they just wanted to
10 comfort each other because they were frightened, and
11 they were slapped and stuff.

12 Q. Did you see that happening?

13 A. Yes, uh-huh.

14 Q. Did that happen very much?

15 A. I think when they were caught, yes, it did.

16 Q. Who punished them in that way?

17 A. It would be the nun or the staff member, LFY

18 Q. One thing you do tell us about in your statement, Anne,
19 is about bed-wetting. Can I just ask you about that now
20 if you don't mind? Were you a bed-wetter?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Were there some in your group who did wet the bed?

23 A. Yes, there was.

24 Q. Can you tell me what would happen?

25 A. Staff would put them in a cold bath, they would be told

- 1 to strip their bed and they would be into a lot of
2 trouble.
- 3 Q. What does that mean, "being in a lot of trouble"?
- 4 A. They would be slapped and hit and shouted at.
- 5 Q. Who did that?
- 6 A. As I say, the staff member or the nun.
- 7 Q. So when you're talking about that sort of trouble
8 happening, you're talking either about Sister LFX or
9 LFY ?
- 10 A. Or any of the other nuns. It was something that went on
11 with all of them.
- 12 Q. So it wasn't just in relation to your group?
- 13 A. No, other groups done that.
- 14 Q. When the children who wet beds went through this
15 procedure, were they upset?
- 16 A. Oh yes, crying and quite upset.
- 17 Q. Did you hear screaming when they were in the baths?
- 18 A. Mm-hm, yes, because it was freezing cold.
- 19 Q. Sorry?
- 20 A. It didn't matter if it was winter or summer, that was
21 what was done: they were put in the cold bath because
22 they'd wet the bed.
- 23 Q. What about the sheets? Do you know what happened to the
24 sheets?
- 25 A. I can't remember, sorry.

1 Q. From what you're saying, are you able to say on a daily
2 basis -- was this something that happened on a daily
3 basis?

4 A. Yes, every morning the beds were checked.

5 Q. Would there be wet beds every morning?

6 A. Oh yes, uh-huh, certainly.

7 Q. So are you saying that this was a noisy thing with the
8 screaming and the crying?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you said they were shouted at; can you remember
11 what was being said?

12 A. I can't, sorry.

13 Q. What about you as the children that didn't wet the bed?
14 Did you do anything to humiliate the other children?

15 A. Well, we were -- yeah, we were encouraged by the nuns to
16 call them fish. That's how they were referred to. At
17 mealtimes, they all sat together at a particular table
18 and ... Sorry, I'm getting upset.

19 LADY SMITH: That's quite all right. Take your time.

20 (Pause)

21 A. Can I have a minute?

22 LADY SMITH: Would you like us to have a break? We can do
23 that. Just let us know when you're ready to carry on.

24 (2.30 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (2.40 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Are you ready to continue, Anne?

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MacAULAY: Anne, before the break you'd been telling us

6 about your recollections about bed-wetting. You've

7 already told us, I think, that your young brother was in

8 your group.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. Was he somebody who wet the bed?

11 A. He was, yes.

12 Q. Did you see him then going through the sort of process

13 you've told us about?

14 A. I did, yes.

15 Q. And did that upset you?

16 A. Oh yes.

17 Q. The other area I want to ask you about is mealtimes:

18 were you allowed to leave food?

19 A. Oh no.

20 Q. Can you just explain to us what happened? What would

21 happen?

22 A. If you didn't eat it, you would be force-fed it, the

23 food, whether you liked it or not. You couldn't leave

24 it.

25 Q. How would you be force-fed? What would happen?

- 1 A. Well, I was force-fed and I had my hands tied to the
2 chair and the food was rammed in my mouth on the spoon,
3 and if I was sick then I was fed the sick as well.
- 4 Q. Who did this?
- 5 A. It was the staff member, but I can't remember the staff
6 member's name. And it was also done by a nun as well.
7 That was Sister LFX
- 8 Q. When you say your hands were tied to the chair, do you
9 mean literally they were tied to the chair?
- 10 A. Yes. It was with a cord, around ... just around.
- 11 Q. So far as that part of what you've been telling us is
12 concerned, did that just happen the once, the being tied
13 to the chair or did it happen more than once?
- 14 A. Twice that I can remember.
- 15 Q. Being tied to the chair?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Otherwise, were there other occasions when you were
18 force-fed without being tied to the chair?
- 19 A. Three times in total: twice I was tied to the chair and
20 just the once I was force-fed. That time it was
21 spaghetti.
- 22 Q. I think the spaghetti incident you do speak about
23 specifically. Who was it that did that, who force-fed
24 you with the spaghetti?
- 25 A. I think that was a staff member that done that.

