

1 Thursday, 1 November 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We have more witnesses here to  
4 give evidence in the hearing today, I think, Mr Peoples;  
5 is that right?

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, good morning. The next witness giving  
7 oral evidence wishes to remain anonymous and he has  
8 chosen the pseudonym "David".

9 "DAVID" (sworn)

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

11 It's very important that we can hear you properly,  
12 David, so if you could keep in the right position for  
13 the microphone, that would be really helpful. If you  
14 drift away, I'll tell you. People sometimes do.

15 A. No problem.

16 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

17 Questions from MR PEOPLES

18 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, David.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. Before I begin asking you some questions, can I just  
21 explain that there is a red folder in front of you,  
22 which contains a copy of the signed statement that  
23 you've provided to the inquiry. This morning I will be  
24 asking you some questions in relation to matters that  
25 you've dealt with in your statement. But before I begin

1           doing that, for the benefit of the transcript, I'll give  
2           the reference number that the inquiry has given to your  
3           statement. It's WIT.001.001.7962.

4           You'll see, David, that the statement will also come  
5           up on the screen in front of you, so if it's easy to  
6           work off the screen, do so, but if you want to refer to  
7           the written statement at any stage, feel free to do so.

8           Before you look at the screen, can I take you to the  
9           red folder very briefly and ask you to turn to the final  
10          page of your statement, which is on page 7981.

11         A. Page what?

12         Q. 7981. It's on the top right-hand corner.

13         A. Yes, I've got it here where I've signed the statement.

14         Q. Can you confirm you have signed the statement?

15         A. Yes, I have signed it, yes.

16         Q. And can you also confirm that you have no objection to  
17          your witness statement being published as part of the  
18          evidence to the inquiry and that you believe the facts  
19          stated in your witness statement are true?

20         A. Yes, they're true, yes.

21         Q. If I could leave that for a moment and go back to the  
22          beginning of your statement at page 7962. Are you happy  
23          looking at the statement in the file rather than on the  
24          screen? It'll come up on the screen. Some things on  
25          the screen are blanked out, but don't worry, we'll deal

1 with that if necessary.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If I can just begin by asking you to confirm the year of  
4 your birth. I don't want your birthday, but can you  
5 confirm that you were born in the year 1963?

6 A. I can confirm.

7 Q. I think as you tell us in paragraph 2 of your statement,  
8 at page 7962, that before going into care you were  
9 brought up in the Gorbals area of Glasgow for a time.

10 A. Yes, that's true.

11 Q. And I think you were part of a large family; is that  
12 right?

13 A. Yes, I was.

14 Q. I hope I'm doing my arithmetic correctly, but I think in  
15 all you mentioned nine children --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- including yourself.

18 A. Nine that I know of. There could have been more. It  
19 depends, yes. I don't know exactly what the history is  
20 as such.

21 LADY SMITH: Sounds busy.

22 A. Yes.

23 MR PEOPLES: If we go to the next page of your statement on  
24 page 7963, at paragraph 5 -- that should come up in a  
25 moment -- I think you tell us there that you were sent

1 to Quarriers children's home when you were about 5 years  
2 of age and stayed until you were about 12.

3 A. Yes, this is true.

4 Q. Can I just say that the inquiry has seen some records  
5 about your period in care and they indicate, as you've  
6 said, that you were admitted to Quarriers in 1968 --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- when you were 5. The date that they have for your  
9 admission, the precise date, is [REDACTED] 1968.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Does that accord with your memory? It was around that  
12 time?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: You'd have been about 5 and a half?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: Can I also tell you that according to the  
17 records that Quarriers have, you were discharged from  
18 their care on [REDACTED] 1978. So you were actually  
19 aged 15 when you left. So you were a bit older than you  
20 thought you were but --

21 A. Yes, I was confused myself.

22 Q. Don't worry, it's not -- dates can be difficult,  
23 particularly when you're younger. But that's the date  
24 they have and I don't think you take any issue with  
25 that.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. So essentially, you were there for about 10 years in  
3 all?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So far as going into Quarriers is concerned, at  
6 paragraph 5 you tell us that you can recall the day that  
7 you and your siblings were taken into care. Do you  
8 remember how many of you went into care on that day?

9 A. There was a few of us. I remember these black --  
10 I don't want to say, big Mercedes or something like  
11 that, big impressive cars. I think there were two of  
12 them. We were told we were going on holiday. Do you  
13 know what I mean? Two, three ... There were six of us  
14 or something like that ...

15 Q. You tell us on paragraph 6, in fact, that you have  
16 a recollection of five of your brothers and sisters and  
17 yourself going in on that day.

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. In the big black cars.

20 A. Yes. It was a bit of mayhem because we were all told we  
21 were actually going on holiday and we were all put into  
22 the car and then there was like -- the older kids  
23 started screaming and that's because me and myself and  
24 my younger brothers ... when I say we were all excited  
25 probably, thinking it was like a holiday or something,

1 and then we hear the -- like the anxiety and, you know,  
2 like the older ... "This is not right, this is not  
3 right". And then there's screaming and they're wanting  
4 out the car. As I say, All I can remember was it was  
5 the old big Mercedes or whatever, like the cars you'd  
6 see in the funeral cortege behind the actual, you know  
7 ...

8 Q. And I think we know again from the records that  
9 Quarriers have kept that your admission was arranged by  
10 the Children's Officer of Glasgow Corporation. So they  
11 were involved, I think, with the family at that stage  
12 because of various problems that were going on at the  
13 time.

14 I think you tell us that when you got to Quarriers,  
15 was that the first time you'd seen it?

16 A. Yes. I'd never been there in my life. Obviously at  
17 that age, this was new.

18 Q. What was your impression? Can you remember your first  
19 impression? You were quite young.

20 A. I remember getting split off from the rest of the family  
21 straightaway because I went to cottage 2, I think it was  
22 in the beginning. Basically, because there wasn't room  
23 in the other cottages, as I understand it later, you  
24 know -- but yeah, so ...

25 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 8 that it was maybe

1 cottage number 3 that you went to.

2 A. Cottage 3, yes, that was it.

3 Q. And that your brothers and sisters were put into  
4 cottage 22.

5 A. Yes, that was it, yes.

6 Q. I think I can tell you that the records certainly seem  
7 to confirm that you did spend a period of time in  
8 cottage 3.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Again, I don't want to spend a lot of time, but the  
11 records indicate that you may have spent between six and  
12 eight months in cottage 3 after you were admitted;  
13 I know that's longer than you think --

14 A. I thought it was a short period -- exactly, I was  
15 5 years old, you know --

16 Q. I'll just give some dates for the benefit of the  
17 transcript. There are some records suggesting that,  
18 notwithstanding the date of admission being [REDACTED]  
19 you probably were in fact in care on [REDACTED] 1968, so  
20 it looks as if the paperwork might have been done after  
21 the event, but it's not a matter of terribly great  
22 importance. It looks as if you were certainly in  
23 cottage 3 in [REDACTED] 1968. Your admission was formally  
24 recorded as [REDACTED] and it appears from the records  
25 that we've been given that you were in cottage 3 until

1 [REDACTED] 1969, which would be roughly seven or eight  
2 months.

3 A. I was young but from what I can remember it didn't seem  
4 that long and such, but then again it's a long time ago.

5 Q. I don't think you have any clear strong memories of  
6 cottage 3 other than --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- that you went there and your brothers and sisters  
9 weren't there?

10 A. Yes, just the fact that the family wasn't there and  
11 I was on my own.

12 Q. I think if we move on in your statement to page 7964,  
13 you tell us at paragraph 12 that you did move to  
14 cottage 22 --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- where your brothers and sisters were also placed.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. We'll go into this in a moment, but you say that's when  
19 all hell broke loose. That's one of the cottages that  
20 sticks out in your mind particularly?

21 A. Yes, that was hell itself.

22 Q. And your cottage mother, you tell us, in paragraph 12,  
23 was a lady called Effie Climie.

24 A. That was it, yes.

25 Q. And you estimate that she was in her early 20s or



1 mid-20s?

2 A. Yes, she seemed young to myself, you know, looking at  
3 her.

4 Q. In your statement, you tell us a bit about the routine  
5 at Quarrier's Village.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I think quite a lot of the routine is probably the  
8 routine when you were in cottage 22; is that right?

9 A. Say that again, sorry?

10 Q. I think a lot of the information you give about the  
11 routine relates to your time in cottage 22.

12 A. Oh yes, yes. Cottage 3, like I say, you know ...

13 Q. Because I think we'll hear later on, and I'll just  
14 mention it at the moment, that before you were  
15 discharged on [REDACTED] 1978, when you were aged 15,  
16 for a short time before that you were actually in  
17 another cottage.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you have a memory of that.

20 A. Cottage 20, I think that was.

21 Q. That's right. So we'll maybe come to that in due  
22 course. That's just so that we understand that you were  
23 in three cottages --

24 A. Yes, three cottages.

25 Q. -- but mostly in cottage 22, and for part of the time in

1           22 your house mother was Effie Climie.

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. She was a single house parent, is that right, at that  
4           time --

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. -- although she had some help?

7           A. She had some help. She'd be the cottage mother, then  
8           you'd have the cottage aunties as well, maybe one or  
9           two, and then maybe you'd have the cleaner as well doing  
10          the cleaning up. So she'd always have at least one,  
11          like, as I say, cottage auntie there most of the time.

12          Q. To set the scene, I think there came a time after you  
13          moved to cottage 22 when Effie Climie left Quarriers and  
14          she was replaced in cottage 22 by a couple called Mr and  
15          Mrs QKG/QKH

16          A. Yes, that's it.

17          Q. I think Uncle QKG as he was perhaps known to you;  
18          is that right?

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. Just again in case the names come up, I think when you  
21          moved before you left Quarriers at the age of 15 to  
22          cottage 20, your house parents there were a couple known  
23          as QFK/SPO QFK/SPO

24

25          A. Yes. That's it, yes.

1 Q. That rings a bell?

2 A. Oh, that does, yes.

3 Q. So far as the routine is concerned, you tell us on  
4 page 7965 a bit about mealtimes.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. In paragraph 16 you tell us that the cottage mother  
7 Effie Climie would force-feed you.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you tell me what you remember about mealtimes and  
10 what happened, what she did?

11 A. It was, like -- as I say, we would be lining up for  
12 mealtimes -- and I don't know, this woman, man. This  
13 was just leading up to the food. As I say, we'd be  
14 lined up to go into there, she'd be walking through.  
15 She always seemed to -- I'd get a slap on the head, go  
16 in there, and then basically, I had an aversion to,  
17 like, the fat on meat or custard, you know, with lumps  
18 in and the skin on it or whatever. I couldn't eat it.  
19 I'd be trying to say to her, no, I don't like this, or  
20 whatever. But what she would do then -- and this is  
21 even like on a school day or whatever, she would  
22 force-feed you, she would have a spoon or fork, she'd be  
23 pulling your hair back -- and she would get the other  
24 actual auntie -- and I think I can remember the other  
25 auntie's name was QKF? or maybe her name was

1 Auntie QKF or whatever --

2 Q. I think you mention her in the statement.

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: So that was the cottage auntie?

5 A. Yes, that was like the one who was below. She was like  
6 her assistant. I could see actually -- because I was  
7 thinking about that even in the last few days, I could  
8 see her face. I didn't think she really wanted to be  
9 part of what was happening, but -- because she would be  
10 like, QKF hold his hands", or something like that,  
11 and she pulled my head back and then she'd be forcing  
12 the food down, banging off my teeth or whatever, and I'd  
13 be sick and all that, I'd be puking it back up on the  
14 plate.

15 As I say, she used to be grappling with me and  
16 whatever. As I say, it was like QKF -- and she was  
17 like a sort of reluctant helper so to speak. I don't  
18 know if you've got -- have you got her details or  
19 whatever? At that point -- she'd do that and then what  
20 she would do is, like, say, she'd either keep you at the  
21 table, you know what I mean, with the food, and "You're  
22 not moving until you eat this", or else what she would  
23 do is she could punish you by putting you down the back  
24 shed, "Stand in the corner here" or whatever. Sometimes  
25 she would let you go to school, but when you came back

1           for your evening meal then, was exactly what you'd  
2           actually puked onto the plate or whatever, and told you  
3           basically, "You will eat that". So you were starving  
4           anyway. You know what I mean?

5       Q. David, I know these things, you're describing them -- if  
6       it's possible just to slow down a little bit.

7       A. Sorry.

8       Q. It's just that, obviously, this is being recorded and we  
9       want to make sure we get all your words.

10      LADY SMITH: The stenographers are doing a brilliant job.  
11      They are writing up immediately everything you're  
12      saying, David, which I'm seeing coming up on a screen.  
13      That's why I know that they're doing a brilliant job.  
14      But if you can think of them and give them a pause every  
15      now and again. This isn't a criticism.

16      A. No, no, no, I understand.

17      LADY SMITH: It's your natural way of speaking, I'm  
18      following what you're saying. You've got a wealth of  
19      information to give us, so try not to rush it. It's  
20      important that we all take it in properly. All right?

21      A. No problem.

22      MR PEOPLES: If I pick up one or two things that you said  
23      there. I think you deal with them in paragraph 16 and  
24      you've told us the sort of things you didn't like --

25      A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and things that you didn't really want to eat and  
2 what would happen --

3 A. It was just an aversion. I was just a kid, you can  
4 imagine. These things -- like I said, you'd be sick.  
5 She's forcing it down and seriously, your gums are  
6 bleeding and basically she's pushing it into your mouth.

7 Q. So what she was doing to you caused your gums to bleed  
8 at times?

9 A. Yes. As I say, you can imagine, the metal, the spoon or  
10 the fork or whatever, and this woman -- to describe her,  
11 she was an animal. You know what I mean? Her approach  
12 and everything, it was just over the pale. And as  
13 I said, even the other auntie, I could see in her face,  
14 to agree -- the reluctant helper or whatever, "Hold his  
15 arms", "Do this", or whatever.

16 Q. You were being held?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. A spoon or fork was used to try to force the food into  
19 your mouth?

20 A. And then holding your nose to open your mouth, forcing  
21 the stuff in, and then at that point as it's going in,  
22 I'm being sick, boking it back up, onto the plate or  
23 onto the -- it's left on the plate then and then at that  
24 point you're being beaten around the head by her  
25 violently, and then at that point then, as I say, she's

1           saying, "You'll stay there until you eat it". You know  
2           what I mean?

3           Q. When you say beaten about the head --

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. -- can you just describe what sort of things were done?

6           A. Yes. Punched around the head, slapped round the head.

7           You know what I'm saying? You know? Even as I say,  
8           when she seen that I wasn't eating -- it was almost as  
9           if ... She seen it as a failure on her part or whatever  
10          so it'd make her even angrier. She'd be dragging you,  
11          you'd say, no -- she'd take you through, as I say -- and  
12          one of her punishments was, like I say, to stand against  
13          a corner of a room or whatever, and right, face the  
14          wall -- it'd be more or less the shed.

15          Q. Yes. Can you help me: you did say that one of the  
16          things she might do was make you stand in a corner.

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. I think you mentioned a shed. Was that the place she  
19          made you stand or you had to go to a shed to stand --

20          A. Yes. That was part of her punishment. I'll come to  
21          that in a bit. That was into like, night-time, when for  
22          instance within the room we were sleeping in --

23          Q. We'll not run ahead then. We'll deal with the  
24          mealtimes. If you were made to stand, were there  
25          occasions when you had to stand in the dining room in

1 the corner?

2 A. No, not in the dining room. It'd be like, say, down in  
3 the back shed, because it was cold, it was a concrete  
4 floor, it was a wooden shed, it was cold. Cottage 22,  
5 where it was to the church, the graveyard was just  
6 across the road. For an active 5-year-old's mind, she  
7 knew it would be --

8 Q. Just taking this slowly if I can, just so I'm clear, if  
9 you were having this -- she was trying to force this  
10 food and at some point she said to go or you were made  
11 to stand somewhere, on those occasions, leaving aside  
12 bedtime for the moment, we'll talk about that later,  
13 where would you be standing?

14 A. In the shed. It would be in the corner of the shed.  
15 This is a cold shed. It wasn't like ...

16 Q. Did she take you there?

17 A. Yes, and she'd take you there and she'd just go like  
18 that -- when she's taking you there. You know?

19 Q. She would grab you to take you there?

20 A. She'd drag you by the hair and she'd be slapping you at  
21 the same time for disobeying her. And basically at that  
22 point dragging and throwing you in the corner and  
23 saying, "If you move from here, if your head turns ..."  
24 And that's even with her going out from that room --  
25 there was a door, which would lead into where the shoes



1           were all stacked up or whatever, it's where people had  
2           their shoes. And she'd be like, "If you move from  
3           there, you turn your head or make a noise", whatever.  
4           You know what I'm saying? Basically, saying,  
5           threatening ...

6           Q. Just so I'm clear, you're describing a situation where  
7           if you were put in what you call the shed, which is like  
8           a cloakroom where shoes and coats were put --

9           A. No, the shoes were the next room up. The shed was,  
10          there was a sink in it, there was a concrete floor, it  
11          was just a wooden sort of frame attached to the  
12          building. Like I say, the wind would come in. It  
13          wasn't like, say --

14          Q. Was it like a scullery or something -- not even that?

15          A. No, it was like an old rickety type shed.

16          Q. And it was wooden and attached to the house?

17          A. It was attached to the house. How can I describe it?  
18          Wooden, there used to be windows in it. Like I say, as  
19          I say, the door to the shed was outside. Underneath  
20          that, you're talking about, say, about 10 inches from  
21          the bottom, you could get the wind coming in, belting  
22          through and so on. It was just a place, I don't know,  
23          you could ... Yes, there was a sink in there. We used  
24          to peel the potatoes in that sink or whatever. And then  
25          the shed itself, you could hang your jackets up in that

1 section --

2 Q. There were hooks and things you could hang things up?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But in this shed, just so I'm clear, you've described it  
5 was beyond -- it wasn't part of the --

6 A. It wasn't part of the main structure. This was  
7 something that was added. It looked fragile and old.

8 Q. What sort of size was it, dimensions?

9 A. Probably about 20 foot long by about 10 or 12 foot wide.

10 Q. Did you tell me that it had a door to the outside, to  
11 the rear of the property?

12 A. Yes, to the rear of the property.

13 Q. But the door didn't go the full distance from top to  
14 bottom?

15 A. Yes, and it rattled. It was one of those locks, say,  
16 where you slide them along.

17 Q. A bolt?

18 A. Something like that. It'd be rattling away.

19 LADY SMITH: Did you have to go outdoors between the house  
20 and the shed to get into the shed or --

21 A. No, that's what I'm saying. She'd drag you through from  
22 the kitchen -- say the dining room, and then you would  
23 go through the main hallway into the actual playroom --  
24 and this is her dragging you down, slapping you,  
25 battering you -- and then she'd come into an area, like

1           where the kids put their shoes, there was like a wee  
2           shoe rack and so on. To the left of that area would be  
3           the bathroom, the toilets or the sinks and the bath.  
4           Straight on there was another door and that would lead  
5           to the shed.

6           LADY SMITH: So it was obviously close to the water supply  
7           to the house and that was how you got a sink out in the  
8           shed for doing the potatoes?

9           A. Yes, there was a sink in that area and they used to  
10          peel --

11          LADY SMITH: Could you get out of doors from the door in the  
12          shed?

13          A. Yes, if you opened the door then you went outside, and  
14          you had a wee sort of like tarmacked or whatever area  
15          outside, where we used to play and that, and straight  
16          across was the church and then just down from the church  
17          was the graveyard.

18          MR PEOPLES: So if you came up the door of the shed into the  
19          hard standing area at the back of the property, there  
20          was no grass or anything? Is that what you are  
21          describing?

22          A. No. When you came out from the shed, from the back  
23          door, the rickety back door, or whatever, you would come  
24          out and there would be an area just outside, which I  
25          would say -- it would be like a sort of tarmac. If you

1           went to your left slightly there was an area that was  
2           trees and that and so on. Right? It wasn't so much  
3           a play area. But further, if you went out left and then  
4           left again, there was a grass area --

5           Q. Within the property?

6           A. Yes. Well, it was sort of -- there was another property  
7           there.

8           Q. Yes, because all these houses or cottages were quite  
9           close to each other.

10          A. Yes, and it was like a grass lawn area.

11          Q. You say that if you went out that door into the rear of  
12          the property, could you see the church?

13          A. Oh yes, you could see the church and the graveyard quite  
14          clearly. That was even a scarier factor as well when  
15          you're down there -- and we'll obviously get into that  
16          in a bit. You know what I'm saying?

17          Q. Did this shed where the potatoes were peeled and there  
18          were some sinks or so, did it have lighting?