1 LADY SMITH: Anne, can you just lean a little bit forward to
2 make sure the microphone is picking you up? You can get
3 reasonably close to it and it'll help everybody to hear
4 you.

5 Thank you.

6 MR MacAULAY: You didn't want to eat the spaghetti?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you make that clear?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. And on that occasion, can you tell us how you were made
11 to eat the spaghetti?

12 A. I was just force-fed and it was pushed through my -- my
13 lips were closed and the spoon was forced through my
14 lips and banging on my teeth.

15 Q. Was that sore?

16 A. Yes, it was very sore and it happened twice before that
17 with porridge.

18 Q. What about other children? Did you see if other
19 children were force-fed in that same way?

20 A. They probably were, but I can't remember if I witnessed
21 it. I'm not sure.

22 Q. If for some reason you left food, what would happen?

23 A. I can't remember.

24 Q. Did you learn through those experiences you've been
25 telling us about that really you shouldn't leave feed?

1 A. I did, uh-huh.

2 Q. Is that what you tried to do, to eat all your food?

3 A. Yes, or I'd try and give it away.

4 Q. How would you manage that?

5 A. Put it on someone else's plate.

6 Q. Would that be somebody who was prepared to take it?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us a little bit about schooling and I think you
9 tell us you went to St Mary's in Bonnyrigg; is that
10 right?

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. I think from what you say in your statement, that was
13 quite some distance from Nazareth House.

14 A. Yes, it was.

15 Q. Did you walk there?

16 A. Yes, we did, uh-huh.

17 Q. What about homework? Were you given assistance with
18 your homework?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You do tell us about a staff member who came in, who --

21 A. [REDACTED] L J H she took me under her wing and she used to
22 help me.

23 Q. I think that's [REDACTED] L J H is it?

24 A. That's right, uh-huh, yes.

25 Q. In paragraph 18 of your statement, you did say there was

1 a particular staff member who was nice to you. Was that
2 [REDACTED] L J H you were talking about?

3 A. Yes, it was.

4 Q. You've explained about the homework. How else was she
5 nice to you?

6 A. She was just nice. She never, like, shouted at the
7 children and she never, ever hit any of the children.

8 Q. Did she stay on the premises or was she from outside?

9 A. She was from outside.

10 Q. So far as leisure is concerned, you do tell us that you
11 could watch TV.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You had a TV area. Was that for your group only or all
14 the groups?

15 A. Just for our group, each individual group had their own
16 sitting room and their television.

17 Q. Could you mix with the other groups if you were going
18 out to play?

19 A. Yes, we could.

20 Q. So if you made friends with other members in other
21 groups, you could meet them at play time, if you like?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Did you have games that you could play?

24 A. We more or less entertained ourselves because there was
25 a big field and the boys would play football,

1 I remember, and the girls would do skipping and stuff.
2 That's all I can remember.

3 Q. You do say that you used to get pocket money.
4 A. We did, uh-huh. We had to save most of it.

5 Q. Why did you have to save most of it?
6 A. I don't know. That's just something that we were told,
7 but we never, ever got the savings. So I don't know
8 what was done with that.

9 Q. When you say you had to save it, was it kept for you by
10 the sisters, by the nuns?
11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can I just understand how this worked? Who would give
13 you the pocket money?
14 A. The nuns.

15 Q. What sort of sums of money are you talking about,
16 can you remember?
17 A. Not very much. I can't remember exactly how much, but
18 some we had to give them back for savings, and then
19 whatever was left we were allowed to spend on sweets or
20 whatever.

21 Q. That's the way it worked then?
22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. Let's say you got 2 shillings -- I'm not sure how
24 accurate that might be -- would you keep 1 shilling and
25 give 1 shilling back.