19          A. It had lighting in it, yes. She wouldn't have the  
20          lighting on when you were in the shed. It was  
21          night-time, okay. During the day obviously she would  
22          have you stand there or whatever. Later on, that's what  
23          I'm saying, she'd be trying to get you back up: right,  
24          eat this, eat this. It wouldn't be happening.

25          LADY SMITH: David, can you get a bit nearer to the

1 microphone?

2 A. Sorry.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR PEOPLES: On the occasions when you were in this shed,  
5 could there be, during the day or at night -- I'll come  
6 to the detail of that, but just to get a general  
7 picture, could there be times when she would put you  
8 in the shed at night-time when it was dark?

9 A. Totally, 90% of the time it was dark.

10 Q. You allowed to put the light on or did she put the light  
11 on?

12 A. No, no. If you were to move from that -- night-time  
13 especially, she was like ... no.

14 Q. So if she put you there as well, once she put you there,  
15 she told you where you should stand?

16 A. Yes. As I say, she'd drag you down, she'd be punching,  
17 kicking, doing whatever. She'd be furious with you.  
18 And at that point, drag you down -- and then at this  
19 particular corner, which was just opposite the door,  
20 she'd have you standing and she'd push your head and  
21 face in the wall, the corner, she says, "If you move or  
22 if I hear a noise", more or less, "you're going to be  
23 getting it" ...

24 Q. So once you were positioned standing with your face  
25 towards the wall in the corner, you were told that you

1           hadn't to move, you hadn't to make a sound, and you were  
2           to stay there and it could be in the darkness or --

3       A. Yes, and the fact that you would have bare feet as well.  
4           So you're talking about the concrete floor and so you'd  
5           be changing feet, you'd be on one foot. You know when  
6           you go like that and then you'd be putting it down  
7           because you're only in your pyjamas. This is at  
8           night-time.

9       Q. If you were put there at night-time when you were in  
10          your pyjamas, you would have bare feet?

11      A. Yes.

12      Q. And that happened quite regularly?

13      A. That happened loads of times.

14      Q. And you tell us that the floor was stone or concrete?

15      A. Yes, stone or concrete. It was obviously a kind of  
16          polished finish from what I can remember, whatever. It  
17          looked like concrete.

18      Q. Did this shed have any heating?

19      A. No, nothing at all. No, no heating whatsoever.

20      Q. You said there was some kind of a gap --

21      A. It was freezing.

22      Q. -- between the bottom of the door and the ground where  
23          the wind could come in?

24      A. The wind would come whistling through. You could hear  
25          the wind outside. This could be in the middle of

1 winter. As I'm saying, you're standing there in your  
2 pyjamas and you're there for hours.

3 Q. These occasions when you're put in the shed, and you  
4 seem to be describing it happened quite a lot to you --

5 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

6 Q. -- and it could happen at night as well as daytime, and  
7 quite often happen at night, is what you're telling us,  
8 you could be put there in any season in winter or summer  
9 or whatever?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. It could be any time of year?

12 A. As I say, with the food -- like I say, she maybe used  
13 that one. Sometimes, as I say, she would say, right --  
14 she would either send you up to your bed or whatever and  
15 then bring you back down with the food to eat, or else  
16 it would be down to the shed. But because the other  
17 kids were coming back from school, so to speak, then  
18 obviously probably she would send us up the stairs to  
19 bed because they would be interacting with me if I was  
20 in the shed.

21 Q. If you were having a meal at lunchtime in the cottage  
22 and you were at school and you didn't want something  
23 what would she do in those occasions? Would you be sent  
24 back to school?

25 A. What would happen then -- what she would do would be a

1 couple of things. Like I say, at times -- and that was  
2 the things that was incredulous, the way the woman would  
3 -- she would tell another kid -- as I say, if I wasn't  
4 eating and so on, and this is before -- once she got the  
5 kids out of the way they were back to school -- and I  
6 can remember at one point telling a kid to tell the  
7 headteacher, whatever, he will not be coming back this  
8 afternoon, whatever.

9 Q. So there were occasions when you were put in the shed  
10 and you missed school as a result because of --

11 A. Yes, because she had actually told another kid to  
12 actually, you know -- when they were going back from  
13 their lunch break, whatever, and tell them he'll not be  
14 coming back. That's when her and this Auntie QKF  
15 would actually say --

16 LADY SMITH: Could you slow down a bit, David?

17 A. No problem.

18 LADY SMITH: I want to make sure we get all this information  
19 that you give us.

20 A. That's when they would start literally force-feeding.  
21 That's when -- and at that point, that could go on for  
22 half an hour, an hour. It's hard to say. It just  
23 seemed like forever that it was going on. And then at  
24 that point you're getting slapped and battered about --  
25 and at that point, because the kids weren't back, they



1           were at school.

2           MR PEOPLES: They would go away?

3           A. No, they'd be going to school, wouldn't they? So then  
4           I'd be put in the shed at that point and then if they  
5           were coming back, then she would say, right, get to your  
6           room. So then at that point -- and then it would come  
7           evening time for food and the same, the same vomit that  
8           I --

9           Q. The children, when they came back from school, would  
10          they come in the back of the property?

11          A. They could come in anywhere, sometimes the front or the  
12          back. But obviously that's when she would move me from  
13          the shed because she would realise there was going to be  
14          interaction between myself and the kids but what she  
15          would say is, "Don't go in the bedroom", my bedroom or  
16          whatever them kids because I would be up there as  
17          punishment.

18          Q. If they came in the back way, would they have to go  
19          through the shed to get into the back of the house?

20          A. Yes, they'd have to.

21          Q. I'm just trying to get the --

22          A. They could either come in the back way or the front way.  
23          But yeah, that was -- she would move me up.

24          Q. Two other points, just so I'm clear. You mentioned  
25          there was some sort of bolt on the outside door from the

1 shed to the back of the property.

2 A. Yes, which rattled in the wind as well.

3 Q. But there was another door which took you from the shed  
4 into the main building?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did that have any form of lock on it?

7 A. I don't think it had a lock. You could open and close  
8 and so on, but I take it it would have had some kind of  
9 lock ...

10 Q. Do you know whether it was locked when you were put in  
11 the shed?

12 A. I don't think it was locked as such, like that. It  
13 couldn't have been -- I don't remember if there was  
14 a lock.

15 Q. Don't worry if you can't remember.

16 You're certainly suggesting, whether it was locked  
17 or not, you wouldn't have tried to get out --

18 A. No, because that's the point I'm trying to make. When  
19 I was in that shed what would happen was -- as I say,  
20 her weird behaviour. I know she was psychotic anyway,  
21 okay, and at that early age you don't know the word  
22 psychotic but you knew there was something amiss with  
23 this -- you know, trying to evaluate life, and like, "Is  
24 this right?" and that. You knew something was amiss.

25 But she would say, "And if you move, and whatever,

1           make a sound" -- and sometimes that's where the  
2           perversity is. Sometimes she would be sitting there, as  
3           you'd be sitting there, and I'd be sitting for hours at  
4           times, and if I made a sound or something with my coat,  
5           or I'd be standing on one foot going onto the other,  
6           maybe I'd fall over or something, and the next thing she  
7           would come in like a raging madwoman.

8           Q. Do you say when you were in the shed there were times  
9           when she would come back or sit with you?

10          A. She wouldn't be sitting with me, she'd be sitting --  
11          "Close the door and if I hear any sound ..." and then  
12          she would either be behind the door, that's the only  
13          thing that I could find, that she was behind the door  
14          a lot of the time as well, just waiting to hear from  
15          me --

16          Q. If something happened?

17          A. Yes and then she would come in to batter me again.

18          Q. So if you did make a sound or if you did appear to move,  
19          you have a memory of her coming back in --

20          A. Coming back in, slapping me, punching me, "What did  
21          I tell you!" I'd be screaming, "Auntie Effie, I have  
22          not done nothing, my feet, my feet" --

23          Q. You are describing a person who has been quite angry on  
24          these occasions.

25          A. The woman was angry at everything in her life. I don't

1 know. I tell you, for my life, even up to now, I've not  
2 met a woman -- I wouldn't even call her a woman,  
3 I wouldn't give her that respect. I've never -- the way  
4 she is, like I say ... I don't know.

5 Q. The other thing, David, I just wanted to be clear about:  
6 I think you have described what she would do when you  
7 were at the table, she would be holding your head by the  
8 hair at times, she'd be punching and slapping you, and  
9 you have given a description of that, and she would be  
10 forcing a spoon or fork into your mouth forcibly,  
11 sometimes causing your gums to bleed, she would at times  
12 hold your nose to try and get you to open your mouth to  
13 get the food in --

14 A. Yes and she would get into my mouth and I would vomit --

15 Q. -- and you'd be vomiting and bringing it back up. When  
16 she was punching and slapping you, was she using her  
17 hand?

18 A. That was the thing, man, yes. Even in, like I say, when  
19 it went to court and that and so on, I remember that  
20 because that was the thing that I thought was -- it's  
21 amazing, but it was the thing that I thought ... put  
22 everything else apart, it was the punching and literally  
23 stomping you, and it was like somebody out of control.  
24 I was frightened I was going to die here.

25 But then like her Scholls as well. When she was

1 using her Scholls to beat us up -- the reason I didn't  
2 even mention that was because it became a normality.

3 I thought that was acceptable, that was --

4 Q. Just slow down a little bit. So just that I am clear,  
5 you've introduced something else and I just want to be  
6 absolutely clear -- the Scholls, are these wooden --

7 A. Yeah, wooden clogs, maybe with like a leather upper.

8 Q. And she had these --

9 A. And she had these and she would take these off and whack  
10 you round the head and so on and round the head and  
11 round the body and the legs and so on. And I think  
12 I even say to you in part of that statement there as  
13 well I remember one day outside cottage 22 I was on  
14 a little sort of scooter type thing where you sort of  
15 pedal along and you push your foot and the scooter goes  
16 along. I remember going on to the main road and this  
17 Volkswagen Beetle drove up -- I always remember it --  
18 and basically, as I say, I came out and the person  
19 thought they'd knocked me down, but he'd actually  
20 managed to brake. I fell over with the scare, but when  
21 the woman got out of the car and she actually looked and  
22 she could see, because I had a wee pair of shorts on at  
23 that young age, and she was like that and she was  
24 screaming. First of all, she was like, "Are you okay?  
25 Are you okay?" And I was like that and I was looking up

1           -- and she says -- she was telling me, "Son, come here,  
2           come here, who done that to you?" And she could see the  
3           bruising all down the back of my legs and my arms and  
4           that. And I was like that and I just went like that and  
5           I was so scared and petrified obviously, and I just  
6           pointed to the cottage.

7           Q. So --

8           A. This is what I'm saying, the effects of the Scholls and  
9           the punching.

10          Q. At mealtimes, when she was punching and slapping you,  
11          did she use the Scholls at all or was that another  
12          occasion?

13          A. That's what I'm saying. At the table, she'd be  
14          punching, slapping, and she'd have this QKF --

15          Q. So on those occasions would she take her shoes off and  
16          use them or not?

17          A. As I was saying, when she was transporting me from the  
18          dining room then at that point, yeah, then she would  
19          take the Scholl and as she was dragging me by the hair  
20          or the scruff of the neck, she'd be using her Scholl.  
21          It was her favourite weapon.

22          LADY SMITH: David, can I just go back to what you were  
23          telling me about the incident on the road when you were  
24          on your scooter and a car stopped to check if you were  
25          okay. You think that they noticed how bruised you were.

1 A. Oh, they were. I could hear her. She wanted me to come  
2 into the car. The woman was like, "Come here, son", and  
3 I could remember her talking away to whoever the person  
4 was, her boyfriend or husband whatever. And they were  
5 going, "Look at this, look at this. Son, who done  
6 that?" I could hear her shouting, "Look at the bruises  
7 on his legs".

8 LADY SMITH: What did you say to her when she asked you who  
9 did it?

10 A. She said, "Who done that?" And I'm saying -- this is  
11 how petrified I was of this woman. The only thing  
12 I could do, and it wasn't words, I just pointed to the  
13 cottage.

14 LADY SMITH: Petrified of which woman?

15 A. Petrified of Effie Climie.

16 LADY SMITH: Not petrified of the woman in the car?

17 A. No. I couldn't -- I was struck dumb with fear because  
18 I'd known at times that when you complained -- I tried  
19 to run away -- and I won't say hundreds, but loads of  
20 different occasions, from that cottage or whatever  
21 throughout the time I was there and --

22 MR PEOPLES: David, can you remember what sort of age you  
23 were when the incident with the bike -- when you fell  
24 off and the car --

25 A. That was near the beginning.

1 Q. It certainly was when Effie Climie was the house parent?

2 A. Of course.

3 Q. And if she left in 1973, then we can put a date on it.

4 A. That's what I'm saying. In my statement there I  
5 referred to "when all hell broke loose". Cottage 2  
6 was, like I say -- I can't remember nothing bad about  
7 that cottage. 22, I just remember --

8 Q. Am I right in thinking that in the time that  
9 Effie Climie was the house parent in cottage 22 and when  
10 she left in 1973, you'd be around 9 or 10 before the new  
11 house parents came. When you were out and about, either  
12 going to school or otherwise, would you be wearing  
13 shorts most of the time, not long trousers?

14 A. Yes, once you got older -- see, like the teenage boys,  
15 they would have say like longer trousers, but yes I'd be  
16 having shorts on, wee grey shorts. It was just like --

17 Q. And obviously on this occasion this woman saw marks?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- on your legs?

20 A. Yes, she seen it on my legs. It was black and blue.

21 Q. And you're telling us that these marks were caused by --

22 A. By Effie Climie. Basically, the way the Scholls -- and  
23 the way she was beating us up -- and as I say --

24 Q. When she used the Scholls to beat you, did that  
25 generally leave marks and bruises?



1 A. Yes, yes. It left welts. You can imagine. If you've  
2 got a wooden Scholl and you're whacked, it's coming off  
3 bone, it's the skin itself. It's coming up black and  
4 blue and all different colours.

5 Q. The woman you saw or the woman who asked you about these  
6 bruises and marks on that occasion, I know it's a long  
7 time ago, was she someone you recognised or was she  
8 a visitor?

9 A. That's what I was trying to figure out when I was  
10 looking at her. I thought -- because it was just up  
11 from cottage 22. I don't know if it was cottage 24, at  
12 that point, but it was like a cottage for the cottage  
13 aunties, for the assistants to the house mothers. They  
14 stayed there. Because the route she came down and  
15 I thought that was her boyfriend or something. I was  
16 trying to figure out if it was her boyfriend -- she  
17 could have been a cottage auntie or the fact --

18 LADY SMITH: David, can I check -- I'm assuming the road you  
19 were talking about was a road within Quarriers --

20 A. Yes, yes. This was a road just directly outside  
21 cottage 22. It sort of like ... If you take it, it  
22 goes in a circle -- you've got one -- the road going out  
23 of cottage 22, it's like a circular road, and it comes  
24 round on itself but there's other routes that you can  
25 take off it, you can deviate once you get to certain

1 sections that takes you to other parts of Quarriers.

2 MR PEOPLES: Just for the benefit of all of us, if you were  
3 going into Quarrier's Village, you would come off the  
4 main road through a gate.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And once you were in the village area, there were  
7 various roads within it, which were given various names,  
8 like Faith Avenue, Love Avenue and so forth?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And on these various roads, there would be these  
11 cottages or large houses?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Large Victorian stone villas, including cottage 22?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Indeed, these roads could be used by vehicles to get  
16 from the public road to the village?

17 A. Yes --

18 Q. Or --

19 A. -- to any cottage they wanted.

20 So answering your question, the way that actual car  
21 come down -- I always remember it was, like I said, a  
22 Volkswagen Beetle, and that was it. I was confused  
23 myself. Was she a cottage auntie or was it somebody  
24 genuinely trying to help?

25 Q. The point you make is she did notice them and she did

1 ask you about them.

2 A. She wanted me to come to the car. She was going -- she  
3 was talking to whoever -- as I say, I don't know who the  
4 driver was, be it her husband, be it her boyfriend,  
5 whatever, but she was like, look -- and she was saying  
6 to him to have a look as well. She says, "That's not  
7 right, son, come here". She wanted me to go over but  
8 the reason I wouldn't go over was because I knew I would  
9 get into trouble --

10 LADY SMITH: Whoever it was must have had some business at  
11 Quarriers either because they worked there or for some  
12 reason they were visiting.

13 A. Yes. And what they've done -- like I'm saying, I was  
14 dumbstruck with fear and I didn't want -- in the past,  
15 you would try to express yourself that you were being  
16 abused or whatever, let's say, physically or whatever.  
17 And it always came back on you. It was like the older  
18 dads, the "Children should be seen and not heard"  
19 scenario. That's the only way I could have thought of  
20 it at the time.

21 MR PEOPLES: David, just to go back to mealtimes and what  
22 I'd call the force-feeding situation, you've a memory of  
23 what Effie Climie's part in this was, and you have  
24 described that to us in some detail. You've also said  
25 that, albeit she may have been reluctant, Auntie

QKF

1 was at least assisting Effie Climie to force-feed you;  
2 is that right?

3 A. Yes, yes. I could see her face, like.

4 Q. That's your memory?

5 A. And the thing as well -- the way the woman known -- you  
6 think like -- okay, it's in hindsight. But you think  
7 it'd be well-known that these foods were trigger points  
8 that I couldn't eat, these things, but she'd just put  
9 other meals out and it would be the same again.

10 And as I said --

11 Q. I'm just trying to get Auntie [REDACTED] QKF [REDACTED] part in all this.  
12 She would be assisting Effie Climie to get you to eat  
13 what you didn't want to eat?

14 A. Yes, normally.

15 Q. She might be holding you, did you say?

16 A. Effie Climie would be, [REDACTED] QKF [REDACTED] hold his arms, hold his  
17 body", something like that. And then she'd be like  
18 pulling there and Effie Climie would be pulling my hair  
19 back, so, and then she'd be like that (indicating). And  
20 then, [REDACTED] QKF [REDACTED] or whatever, "get the nose", or  
21 something like that. So she'd be like that (indicating)  
22 and I'd be like that (indicating).

23 Q. Who was using the spoon or the fork?

24 A. Effie Climie.

25 Q. What about Auntie [REDACTED] QKF [REDACTED]

1 A. Auntie QKF she would be restraining me, "Right, get  
2 his arms". And I'd be like, "Aah", like this. Like  
3 I say, I was boking with what they were trying to do.  
4 So she was restraining me, maybe the body --

5 Q. And when it came to the slapping and punching that you  
6 describe on these occasions --

7 A. Auntie QKF didn't do that, nothing like that.

8 Q. I want to be absolutely clear what part she was playing  
9 in it. And you sensed -- and I think, from the way you  
10 describe her appearance and her reactions, she wasn't  
11 necessarily comfortable assisting.

12 A. I could see in her eyes. It was almost like -- when  
13 I think back, the things that people do in their job,  
14 knowing it's wrong, but at the same time they don't want  
15 to threaten their position.

16 And so at that point --

17 LADY SMITH: David, you've been helping me understand what  
18 you're describing by using your hands. I want to say  
19 something for the transcript. They all seem to be  
20 aggressive, forceful movements that you remember being  
21 used --

22 A. Oh yes, definitely.

23 LADY SMITH: -- whether it was, as you say, you being  
24 clasped with two arms by QKF --

25 A. Restrained completely.

1 LADY SMITH: -- or rapid forceful movements with a spoon or  
2 fork to your mouth.

3 A. That's what I'm saying and she'd be as fast as possible  
4 and no care for your teeth or whatever. And so she was  
5 doing like that (indicating) and, "You are going to  
6 eat".

7 LADY SMITH: So the speed you're demonstrating is like, 1,  
8 2, 3, 4?

9 A. Yes, she'd be stabbing at you, at your mouth, and then  
10 she'd get it in and then she'd be like that, pushing  
11 (indicating).

12 LADY SMITH: You're now demonstrating your chin being pushed  
13 up to shut your mouth?

14 A. The palm of her hand -- I should say the heel of the  
15 hand, pushing that to keep your mouth closed, at the  
16 same time that you would swallow. You know what I mean?  
17 So you can imagine, I'm trying to breathe, I'm trying to  
18 do everything. I'm being restrained or whatever. Like  
19 I say, it's kids and kids are like -- I'm puking it  
20 straight up.

21 MR PEOPLES: The person generally that was trying to keep  
22 your mouth closed to get the food to go down --

23 A. It was Effie Climie.

24 Q. You did say earlier on, I think, that Auntie  
25 might from time to time hold your nose?

QKF

1 A. She would say to her, "Hold the nose", and something  
2 like that --

3 Q. And she'd be restraining you as well to prevent you  
4 from --

5 A. If I'm in the chair, she would have her arms around me  
6 or whatever and she would be holding me, maybe the two  
7 of them, but then -- and I'd struggling because this  
8 other one would tug my hair back like this (indicating)  
9 and she's trying to force-feed me --

10 Q. The person that was holding her your hair back, was that  
11 generally Effie Climie?

12 A. That was Effie Climie. The violent abuse was coming  
13 from her. As I say, with [REDACTED] QKF I could see, even at  
14 that point, when she was getting called over by  
15 Effie Climie, I could see it in her eyes. As I say,  
16 there was a kind of fright -- even today in hindsight,  
17 that woman was just like that, she didn't want to be  
18 there, she didn't want to be a part of it, it's my job,  
19 if I don't do it, maybe I'm going to lose my job here or  
20 something. And I've looked and --

21 Q. Just on -- Auntie [REDACTED] QKF was the cottage assistant to  
22 Effie Climie, so Effie Climie was the boss in  
23 cottage 22?

24 A. Yes. And if Effie Climie had a day off, then [REDACTED] QKF  
25 would take over.

1 Q. Was it the same when [QKF] was there on her own?

2 A. It wasn't just [QKF] there were other cottage aunties  
3 there.

4 Q. Sorry, David, I didn't put that very well --

5 A. With [QKF] no. She wasn't like --

6 Q. Was there a problem with mealtimes if it was only [QKF]  
7 or someone other than Effie Climie?

8 A. It was Effie Climie. Later on, when the [QKG/QKH] got  
9 there --

10 Q. We'll come to them later on --

11 A. I sort of got a system devised. It was a way of -- as  
12 I was saying, it was premeditated on her part. She  
13 served it up to me again a week down the line or a few  
14 days and she didn't care. She was just like: I will win  
15 over this situation.

16 LADY SMITH: So that's the food being served up to you  
17 again?

18 A. Again. But what I'd do then, with my brother, I would  
19 make a deal with him. Because he didn't like -- so say  
20 one day there was an apple crumble or something like  
21 that for the pudding or whatever, and I would say to my  
22 brother, listen, do me a favour, you eat this fatty meat  
23 for me right now and I'll give you my crumble. And then  
24 he'd get the lumpy custard as well. So these were the  
25 deals I was doing to get away --



1 LADY SMITH: You said something a minute ago, did I pick you  
2 up correctly, about Effie Climie needing to win?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Is that what you were trying to explain?

5 A. It seemed to be. That's what it seemed to -- the only  
6 way I can correlate it. It was: you will not ...  
7 you will not beat me, you'll not, say -- you will do  
8 as -- an iron rod, you will not defeat me in my purpose,  
9 you will do as I'm telling you, hell or high water, I'll  
10 beat it into you, I'll do whatever.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR PEOPLES: When you were taken to the shed and you've  
13 described how that was done, was that always  
14 Effie Climie? Would Auntie QKF at any stage ever  
15 drag you to the shed?

16 A. No, she wasn't violent or anything like that, that  
17 woman. She was reluctant. It was only under  
18 Effie Climie's actual orders that she would --

19 Q. The other thing, just so I'm clear about Auntie QKF  
20 or any other assistant that was there at the time, would  
21 Auntie QKF live in cottage 22 or did she live  
22 somewhere else?

23 A. Sometimes. It depends. If the house mother was away,  
24 like Effie Climie, then there was a room that she could  
25 use.

1 Q. But generally, where would she stay?

2 A. She would be maybe up in -- I think it's cottage 24 or  
3 something like that.

4 Q. The staff quarters?

5 A. That was the staff quarters for the women that were  
6 not --

7 Q. Right. Just on the question of mealtimes and  
8 force-feeding, you've described what happened to you  
9 when there was something you didn't want to eat or you  
10 didn't like to eat. What was the situation with other  
11 children? Because there must have been times when other  
12 children didn't want to eat something. What would  
13 happen to them?

14 A. The same thing.

15 Q. You'd see them getting the same treatment?

16 A. Yes, plus you would get ushered out. Maybe you had to  
17 go to school yourself. You just felt sorry for them  
18 because you knew what was coming. And that's what I'm  
19 saying: the woman ...

20 Q. Did you actually see occasions where there was a child  
21 and Effie Climie was force-feeding them in the way you  
22 described? Did you see it happen?

23 A. Yes, I seen it before and I even seen it with my sister  
24 one time as well, I saw her getting force-fed, and I saw  
25 hands flailing and her getting the cottage aunties in

1           there to help her. And with other kids as well, yes.

2           Q. You say your sister, but you're indicating that it  
3           wasn't just your family that was getting this treatment?

4           A. Yes, my brother, it would happen to him at times and  
5           other children in the cottage. That's what I'm saying.  
6           This woman, she had an appetite for evil. That's the  
7           only thing I can think. What was being done was  
8           perverse and it was uncalled for. You know what I mean?

9           Q. Just moving on in your statement to page 7966, you tell  
10          us that you think Effie Climie left in 1972. I think  
11          the records suggest she probably left in 1973, but some  
12          time during that year. Because I think we've seen  
13          things that indicate the QKG/QKH came in some time  
14          in that year. You tell us there that the QKG/QKH would  
15          try to force-feed you as well, but nowhere near as  
16          often.

17          A. Yes. He would try to force-feed, the same sort of --  
18          "You'll eat that later if you don't eat it now". Again,  
19          I'd become almost professional in the sense of, like  
20          I say, I'd get my brother again.

21          Q. You had strategies to deal with it?

22          A. Yes, coping strategies, we'd be wheeling and dealing  
23          with the crumbs and whatnot.

24          Q. So you he would try to get you to eat it and did you say  
25          he would re-serve the meals to you again and again?

1 A. Yes. I'd just tell him -- QKG he wasn't like  
2 -- that's what I'm saying: in comparison to Effie Climie  
3 in that way -- he would scud you, "You will eat that",  
4 and he'd give you a slap.

5 Q. You still got a slap --

6 A. He'd give you a couple of belts or whatever --

7 Q. How forcibly would you slap you?

8 A. On the head, but it wouldn't be a punch, a total --

9 Q. A slap?

10 A. Effie Climie would be the one. That's what I'm saying,  
11 you can differentiate big time. His was a sort of slap,  
12 you know.

13 Q. Was it painful?

14 A. Of course it was painful --

15 Q. Did it leave any marks, the slap?

16 A. The slap? No, not really, because it would be the hand,  
17 bang, like that. Maybe if he got you on the side of the  
18 face, maybe for a minute it's be red or something, but  
19 not as psychotic as the way Effie Climie was going about  
20 it.

21 Q. Just to be clear about what QKG might do on  
22 these occasions: did QKG ever hold you by the  
23 hair or use a spoon or fork to force the food down?

24 A. From what I can remember, no. He would just sort of  
25 like --

1 Q. Would he drag you to the shed?

2 A. He'd give you a punishment or something like that --  
3 it'd probably be up in the room or something.

4 Q. Just to go to your room or do something --

5 A. Yes he.

6 Q. So it was a very different response to Effie Climie?

7 A. Yes, he had a calmer approach, but at times, yes, over  
8 the top.

9 Q. He would still give you a slap; would it be more than  
10 once?

11 A. Yes, but differentiating between the two, his was  
12 moderate compared to her.

13 Q. I suppose what he was doing was still punishing you for  
14 to eating the foods you didn't want to eat?

15 A. Yes, that was it. It was crazy.

16 Q. If I could move on a little bit in your statement to  
17 7967, David, and paragraph 31. At that point in your  
18 statement you're telling us a bit about chores in  
19 Quarriers that the children had to do chores.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. In your time in cottage, probably in cottage 22 mainly,  
22 is it, you tell us the sort of things that had to be  
23 done and I think one might include peeling potatoes.

24 A. Down the back shed, that's where they would do it and it  
25 would just be cold water tap.

1 Q. At the end of paragraph 31 you tell us:

2 "As a punishment, Effie Climie would make [you]  
3 polish the linoleum floor using the big heavy thumper  
4 machine."

5 Just tell us a little bit about that.

6 A. In the playroom or whatever, and even the hallway, the  
7 steps coming down, it was all linoleum, so they would  
8 have a wax that you would put on the floor. A lot of  
9 time the cleaner during the week would be doing that,  
10 there was a big thumper and it had a cloth on it and it  
11 was a big weight that came onto the cloth and it was on  
12 a stick and you would move it back and forwards and that  
13 would buff up the actual linoleum and it looked shiny.  
14 That would be, like I say, a punishment, yes, you'd be  
15 made to do them chores. You'd be doing the playroom,  
16 you'd be doing the stairs upstairs, whatever, as  
17 punishment.

18 Q. What would it be the punishment for?

19 A. It could be to anything. It could be for not eating  
20 your dinner, or something like that. A way of getting  
21 something out of it, realising that she wasn't --

22 Q. Did that happen to -- did you get that punishment?

23 A. Yes, I got that punishment lots of times.

24 Q. What about the other children?

25 A. Yes. Children at times, yes, a lot of them ...

1 LADY SMITH: Tell me about this bumper.

2 A. The bumper was like a big metal, say -- I don't know if  
3 you've ever seen the old-fashioned linoleum floor.

4 LADY SMITH: There were ones that had spinning pads on the  
5 bottom of them.

6 A. No, this is before that time.

7 LADY SMITH: So it was before that?

8 A. It was just like a big lead weight type thing and  
9 basically underneath it -- it was quite heavy -- and  
10 underneath it they would put a cloth and then what you  
11 would do is, say, with the wax on the floor, then with  
12 the bumper and this cloth that's obviously underneath  
13 the bumper, that would take off the wax and rub it into  
14 the actual linoleum to clean the actual, say, linoleum.

15 It was hard work. You're going back and forwards.  
16 A big weight for a young kid and constantly -- and then  
17 after you done that area, the playroom. The playroom  
18 would be quite a big area.

19 LADY SMITH: Can you remember what sort of age you were when  
20 you first had to do this work with the bumper?

21 A. Even when I first entered 22, this was one of the  
22 punishments from Effie Climie that they would be doing.

23 LADY SMITH: So you would be quite wee then?

24 A. That's what I'm saying. It was a weight and a half.

25 MR PEOPLES: I suppose if Effie Climie left in 1973, you

1           wouldn't be any more than 10 years of age.

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. Did you find it hard to do this at that age?

4           A. Yes. Even when I first went in there, they're saying  
5           that I was there for six months in that other cottage.

6           I can't ...

7           Q. That's what the records are telling us. You don't  
8           remember it being as long as that?

9           A. No, I thought it was about a month or something like  
10          that.

11          Q. Don't worry --

12          A. But even at that age -- and then doing it and you're  
13          pulling this back and forward, back and forward.

14          Q. And how long would you have to be doing this for?

15          A. She'd come in. Knock, knock, knock, you missed a bit,  
16          here, there, get that done properly. You'd be slapped  
17          around the head and then you were at it again.

18          Q. Can you estimate how long you might have spent doing  
19          this polishing, using the bumper?

20          A. It could be half the afternoon, most of the afternoon.  
21          Once you'd done one area, and she'd be: right, down  
22          here, into this section, get this section done.

23          Q. You're saying she would inspect the work and if she  
24          didn't like what you had done or didn't think you had  
25          done it properly, what would happened?



1 A. Even if it was done properly, she was like, no, get it  
2 done again. You'd be like, but it's clean, slap. It  
3 doesn't matter, get it done, I don't like it.

4 Q. What about when the QKG/QKH came in? Did you get that  
5 as a punishment?

6 A. I think they had something similar as well. You'd do  
7 that sort of work. They'd have you at the potatoes or  
8 whatever. You know what I mean?

9 Q. The person you remember most giving you this punishment  
10 was Effie Climie?

11 A. Yes. It was Climie, yes. There was only one notable  
12 time -- I remember one time with the QKG/QKH and that  
13 was when time I jumped out of the window. I think he  
14 thought he killed me. He used to scourge you all the  
15 time and he'd grab you and he'd be whacking you in the  
16 head. As I say, I put the comparison there: what he  
17 done to us at that point and what she done. Hers was  
18 totally psychotic. His rage seemed to be a controlled  
19 type rage.

20 Q. Controlled up to a point?

21 A. I know, but that's what I'm saying. Okay, we're finding  
22 out what is acceptable and what is not acceptable at  
23 this point; I'm saying what was acceptable to myself at  
24 that point. What he was doing, like -- you know,  
25 because of the severity of what she did.

1 Q. I suppose in comparison, you didn't find it anything  
2 near as bad as what she did?

3 A. It was like a break, wasn't it?

4 Q. On these occasions when Mr QKG would give you a slap  
5 or whatever for whatever reason, would that leave --  
6 I think you said it might leave a mark or just a redness  
7 or whatever?

8 A. Yes. When he'd scourge you and hit your face.

9 Q. You told us when Effie Climie was hitting you --

10 A. You had bruises. You had everything --

11 Q. Was it different when the QKG/QKH were your  
12 house parents, were there bruises then or marks?

13 A. There might have been the odd bruise --

14 Q. But nothing the same --

15 A. -- but nothing in comparison to what this woman  
16 inflicted.

17 Q. I see in your statement at page 7969, you tell us -- and  
18 I think this must relate to Effie Climie -- you say:

19 "Any of the kids who were due for a visit from the  
20 family or social workers would not be hit so they would  
21 not be showing any bruises."

22 A. This is it as well. Because with our family -- and  
23 I always remember it. This is with Effie Climie as  
24 well. With our family -- we'd be told your family are  
25 going to be coming at the weekend -- this would be

1 a Saturday or a Sunday, the visiting, and your parents  
2 are coming to visit, and your parents would never turn  
3 up. I think once they turned up, once in all that time  
4 I was there. The other kids that were there, and some  
5 of their parents would actually turn up every week,  
6 every two weeks or a month and so on.

7 But what happened was, I remember -- and that's  
8 where I started to correlate it as well -- because  
9 I remember one of the families -- and Effie Climie had  
10 actually done something with the girl and basically her  
11 dad came down on the weekend.

12 I remember because we were in the playroom and there  
13 was -- the guy's daughter must have said something.

14 Q. To her father?

15 A. To her father -- and her father -- all I could hear was  
16 screaming in the hallway. I think somebody else from  
17 outside had to be called in or whatever to calm the  
18 situation down. "Don't you ever touch my daughter  
19 again", so to speak. So Effie Climie knew that the  
20 parents that were coming down -- obviously that was  
21 somebody who the children there could confide in.

22 Q. What happened with that girl?

23 A. Basically after that point -- with that girl, she never  
24 got touched again, obviously, because Effie Climie --

25 Q. Did she stay in the cottage, do you know? Did her

1 father make any attempts to take her out or away from  
2 the place?

3 A. I wouldn't know that because I'm only a kid.

4 Q. Did you see her again?

5 A. Yes, she was still in the cottage. Whatever it was,  
6 I think Effie Climie -- what she done, which was  
7 probably violence again at that point, and then  
8 basically -- but then it backfired on her because the  
9 father was coming down and I think the father even  
10 started coming down more regularly at that point  
11 obviously because he thought his kids --

12 Q. As far as your family were concerned, you weren't  
13 getting lots of visits from your family?

14 A. No, we weren't getting no visits whatsoever, so at that  
15 point she had free rein to actually -- me, myself and my  
16 family -- beating us up, doing whatever.

17 Q. Can I move now to a different matter, which you deal  
18 with in your statement at page 7969, and it's  
19 bed-wetting. I would like you to tell us about how  
20 children who wet the bed were treated. You tell us  
21 a little bit that one of your brothers had a problem  
22 with bed-wetting.

23 A. My younger brother. I had a problem earlier, but the  
24 main one was my brother. And what it was is they had  
25 this device that they could attach to beds. Apparently

1           it was like a rubber mat and then it was connected to  
2           some bell or whatever. This would go off or whatever or  
3           it was supposed to or most of the time it probably  
4           wouldn't go off, to alert the kid they were wetting the  
5           bed. A couple of times it happened with me, but even  
6           with myself but my brother more so, you know, like when  
7           you wet the bed, she was just like a banshee. She would  
8           come in and she would be screaming, she'd be grabbing  
9           him, grabbing the sheets and all that. And having to  
10          take them downstairs and having to wash them -- and even  
11          myself, I did it myself a couple of times. You washed  
12          the sheets in the cold bath. You know what I mean?

13        Q. You saw occasions if your younger brother or someone  
14          else wet the bed, she would --

15        A. No, the times when she took me down, and I know with my  
16          brother also, and it was you're wetting the bed and  
17          basically -- so at that point obviously, the way the  
18          machine was going off or whatever, if the machine did go  
19          off, basically you'd be getting -- she'd be coming in --  
20          it might be first thing in the morning when she realised  
21          and she'd just get you up -- she'd drag you down by the  
22          scruff of the neck or the hair had she'd get angry and  
23          she would get the sheets and she would have them in the  
24          bath and you would have to wash them in the bath. This  
25          was her way of trying to get you not to wet the bed.

1           My younger brother was traumatised totally because  
2           he couldn't help himself and it was probably due to  
3           whatever was going on in the cottage as well, you can  
4           imagine --

5           Q. I don't want you to go into any detail, but I think you  
6           believe that there was a reason why your younger brother  
7           was suffering and bed-wetting --

8           A. Oh yes.

9           Q. -- because I think you tell us basically he was getting  
10          some form of, I think, sexual abuse --

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. -- from another resident.

13          A. I'd like to bring this up. This is relevant as well to  
14          Effie Climie.

15          Q. We'll come to that in due course. You say that part of  
16          the problem for your brother was that he was suffering  
17          sexual abuse from a resident, a male resident.

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. Was that male resident, and I don't need the name just  
20          now, older than your brother?

21          A. He was older. He was probably about 14, 15, 15 years  
22          old, something like that.

23          Q. What age was your brother when this was happening?

24          A. This was more or less straightaway when I went into the  
25          cottage as well, so he'd have been 4 or 5.

1 Q. So there was quite an age difference between the two?

2 A. Yes. This guy was like an adolescent. Looking on it at  
3 that young age, a 5-year-old looking up at him, you're  
4 seeing somebody grown-up.

5 Q. Just on this matter just now, would Effie Climie have  
6 known about this?

7 A. Yes, she knew about it --

8 Q. Why would she know about it though?

9 A. I'll tell you how she knew, because all the times --  
10 this guy wouldn't just be like with the brother, even  
11 the young girls in the cottage, he would be hounding,  
12 even with my older sister, even her and those other  
13 girls in the cottage that he'd be doing. And this guy  
14 was just like -- his hormones were all over the shop,  
15 man. He was just expressing -- passing his perversions  
16 around. He was indiscriminate to who he wanted to  
17 attack. I seen it first-hand. I seen what he did to my  
18 brother. He basically tried it with me. I said it  
19 before, maybe I've got something shut off in my mind,  
20 maybe something happened, the way the mind plays and  
21 what not.

22 But yes, I remember the one which is like -- which  
23 even goes back, when we get into it, like I say, which  
24 correlates with my abuse as well. There was one time  
25 when I actually went up the stairs and I remember my

1 young brother -- and I walked up the stairs this day and  
2 it was the afternoon, and my young brother was in the  
3 bedroom. This is in cottage 22.

4 LADY SMITH: That was your younger brother who was in the  
5 bedroom?

6 A. Yes. I walked in and there was the younger brother and  
7 there was this older kid. You know what I mean?  
8 Basically, I'm standing there and I just went into shock  
9 straightaway because there I could see him with his  
10 penis, holding his penis out, and he was demanding my  
11 young brother open his mouth so he could put the penis  
12 into his mouth. And all I could see was my young  
13 brother and the tears going right down, right down his  
14 face. I was just in shock. I was like that  
15 (indicating). I looked and I was horrified. I was to  
16 the spot, just looking, and he was going, "You get in  
17 here, you get in here now", and I'm just looking at him.

18 Then another kid came up the stairs and all I heard  
19 at that point was -- all I heard at this point was this  
20 kid screaming. She was screaming and she never seen  
21 what was happening in there, she just seen me frozen.  
22 This boy -- I'm just looking at my brother, the tears,  
23 and I'm looking at him with his erect penis, and  
24 basically -- "Auntie Effie", the girl shouts and she  
25 runs down the stairway and she went belting up



1 straightaway. She knew this kind of perversion was  
2 going down. She comes running up. Right? And at that  
3 point, I'm still looking at him with his cock out and he  
4 didn't even hear.

5 She just came up because at that point she didn't  
6 even have her Scholls on -- normally you could hear her  
7 Scholls going clatter-clatter up the stairs. She came  
8 flying up.

9 At that point, all I got -- she was -- with me, I'm  
10 standing still by the door, I'm just froze, and she  
11 slaps me again on the head, "Get down the stairs".