1 A. That's the sort of thing.

2 Q. And the money you gave back was being saved on your
3 behalf?

4 A. That's right, uh-huh.

5 Q. Did you ever see that money?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Was this the position in relation to all the children?

8 A. All the children, yes.

9 Q. You've already mentioned, I think, that
10 Sister [REDACTED] LKI came to Nazareth House at some point.
11 You were older at that time?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Were you a teenager by then?

14 A. I was, uh-huh, 12 or 13, I think.

15 Q. You do say that she would let you go out to socialise --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- with older girls?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Would these be older girls from Nazareth House?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You mentioned a disco, I think, in your statement. Were
22 there other events or functions that you were allowed to
23 go and socialise at?

24 A. If there was anything on in the town, we were able to go
25 down to the town and socialise.

- 1 Q. You also tell us that you had some chores to do.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Can you tell us a bit about those?
- 4 A. Well, there was a lot of polishing we had to do. There
5 was a big long corridor and we had to polish that and --
6 just cleaning. We had to make sure our beds and, like,
7 our area was tidy.
- 8 Q. Would that take up much of your time, these sort of
9 chores you've mentioned to us?
- 10 A. Sometimes it could. I don't remember exactly.
- 11 Q. So far as holidays were concerned, I think one thing you
12 do tell us is that you were taken to Dunbar on holiday
13 every year.
- 14 A. That's right, yes.
- 15 Q. What sort of activities or trips would you have when you
16 were on holiday?
- 17 A. We'd go to the beach. There was two different beaches,
18 we'd go to a different one each day. That's all I can
19 remember, actually.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you this: so far as your birthday would be
21 concerned, was your birthday celebrated?
- 22 A. No, no.
- 23 Q. Do I take it you didn't get a card or a present?
- 24 A. No, no.
- 25 Q. So far as Christmas was concerned, was Christmas

- 1 celebrated?
- 2 A. Christmas was celebrated, uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Did you get presents at Christmas?
- 4 A. We did get presents, but we had to give them back or
- 5 they were taken -- they were taken away again.
- 6 Q. Can I just understand that? First of all, what sort of
- 7 presents are we talking about? Can you give us
- 8 examples?
- 9 A. Well, my gran used to bring presents up for myself and
- 10 my brother from my dad, and when she went away, the
- 11 presents were taken.
- 12 Q. These are presents given to you when there were visits?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What about Christmas presents?
- 15 A. Yes, Christmas presents were taken.
- 16 Q. Do you know where the Christmas presents came from?
- 17 A. No. No, I don't know.
- 18 Q. What happened then to the presents that were taken?
- 19 A. They were given away to other children. Well,
- 20 I remember being told that -- I had got a watch from my
- 21 dad and it was being taken away and given to a more
- 22 deserving child. But I don't know where that deserving
- 23 child was.
- 24 Q. Did you tell your dad that the watch he had bought for
- 25 you had been given to another child?

- 1 A. No, I told my gran that I had lost it.
- 2 Q. That you lost it?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So far as visits then -- and we've touched on this --
5 did your father come to visit?
- 6 A. I just remember him coming the once. He never came
7 again.
- 8 Q. Do you know why that was?
- 9 A. I think -- I'm not 100 per cent sure, but I think he had
10 got barred from visiting us because the time that he did
11 come and visit, I think he was drunk.
- 12 Q. Your grandmother did visit you?
- 13 A. My dad's mum, yes, came quite regular. She came every
14 Saturday.
- 15 Q. Do you know if she visited your younger brother and
16 sister in Holycote?
- 17 A. She visited them in Holycote and then she came over and
18 visited my brother and myself.
- 19 Q. Do I take it from that answer that you weren't visited
20 all together as a family?
- 21 A. No, we weren't.
- 22 Q. Do you know why that was?
- 23 A. I don't know, no.
- 24 Q. Did you have contact with a social worker when you were
25 in Lasswade?