12 Then at that point, this was the perpetrator that  
13 done it with my brother, this guy, and that was it. And  
14 then the brother was sent down the stairs as well and  
15 not more said. You know what I mean? And as I say --

16 Q. Would she have been able to see --

17 A. She never reported --

18 Q. -- the boy in the room with your brother --

19 A. Yes, because I remember, as she was giving me the slap  
20 on the head, he is like that (indicating). Basically  
21 because he hadn't realised ed that she got up so fast.  
22 I just saw her and that was me slapped down the head and  
23 I'm sent down the stairs and then about 2 minutes later  
24 my brother was sent down the stair. There was nothing  
25 reported. And at that point, you can imagine, you just

1           feel like ... You've lost all -- she couldn't report it  
2           because if it was to be reported and individually  
3           investigated, then they would start asking the other  
4           kids and at that point then they would have been asking  
5           me and that's when they would have been -- and onto what  
6           she was doing with myself, sexually abusing myself. So  
7           there was no hope. You were just there in her cottage  
8           where you're going to get battered black and blue, and  
9           then there's the sexual abuse even when your brother --

10          Q. David, you've described what Effie Climie -- she came up  
11           in response to these screams from the girl --

12          A. She had a word with the older one and that was it. Us  
13           two were sent down and that was it. The other guy, he  
14           went on, you know, perverting himself around the cottage  
15           still after that and so on.

16          Q. But he continued to do the sort of things you've  
17           described?

18          A. Yes, he continued to do everything with the other girls,  
19           everyone in the cottage. You know what I mean?

20          Q. Is it your understanding, at least, that -- you're not  
21           aware that any report of this matter was made by  
22           Effie Climie to anyone?

23          A. No, she's not going to make no report in that way. Even  
24           when I was in that cottage as well, and even at the  
25           trial, the criminal prosecution of Effie Climie and so

1 on, there was witnesses who were let go for whatever  
2 reason, perverse as they are -- even myself, being  
3 a kid, because it's about 20 kids that are living  
4 in that cottage. Right? And whatever goes on there  
5 goes round fast and whatever and even as much as we are  
6 young, with the older boys it was reported that  
7 basically some of them had actually had sexual, let's  
8 say, fling with Effie Climie or whatever. And basically  
9 one of them had been put out of the cottage. This was  
10 [REDACTED] QJW his name was at the time --

11 Q. So this was something that was being discussed that  
12 there was an older boy in the cottage --

13 A. The older kids -- but it filters down, what was going  
14 on. They would say, "Oh, [REDACTED] QJW I don't know  
15 if he was 16 years old or whatever -- I think he was  
16 older than this [REDACTED] QGO or whatever.

17 But it ended up -- there was something went down and  
18 he had to leave the cottage, and there was one night he  
19 came back to the cottage just after leaving -- I don't  
20 know, everyone in the cottage, because it was late  
21 night, it could have been 12 or something like that,  
22 everyone was in their bed, but all the kids were woken  
23 up and it's like, "What's happening, what's happening?"  
24 and I can always remember that this [REDACTED] QJW had  
25 returned for some reason to the cottage and the police

1           were called. I don't know what was happening but there  
2           was something in there and there was all this about --  
3           saying that something had been going on between  
4           QJW and Effie Climie. So when it was coming up  
5           to the court case, as I say, that QJW he was  
6           went to be a witness and all of a sudden he wasn't  
7           a witness and it just seemed like what's going on.

8           Q. That boy that you've just mentioned, you personally, did  
9           you see him do anything similar to the other boy in  
10          terms of abusing?

11          A. This QGO this character?

12          Q. The other one that you mentioned, QJW did you see him  
13          do anything equivalent to what you saw?

14          A. I never seen him do anything. All I heard was just --  
15          let's say through the cottage. Because at the time --

16          Q. Just talk?

17          A. Right, but talk, but basically they were saying there  
18          was something going down, whatever, okay, let's say --

19          Q. Just to be clear, the talk was more about what was  
20          happening between QJW and Effie Climie?

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. Rather than what QJW was doing to the children?

23          A. No, no, I don't know what he was doing to other  
24          children.

25          Q. I'm not suggesting he was. I just wonder what the talk

1 was about.

2 A. The one that I knew was this [REDACTED] QGO first-hand.  
3 He'd be trying to get me, let's say -- but the young  
4 brother was the one who got -- he was in the firing line  
5 for him, and Effie Climie -- and there was people --  
6 even times when the brother was in the toilet. You can  
7 imagine. He is in the toilet and --

8 LADY SMITH: David, can you slow down just a little bit?

9 A. Sorry.

10 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

11 A. You can imagine it, in the toilet, and, like I say, this  
12 [REDACTED] QGO would have the young brother in the toilet  
13 and there'd be four of us kids actually standing out  
14 there and we'd be saying, [REDACTED] QGO what are you  
15 doing in there?" He'd have the door locked and he was  
16 trying to get the young brother to do his bidding.

17 MR PEOPLES: Who was that saying, "What are you doing in  
18 there"? Who was --

19 A. There'd be me, there'd be the sister, she was there as  
20 well.

21 Q. But who was saying from the outside of the door, "What  
22 are you doing in there?" Who was talking to him? You?

23 A. There was myself, I'd be outside the door, and then my  
24 other sister, [REDACTED] was saying it as well.

25 Q. What about Effie Climie?

1 A. That's what I'm saying -- her response to anything was  
2 going down there -- I tell you, man, she was just an  
3 absentee. She was the absentee landlord or absentee  
4 auntie.

5 Q. On the occasions when he was in a locked bathroom with  
6 some other children --

7 A. Obviously a bathroom and basically it was beside the --  
8 like, you know --

9 Q. On these occasions when he was in there and something  
10 was going on, was Effie Climie -- did she ever come on  
11 the scene at all on these occasions? You have mentioned  
12 the time you saw what was happening with your brother  
13 and she came up the stairs.

14 A. She might be called and the door would open, "Right, get  
15 out of there".

16 Q. Would she ask any questions why he was in a locked  
17 bathroom with some other children?

18 A. No. That's what I'd saying. She'd just scatter: "Get,  
19 get, get down the stairs, you've got things to do, get  
20 outside" (indicating) --

21 LADY SMITH: You're demonstrating something with your left  
22 hand. What are you trying to show me?

23 A. What she would do, she would sort of -- scatter. She  
24 would soon break up the people there. Like I say, there  
25 was a couple of other kids, myself, maybe my sister,

1           whatever, and at that point she'd would be like that  
2           with her hand (indicating), coming up and going, "Right,  
3           right, down the stairs, you have better things to be  
4           doing now", and then she would take over the situation,  
5           but it wasn't reported.

6           MR PEOPLES: The children -- there were sometimes occasions  
7           when **QGO** was in a locked bathroom with a number of  
8           children, is it?

9           A. No, no, no, no, no, this was just the brother.

10          Q. Just the one?

11          A. That was the one time in the bathroom, but obviously  
12          there was other times -- the brother, when I've spoken  
13          to him, and he was like that, and I've said, no,

14          **QKI** --

15          Q. It wasn't the only time according to what you've been  
16          told?

17          A. The one that I've seen was a time was the time **QKI** was  
18          in the bedroom --

19          Q. The occasion in the bathroom was different from the one  
20          you saw in the bedroom when you saw --

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. Two different occasions?

23          A. These are different occasions. That's what I'm saying.  
24          The brother was getting attacked by this guy --

25          Q. Also in terms of -- you've told us these things and

1           you've told us what happened and you've told us how  
2           Effie Climie reacted on occasions when she came on the  
3           scene. You have no reason, you think, to believe that  
4           she reported any of this?

5           A. She didn't report nothing. She was complicit. She had  
6           her own little line in this.

7           Q. What I want to ask you is: were you or any other child,  
8           including your brother, to your knowledge, questioned  
9           about the incident in the bedroom or the incident in the  
10          bathroom?

11          A. No, no, she never reported it.

12          Q. I just want to know: no one came to see you and said,  
13          look, I want you to tell me about this matter --

14          A. No, no.

15          Q. -- something happened and I just want you to tell me  
16          what you recall?

17          A. No.

18          Q. No one came and said that?

19          A. No. Nobody whatsoever. That's what I realised: if she  
20          had reported it, then she'd be sinking herself as well  
21          because obviously there would be an independent --  
22          I take it, you know ... It depends. In Quarriers, a lot  
23          of people, they would come, and even in the beginning,  
24          when you first complain that you're getting beaten up  
25          and so on and you wouldn't be heard and she'd be





1 Obviously ourselves being young, so we'd be put in our  
2 bed and she'd be like that, "No noise. If I hear any  
3 noise, you're getting it", so to speak.

4 Then what would happen is -- it wouldn't necessarily  
5 -- sometimes maybe I might have been guilty at times,  
6 and maybe I've flipped my brother in the bed below me or  
7 whatever, "Tomorrow we'll do this", or something like  
8 that. It could be also another kid talking to his  
9 brother in the same room. She would just come in like  
10 a banshee, like something out of hell. She would grab  
11 you, "Right! Got you!" She'd grab you out of the bed,  
12 by the scruff of the pyjamas, whatever, hair, and at  
13 that point would be battering you again, dragging you  
14 down the stairs, into the shed.

15 You were there for, as I said, into that shed, the  
16 cold shed, bare feet, whatnot, pyjamas on, even in the  
17 middle of winter or whatever, wind howling through the  
18 door, the back door rattling. She'd have you in that  
19 corner and she'd be like, "You face into that corner,  
20 you open that door -- if I open that door and you make  
21 one noise or you're not facing that corner, you're  
22 dead". And at times ...

23 So on the way, the process going down there, she  
24 would be battering into you, and I'd be like that: "I'm  
25 going to die here, with this woman that knows no

1 bounds".

2 So you're standing there and as I say you were that  
3 cold you'd have to stand on one foot and put the next  
4 foot and so on. At times she would hear the noise -- it  
5 might be that you'd actually fallen over or something  
6 like that or gone to grab on to something because it was  
7 that cold, and maybe a welly boot or something like  
8 that, one of the shoes or whatever -- this was where the  
9 wellingtons were kept out -- something was there and  
10 it would fall and she'd come in and I would be getting  
11 beaten up again.

12 A lot of times you'd be there all night and what she  
13 would do -- again, it was crazy. Say you were due up  
14 about 6, 7, whatever it was, about an hour or half  
15 an hour before the kids were due to wake up, she would  
16 send you back up to bed, so you'd be totally knackered,  
17 you would be frozen stiff, and then you would go up the  
18 stairs and the it would be basically time up for  
19 everybody. Then you'd have to go through the full  
20 process of getting ready for school. You'd go to  
21 school, you'd be falling asleep in school as well. The  
22 school would be like that and you'd be getting their  
23 version of the corporal punishment, whether it's be the  
24 belt or whatever, "Pay attention, blah, blah", and so  
25 on. You know what I mean?

1 Q. I think in paragraph 45 you certainly say that did  
2 happen at times when you were in bed and you were taken  
3 out of bed.

4 A. Yes. Loads of different times.

5 Q. You also tell us that there were times when instead of  
6 getting a beating, she took you to her own room.

7 Can you tell me about that? What happened on though  
8 occasions?

9 A. Yes. You can imagine the aversion to this woman -- just  
10 being in this woman's company. As I'm saying, just not  
11 even with the beatings, even if we were lining up for  
12 dinner or breakfast, as she was lining us up, and even  
13 as I was walking past. Other kids, they would walk  
14 past -- and with myself, I would always get a slap on  
15 the head, "Get in there". So you can imagine the  
16 aversion I've got to this woman and I don't want to be  
17 around her because she's the personification of violence  
18 and psychotic-ness.

19 At that point, at night-time, all of a sudden she  
20 would be coming into the room and I'd be asleep and  
21 she'd be waking me up, and I'd be, "Auntie Effie,  
22 Auntie Effie, I have not done nothing wrong", thinking  
23 that I'm going to the back shed. She would then take me  
24 into her bedroom, sit me down to the side of her bed and  
25 I'd be there sitting there like that (indicating) and

1 I'd be saying, "Auntie Effie, I've done nothing wrong",  
2 and she'd say, "Shut up". And then she would lie on the  
3 side of the bed, down like that (indicating), and she  
4 would say, "Start rubbing my legs". So I'd start from  
5 the bottom here (indicating), where I was always not to  
6 go fast, up to her thigh regions, "Higher, higher".  
7 Then at that point, up into her pubic region, her  
8 vagina. I'd be rubbing there and she'd go, "Higher,  
9 higher", again. And I'd be like that (indicating) and  
10 she'd be like that and I'd be saying, "Auntie Effie,  
11 Auntie Effie, it's jaggy, it's jaggy". And this was me,  
12 I was basically at that point -- I could feel the  
13 moistness of where I was touching. And I would say,  
14 "Auntie Effie, Auntie Effie, my hand's sore now", and  
15 I would look round and she would slap me round the head  
16 and face my face to the wall.

17 Q. Was she asking you to do this without looking at her?

18 A. She didn't want me to see her.

19 Q. She just wanted you to be touching her, rubbing her?

20 A. Yes, touching her -- but basically when I looked round  
21 to say to her, "It was jaggy, Auntie Effie, jaggy", that  
22 was the pubic hairs on my skin. And I would be like  
23 that and I would be like, "My hand's sore, my hand's  
24 sore", because I'd be having to rub her and as I say, up  
25 from where I was lying, you were reaching up from where

1 I am on the floor --

2 Q. If you turned you would get slapped?

3 A. That's what I'd saying. If I turned, you'd get a slap  
4 on the head and then she'd just put my head, directed my  
5 head and pushed it towards the wall again and told to  
6 continue and to shut up. Do you know what I mean?

7 Q. But you're describing a situation where at least in the  
8 course of doing this, as she was asking you to do, that  
9 your hand was making -- and fingers were making contact  
10 with the genital area and vagina?

11 A. Yes, with her vagina. With her vagina.

12 Q. And you were aware of that from obviously, you  
13 indicated, both, I think you're describing pubic hair?

14 A. Yes, the pubic region and basically the wetness, the  
15 moistness and basically -- it was the vaginal region.  
16 It was basically -- I wasn't there for any other reason  
17 but.

18 LADY SMITH: What she was wearing?

19 A. She used to have a skirt, like that was say -- just  
20 above the knee, whatever. Not a mini skirt, but down to  
21 about the knee length.

22 And basically when she lay back on the bed ...

23 LADY SMITH: Daytime clothes, not night-time clothes?

24 A. No, at that time -- I can remember, it wasn't like  
25 a nightie or anything like that.

1 LADY SMITH: Did she have anything on her legs?

2 A. She had nothing. She was naked. There was no pants,  
3 nothing.

4 LADY SMITH: Bare legs, no tights?

5 A. No tights, nothing. Just bare legs, no pants. And that  
6 was it. She always did that. She would go, "Start off  
7 here, start off here", rubbing her lower part.

8 LADY SMITH: "Here" is below her knee?

9 A. Yes. And for less than a minute and right she would be,  
10 "Right, up on to the thigh", and then ... She would  
11 turn me and doing that. This would happen loads of  
12 times -- she'd be pulling me in --

13 MR PEOPLES: Was she instructing you what to do? Was she  
14 talking to you?

15 A. What she was saying to me was -- basically she was  
16 directing me. She was like, higher, higher. And then  
17 at times her hand would be maybe sort of guiding,  
18 pushed -- she'd say, higher, over, there, there. So I'd  
19 be like that (indicating). But you can imagine, after  
20 what seemed like a long time, but obviously my hands  
21 were tired and the pubic region, the pubic hairs digging  
22 in my hands and so on, and it was like, "It's jaggy,  
23 Auntie Effie".

24 Q. What would she do when you spoke and told her?

25 A. She would get annoyed, big time.

1 Q. Because you said something?

2 A. Yes, because I was telling her it was jaggy, because my  
3 arms were tired. Imagine me, I was just a kid woken up  
4 out of bed. I've got an aversion, I hate her, this  
5 woman, you know what I mean, a way with violence, not  
6 knowing which way she's going to turn, and to be found  
7 that I'm actually now in her bedroom. I don't even want  
8 to be near this person.

9 LADY SMITH: David, so far as you can remember, what sort of  
10 age was she at that time?

11 A. That's what I'm saying. For me, like I say, I was just  
12 taking it that she was young, 24. The thing I found  
13 strange with her age as well, was all the other  
14 cottages, they used to have a cottage mother or a  
15 cottage father, and I could understand that in the sense  
16 even then, this would be a married couple running the  
17 cottage. So it was that way -- there wasn't so much  
18 work or whatever. But to have somebody that young in  
19 there, the age she was ... I always thought that, even  
20 in hindsight, I thought it was strange that she would be  
21 allowed to look after -- this is 20 kids in a cottage  
22 and all different ages. And you've got this QGO  
23 QGO we called him, him running around the cottage,  
24 and the other ones running around the cottage, and she's  
25 off on a tangent as well. It was pure hell.



1 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples may have something more accurate for  
2 you.

3 MR PEOPLES: I think I can. I think Effie Climie was born  
4 in 1946, on [REDACTED] So that would make her, in  
5 1968, when you came in, something around 22 years of  
6 age. By the time you left -- she left in 1973 and she  
7 would be maybe around 26, 27.

8 A. That's what I mean.

9 LADY SMITH: That would fit with your idea that she was  
10 something around 24, early 20s.

11 A. Yes. That's what I'm saying. It was just unbelievable,  
12 somebody like that. How could somebody like that be put  
13 in power? It was just madness, and for her -- whereas  
14 you had a cottage mother and father normally in the  
15 other cottages, or if there was another one where maybe  
16 it was another woman or something running the cottage,  
17 but that woman would be maybe in her 40s, so maybe  
18 a level of experience. But it was just this woman, it  
19 was just ... I don't know why Quarriers put her in such  
20 a position. Such a volatile environment with all these  
21 kids going through adolescence right down to  
22 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, whatnot.

23 MR PEOPLES: David, you have told us what would happen on  
24 the occasions that you'd be taken to her room and just  
25 for the moment to get some idea of the frequency of

1           these occasions, how often did this happen in the time  
2           that you were in cottage 22 with Effie Climie?

3       A.   This happened -- I couldn't put an amount on it, the  
4           times it happened.  It happened loads of different  
5           times.

6       Q.   Were there any occasions when it was more than just you  
7           and Effie Climie in the room?

8       A.   Yes, there was a time, and I reported that as well, that  
9           was myself and my brother.

10      Q.   How many times were there more than two people in the  
11           room when this happened?

12      A.   I can say twice that I can recollect, with my brother.  
13           We were in the room and we were there, and rubbing her  
14           legs, this was again at the side of the bed, he was one  
15           side, I was the other, and the two of us were giggling,  
16           we were sort of like that because we knew it was naughty  
17           or, we knew it was just sort of ... you know.  Because  
18           that was going up into the pubic region again, and  
19           we were there and, like I say, touching here.

20                 What you've got to remember as well, the onslaught  
21           of Effie Climie -- like I said, when hell broke loose in  
22           cottage 22, you're knocked north, south, east and west,  
23           what was right and what was wrong.  She kicked it  
24           straight out of you.  You didn't know because she was  
25           meant to be your representative.  They were meant to

1 show you your pathway forward, and when you see that  
2 wrong is right and right is wrong and whatnot, the way  
3 she is conducting herself, you're questioning your own  
4 sanity, you're questioning you're own -- maybe call it  
5 your genes, call it your instinct to what is right and  
6 what is wrong. All we could do was nervously giggle at  
7 that point.

8 Q. Just in terms of these occasions, either when you were  
9 there alone with Effie Climie or at least on the couple  
10 of occasions you can remember your brother was there,  
11 after --

12 A. The thing --

13 Q. Everything was over, what did she do?

14 A. That's the thing that was so perverse. That's what I'm  
15 saying, this is totally perverse. It just returned to  
16 the same again where I'd still be getting --

17 Q. It was a bad question. After she had --

18 A. You mean after she -- oh yes --

19 Q. What happened on the occasion -- after she finished  
20 instructing you or directing you to do this, what would  
21 happen?

22 A. Oh yes. Then what would happen would be a slap on the  
23 head again and, "Get to your bed, get to your bed".  
24 Then in the morning, then until the next time, you just  
25 got the same process of maybe -- again being dragged

1 down to the shed, being beat ten shades out of. And  
2 going through the whole process. It was just a circle,  
3 you know.

4 Q. Can I move on to something else that you tell us about  
5 in your statement then at page 7971, paragraph 51.

6 You have a memory of an occasion when one of your  
7 sisters was in cottage 22 when Effie Climie was the  
8 house parent.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You tell us that there was an occasion when she heard  
11 some screaming, and that was you screaming, was it?