- 1 A. Yes, his name was Mr Madden.
- 2 Q. And how often did he come to see you?
- 3 A. It wasn't regular. I only remember seeing him twice
- 4 in the time that I was there, and then a third time was
- 5 when he came and told me that I was going to my mum's
- 6 for what I thought was a weekend and that was when
- 7 I ended up going to live with my mum for good.
- 8 Q. That's when you left Lasswade?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Jumping ahead to that, since you've raised that, when
- 11 you were actually leaving Lasswade on that day, did you
- 12 think you were just going away for the weekend?
- 13 A. I did, yes. That's what I was told.
- 14 Q. By whom?
- 15 A. By Mr Madden.
- 16 Q. You've already told us, Anne, that your younger brother
- 17 and sister were taken away or were taken to Holycote on
- 18 your arrival and you had no dealings with them for some
- 19 years after that.
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. The brother that stayed with you, did he leave
- 22 Nazareth House before you left?
- 23 A. He did, he was -- I don't know if he was fostered out or
- 24 if he was adopted out, but I think that was round about
- 25 when he was about 9.

1 Q. When you say you don't know, have you learned since what
2 happened or not?

3 A. No, I've never seen him.

4 Q. Since then?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Had he gone before your younger brother and sister came
7 then to your group, because I think that's what
8 happened, isn't it?

9 A. That's right, yes. Yes, he had gone.

10 Q. So when they were at a particular age, as you told us
11 earlier, they came to your group?

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. But your other brother had left by then?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When your brother left, and you're not sure whether
16 he was fostered or adopted or whatever happened to him,
17 did you know he was leaving?

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

19 Q. Did you get the chance to say goodbye?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And you haven't seen him since?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You've already told us, Anne, about some aspects of the
24 way that you were treated at Nazareth House, and in
25 particular in connection with bed-wetting and

1 force-feeding.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I ask you more generally how you were treated. By
4 that I mean physically how were you treated by the nuns
5 or by the staff?

6 A. Well, one particular nun, every time she seen me,
7 I think she felt the urge to hit me. I would be slapped
8 for no reason or punched or kicked. If I fell to the
9 floor, I was kicked in the head or the stomach and that.

10 Q. Who was this?

11 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFX

12 Q. So when you're talking about this sort of treatment,
13 you're really talking about Sister [REDACTED] LFX

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you have any understanding as to why this was
16 happening to you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Were other children subjected to this?

19 A. Other children were subjected to the same treatment.
20 I don't think there needed to be a reason. If she just
21 felt like hitting someone, then she would do it.

22 Q. Would she say anything to you when this happened?

23 A. Not that I can remember, no.

24 Q. Can you remember anything that was being said to
25 yourself or to others about being there and why they

1 were there and so on?

2 A. No, I can't.

3 Q. You do tell us about one incident when you'd been to the

4 swimming pool in Bonnyrigg and you were late back.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What age were you at that time?

7 A. Oh gosh, I can't remember.

8 Q. But Sister [REDACTED] LFX was still there?

9 A. She was still there, yes, so I ...

10 Q. What happened on that occasion?

11 A. She took me into the dining room and was punching me and

12 kicking me and slapping me. When I fell on the floor --

13 as I fell on the floor, I knocked a chair down and she

14 was hitting me with the chair and she actually was

15 hitting me that bad with the chair, she actually broke

16 the chair and then continued hitting me with the broken

17 part of the chair, just because I was late back. That

18 was the only reason.

19 Q. Were you injured?

20 A. I can't remember if I was. I was probably black and

21 blue, but I don't know to what extent I was injured.

22 Q. You say in your statement that when this was going on,

23 there was this song on in the background.

24 A. Oh yes, mm-hm.

25 Q. Was someone playing -- was it the radio or a record

- 1 player?
- 2 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFX was playing the record on a record
3 player. When I fell against the record player, she hit
4 me more because the record had jumped and it got
5 scratched, so she -- I think that's when she started
6 hitting me with the chair.
- 7 Q. I think you tell us you remember the song?
- 8 A. It's a Dana song, "All Kinds of Everything Remind Me of
9 You". When I hear that song, I just freeze and I'm
10 right back there.
- 11 Q. I think you tell us it had just won the Eurovision Song
12 Contest.
- 13 A. Yes, that year.
- 14 Q. And people of a certain age would remember that was
15 about 1970, so that would make you 8 or 9 at that time.
- 16 A. Mm-hm.
- 17 Q. So what happened after this had finished then, this
18 particular incident you've been telling us about?
- 19 A. I think she left me in the dining room and went out.
20 I can't quite remember.
- 21 Q. You tell us about another incident when you, as you put
22 it, were having a laugh and a carry on with others and
23 Sister [REDACTED] LFX came on the scene. What happened?
- 24 A. She slapped me across the face and I fell down a flight
25 of stairs. I was unconscious. I don't know how long,

- 1 I can't remember, I was never told.
- 2 Anyway, I had to go to the hospital. In the van on
- 3 the way to hospital, I kept slipping in and out of
- 4 consciousness and she kept punching me, saying my name
- 5 and telling me to waken up, waken up, and punching me.
- 6 Q. And that's Sister [REDACTED] LFX ?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I don't want your name, but would she be using your
- 9 first name or your second name?
- 10 A. My second name.
- 11 Q. Was that always the case?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Were you then taken to hospital?
- 14 A. I was taken. I can't remember what hospital I went to,
- 15 but I think it probably would have been the Sick Kids in
- 16 Edinburgh.
- 17 Q. Have you ever seen any hospital records?
- 18 A. No, I have never seen any records, no.
- 19 Q. Do you know how long you spent in hospital?
- 20 A. I can't remember, no.
- 21 Q. Were you taken back to Nazareth House with
- 22 Sister [REDACTED] LFX or did you go back in some other way?
- 23 A. I went back with Sister [REDACTED] LFX uh-huh.
- 24 Q. Am I to take it someone else was driving?
- 25 A. No, she was driving and I was sitting in the front seat.

1 Q. So when she was striking you, she was still driving the
2 vehicle?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was it a car or a van?

5 A. It was a wee van. I don't know -- I don't drive, so
6 I don't know different cars and things, vans, but it was
7 just a wee van, a wee three-door van, two doors at the
8 back.

9 Q. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: A sort of car-sized van where the back of it is
11 a van rather than a saloon car style?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Right.

14 MR MacAULAY: You've already said that they didn't need
15 a reason to hit you.

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. That's quite difficult to understand, why that would be
18 the case. Can you give us any insight as to why someone
19 would hit you without there being a reason?

20 A. I'm not sure how to, because that would mean I would
21 have to understand the reason that they were -- the way
22 they were, and I can't. So I can't say why they would
23 hit us for no reason.

24 Q. But you've already mentioned that this helper,

25 LFY and what she -- what treatment she would

- 1 give out in the dining room with the wooden spoon.
- 2 A. Mm-hm.
- 3 Q. Can I ask you how often did that happen?
- 4 A. That was every mealtime. She would walk round. If she
- 5 was on duty, every mealtime, then she would walk round
- 6 the dining room making sure we weren't talking and that
- 7 we were eating our meal properly.
- 8 Q. If she caught you talking or not eating --
- 9 A. She would hit you with the wooden spoon across the head.
- 10 Q. Which part of the body would she be hitting?
- 11 A. The head or the side of the face. More than likely the
- 12 head.
- 13 Q. Did this cause children to become upset?
- 14 A. Yes, because it was sore and it was a really thick
- 15 wooden spoon. It was about an inch or an inch and
- 16 a half thick. I think it was one that they used for the
- 17 cooking.
- 18 Q. Would children be crying?
- 19 A. Definitely, yes.
- 20 Q. You also tell us about an incident that involved this
- 21 lady where I think you were intending to go to church
- 22 but did not go to church and did something else.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What happened on this occasion?
- 25 A. I was supposed to go to church but I went to the park

1 instead and I got caught and when I got back, the nun
2 and -- I don't think it was Sister [REDACTED] LFX it was
3 another nun and [REDACTED] LFX -- and she was hitting me
4 on the bottom with the wooden spoon.

5 Q. Who was?

6 A. [REDACTED] LFX The nun told her to stop hitting me on
7 the bottom because I wouldn't feel it the same. So she
8 told her to hit me on the bottom of my back, my coccyx,
9 and that was very sore.

10 Q. How often did she hit you?

11 A. A good few times. I don't know exactly how many times
12 she struck me, but it was a lot.

13 Q. What about the nun who was there?

14 A. She just stood and watched.

15 Q. How did that affect you then? You wouldn't be able to
16 see your lower back, whether you were bruised or not,
17 but were you able to walk properly after that?