12 A. Yes. The sister, I'd say -- at that point, it was  
13 a shame for her, the older sister, right? Basically it  
14 ended up, she tried to protect us so many times from  
15 Effie Climie. She'd see Effie Climie with the Scholl  
16 and -- not just with Scholl and the violent abuse and  
17 someone battering ten shades out of us, and she'd jump  
18 in to try and -- and she was younger as well. For the  
19 first part, Effie Climie would obviously -- because she  
20 was young as well, Effie Climie would get the better of  
21 her and be beating her too. But it ended up that my  
22 sister -- and that's why she was put out of Quarriers.  
23 She was put into a young offenders' institution. It was  
24 all because of Effie Climie because Effie Climie, the  
25 sister that -- call it a mental breakdown whatever, she

1           just had enough of watching the abuse that we were  
2           experiencing, and at that point --

3           LADY SMITH: This sister was, what, a couple of years older  
4           than you?

5           A. Yes. She would, let's say -- I'll tell you now, yes,  
6           a couple of years, two, three years.

7           MR PEOPLES: I think you thought she was 10. That would  
8           make the date around 1971 and you'd have been around 8.

9           A. Yes. Two or three years older than us, I think.

10          Q. You saw her getting -- she was beaten you said on this  
11          occasion. Did you see that happen?

12          A. Yes. Even force-fed and so on, I watched her with that,  
13          all these things that were happening to ourselves. The  
14          thing was, because we were her young brothers and  
15          because of her maternal streak or whatever, she'd be  
16          there trying to protect us, but she ended up getting it  
17          when we were younger, the sister.

18                 At some point there, and I remember it, the sister  
19          had had enough again and basically she went for  
20          Effie Climie and this time she got Effie Climie's hair,  
21          she got her by the hair and she wasn't letting go, she  
22          was pulling her around this kitchen area. I think  
23          something had been said in the kitchen, I think  
24          Effie Climie referred to something about her mother.  
25          That's what I heard later through my sister.

1           Basically at that point as well I think I was in the  
2 dining room, I was on one of those -- with the plates,  
3 with the food I wasn't going to eat. Again I was going  
4 through one of those scenarios. She was in the kitchen  
5 and next minute I heard a big sort of shebang and the  
6 sister had Effie Climie by the hair and I jumped off the  
7 chair. I was looking in and Effie Climie was screaming  
8 for the cleaner -- her name was Mrs McCurdy --  
9 "Mrs McCurdy, Mrs McCurdy, help, help, get her off me".

10           But this was basically the sister's reaction to all  
11 them years of abuse and watching her brothers and other  
12 kids, and plus herself, being abused by this woman.  
13 Basically, this was like payback, as best we describe  
14 it -- it wasn't even payback, my sister lost the plot,  
15 and at that point -- and after my sister had done that,  
16 she was moved out as a problem child that Effie Climie  
17 had created and she was slipped out to a girls'  
18 detention centre.

19       Q. Before she was moved, on page 7972, you tell us that  
20 there would be times when your sister, your older  
21 sister, was in her bed and that Effie Climie would  
22 appear with one of the male residents.

23       A. Yes. This was the one, QJW

24       Q. What happened on this occasion?

25       A. Effie Climie -- and even before that, my sister was

1           telling us as well -- and we'd hear the screaming as  
2           well. Effie Climie was starting to realise the sister  
3           was getting stronger and she couldn't handle the sister  
4           as well. So what she done is she got one of the older  
5           boys, [REDACTED] QJW -- and what she'd do is she'd hold  
6           her down, hold the sister down while Effie Climie  
7           basically assaulted her, basically beat her up.

8           Q. Moving on, if I may, to page 7972, there came a time  
9           when you moved from cottage 22 to cottage 20, and as  
10          I told you earlier this morning, the records show that  
11          that move happened in 1978.

12          A. I'm not too sure when that happened.

13          Q. I appreciate that. It may be about seven months before  
14          you finally left Quarriers. And you'd be therefore  
15          around 14 or 15 years of age rather than 12, which is  
16          I think is what you thought was maybe your age.

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. Your new house parents were [REDACTED] QFK/SPO [REDACTED] QFK/SP  
19          [REDACTED] QFK/SPO [REDACTED] Is that right? Do you remember  
20          them?

21          A. I remember their faces, yes.

22          Q. You were only there for a much shorter period than in  
23          cottage 22. You mentioned earlier on an occasion when  
24          he chased you into your room and punched the hell out of  
25          you.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was that what you told us about earlier this morning?

3 A. Yes. What it was, just to describe, this cottage 20,  
4 right, was basically where -- I don't know what  
5 qualifications this person had. It was obviously  
6 another -- Quarriers seemed to accept the psychos as  
7 being the solution to problem children.

8 But what had happened was that in cottage 22, and  
9 it's what I've described for you here, when your right  
10 or wrong, your, north, your south, your east, your west  
11 has been kicked out of you and you've been abused and  
12 you don't know what's happening, then they would put  
13 them into cottage 20, which was a problem child's  
14 cottage, and I was doing not too badly there.

15 The other kids in the cottage they more or less told  
16 us this QFK had a bit of a temper. I was in there  
17 anyway. And I remember this time, when I was there, and  
18 he was strict, and you could see there was something  
19 unhinged with the guy, and he was having problems with  
20 his missus at the time. They had a little kid and they  
21 were always arguing and whatever. It was an unstable  
22 environment. I just kept out of their way --

23 Q. Slow down a little bit so we can get this.

24 A. I came in a wee bit late -- I think it was for dinner or  
25 something. I came in five minutes late or something and



1 he was like that and he said something to me and I just  
2 sort of gave a flippant remark, maybe, "There's no  
3 dinner for you", "So what?" And next minute that was  
4 it. And I've just seen him and he came charging after  
5 me and he came running up the stairs after me. Next  
6 minute he started punching.

7 This guy was a fair weight -- I'd say 16 about stone  
8 at least, he was quite big -- and he was punching into  
9 me and as a man and I was only a kid. He's punching  
10 into my head and whatnot. And I've just seen his -- at  
11 one point, as he was over us and he's got his hands  
12 round my neck, and I'm battered and bruised and I just  
13 seen these eyes, just about going white. I just managed  
14 at that point -- with the room, like, where he had me on  
15 the floor, there was a fire escape in this cottage and  
16 it led down to a wood at the back -- there was a wood at  
17 the back and there was an incline going down into the  
18 woods with a grass verge.

19 Basically, at that point, when I seen his eyes  
20 going, I was, right, I just managed to pull myself away  
21 from him, but what I had to do is I had to take a run  
22 and a jump -- I just went straight over -- and it was  
23 maybe 30, 40 feet up -- straight over the fire escape  
24 and down on to the grass, right, landed and I managed to  
25 roll.

1           Then at that point, I'm bloodied and my face is all  
2           a mess. So I went up to Holmlea, which is where  
3           actually lives the heads of Quarriers, let's say, that'd  
4           be Mortimer or the other social workers who represent  
5           the different cottages actually reside.

6           Q. The main offices?

7           A. Yes, the main office. I went there and there was  
8           Mr Brodie, his name was.

9           Q. Ian Brodie?

10          A. Yes. I asked for Ian Brodie. They're like, he's not  
11          here, but we'll get him. I explained to them, I said,  
12          this psychopath, look what he has done, I'm not going  
13          back to that cottage, but then what happened was this  
14          Brodie, he had finally been found, so he made his way  
15          down to the cottage. I told him -- and he could see for  
16          himself the lumps on my head and the blood on the hair  
17          all over the shop. I said, that was him, that was him,  
18          this psychopath, that's not right. And Brodie's like,  
19          QKI calm down, we'll get this sorted. He walks in  
20          and he speaks to this guy, this QFK and this  
21          QFK like, he was fighting with other kids. So Brodie  
22          comes out -- and the only word I could use is  
23          a slaphead, somebody, you might know, who didn't want to  
24          go against the -- you know -- status quo, so to speak,  
25          to get himself in deep water, to challenge, you know

1 what I mean, the cottage mothers or fathers' opinions.

2 He said, he said to me you were in a fight with  
3 another child. I said, "Mr Brodie, can you get the  
4 other child in?" and so on and everything. He was just  
5 standing there exasperated because he knew what I was  
6 saying was true. I said, "It was him. I wasn't  
7 fighting with any other child, check with the other  
8 children my age, whatever, see if there's been a fight".  
9 I said, "It was him". At that point, he wouldn't take  
10 my side or whatever. I remember him it was at that  
11 point that they decided to ship me out, and that was to  
12 Gillsiehill to a detention centre, so just passing the  
13 problem straight on.

14 Q. Obviously, we're looking at Quarriers just now. We can  
15 read, obviously, what happened to you once you left.

16 But before we leave Quarriers, there's one other  
17 paragraph in which you refer to some violence from  
18 QFK at paragraph 56. Is this in the context of  
19 when you were playing cricket?

20 A. Oh yeah, yes.

21 Q. Just help us with that.

22 A. This guy was a psychopath, right? Basically, wherever  
23 he'd been before, I don't know if he'd been at  
24 a children's home before, done that position before, but  
25 I know one thing, he loved cricket. I don't know if he

1           actually came from somewhere like [REDACTED] where cricket  
2           must be one of the main hobbies or whatever. I remember  
3           this time, he's like that (indicating) and he's got me  
4           bowling for him -- it's the full cricket -- heavy ball  
5           and that. The thing that was crazy, he's dressed in all  
6           the cricket gear himself, he's got the pads and  
7           whatever, and I'm throwing this ball just as a kid,  
8           which is useless and he'd be, yeah, put your back into  
9           it, and so on. I'd be, like, throwing the ball,  
10          whatever, and he'd be whacking it and I'd jump out of  
11          the way because of the speed of this ball and I haven't  
12          got any no protective gear on.

13                 And then he would go, right, it's your turn now --  
14           his protective gear wouldn't fit me because I'm a kid,  
15           so I'm standing there like that and he'd throwing like  
16           a fast ball or whatever you'd call it and I'm diving  
17           away ... I'm thinking, this guy's not right in the head.  
18           This ball, if it hits you, it's going to take you out.  
19           That's what I'm saying. I knew then that that guy was  
20           unhinged and that's what I said at the beginning. Even  
21           the other kids would more or less point to this guy and  
22           say, this guy, he's unhinged, you don't want to step the  
23           wrong side of them.

24                 I think that's why Quarriers picked this guy: he had  
25           the heavy hand, children should be seen, not heard, and

1            basically just thump it out of them, that sort of  
2            extra --

3            Q. What you're telling us is that, so far as you  
4            understood, cottage 20 was the place they sent problem  
5            children to --

6            A. Exactly, that's what it was, yes. These were all the  
7            other different children -- I can give you names: [REDACTED]  
8            [REDACTED] kids that had problems as well.  
9            And they would basically say, yeah, these people -- they  
10           were there because they were problem kids. As you can  
11           see from what I've told you, no wonder they're problem  
12           children.

13           Q. David, I want to move on to some time after you left  
14           Quarriers and you're now an adult. If we go to  
15           page 7977 and paragraph 78, I want to ask you about a  
16           time when you became aware that there was a court case  
17           that was ongoing, as you put it.

18           A. Yes.

19           Q. And I think at that stage you were aware that some of  
20           your brothers and sisters were participating in an  
21           investigation and indeed the court proceedings.

22           A. Yes.

23           Q. You tell us that you were asked whether you would do  
24           likewise, but you said you were happy and you had put  
25           the whole thing behind you and escaped it. Was that

1 your initial reaction?

2 A. The initial reaction was that I was just thinking  
3 I don't want to go through that, no, no, just sort of --  
4 no, leave it with the big one --

5 Q. But in the end, or subsequently, you changed your mind  
6 and you did actually go to the police and give them  
7 a statement --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- about your time in Quarriers?

10 A. Because I realised that this woman at that point,  
11 obviously let's say -- the way my evidence and being a  
12 witness to everything that was going down was important.

13 Q. And this was a court case involving Effie Climie. She  
14 was charged with a number of offences.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think that there was a trial, which I think began on  
17 4 July 2006, in Greenock Sheriff Court before a sheriff  
18 and jury, where she was facing a number of charges, and  
19 I think if I'm correct, two of the charges concerned you  
20 as a complainer, as they're called.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. One to do with assault.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And the other one --

25 A. The sexual abuse.

1 Q. As the law might call it, lewd and libidinous practices  
2 and behaviour. I think in the course of those  
3 proceedings in Greenock Sheriff Court in 2006, you and  
4 indeed other members of your family gave evidence in  
5 this trial.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I don't want to go into the detail with you of the  
8 trial, but in the end, as you say in paragraph 79 of  
9 your statement -- and I'll ask you to comment in  
10 a moment. At paragraph 79, on page 7978, you tell us,  
11 and this is -- I think we can confirm that you're quite  
12 accurate in this respect. You say that after the trial,  
13 Effie Climie was convicted of physical abuse and  
14 essentially assault and wilful ill-treatment of  
15 children, I think is how it would be described.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But that a number of charges involving sexual offences  
18 were either not proven or not guilty verdicts, including  
19 the charges that related to what you were saying.  
20 Is that right? Do you remember that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you've got some concerns about that trial  
23 process.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I'd just like to know what your personal opinion and

1 concerns were about the process, because you said you  
2 went to the police, you gave them a statement, you took  
3 part in the trial, and I think you feel that you didn't  
4 really get enough time to say what you wanted to say.

5 A. It's not just for myself, but it's for future reference  
6 for other kids going forward, the way the criminal  
7 justice system -- what actually happened there at  
8 Greenock was -- we were due to go up to give evidence.  
9 There were a number of people gave their evidence and so  
10 on and some were witnesses and some were victims like  
11 myself.

12 What happened was, even the witnesses, it was  
13 strange because I was the last person to go in, right,  
14 the last person once they'd done all the other witnesses  
15 and victims and what not, and I was the last person to  
16 go in. These people had been in for a day giving  
17 evidence or even a half a day, whatever. I went into  
18 the courtroom that morning and at that point, I'm  
19 sitting down, and fair play to the judge, she could see  
20 I'm face to face with this woman, Effie Climie, she's  
21 the perpetrator, she's the one that sexually and  
22 violently abused me all that time. So I'm just  
23 overwhelmed looking at this woman, who wouldn't look at  
24 me. She was head down and so on.

25 So at that point, like you've noticed, even when I'm



1 talking, I was getting a bit speeded up and flustered,  
2 and the judge said to myself, QKI we will have  
3 a recess or a little break or something like that, have  
4 a cigarette, get your composure. I was just about to  
5 say yes, but her barrister jumps in and says, no, we're  
6 only just in the court. The judge is telling the  
7 barrister, this is my courtroom, you will not dictate  
8 the terms of what's happening in my court. I should  
9 have actually listened to the judge -- I'm sort of  
10 seeing red, you know, like a red rag to a bull, and  
11 I says, "Okay, judge, let's just go on".

12 But what happened was that I was in there about half  
13 an hour and I'm talking away and so on, and I'd only  
14 given part of my evidence and what was happening was --  
15 because it's strange. Obviously, this is the first time  
16 coming face-to-face with this abuser and whatnot and the  
17 frustration of her not looking up plus I'm talking away.  
18 It was like a cloud came over me. I was standing there,  
19 I could hear, but it was as if everything was in the  
20 distance. All I could hear was the judge saying  
21 something like, QKI okay?" and I was -- I was sort  
22 of going, "Yeah, okay", and I'm thinking it's a recess  
23 or whatever. So I'm going out of the court bit -- they  
24 said okay, so I'm going out the actual -- of the court  
25 side door, whatever, so the two support workers are

1           there who are connected to the procurator fiscal. Her  
2           name's Patricia Callendar. And basically what happened  
3           was that ...

4           I goes out and I says -- the cloud's starting to  
5           come off my head because I know it's a break. I say,  
6           "Is that a recess?" and they say, "oh no, no, I think  
7           you're finished". I turned round and said, "I'm not  
8           finished". I said, "What's happening? I thought this  
9           was a recess". So Patricia Callendar straightaway at  
10          that point opens the door up and I'm saying, "Is this  
11          a recess?" "Oh no", and condescendingly, QKI  
12          you've done really well, you've done really well".  
13          I say, "No, I'm not finished giving evidence".

14          She could at that point walked back and said, excuse  
15          me, there's been a confusion here, whatever. No, she's  
16          ushering me -- with the other two women she's ushering  
17          me out of the building. I'm saying, "I've got more to  
18          say here, I want to be saying my piece".

19          You can imagine, not getting my evidence in there  
20          and so on and I'm sitting there saying -- I'm saying  
21          this is a whitewash. What's going on here? Even the  
22          way -- you see people can afford top barristers and the  
23          way they talk and the way they delve into certain  
24          situations, and then when your paying for someone on  
25          Legal Aid, they're not going to be as experienced as the

1 top barrister because that one because he's well known  
2 and he knows his job a lot better than the other one, so  
3 therefore you're not getting the best, you're not  
4 getting the best.

5 Plus the fact, me -- because Patricia Callendar --

6 LADY SMITH: Hang on a minute, David, before I forget.

7 There's something I want to ask you. This was 2006?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: In Greenock?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Was there, do you know, any victim support  
12 service available to look after you?

13 A. I think this was the two women. This wasn't a victim  
14 support service. What they done is, they were like that  
15 (indicating), they were the ones ushering me out. I was  
16 saying to them, "No, I'm not finished". Then at that  
17 point, as I'm saying with Patricia Callendar -- and even  
18 when I spoke to my family after they found incredulous  
19 --

20 LADY SMITH: The woman you're naming was the prosecutor?

21 A. The prosecutor from the procurator fiscal, yes. And I  
22 was like that and when I said to them, they said she  
23 should have went straight back in and said, listen, so  
24 you could get a fair hearing.

25 LADY SMITH: All right, I've got that point.

1 MR PEOPLES: I can maybe help you. I managed to locate the  
2 minute of proceedings for the trial and I think it  
3 was --

4 LADY SMITH: Shall we just explain to David? The minute of  
5 proceedings is a document that the clerk of the court  
6 will keep, detailing the different things that happen  
7 during the trial, what the progress has been, and these  
8 are all kept in the court records.

9 A. I understand that.

10 MR PEOPLES: I think the trial began around 4 July 2006,  
11 before Sheriff Gimblett in Greenock Sheriff Court, and  
12 ran for a number of days after that. I've got about ten  
13 days of a trial.

14 A. I was the last witness.

15 Q. I'm not sure you were the final witness according to the  
16 proceedings, but don't worry about that. What I was  
17 going to tell you, based on this record of the  
18 proceedings, is that, according to this record that the  
19 court makes during trials, it's the normal procedure,  
20 your evidence-in-chief, as it is called, that the fiscal  
21 led in relation to the charges that related to you in  
22 respect of which you were giving evidence -- your  
23 examination-in-chief began at 11.49 in the morning,  
24 I think of 10 July. By 12.32, just 32 minutes into the  
25 afternoon, what's called cross-examination by the

1 defence counsel began, and what's called re-examination  
2 where the fiscal is allowed to come back after  
3 cross-examination by defence counsel began at 12.41.  
4 I think the trial would have adjourned for the lunch  
5 break at probably around 12.55 or 1 o'clock.

6 So basically, the procurator fiscal -- what I'm not  
7 sure is whether there was any break during  
8 examination-in-chief. What seems to have happened  
9 is that in approximately 40 minutes -- the fiscal spent  
10 around 40 minutes taking evidence from you, after which  
11 the defence counsel cross-examined for just under  
12 10 minutes, and then there was a short re-examination.  
13 So that, I think, perhaps accords generally with your  
14 memory, that it was a pretty short experience for you --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- and not one that you felt gave you the opportunity to  
17 say everything you wanted to say.

18 A. Exactly. Where the questions that she was asking and so  
19 on -- and I'm not stupid, but I'm listening to the  
20 pertinent questions and whatever, and leading it into --  
21 the way you're leading me into telling the story. Hers  
22 just seemed to be... Just seemed to be a mishmash and  
23 whatever. I was trying to make head nor tail of it.

24 Plus you can imagine I was trying to make head nor  
25 tail of the procurator fiscal. I'm looking at the

1 person who's been abusing us and whatnot plus being in  
2 them surroundings. And then, with all this going down,  
3 not feeling confident in what she's actually doing --  
4 and with the court procedure as well, not feeling like  
5 knowing how these things were going, were going to go.

6 But at the very end, that was a travesty of justice  
7 when at that point she could have stepped back in there  
8 -- and I'm sure if you did contact her she would say,  
9 yes, QKI did, all the way, as soon as he came out  
10 that door, and realised that this was not a recess, at  
11 that point he said ...

12 What would it have taken for them to just turn round  
13 to the judge and say, sorry your Honour, but QKI --  
14 and explained that a cloud came over him. Because she  
15 could even see at the beginning, if you look at the  
16 minutes, when she did actually -- she pulled the  
17 barristers up for her defence or what have you.

18 LADY SMITH: I should probably tell you, at that stage,  
19 David, it would have been very difficult for -- not  
20 impossible but very difficult for the prosecutor to  
21 persuade the court that she could call you back again  
22 for more evidence --

23 A. But surely --

24 LADY SMITH: -- because her questioning of you had been  
25 completed, there had been cross-examination of you and

1 she'd had her chance in re-examination.

2 A. Yes, I mean, but at the end of they day --

3 LADY SMITH: I can take from you, quite clearly, that  
4 whatever happened, and whether the answer was to let you  
5 go back in --

6 A. There should have been more time --

7 LADY SMITH: -- or for the procurator fiscal to ask you more  
8 questions right at the beginning, you were left feeling  
9 you didn't manage to say everything.

10 A. I spoke to my brother after that and he was saying that  
11 what happened with himself, after the procurator had  
12 done her speaking and the obviously her barristers and  
13 whatever, my brother had actually said, "Excuse me,  
14 your Honour, can I speak now? I've got more to say",  
15 and the judge in question, said, "Yes, no problem and he  
16 did", and he went on to speak for a while.

17 LADY SMITH: That might have been technically at a stage  
18 when it wasn't so difficult.

19 Am I right in taking it, without going into the  
20 detail of exactly what could have happened or should  
21 have happened, one way or another you were left feeling  
22 you weren't able to give all the evidence that you had  
23 to give?

24 A. Exactly. Basically, at that point, surely the law isn't  
25 so stringent and basically that you can actually make

1           leeway -- like with the judge seeing the position I was  
2           in at the beginning, like when she was saying, "Do you  
3           want a recess, [REDACTED] QKI take a wee break?" To see  
4           circumstantial -- what do you call it?

5           LADY SMITH: Don't worry about how it could have been done  
6           differently. I've got the point that you left the court  
7           feeling that you hadn't said everything you wanted to  
8           say.

9           A. Ultimately, this woman basically walked free.

10          MR PEOPLES: It may not be much consolation to you given  
11          what you said about the trial, but you will be aware,  
12          I think, that as you've indicated in your statement,  
13          Effie Climie faced 11 charges in all, and I think of  
14          these, nine went to the jury -- two didn't because the  
15          sheriff took them away from the jury -- and that there  
16          were three charges found proved beyond reasonable doubt  
17          and of these charges two of them related, I think, to  
18          your sister that you mentioned, the older sister who was  
19          beaten --

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. -- and the other one related to your younger brother.

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. So two charges were found proved and they were the  
24          complainers. And there was also a third charge found  
25          proved in relation to another former female resident and



1 I think you know of that, don't you?

2 A. Yes, but can I say, in respect to that, that's what I'm  
3 saying. It's almost like a perverse jury to a degree as  
4 well and a perverse situation to be in.

5 Me, my brother, my sister and other kids in that  
6 cottage, they'd seen me getting battered black and blue  
7 and this and that. Even with that charge -- I have gone  
8 to court, I have basically relived this situation, and  
9 then -- and at times as well, and as you can imagine,  
10 I'm looking at the jury as well and some of them, you  
11 can see they just basically didn't want to be there,  
12 they're scratching themselves and they're looking up  
13 here and you can see their attention span is not there  
14 and whatnot. When the evidence is in front of them --  
15 and my brothers, my sisters correlate my evidence, bang,  
16 this happened, that happened, and like I said with the  
17 sister getting kicked out and put into a detention  
18 centre was because she was saving me from getting these  
19 doings.

20 And even with the evidence that's in front of them  
21 there at that point -- and you can imagine the  
22 aspiration for me at that point and nobody gave me the  
23 leeway to come back in and say, **QKI** the cloud came  
24 over", and this is it. You can understand through,  
25 let's say, you know, the circumstances, "Can we go and

1 finish off?". No. It seems to be that's what the  
2 answer was. The thing is, the end result, this woman --

3 Q. She was convicted and, David, I'll finally say on the  
4 trial, just for the avoidance of doubt, what she was  
5 convicted of was -- and the first charge which related  
6 to your sister is that:

7 "On various occasions between 10 December 1968 and  
8 20 April 1973, Effie Climie assaulted your sister, who  
9 was born in 1961, and repeatedly struck her on the body  
10 with a wooden shoe."

11 So that was what the jury returned.

12 A. Yes, the Scholl.

13 Q. In relation to your brother, your younger brother, the  
14 jury found proved that:

15 "On an occasion between 10 December 1968 and  
16 31 August 1970, Effie Climie assaulted your brother, who  
17 was born in 1965, and repeatedly struck him on the body,  
18 on that occasion, with a wooden shoe --"

19 A. On many occasions. That's what I'm saying.

20 Q. I think it's to his injury. I may have to check whether  
21 that was -- I think it was to his injury. So that was  
22 found proved.

23 Then finally, what was also proved was that:

24 "On various occasions between 2 February 1971 and  
25 1 February 1972, Effie Climie assaulted another resident

1 [not a member of your family] who was born in 1961, and  
2 struck her on the body with a wooden shoe to her  
3 injury."

4 So these were the charges, and as you've  
5 described --

6 A. I know, and she was charged, but again, the sentencing,  
7 because it was such a long time ago -- and my brother  
8 was actually saying something about with the judge, she  
9 was a good judge, but at the same time they were taking  
10 into account her age, the fact that she was young and  
11 this and that. This woman was a monster and she's just  
12 walked away, basically, getting away with sex abuse and  
13 getting away, even with myself and that, having to  
14 relive that past, and the judicial system letting us  
15 down in a sense because, like you say, the archaic laws  
16 and whatnot, being too stringent and too robust in the  
17 sense of let's say allowing me to finish my evidence at  
18 that point. Hopefully for this one, maybe youse can  
19 learn and the next children that go forward, things can  
20 help in this respect and if they do then they will think  
21 that something has happened -- there's going to be --

22 You're saying victim support. Nobody came to me  
23 saying, QKI do you want a retrial?" or this or  
24 "Do you want ..." Nobody came. That's what I'm saying.  
25 It just seemed like a total miscarriage of justice,

1 a whitewash.

2 LADY SMITH: David, can I just intervene a moment to confirm  
3 something that I think is right? You have chosen for  
4 the purposes of the inquiry to be known as David.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: And I think you've told us now what your second  
7 name is and you earlier made reference to your first  
8 name, but so far as any publicity of your evidence is  
9 concerned, it's to remain as being David's evidence.

10 A. Yes.

11 MR PEOPLES: David, just for completeness about the trial  
12 process, because I think perhaps it's best to bring this  
13 out. Following the conviction on the three charges that  
14 I mentioned, the sheriff sentenced Effie Climie to  
15 a Community Service Order on 22 August 2006, and it was  
16 to serve 150 hours within 12 months of sentence. And  
17 that was, I think, done by her.

18 I'm just telling you, that was the disposal, so that  
19 we know exactly what happened on that occasion and that  
20 was how she was sentenced.

21 A. Yes.

22 MR PEOPLES: David I think that's all the questions I have  
23 for you today. I would like to finish by thanking you  
24 for coming today and giving your evidence to the  
25 inquiry.

1 LADY SMITH: Could I check whether there are any outstanding  
2 applications for questions? No.

3 David, that completes all the questions we have for  
4 you. It just remains for me to thank you as well for  
5 engaging with the inquiry as you have done, both by  
6 providing your written statement, which is evidence that  
7 I will consider, and also by coming today to talk to us  
8 about your recollections. It's really helpful to have  
9 heard those and I'm now able to let you go.

10 A. Okay, thanks a lot.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I wonder if we might have a short  
13 break. There are a couple of things I need to perhaps  
14 do before I prepare for the next witness. I'd like to  
15 make some progress before lunch, clearly.

16 LADY SMITH: We'll take five minutes.

17 (12.25 pm)

18 (A short break)

19 (12.30 pm)

20 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next witness to give oral evidence  
21 wishes to remain anonymous and she has chosen the  
22 pseudonym Fiona.

23 "FIONA" (sworn)

24 Questions from MR PEOPLES

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

1 I can hear already you seem to be about the right  
2 position for the microphone. Can you do your best to  
3 stay within its reach? If you drift away, I'll warn  
4 you, as we do need to hear you through the microphone.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

7 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Fiona.

8 A. Good afternoon.

9 Q. To begin with, can I just indicate that in front of you  
10 there's a red folder which contains a written statement  
11 that you have provided to the inquiry. Before I ask any  
12 questions about the statement and the matters you deal  
13 with in it, I would like just to begin by giving the  
14 reference for your statement. WIT.001.001.9526. That  
15 statement will come up on the screen in front of you.  
16 You're free to use either the screen or the statement  
17 in the file, whichever works best for you.

18 Before I actually ask you any questions, I think  
19 we have just seen before that went on screen, and maybe  
20 we could have it back again, that there are, I think,  
21 two photographs that were displayed just a moment ago.  
22 Maybe we could have those back on.

23 LADY SMITH: Can we have the photographs back?

24 MR PEOPLES: Before I ask you about your statement, can you  
25 help us to get some idea of when these photographs were

1 taken and where, and what age were you at the time?

2 A. The photograph on the left is taken -- I'm about 6 and  
3 a half, not long before I went to Quarriers. The  
4 photograph on the right, I'm 8, and I was in Quarriers  
5 at that time. Do you want to know why I've asked for  
6 them to be there?

7 Q. Yes, by all means.

8 A. I've asked for them to be there because I'm sitting here  
9 as an adult, so I'm giving my evidence as an adult. But  
10 I think sometimes it helps to refocus people to look at  
11 that was who it happened to, that child. Yes, it's  
12 still me. However, the things that we're going to talk  
13 about today happened to that child there. And I just  
14 think sometimes you can become desensitised when you're  
15 listening to this on a daily basis and it just brings  
16 the focus back to the fact that we're dealing with  
17 adults who were children at that time.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: Is there something in your hand or under your  
20 arm in the left-hand photograph? Is that a toy?

21 A. One of my siblings.

22 LADY SMITH: Oh.

23 A. I cut them out because this is about me. They suffered  
24 too, but that's their stories to tell.

25 LADY SMITH: Right.

1 MR PEOPLES: Fiona, before we go on, while we're on the  
2 matter of photographs, I take it that the photograph  
3 before you went into Quarriers, that is just one  
4 photograph out of a number that you might have, or  
5 is that not the case?

6 A. No, that's not the case.

7 Q. You only have one or a few?

8 A. There's two photographs of me and my siblings all  
9 together. That's one of them, the one on the left. The  
10 one on the right, I'm with some of my siblings again.  
11 From that period in my life, there is about maybe six  
12 photographs of my whole life until I'm about 12.

13 Q. Right. So there are not many photographs by way of  
14 records for you to see?

15 A. No, there's very few.

16 Q. Both before you went into care and after you went in?

17 A. Afterwards, there are more, there are more photographs,  
18 because I was at home, but beforehand, no, there's very,  
19 very few.

20 Q. The one that we see there on the right was when you  
21 were -- we will find out, you were admitted to Quarriers  
22 in 1971 at the age of 8?

23 A. That was actually taken at home.

24 Q. You were at Quarriers?

25 A. I was at Quarriers, but we'd gone home, I think, for



1 a weekend. That was taken by my mother in the front  
2 garden of our house.

3 Q. So it's not an official Quarriers photograph showing you  
4 as a child in Quarriers?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know if any photographs of that kind exist?

7 A. There's two.

8 Q. Have you seen those?

9 A. I have. When they sent my records to me, they enclosed  
10 the two photographs that they have from the whole four  
11 years I was there.

12 Q. Could you help us with what the photographs were?

13 A. They were school photographs.

14 Q. Showing you at school?

15 A. They were school photographs. It was just me on my own.

16 Q. But taken at school?

17 A. Taken at school. I was in school uniform.

18 Q. And just again, to help me, which school was that?

19 There's a school at William Quarriers.

20 A. It was the school in Quarriers.

21 Q. Can you recall roughly what age you were then?

22 A. One of them, I was 8, it was taken just after we went to  
23 Quarriers. The other one, I think I was 10.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

25 Maybe I can now go back to the statement and ask you

1 to look at the red file at this stage and turn to the  
2 final page of your statement, which I think is  
3 page 9559. Just confirm for me that you've signed your  
4 statement.

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. And also that you have no objection to your statement  
7 being published as part of the evidence to the inquiry  
8 and that you believe the facts stated in your witness  
9 statement are true.

10 A. Yes, absolutely.

11 Q. Fiona, if I could go to the first page of your statement  
12 now on page 9526, and ask you to confirm that you were  
13 born in the year 1963? I don't need the date.

14 A. I was.

15 Q. On the first page of your statement you give us a little  
16 bit of background information about how you came to be  
17 in care. One of the matters you tell us about --  
18 I think you were part of a large family?

19 A. I was.

20 Q. And you tell us, I think, in paragraph 3 that you have  
21 two brothers and four sisters?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. And indeed, there's not a large gap between youngest and  
24 oldest. Nine years I think you say in all.

25 A. There's nine years, yes.

1 Q. You tell us that your childhood before going into care  
2 was, as you describe it, chaotic?

3 A. It was.

4 Q. In paragraph 5 I think we see that. Indeed, one of the  
5 problems, as I think you now know, is that your father  
6 was schizophrenic?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that your father beat your mother and some of the  
9 children on a frequent basis; is that correct?

10 A. Yes, he did.

11 Q. And you tell us on page 9527 that from an early age,  
12 there was social work involvement with your family?

13 A. There was.

14 Q. And I think initially, your family were based in  
15 Liverpool?

16 A. I was actually born in Liverpool.

17 Q. You were, right. You also tell us, and this is at  
18 paragraph 8, that your mother would be sometimes  
19 admitted to hospital as a result of being beaten by your  
20 father, and the children were taken into care on these  
21 occasions. Is that --

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. And that your mother, as a result of this treatment, did  
24 at some point have a nervous breakdown?

25 A. She did.

1 Q. At some point before you went into Quarriers in 1971,  
2 at the age of 8, your mother, I think, separated from  
3 your father and moved to the Edinburgh area; is that  
4 right?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. I think we find that at paragraph 11 at 9528 of your  
7 statement. I think she took you and your siblings when  
8 you were about 6 years of age to a property in the  
9 Edinburgh area.

10 A. She did, yes.

11 Q. You say for the first time all seven of the children  
12 were together with their mother.

13 A. Yes, briefly, yes.

14 Q. You tell us at paragraph 13 on page 9528 that your  
15 father turned up?

16 A. He did.

17 Q. And lived with the family for a while and the beatings  
18 resumed?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But your last memory of your father, you say, was when  
21 you were aged about 7, which would be in 1970 or  
22 thereabouts; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Indeed you tell us in paragraph 13 that you haven't seen  
25 him since then; is that right?

1 A. No, never.

2 Q. What you also tell us at paragraph 14 on page 9528  
3 is that there continued to be a social work involvement  
4 with the family once you moved to the Edinburgh area.

5 A. Yes, there was.

6 Q. And that your mother, when you were living in Edinburgh,  
7 had to have an admission to the Andrew Duncan Clinic,  
8 and I think you've told us about that, against  
9 a background of an apparent overdose; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that that resulted in the family being left in the  
12 care of your father?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. For that reason, I think things happened rather quickly  
15 and I think you were taken to a foster home?

16 A. We were. Well, some of us were.

17 Q. Some of you, I'm sorry, yes. Where you spent, I think,  
18 a period of about six months, you estimate, this is at  
19 paragraph 17 of your statement, before you were admitted  
20 to Quarriers?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. We have your statement in front of us and since we are  
23 dealing with Quarriers in this study, I don't propose to  
24 take from you today in your oral evidence what happened  
25 in the period you were in foster care with a foster

1 carer. You tell us, and we can read it for ourselves,  
2 that there was some abuse that occurred during that  
3 time.

4 A. There was.

5 Q. Mainly of an emotional abuse character. But I think you  
6 say that at paragraph 23 on page 9530 there was some  
7 physical abuse and neglect also?

8 A. Yes, there was.

9 LADY SMITH: It has probably been explained to you, Fiona.  
10 We will be returning to foster care at a later stage  
11 in the inquiry. It's not that I'm not interested in it,  
12 I am, but not in this case study.

13 MR PEOPLES: I just want to pick up one point that you say  
14 at paragraph 25 on page 9530. You make a general point  
15 that when a child is traumatised and you're told not to  
16 do something, you don't do it. Is that based on your  
17 childhood experiences and also perhaps your professional  
18 training as well?

19 A. It's very much based on both.

20 Q. Both.

21 A. More so as a child. We just did what we were told to  
22 do. Literally, even if it was detrimental, we did it.

23 Q. I take it that applies to even if you don't want to do  
24 it?

25 A. Oh, absolutely. Even if you're terrified, you will

1 still do what you're told to do, despite knowing that  
2 the consequences are more than likely going to hurt you.  
3 And in my professional capacity I'm very much aware of  
4 how children are when they're experiencing significant  
5 trauma.

6 Q. Yes, because I think in recent years you've had  
7 involvement in the area of child protection; is that  
8 correct?

9 A. For the last 16 years.

10 Q. One thing you do say, before we get to your period in  
11 care at Quarriers, is that at the time you left your  
12 foster home, this is on page 9531 going over to 9532,  
13 paragraph 34, you tell us the circumstances in which you  
14 left the foster home. But one point you do make  
15 is that, on page 9532, that was the only occasion you  
16 can remember when you say that somebody actually  
17 discussed with you personally the plans about where you  
18 were going to be living?

19 A. That's the only time. Usually, you didn't know what was  
20 happening until it actually happened. You didn't know  
21 where you were going until you arrived at the door, or  
22 you didn't know you were going to be separated from your  
23 siblings until they literally ripped you apart, and  
24 I mean physically extracted you from each other.

25 Q. And I think you make the point at paragraph 37 on

1 page 9532 that there was no discussion with you about  
2 placing you in Quarriers. That just didn't happen.

3 A. No, I didn't know where I was going until we actually  
4 got there.

5 Q. And I think what you tell us is that not all the  
6 children, your brothers and sisters, arrived there at  
7 the same time?

8 A. No, they didn't. Three of us went together at first,  
9 and then the other two joined at various times later,  
10 and sometimes it was a year later.

11 Q. Just by way of giving us some kind of framework in terms  
12 of time, we've been shown some records, and you may have  
13 seen these for yourself, that indicate that an  
14 application for admission to Quarriers was made on  
15 [REDACTED] 1971 by the local authority, Edinburgh  
16 Corporation.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. And that you were admitted along with some of your  
19 siblings on [REDACTED] 1971, when you were the age of 8.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. And the records indicate that you were discharged on  
22 [REDACTED] 1975, when you were aged 12.

23 A. That's right. Although we did have a period home.

24 Q. During that time?

25 A. During that time.



1 Q. Was it a long period?

2 A. Maybe about five months or so.

3 Q. Was that an attempt to have the family reunited with  
4 your mother?

5 A. Yes, it was. She had remarried at that point and was  
6 living in England, and they attempted to reunite us all.  
7 We all went together and it just didn't work out. But  
8 we didn't know we were returning to Quarriers.

9 Q. You didn't know you were going to be returned to  
10 Quarriers?

11 A. No, no, no.

12 Q. Because you had been reunited in England with your  
13 mother and her new husband?

14 A. Yes, and we were taken up to Edinburgh by our mother on  
15 the coach. We were met at St Andrews Bus Station by the  
16 social workers and then our mother said she had to go to  
17 the toilet and she never came back.

18 Q. That was it?

19 A. That was it, and we got taken in a minibus to Quarriers.

20 Q. Did she give you any explanation why you were on the bus  
21 to Edinburgh, or coach?

22 A. Again, no, you never question, you just do.

23 Q. You didn't have any inkling that this was going to be  
24 her parting company with you?

25 A. No, none at all. She said many years later that she was

1 told by the social workers not to say anything, to save  
2 us getting upset.

3 Q. So she told you that the advice to her was not to say  
4 where you were going because that would be upsetting?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Wearing your professional hat, what would you say to  
7 that now?

8 A. That's just never something you would do. Children need  
9 to be prepared. There are cases where sometimes it's an  
10 emergency and you can't be -- even then you still are  
11 able to say to a child, "Listen, this is what's going to  
12 happen, this is where you're going to go", and you try  
13 to find out a little about the foster care and you try  
14 to prepare them a little bit. Bearing in mind we had --  
15 at that time we did have 8 hours of a coach journey and  
16 there would have been ample time for somebody to tell  
17 us. I think the problem was that had we known we were  
18 going to go back to Quarriers, the fact that we hated  
19 the place and we were terrified of it, I think that's  
20 maybe why she was told not to tell us.