18 A. I can't remember. I know I was in a lot of pain, but
19 I don't know if I was limping or anything like that.

20 Q. What age do you think you were then?

21 A. I was round about 12. Maybe a bit younger.

22 Q. So could Sister [REDACTED] LFX have left by then?

23 A. I'm not sure.

24 Q. You're not sure?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You do tell us about an incident when one of your
2 friends was involved with one of the nuns who was,
3 I don't think, from your group. Do you remember that?
4 I think she may have pulled off her veil or something.
5 A. She was fighting with the nun.
6 Q. She was fighting?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Do you know what it was about?
9 A. I don't know, but I did witness her pulling the veil
10 off, yes.
11 Q. When you say "fighting", can I just understand what that
12 means?
13 A. The nun was hitting my friend and she went to hit her
14 back, but instead she pulled the veil off.
15 Q. And what happened then, do you know?
16 A. She got sent away, practically within a couple of days.
17 Q. Did you keep in touch with that friend or not?
18 A. I did. I wrote her a letter, a few letters to her, and
19 when I got caught -- because they had opened the letter
20 that was addressed to me and they realised who it was
21 from and I got into a lot of trouble for it.
22 Q. What do you mean by trouble?
23 A. I got hit and punched.
24 Q. Who by on this occasion?
25 A. It was a nun, but I can't remember her name.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I can't remember.

3 Q. Do you know where your friend went?

4 A. She went to Euphrasia's in Glasgow.

5 Q. You've been telling us about, in particular, your own
6 experiences, Anne, but other children I think you've
7 also been saying were treated along similar lines;
8 is that your recollection?

9 A. That's right, yes.

10 Q. What about your young brother? Did you see how he was
11 being treated?

12 A. I can't recall seeing him being hit, but just humiliated
13 because he wet the bed. I can't remember him being hit.

14 Q. When you got to a certain age, got older, what about the
15 hitting at that point? Did it ease off?

16 A. It wasn't as bad, but I did witness a lot to younger
17 children.

18 Q. The time that you were hit by Sister [REDACTED] LFX when you
19 were late coming in from the swimming baths, did
20 you have injuries? By that I mean bruising and marks.

21 A. I did have bruising, yes.

22 Q. Where was the bruising?

23 A. It was on my body, like arms and legs, and she had also
24 been kicking me in the stomach and my stomach was
25 really, really sore for days after.

1 Q. Can I then leave Nazareth House and come to when you
2 were taken out, as you've told us already, by Mr Madden.
3 You thought you were going away for the weekend but in
4 fact you were not. You went to your mother's house;
5 is that right?

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. That was a [REDACTED] she was on?

8 A. That's right, (inaudible) [REDACTED].

9 Q. What you say in your statement is that you weren't asked
10 about this.

11 A. No.

12 Q. When had you last seen your mother?

13 A. Oh, I hadn't seen her for a long time, for years.
14 Seven, maybe six or seven years, and she'd come to visit
15 twice and then the next thing I knew, I was getting
16 taken to her -- well, I thought it was for a weekend,
17 but it wasn't; I was getting left there.

18 Q. I think we've seen from the dates, that was on
19 [REDACTED] 1976 that you left. So you'd be 14 or
20 thereabouts?

21 A. Just turned 14, yes.

22 Q. Did you find that when you went to live with your mother
23 that she had a partner?

24 A. That's right, she did, yes.

25 Q. And I don't want to look at the detail of this, but what

1 you tell us in your statement is you were abused by her
2 partner?

3 A. That's right, I was molested.

4 Q. Sexually abused?

5 A. I wasn't sexually abused, I was molested. I sort of
6 stood up to him, but I think if I hadn't then I would
7 have been abused. I know that he did abuse -- sexually
8 abuse my sister.

9 Q. Did you tell your mother about this?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you tell the social worker?

12 A. I told the social worker as well, Mr Madden.

13 Q. Indeed, did you give a statement in connection with
14 this?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. What happened?

17 A. I was sent back to stay with them.

18 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that you'd be
19 on occasions on your own in the house with this man.

20 A. That's right, yes, because my mum would go away to
21 Edinburgh for a weekend.

22 Q. And those occasions what did you have to do?

23 A. I had to barricade my bedroom door. I was frightened.

24 Q. Did he try to come into your room?

25 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Just moving on a little bit, when you turned 16, I think
2 you went to live with your grandmother; is that correct?