21 Q. Right. We'll come on to this, but presumably one of the  
22 reasons you were terrified was some of the reasons you  
23 tell us about in your statement.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. If we go to page 9533 of your statement, at

1 paragraph 41, your recollection is that the person in  
2 overall charge when you first went into Quarriers  
3 in August 1971 at the age of 8 was a Dr Davidson, but  
4 that at some point, and certainly by the time you left  
5 Quarriers, the person in charge was a Dr Minto.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you remember a Mr Mortimer, Joe Mortimer?

8 A. Oh yes, I do.

9 Q. Because we understand he was the superintendent from  
10 perhaps some time in the 1960s until, I think, probably  
11 after the period that you left Quarriers. Do you  
12 remember him?

13 A. I remember the name and I probably remember him, but  
14 it's ... Memories are quite fragmented at times, apart  
15 from specific ones that stick in your head. There were  
16 so many people there, so many adults.

17 Q. I suppose I can just ask you at this stage. Who was the  
18 major figure in your life at Quarriers?

19 A. QNZ.

20 Q. As you tell us at paragraph 43, you went into cottage  
21 number 17 with all your siblings. Were you all there at  
22 that point then?

23 A. There was myself and a younger sister and a younger  
24 brother. And then later on, two younger sisters came to  
25 join us.

- 1 Q. So initially ...
- 2 LADY SMITH: Three of you and then five of you altogether?
- 3 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I was just doing my sums. Three of you
- 4 and then five?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. But you all spent time in cottage 17?
- 7 A. That's where we spent our whole time.
- 8 Q. Before and after this short period with your mother,
- 9 this unsuccessful period?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. At paragraph 44 you tell us that the house mother was
- 12 **QNZ**.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And that she was a single woman?
- 15 A. She was a single carer, which was quite -- sorry, she
- 16 was a single house mother.
- 17 Q. And unmarried, was she?
- 18 A. She was unmarried.
- 19 Q. So there was no father figure in this cottage?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. What did you call her?
- 22 A. Auntie **QNZ**.
- 23 Q. Who decided that that's what you should call her?
- 24 A. She did.
- 25 Q. She just --

1 A. I don't know. I don't think it was ever ... She was  
2 just introduced as Auntie [REDACTED].

3 Q. We sometimes hear that people are asked to call  
4 house parents mummy and daddy, but there was nothing of  
5 that kind that you can recall?

6 A. No, not there.

7 Q. You tell us a little bit about [REDACTED] QNZ 's  
8 background. Was this something you learned later on or  
9 was it something you were aware of, that she had been  
10 a nurse?

11 A. I think this is something that I was aware of later,  
12 later on. I think at one point she mentioned herself  
13 that she used to be a nurse.

14 Q. When you were in care?

15 A. Yes, when I was in care.

16 Q. And I think you tell us that your understanding is she  
17 worked in the [REDACTED] before becoming  
18 a house parent?

19 A. I'm sure that's what she had told us.

20 Q. Is that the [REDACTED] Hospital?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You go on to give some description of her as an  
23 individual by saying that even if she hadn't been  
24 trained as a foster carer, she should have had some  
25 human compassion as a nurse, but she had none. Does

1           that sum her up in your estimation?

2           A. Absolutely.

3           Q. You estimate her age. I think you estimate she would  
4           have been in her late 30s or early 40s when you were in  
5           her care. That's what you thought at the time?

6           A. To be honest, at the time, I didn't really think about  
7           her age. It's only thinking back now as an adult.

8           Q. I can tell you, I have information to suggest she was  
9           born on [REDACTED] 1935, so you're maybe not too far out  
10          there. That would make her about 36 when you moved in.

11         LADY SMITH: Late 30s, coming up to her 40th year.

12         A. Okay. That's a good guess.

13         MR PEOPLES: You're pretty good in terms of that.

14         A. She just -- this sounds terrible, but she looked old.

15         Q. She looked older than 40?

16         A. She did. But thinking about her age at a later date,  
17         she had to have been around the 30s or early 40s.

18         Q. You give a description of her as being tall and skinny  
19         and short, curly, greyish hair, always having a comb  
20         in the back of her head. You also mention she had  
21         really long fingernails. Was that something that was  
22         significant to you?

23         A. It was, because she used to dig them in. If she gripped  
24         hold of you, she would always make sure she did it with  
25         her nails, or she would scratch you on occasion when she

1 was trying to grab hold of you.

2 Q. It sounds as though it was being used as a weapon of  
3 sorts or an instrument. Is that the way it seemed?

4 A. I don't think that was the original use for them, but  
5 she definitely used them as a weapon.

6 Q. You say in this particular cottage, cottage 17, that  
7 there were also what were called aunties. I think they  
8 would be cottage assistants; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But they weren't sleeping in the house, cottage 17, at  
11 night?

12 A. No, she had what they called the aunties' home. I think  
13 they had their own residence to sleep in.

14 Q. So far as the house itself is concerned at paragraph 46,  
15 you tell us that upstairs there were three large  
16 bedrooms for the children, that [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED] had her own  
17 room, her own bedroom?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And there were two bathrooms upstairs, and that you were  
20 allowed, or children were allowed, to use one, and the  
21 other was for [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED]'s use.

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. So far as downstairs was concerned, would there be  
24 things like a kitchen, an area for eating for the  
25 children?

1 A. There was.

2 Q. Would she have a private sitting room?

3 A. She did.

4 Q. Would the children have a playroom?

5 A. Yes, there was a big playroom.

6 Q. I think I'll come on to this in fact. You deal with  
7 some of this at paragraph 47 at 9534.

8 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, it's now 1 o'clock. Should we stop  
9 now for the lunch break before we come to anything?

10 MR PEOPLES: If I finish this short point on the layout if  
11 I may. It might be convenient to deal with this.

12 You tell us at paragraph 47 on 9534 there was a big  
13 sitting room, a big kitchen with a pantry off, her  
14 living room, the playroom and so forth, and that there  
15 was also a children's bathroom downstairs.

16 A. There was a bathroom.

17 Q. With two baths, sinks and a couple of toilets?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. Then you mention to the right of the children's  
20 bathroom, as I think you're describing, there was a big  
21 shed with a concrete floor where shoes and coats were  
22 kept?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. And beyond that, there was a paved area, and a fence,  
25 and grass on the other side?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was that all part of cottage 17?

3 A. That was all part of cottage 17.

4 MR PEOPLES: Thank you very much.

5 LADY SMITH: We'll stop there for the lunch break and resume  
6 at 2 o'clock.

7 (1.00 pm)

8 (The lunch adjournment)

9 (2.00 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Fiona, are you ready to carry on?

11 A. I'm fine.

12 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Fiona.

13 Before lunch, we were looking at your statement at  
14 page 9534 and you'd been telling us a little bit about  
15 the layout of cottage 17. You also tell us on page 9534  
16 at paragraph 48 that, in this particular cottage, there  
17 tended to be a number of sibling groups. And that was  
18 your recollection?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You mention some of the people that you can recall being  
21 there. Do I understand that there was an age range for  
22 the whole cottage, that the groups you're talking about  
23 would range from quite young children to 15 or 14, 15,  
24 or even 16?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. One of the points you make there is that it was your  
2 impression at the time that [REDACTED] QNZ had her  
3 favourites.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What led you to think that?

6 A. Because they were the people that she never did anything  
7 to. She wasn't horrible to, she didn't hit them, she  
8 was really nice to them.

9 Q. You say, however, that you and your siblings, she  
10 didn't -- you say she didn't like you or your siblings.  
11 Did she tell you that? Did she say it in those terms?

12 A. Yes, she did.

13 Q. Was there any context in which that remark was made?

14 A. She was quite derogatory when she used to speak to us.  
15 For instance, if she asked me to do something, she might  
16 say, "Look, there's [REDACTED] again". That's what she  
17 used to call me. Or when we had letters from home, she  
18 might say something like, "Oh, youse lot think you're  
19 going to go home, that'll never happen", and she  
20 actually did say, "I don't like you". She would quite  
21 often say, "I don't like you".

22 Q. Do you feel that that was something she said to your  
23 family but not necessarily to some of the others that  
24 were in the cottage? Did you hear her say that to any  
25 of the other families?

1 A. There was another family in particular that she also  
2 seemed to not like.

3 Q. Can you tell me who they were?

4 A. Do you want me to give you their names?

5 Q. Yes, just to be clear.

6 A. Do you want their first names as well?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. There was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
9 There was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had siblings, [REDACTED] and  
10 [REDACTED] but she liked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but she really  
11 didn't like [REDACTED]

12 Q. So she might just not like a whole family or she might  
13 like some of a family but not others?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And some, she would probably like all the family?

16 A. That's right, but with my family, she just didn't like  
17 any of us.

18 Q. So far as the [REDACTED] were concerned, I think there  
19 were four of them in the cottage, three boys and a girl.  
20 What do you think --

21 A. [REDACTED] QDM [REDACTED] was definitely someone she favoured.  
22 [REDACTED] QDM [REDACTED] was definitely someone she favoured. She wasn't  
23 always nice to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

24 Q. Just while we're on paragraph 48, I'm not sure it's  
25 there, but I think it's probably -- I think in the

- 1 statement that you signed, the name used is QDM
- 2 QDM but I think it's QDM
- 3 A. It's QDM
- 4 Q. At paragraph 51 you tell us that QNZ would
- 5 sometimes make different people sleep in her room.
- 6 Can you tell me about that?
- 7 A. On occasions she would just say, "You're sleeping in my
- 8 room tonight", which was ... I didn't like it, it made
- 9 me feel uncomfortable, but I couldn't have said why at
- 10 that time. QDM slept in her room a lot
- 11 and I know that she had a couple of my younger sisters
- 12 sleep in her room on occasion as well. I don't know
- 13 why.
- 14 Q. Did they -- I think you said you did it. It happened to
- 15 you?
- 16 A. I slept in her room too.
- 17 Q. You tell us that the room had two single beds?
- 18 A. It did.
- 19 Q. So far as the times that you -- how often did you stay
- 20 in her room, can you recall, was it very often?
- 21 A. No, no, it wasn't often at all. Maybe in the whole of
- 22 my time there, maybe about three or four times.
- 23 Q. And you contrast that, I think, with at least QDM
- 24 who spent more nights --
- 25 A. She slept regularly there, quite often.

1 Q. Was it just girls that spent the night there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. On the occasions that you spent the night in her room,  
4 did anything happen?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Were you aware from discussions with your sister whether  
7 anything happened when she was in the room?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Was there talk in the cottage about anything happening  
10 in the room?

11 A. No, there was -- no, because I think at the ages  
12 we were, we could never have verbalised what it was that  
13 made us feel uneasy about her at that point. I know  
14 now, because I've had discussions with my sisters,  
15 I know now that things did happen to them in her room,  
16 but it never, ever did with me.

17 Q. So are you telling me that in later life, in discussions  
18 with your sisters who were in cottage 17, who spent the  
19 night in [REDACTED] QNZ 's room, they told you things that  
20 happened to them?

21 A. She sexually abused them.

22 Q. Right. That's what happened?

23 A. That's what happened.

24 Q. Did they elaborate on what type of sexual abuse she  
25 engaged in?

1 A. No. It's easier to talk about physical abuse, emotional  
2 abuse. But talking about sexual abuse, even amongst  
3 sisters, is really hard.

4 Q. How many of your sisters said this to you?

5 A. Two.

6 Q. If I could move on in your statement to page 9536, where  
7 you tell us a little bit about your time at school  
8 in the William Quarrier's School, is it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. At paragraph 59 you recall the headmaster being  
11 a Mr McGuinness. I wonder if that's Mr McKinnis.  
12 Is that possible?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I just wanted to check. You have a memory that a number  
15 of children one day got the belt for chasing sheep?

16 A. They had broken out of the field and we chased them. It  
17 ended up -- there was maybe about 30 children and we all  
18 got the belt.

19 Q. From the headmaster or someone else?

20 A. From various teachers.

21 Q. Right. Can you remember on the occasion that you were  
22 chasing sheep who gave the belt to you?

23 A. I think it was my class teacher.

24 Q. You tell us that one of the teachers was reputed to --  
25 or indeed would say that he soaked his particular belt

- 1           in vinegar?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   Was this something he said to the class?
- 4       A.   Yes, he did, he was quite proud of it.
- 5       Q.   What sort of belt was he soaking in vinegar?
- 6       A.   It was maybe about this long (indicating). Not a belt
- 7           that you'd wear round your waist.
- 8       Q.   Like a tawse? Do you know what a tawse is? Like
- 9           a teacher's belt, with just a piece of leather?
- 10      A.   Yes, just a piece of leather, there might have been some
- 11           slits in it.
- 12      LADY SMITH:  Fingers at the end of it?
- 13      A.   Yes.
- 14      LADY SMITH:  Two or more fingers?
- 15      A.   Yes.
- 16      MR PEOPLES:  The teacher that soaked the belt in vinegar,
- 17           according to what he was telling his class, you tell us
- 18           I think that he would have you stand with your hands out
- 19           in front of you. Is that right?
- 20      A.   Yes.
- 21      Q.   One on top of the other?
- 22      A.   Yes.
- 23      Q.   And that's how he administered the belt?
- 24      A.   Mm-hm.
- 25      Q.   Did you get the belt in that way from him?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You have a memory, at least, of going home on one  
3 occasion with bruising and swelling on your wrists.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Because the belt caught you there?

6 A. My hands were tiny and I think the belt came up to about  
7 here (indicating) when he hit me.

8 Q. How often would that happen? Was that just one memory  
9 or was it --

10 A. I didn't get the belt often. I was really compliant.

11 Q. Those who did, did they end up with any bruising or  
12 swelling on their wrists or arms?

13 A. Yes. In fact, you were lucky if you didn't end up with  
14 any.

15 Q. Would the teacher have been aware of this happening from  
16 the way that he administered the belt?

17 A. I'm sure he must have been because his whole purpose of  
18 soaking it in vinegar was to make it harder, to make it  
19 hurt.

20 Q. It stiffened the leather so that when he administered it  
21 it would be hard and stiff?

22 A. That's right, it would hurt more, yes.

23 Q. Indeed, I think you do say you saw bruising and swelling  
24 on other children's wrists when they got the belt.

25 I think that's at paragraph 61.



- 1 A. I did, yes.
- 2 Q. You also tell us that teachers would sometimes slap you  
3 round the back of the head. Again, how often did that  
4 happen?
- 5 A. That was something that happened all the time. The  
6 teacher might walk up into -- the classrooms were set  
7 out in a very old-fashioned way with rows and desks and  
8 the teacher would walk up and down. If they felt  
9 somebody wasn't paying attention, they would slap them  
10 across the back of the head.
- 11 Q. How much force was used?
- 12 A. It was enough to knock your head forward.
- 13 Q. Did this happen to you?
- 14 A. No. As I said, I was quite well-behaved at school.
- 15 Q. Was there any reaction from the child whose head was  
16 hit?
- 17 A. Sometimes they would cry, other times they wouldn't.
- 18 Q. You tell us on page 9537, at paragraph 66, about  
19 birthdays and how they could turn into unpleasant  
20 occasions. You have in mind a particular boy, and you  
21 mentioned his name already, I think. He was one of the  
22 [REDACTED] family?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You have a recollection of what [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED] would do  
25 with this boy. Can you tell us what you recall?

1 A. He had a speech impediment and he couldn't pronounce the  
2 letter C. On birthdays or when we were having cake for  
3 dessert, she would tell him that he had to ask for it  
4 properly.

5 Q. Ask for some cake?

6 A. Yes, cake, cake and custard. She would say to him,  
7 "You have to ask for it properly", and of course he  
8 couldn't. He used to say "tate" and of course then  
9 everybody would laugh at him and then she would say,  
10 "No, you're not having any". And then she'd say,  
11 "Everybody laugh at him. Look, he's stupid, he can't  
12 say it", and then he just wouldn't get any. I think  
13 he was about 3 at the time.

14 Q. So he was a very young child?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And couldn't say the letter C?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. And she would do this in front of others?

19 A. She would ridicule him in front of everybody.

20 Q. And he wouldn't get his cake?

21 A. He definitely wouldn't get the cake.

22 Q. You make other observation about QNZ at  
23 paragraph 70 on page 9538, about how she would react if  
24 she saw a child destroying something that belonged to  
25 another child. Can you tell us about that? What do you

1           remember of that?

2           A.   If a child -- if it was one of the children that she  
3           liked and they broke something of one of the children  
4           that she didn't particularly like, and that child made  
5           a fuss about it, she would basically say, "Well, it's  
6           your own fault for leaving it lying around".  There  
7           would be no punishment for the child who had broken it.  
8           But the reality was that you never had anywhere that you  
9           could lock your stuff away, so it was available to  
10          everybody, or she seemed to enjoy it if a child was  
11          upset because somebody else had a toy that they might  
12          have got off their parent.  And she would quite happily  
13          let the child cry and let the other one play with it.

14          Q.   Was she the sort of woman that ever gave you much  
15          affection or warmth or sympathy?

16          A.   No.

17          Q.   Not at all?

18          A.   Never.

19          Q.   Did she give warmth, affection or sympathy or care to  
20          other children that you saw?  You said she had her  
21          favourites.

22          A.   She did, but I don't think I ever really saw her hug  
23          anybody.  When I say she had her favourites, they were  
24          favourites in the fact that she wasn't being horrible to  
25          them.  She never grabbed them or pulled their hair

1 or ... She treated them differently.

2 Q. If a child cried, and I think you're describing  
3 a situation where that could often happen in  
4 cottage 17 --

5 A. It did.

6 Q. -- would she seek to console them or give them a cuddle  
7 or try and find out what was the matter, anything of  
8 that sort?

9 A. No, she'd tell you to shut up.

10 Q. Did she not approve of crying?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Under any circumstances?

13 A. No. Even if she hit you, you weren't allowed to cry.

14 Q. At page 9539 at paragraph 73, you tell us that you feel  
15 that **QNZ** wasn't someone who encouraged the  
16 children to go out and visit other cottages. How did  
17 she display that side of things? Did she show some  
18 reaction if you wanted to go to another cottage?

19 A. She never encouraged us to bring people back. In other  
20 cottages I had friends who -- we were allowed to ...  
21 I could go to their cottage and I could wait for them,  
22 but **QNZ** didn't encourage that at all. It's  
23 strange because she never actually said the words "don't  
24 do it". It was almost an unspoken thing. That might  
25 sound strange, but you just knew that you couldn't

1 really bring anybody back.

2 Q. So do you recall many children from other cottages being  
3 in cottage 17?

4 A. No.

5 Q. On page 9540 of your written statement, you tell us  
6 a little bit about visits and inspections and people who  
7 might come to cottage 17. You tell us, so far as your  
8 family are concerned, that your mum would write but  
9 wouldn't be visiting much because she was in England.

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. But would visit whenever she could manage?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. You also tell us what would happen when QNZ had  
14 her own visitors to the house at paragraph 80. You  
15 mention something about how she would issue warnings to  
16 the children. What would these be?

17 A. It was usually along the lines of: you'd better behave.  
18 We had a social worker visit us one day and she warned  
19 us not to eat the chocolate biscuits, and you'd better  
20 behave and ... Oh ... It was mainly just: you'd better  
21 behave, you'd better not fight with anybody. Which  
22 was -- I wasn't a child that fought with anybody. It  
23 was usually just threats.

24 Q. You mention this social worker who visited in  
25 paragraph 81. This, I take it, would be an external

1 social worker from the local authority?

2 A. It was, it was the social worker from Edinburgh.

3 Q. And I think the occasion you were telling us about was  
4 one where [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED] had put out a plate of chocolate  
5 biscuits for the visitor and the visitor, I think,  
6 encouraged you to eat some of the chocolate biscuits.

7 Is that the way it was?

8 A. She kind of insisted that we eat them because when we  
9 said no, she found it strange that every one of us, all  
10 five children, all refused to have a chocolate biscuit.

11 Q. So she really encouraged you to take one?

12 A. She pretty much insisted we have one. It was a case of,  
13 "What do we do?" We took one because she handed us one  
14 and said we had to eat it, thinking that she was doing  
15 the right thing.

16 Q. And I think you say that [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED] actually said it  
17 was all right to do so.

18 A. She did. [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED] came in and said, "Oh, they won't  
19 have a biscuit", and she looked at us and said, "Don't  
20 be silly, have a biscuit".

21 Q. You tell us what happened after the social worker left.

22 A. Yes, she slapped every one of us for having a biscuit  
23 that she told us not to have, despite the fact she'd  
24 gone in and said, "Yes, you can have one".

25 Q. And you describe your feelings at the time that you were

1           being -- the social worker, for the best of motives, no  
2           doubt, was insisting you take a chocolate biscuit. You  
3           say you were all terrified?

4           A. Yes, because we knew what would happen.

5           Q. How often were you in that state of emotion and terror?

6           A. Pretty much every day because she was very  
7           unpredictable, QNZ. You never knew when  
8           something was going to happen, so it was constantly  
9           being in a state of anxiety and fear.