3 A. I was 15 and a half and I ran away. I lived rough for
4 a wee while and then I went to my gran and
5 Auntie [REDACTED] to live.

6 Q. You have told us -- I think you mentioned that your
7 sister also went to live with your mother.

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. Your younger sister?

10 A. Uh-huh. A couple of years later.

11 LADY SMITH: Anne, can you just get a little bit closer to
12 the microphone? It's very easy, because these chairs
13 move so quickly across the floor, to slip back.

14 Thank you.

15 MR MacAULAY: I think you became aware that your sister was
16 abused by your mother's partner.

17 A. Yes. That was some years later.

18 Q. When you found out?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Do you know if your sister told the social worker?

21 A. I believe she did, yes.

22 Q. At the time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can I then just look at the reporting of anything that
25 happened at Nazareth House. Did you tell anybody about

1 what had happened to you when you'd been at
2 Nazareth House?

3 A. I'm sorry, I don't understand.

4 Q. You've been telling us about how you were treated at
5 Nazareth House in connection with bed-wetting,
6 force-feeding and so on. Did you tell anybody about
7 that?

8 A. Like a social worker or something?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. No, I didn't.

11 Q. Did you tell any family members?

12 A. I told my aunt that -- when they came to visit once,
13 that another person had been bullying me and hitting me,
14 but I can't remember if I told them about the abuse.
15 I'd be lying if I said yes.

16 Q. And the other person was a member of staff?

17 A. No, it was an older girl, like 15 or so, and I was much
18 younger.

19 Q. I think you did go to the police at some point later on.

20 A. Oh yes, I did, yes, after I had left, a long time after
21 I had left.

22 Q. I think you tell us that was maybe in 1996.

23 A. That's right, yes.

24 Q. Was that to tell them about how you were treated at
25 Nazareth House?

1 A. That's right it was.

2 Q. Did you give them a statement?

3 A. I gave them a statement, uh-huh.

4 Q. Did you have any scarring because of anything that
5 happened to you?

6 A. I've got a scar on my coccyx where I'd been getting hit
7 by the wooden spoon.

8 Q. Is that your lower back?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you show the scar to the police when you were being
11 seen?

12 A. No, it wasn't the police that I showed it to, it was
13 during the last -- I don't know to call it -- it wasn't
14 an inquiry then.

15 Q. Was it a claim for criminal injuries compensation?

16 A. I think that's what it ended up being, but it wasn't
17 what I intended it to be.

18 LADY SMITH: Was that somewhere in Glasgow you went?

19 A. That's right.

20 LADY SMITH: And it would have been a fairly informal sort
21 of hearing?

22 A. It was, yes. When I said I had a scar, they asked to
23 see it, so I showed the woman that was there.

24 MR MacAULAY: And it was there?

25 A. Yes, uh-huh.

1 Q. You've told us already that you found out what your
2 mother's partner had done to your sister.

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. Did you and your sister go to the police?

5 A. We did, we gave statements, and it went to the
6 procurator fiscal at the time, but it was no action
7 taken or something, I think it came back.

8 Q. Can I then ask you a little bit about what you see the
9 impact to have been of your life in Nazareth House?
10 What you say in your statement is:
11 "It's difficult to put in words what [you] see the
12 impact to be."
13 You do give us some personal details about how it's
14 affected your -- you think what the impact has been on
15 your personal life; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I don't want to delve into that. You've told us about
18 that, but you also say that your sleep has been
19 affected.

20 A. That's right, uh-huh.

21 Q. You say you have nightmares?

22 A. When all this came back, yes, I was having terrible
23 nightmares, I woke up screaming and I was in the foetal
24 position, and my daughter had to actually come in to my
25 room and see what was wrong and ask me how I was because

- 1 I was having such terrible nightmares.
- 2 Q. Were the nightmares about your experiences at
3 Nazareth House?
- 4 A. Yes, it was like flashbacks.
- 5 Q. One thing you do say -- and it's on the screen in
6 paragraph 96 -- is that you feel guilty because you
7 weren't able to protect your brothers and sister.
- 8 A. Mm-hm.
- 9 Q. Do you feel that, do you?
- 10 A. Yes, I still feel that, yes.
- 11 Q. Why do you think you failed to protect them?
- 12 A. Well, I thought my sister would have been quite safe
13 after me giving a statement to the social worker about
14 what my mum's partner had done to me and my mum knowing
15 what her partner had done to me, and she wasn't, so
16 I feel guilty about that. I sort of feel guilty
17 regarding my other brother because I should have stuck
18 up for him more, I think.
- 19 Q. That's the brother who was in your group?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Are you there having in mind the bed-wetting or is there
22 something else?
- 23 A. The bed-wetting.
- 24 Q. But what could you have done?
- 25 A. I know now as an adult I really couldn't have done

- 1 anything, but it doesn't stop you feeling guilty.
- 2 I think I didn't stick up for him.
- 3 Q. You have sought, I think, to get your records from the
- 4 Sisters of Nazareth; is that right?
- 5 A. That's right. I haven't got them yet.
- 6 Q. You've written --
- 7 A. I did get a letter back a number of years ago, I can't
- 8 remember what was in it now. I applied again, but
- 9 I haven't received them back.
- 10 Q. Can I then just look at the final paragraph of your
- 11 statement, Anne? It's at paragraph 100. That'll come
- 12 on the screen, Anne. I'd like it on the screen so you
- 13 can remind yourself of what you said.
- 14 You begin by saying:
- 15 "It was a difficult era when I was in
- 16 Nazareth House. There was a different way of thinking
- 17 towards children."
- 18 What makes you say that?
- 19 A. I'm not aware of the law, but I don't think there was
- 20 child protection -- there wasn't enough child
- 21 protection.
- 22 Q. So it's that that you're having in mind?
- 23 A. Yes. And there was no -- if a child was at risk, there
- 24 was nowhere for them to turn or to speak to, plus
- 25 children weren't believed, that what was happening to

1 them was happening.

2 Q. Is that what you mean in that very last sentence?:

3 "They need to know that they have someone who will
4 listen to them, believe them and not judge them."

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you think you were listened to?

7 A. No, definitely not. If I had been listened to by the
8 social workers, I don't think my sister would have been
9 put at risk the way that she was.

10 Q. Okay. There are two points I just want to clarify with
11 you that I've been asked to raise with you. The first
12 is that -- I think it's in paragraph 58 of your
13 statement -- you tell us that a dentist would come round
14 at school and check your teeth. Do you know how often
15 that would happen?

16 A. I can remember seeing him twice, but I don't know if it
17 was a regular thing.

18 Q. The other point I may not have taken up with you is to
19 do with Christmas. I think I may have asked you, in
20 fact, about the gifts and what happened to them, but did
21 you have a Christmas dinner at Christmastime?

22 A. I don't remember.

23 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Anne. These are all the questions
24 that I have for you. Thank you for coming. I can see
25 it has been upsetting for you at times.

1 My Lady, I think I have covered all the questions
2 that I have been asked to ask.

3 LADY SMITH: Let me check whether there are any outstanding
4 applications for questions. Are there? No.

5 Anne, there are no more questions for you. It just
6 remains for me to thank you very much for engaging with
7 the inquiry, both in providing your written statement
8 and in coming along today to see through what's
9 obviously been a difficult task for you. But it's of
10 great assistance to me to have heard from you directly
11 and I'm grateful to you for that. Thank you very much
12 and I'm now able to let you go.

13 A. Okay, thanks.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's all the evidence that has been
17 scheduled for today. I know it's a little bit earlier
18 than usual. We have another fairly full programme
19 tomorrow, I think, with three oral witnesses and I think
20 one read-in planned.

21 LADY SMITH: Very well. That will be it for this week,
22 of course, because Friday is a public holiday, as
23 I understand it.

24 MR MacAULAY: That is so, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'm going to rise now for the day

1 and we'll be sitting again at 10 o'clock tomorrow
2 morning. Thank you.

3 (3.25 pm)

4 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
5 on Thursday, 24 May 2018)

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"JOHN" (sworn)1

Questions from MR MacAULAY1

"JOHN" (affirmed)50

Questions from MR MacAULAY51

"ANNE" (sworn)85

Questions from MR MacAULAY85

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