10          Q. In relation to what are described in your statement as  
11          official inspections of the cottage, you don't have  
12          a memory of an official inspection as such; is that  
13          right?

14          A. I don't recall anybody coming. There was an open day  
15          once when they had the 100-year centenary, but that was  
16          an open day for people to come and look round.

17          Q. You say in particular you don't have any clear or any  
18          specific memory of any what I call in-house  
19          social workers employed by Quarriers coming to  
20          cottage 17?

21          A. No.

22          Q. I think we know perhaps from other evidence that in the  
23          1970s, Quarriers did have in-house social workers at the  
24          village. Was that something that is news to you?

25          A. I had no idea.

1 Q. But what you can remember -- and indeed maybe  
2 Mrs Paisley is an example of that -- is that from time  
3 to time children that were placed by the local  
4 authorities would have the Local Authority social worker  
5 visit --

6 A. Yes --

7 Q. -- those children?

8 A. -- yes, that's right.

9 Q. So far as the people in overall charge are concerned, in  
10 paragraph 83 at page 9541 you don't seem to have any  
11 clear memory of those in overall charge, such as  
12 Dr Minto and Dr Davidson, being visitors to cottage 17?

13 A. No. I made friends with his daughter.

14 Q. Which one?

15 A. Dr Minto, and I recall going to his house. I can't  
16 remember how I made -- I think it might have been  
17 through the Guides. But no, he didn't really come to do  
18 visits.

19 Q. Did you see much of him at all then?

20 A. No.

21 Q. When you went to church on a Sunday, was he there?

22 Would you know him?

23 A. I knew what he looked like.

24 Q. You would do if you'd visited the house.

25 A. To be honest, I don't recall seeing him every Sunday.



1 Q. What about Joe Mortimer? You remembered the name when  
2 I mentioned it.

3 A. I remembered the name, but in all honesty I cannot  
4 recall the face.

5 Q. You don't recall him being a person that was in the  
6 cottage at least when you were around the cottage?

7 A. No, I would have remembered.

8 Q. Just on the subject of the way that the cottage was run,  
9 you'd have these social workers coming from time to time  
10 and you would have a social worker presumably coming to  
11 see your family from time to time, like Mrs Paisley?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How often would someone like Mrs Paisley see your  
14 family? You were there for something like four years.

15 A. I can't recall Mrs Paisley coming more than maybe two or  
16 three times.

17 Q. On the times that she or someone in her position did  
18 come to see the family, can you recall any discussions  
19 with her about how you were getting on?

20 A. Yes, she would ask how we were getting on.

21 Q. What would you tell her?

22 A. We hated it.

23 Q. Did you tell her that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And how did she react?

1 A. "It's not going to be for much longer. You know you  
2 can't go home at the moment."  
3 Q. And did she ever ask you why you hated it?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. What did you tell her?  
6 A. Because [REDACTED] QNZ is horrible, she hits us.  
7 Q. And how did she respond?  
8 A. I think there was ... I don't know. I think there was  
9 a bit of disbelief. Maybe we were saying that just to  
10 go home, just to get out.  
11 Q. So that was the impression you got, that she wasn't  
12 really taking these reports seriously?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. And maybe attributing them to your desire to go home?  
15 A. Yes, because if she had been taking them seriously, she  
16 would have done something about it.  
17 Q. I suppose, just thinking this one through, if something  
18 had been done, I suppose you might have expected someone  
19 like Dr Minto or Mr Mortimer to become involved and  
20 perhaps speak to you?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Did that ever happen?  
23 A. There was ... I'm -- trying to recall everything that  
24 happened in Quarriers is quite difficult at times.  
25 Timelines get a bit confused sometimes. I'm sure at one

1 point Dr Minto came to the cottage because of something  
2 that had happened and I can't remember whether it was to  
3 do with me or one of my sisters.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I'm sure he came to the cottage to find out what was  
6 going on.

7 Q. So there may have been one occasion where something  
8 seemed to have happened that caused Dr Minto come to the  
9 cottage?

10 A. Yes. He obviously spoke to [REDACTED] QNZ rather than any  
11 of us.

12 Q. Did he speak to on you that occasion?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did he speak to your sisters?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you see him speak to any child?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So far as cottage 17 was concerned, in the period from  
19 1971 to 1975, was [REDACTED] QNZ -- did she make any daily  
20 notes or keep a log of events, significant events?

21 A. Not that I'm aware of.

22 Q. Did you ever see her writing anything down?

23 A. No. I got my records from Quarriers. For the whole  
24 four years I was there, I think it consisted of maybe  
25 six pages and that's it. Nothing else. Most of those

1 were medical records.

2 Q. I suppose you mentioned a number of what one might term  
3 these days significant events, things happening. Was  
4 there anything of that kind in the records?

5 A. No.

6 Q. At page 9541 at paragraph 86, you say that [REDACTED] QNZ  
7 was horrible about your mother.

8 A. She was.

9 Q. And I think you kind of touched upon that earlier just  
10 this afternoon. Help us a little about what you say  
11 there. What exactly went on when she spoke about your  
12 mother or when your mother sent you a letter. What was  
13 the sort of thing she would say?

14 A. There were occasions where -- our mum wrote to us  
15 regularly and occasionally [REDACTED] QNZ would say, "Oh  
16 look, the family name she because she rarely used your  
17 first name "the family name have got a letter. Come on, read  
18 it out to everybody, let's have a laugh".

19 Our mum might have wrote things like, "I love you  
20 a lot, hopefully we're going to get a house and you'll  
21 be able to come home", and she would make comments like,  
22 "Your mum's a liar, you've already been here a couple of  
23 years, you're not going home".

24 Occasionally she would say things like, "If you  
25 don't behave, I can keep you here, it's down to me, and

1           you can be here until you're 18".

2                     She just ... She always would say that our mum was  
3           lying, "You'll never get out of here, she's a liar".  
4           When we went home for that period of time and we came  
5           back, it was even worse after that. "Oh yeah", she said  
6           "You were going home, look what happened".

7           Q. You say in paragraph 86 that she used to say to you that  
8           she had the power to keep you there and that you would  
9           be there until you were 16 and you were terrified that  
10          that was the truth. Did she actually go as far as to  
11          say that she did have the power to keep you?

12          A. Yes, she said it was up to her whether we left or not.

13          Q. And it seems that you took that at face value.

14          A. We kind of thought what she said was the truth. There  
15          was only her word for it, nobody ever told us anything  
16          so we didn't know.

17          Q. At paragraph 87, I think you've told us already that one  
18          of her ways of addressing you was, apart from using your  
19          surname, was to call you QDK

20          A. Mm.

21          Q. Or "you" was another one that you can recall?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. And I think you make a general point in that paragraph  
24          that you gained the impression from your observations of  
25          her she treated you and indeed others that she seemed to

1           love nothing more than to humiliate and belittle  
2           children. Was that your impression?

3           A. That's my impression.

4           Q. And that so far as punishments were concerned, you  
5           describe these as relentless. Is that a good  
6           description?

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. You mention at paragraph 88, on pages 9541 and 9542  
9           a particular form of punishment that she seemed to enjoy  
10          dishing out, about walking around the playroom with your  
11          hands in a particular place.

12          A. With your hands raised in the air, your arms raised  
13          upwards.

14          Q. What would happen if your arms were dropped?

15          A. Then you'd get slapped.

16          LADY SMITH: Can you show me how your hands would have to  
17          be? Straight up?

18          A. As long as they were upright (indicating), yes.

19          MR PEOPLES: You say if you dropped your arms at any stage,  
20          she would hit you?

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. Can you describe how she would hit you?

23          A. She would just come along and slap your legs or slap  
24          your head or your face.

25          Q. With her hand?

1 A. With her hand.

2 Q. Would that be painful?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Would it leave marks?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was this something that happened to you on a regular  
7 basis?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What about other children?

10 A. Most of the children.

11 Q. So it was just one of her routine punishments?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you have any idea where she got this punishment from?  
14 Were you aware that anyone else in Quarrier's Village  
15 was using this type of punishment or something -- would  
16 you know?

17 A. No, I wouldn't have known. Whenever I heard my friends  
18 talk about their house parents, they always seemed nice.

19 Q. You say that she didn't seem to be in any better frame  
20 of mind when she had a day off and came back. What  
21 would happen then?

22 A. It was almost like she'd missed ... It was almost like  
23 she had something to make up for when she came back,  
24 that she felt that we'd maybe got away with things while  
25 she was away, so she sort of had to come back and let us

1 know that she was all back.

2 Q. You tell us in paragraph 88 that she would actually go  
3 to the lengths of getting you out of bed to question you  
4 on what people had been doing.

5 A. Yes, she would.

6 Q. And then she would make you sometimes walk around the  
7 playroom with your hands in the air; is that right?

8 A. She would.

9 Q. So was that a regular occurrence after the day off?

10 A. That was something that happened a lot. That and on  
11 a couple of occasions scrubbing the shed floor with  
12 a toothbrush.

13 Q. Yes. I think you tell us about that in paragraph 90.  
14 Was that a regular punishment?

15 A. It didn't happen all the time, but it happened on more  
16 than a few occasions.

17 Q. You seem to have a memory that that would sometimes  
18 happen after you got out of bed, she would get you out  
19 of bed and make you do this?

20 A. She would, she would get us out of bed.

21 Q. Could she not until you got up and say, "I heard you  
22 were naughty, go and get the toothbrush and the clean  
23 shed floor", or whatever?

24 A. I don't know. She maybe thought it was more effective  
25 to get us out of bed. Maybe the punishment would be



1 more -- it would stick in your mind more, I don't know.

2 Q. Would you be fast asleep when this happened, you'd be  
3 woken up from a sleep?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And this could happen at any time?

6 A. Any time.

7 Q. You have a memory in paragraph 89 of an occasion when  
8 she came back from one of her days off to discover that  
9 there wasn't a toilet roll in the bathroom upstairs.  
10 How did she react to that?

11 A. She was really annoyed, really angry and felt that  
12 somebody should have taken responsibility for making  
13 sure there was toilet roll upstairs, and she decided  
14 everybody had to be punished because nobody owned up to  
15 it, so everybody -- she decided ... There were  
16 occasions when she punished even the ones she liked, but  
17 those were not often. But on this occasion, she  
18 punished everybody.

19 Q. And what form did the punishment take?

20 A. We all stood in a line and each one of us had to go  
21 forward and she had a belt, a belt that you would wear,  
22 and she hit us, each one of us, with it.

23 Q. And where did she hit you?

24 A. It was either across the legs or across the bottom.

25 Q. Were you clothed?

- 1 A. Yes, but she made us pull our pyjamas down.
- 2 Q. Right. So it was on the bare bottom?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And the legs would be uncovered then?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did anyone suffer any injury or mark or bruise?
- 7 A. Everybody cried.
- 8 Q. But were there marks left?
- 9 A. Yes, everybody had a mark. Some of them -- the little
- 10 ones were only 3.
- 11 Q. So she didn't make any distinction on grounds of age --
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. -- on this occasion at least?
- 14 A. No, not on that occasion.
- 15 Q. You also have a memory of a time when you and your
- 16 sister were made to do press-ups when she had some
- 17 visitors. Why did she want you to do that?
- 18 A. Because we were talking in bed.
- 19 Q. Why would she need to show her visitors how you could do
- 20 press-ups because you'd been talking in bed? Did she
- 21 explain?
- 22 A. No, and she made us do the press-ups behind the couch.
- 23 Q. But there were visitors present watching this going on?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And how did they react?

- 1 A. They thought it was quite funny.
- 2 Q. And were these visitors external visitors or people from  
3 other cottages or friends of [REDACTED] QNZ who worked in  
4 other cottages?
- 5 A. I think they were friends of hers.
- 6 Q. Did some of them work in other cottages?
- 7 A. I have to be honest and say I don't know.
- 8 Q. Did she have friends who worked in other cottages?
- 9 A. I didn't recall her socialising much.
- 10 Q. In relation to that occasion with the press-ups, in  
11 paragraph 91 on page 9542, you say she grabbed you by  
12 the hair, slapped you and made you go back to bed. Was  
13 that on the same occasion?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You also have a memory that one of her punishments was  
16 to make children sit under the table in the kitchen.
- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. Did that happen to you often or not?
- 19 A. Quite a lot.
- 20 Q. What was the point of doing that? Was it ever explained  
21 to you how that would teach you?
- 22 A. I have no idea because it seemed pointless.
- 23 Q. Were there other children present when there were  
24 children sitting under the table?
- 25 A. Usually it was myself and one of my sisters or two of my

1 sisters, or it might have been -- on one occasion there  
2 was me, my sister and my brother.

3 Q. Sitting under a table?

4 A. Well, one of my sisters was in the pantry, I was under  
5 the table and my brother was under the other table.

6 Q. Where were the other children when this was going on?

7 A. They would either have been in bed or, if it was earlier  
8 in the day, they would have been outside.

9 Q. Am I right in thinking then that on some occasions the  
10 punishments you've described would be administered when  
11 the person being punished or persons were on their own  
12 with her, but in other occasions she would administer  
13 punishments in the presence of other children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. It could happen both ways?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You also have a memory of an occasion when something  
18 happened with a bin. That's at paragraph 93. Can you  
19 tell us about that?

20 A. We were to clean the playroom and we thought we'd  
21 cleaned it and then she came in and inspected it and  
22 started shouting because she said we hadn't emptied the  
23 bin. I remember being sat on the table and she brought  
24 the bin over and she grabbed hold of my head and forced  
25 it into the bin so that I could see it wasn't emptied.

1 Q. You also tell us about an occasion when she tipped  
2 a bucket full of potatoes over your brother's head as  
3 a punishment?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think she was convicted for that?

6 A. She was.

7 Q. At paragraph 94 at 9543, you tell us that there would be  
8 times when she would slap you or grab you by the  
9 ponytail.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you have your hair in a ponytail?

12 A. I did.

13 Q. You say you were also hit, but with certain instruments  
14 or implements.

15 A. If she was brushing your hair at times and you weren't  
16 standing still, she would smack you on the top of the  
17 head with a hairbrush, like really hard.

18 Q. I think she was convicted of that as well, wasn't she?

19 A. She was.

20 Q. Maybe this goes back to what I asked you earlier about  
21 the long fingernails. You tell us what would happen and  
22 how she would use them.

23 A. As I said, when she was doing your hair, sometimes she  
24 would grip your head with her nails or she would grab  
25 your arm to make you turn round to face her, or she

1           would pinch, just pinch you sometimes if she felt you  
2           weren't standing still or if you were trying to get away  
3           from her and she'd grab you. She'd end up scratching  
4           you.

5           Q. She seemed to have a problem with people finding out  
6           that she smoked.

7           A. She did.

8           Q. What was the problem?

9           A. She didn't want people to know that she smoked because  
10          she said she was a Christian and that it was  
11          unacceptable, and she just -- oh, she would be so ...  
12          That was the one thing that would make her angrier than  
13          anything.

14          Q. You tell us what would happen at mealtimes. There were  
15          certain, I think, types of food you didn't care for and  
16          didn't like.

17          A. Fish.

18          Q. Yes. I think you tell us that fish was on the menu most  
19          Thursdays.

20          A. It was.

21          Q. QNZ knew that you didn't like fish?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. So what would she do when you said you didn't want to  
24          eat it or you didn't want it?

25          A. She would say that I was eating it, "You will eat it",

1 and I tried, and it used to make me gag, and I would  
2 feel really sick, and there were just days when I just  
3 couldn't face it. Sometimes I would spend the whole  
4 week worrying about having to eat the fish again the  
5 next week. It might not seem a big thing, but you know  
6 Christmas is going to come every year, but this was  
7 going to come every Thursday, and there were just times  
8 when I physically couldn't eat it.

9 On those occasions when I just refused and said no,  
10 she would come round the back of me and wrap her arm  
11 round my head, get a fork and just try and ram it in my  
12 mouth. She'd serve it up for tea and sometimes for  
13 breakfast.

14 Q. How often would this happen?

15 A. Every week.

16 Q. Because you'd get fish --

17 A. Every week.

18 Q. So there was no escape from this?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You try to describe, I think, the feeling you had at the  
21 time at paragraph 96. You tell us that your feeling was  
22 one of total helplessness because you knew there was  
23 nothing you could do about it.

24 A. Absolutely nothing I could do about it. It didn't  
25 matter if I vomited, it didn't matter. She was

1           determined that I was going to eat that fish.

2           Q. Is this a woman that you told us earlier was a former  
3           nurse?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. That didn't seem to count for anything?

6           A. And a good Christian woman.

7           Q. There was another occasion when you tell us at  
8           paragraph 97 -- it's an occasion when there was  
9           something going on. [REDACTED] you say, was  
10          hurting you and you lost your temper and "went for him",  
11          as you put it. This was, you think, towards the end of  
12          your period of care. What did [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED] do? I think  
13          she must have come on the scene or was there.

14          A. She did, because she could hear the noise, and I was not  
15          a child who retaliated, I really wasn't. I think this  
16          was after we'd been sent back to Quarriers, after being  
17          at home, and I think I was a lot more -- I think I was  
18          very angry and maybe just showing a bit more rebellion,  
19          and [REDACTED] I think he punched me in the face  
20          and I just lost my temper and I went for him. And  
21          because I was hurting him, which was unusual because  
22          it's usually the other way around, she came through and  
23          she grabbed hold of me and ... I can't remember exactly  
24          what happened, but I started screaming, literally  
25          screaming at the top of my voice and she had visitors



1 and she was telling me to shut up. And because  
2 I wouldn't -- and I'm not even sure that it's that  
3 I wouldn't, it's that I couldn't -- she put her hands  
4 over my nose and mouth -- she wrapped one arm around my  
5 body, a hand over my nose and mouth, lifted me off the  
6 floor and kept her hand pressed across my face until  
7 I almost passed out. Then she just dropped me on the  
8 floor.

9 Q. You seem to have a memory of also being kicked.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then told to --

12 A. Get to bed, yes.

13 Q. I think that incident did result in a conviction.

14 A. It did.

15 Q. Although I should indicate that in relation to that  
16 charge, there was a reference to part of the assault  
17 involving restricting your breathing and I think the  
18 jury deleted that particular bit, but otherwise found  
19 her guilty of assaulting you by striking you on the head  
20 with her hand, seizing you by the body, placing her hand  
21 over your mouth and nose; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. One of your sisters used to wet the bed; is that right?

24 A. Yes, she did.

25 Q. What would happen? How did QNZ react to that

1 as a nurse or former nurse?

2 A. She would either rub her face in it, hit her and quite  
3 often make her wash her sheets in the sink. I think she  
4 might have been 3 or 4 at the time. She had to stand on  
5 a chair to reach the sink.

6 Q. Once it was discovered that a child had wet their bed,  
7 and [REDACTED] QNZ discovered this, you've told us what  
8 she would, for example, make your sister do. What would  
9 happen before then, would it become obvious to other  
10 children that a particular child had wet their bed or  
11 not?

12 A. I think it would because, for me, if I knew my sister  
13 had wet the bed, it would be panic because I knew  
14 what was going to happen to her. I'd think: how can  
15 I help her, what can we do, can we hide the sheets? You  
16 know, just protect her, really, but there wasn't --  
17 there really wasn't a lot that we could do.

18 Q. You tell us at paragraph 100 on page 9544 that it wasn't  
19 just [REDACTED] QNZ that would administer a slap round the  
20 head, some of the other staff would also do that?

21 A. I think they just followed suit. I think -- well, in  
22 our cottage, anyway, it was acceptable, it was just what  
23 they did.

24 Q. I want to move on to something else. There was one of  
25 the older boys, this is at paragraph 101, that you tell

1           us was sexually abusing you, your sister, and another  
2           girl.

3           A. Mm-hm.

4           Q. The point I want to ask you about is you say that

5           [REDACTED] QNZ knew about this. Now, can you tell me why  
6           she knew this was happening?

7           A. Because on one occasion, he had locked us in the shed  
8           and he was trying to make us touch his penis and we were  
9           screaming and he was trying to chase us round the shed  
10          and he had his penis out, and [REDACTED] QNZ -- because he  
11          locked the shed door, she came banging on the door, and  
12          opened it and started shouting at us for making a noise.  
13          When we told her what he was doing, she just told us to  
14          shut up, gave us all a slap and completely ignored the  
15          fact that we had told her what he was doing.

16          Q. Was this boy one of her favourites?

17          A. Yes, she seemed to really like him.

18          Q. What age was this boy?

19          A. I thought he was about 15.

20          Q. Although I think you tell us later on that you learned  
21          he might only have been 12.

22          A. That he might only have been 12, and I found that so  
23          hard to believe because ...

24          Q. He looked a lot older?

25          A. He looked a lot older. He got taken away from the

1 cottage. My understanding is he got taken away and put  
2 into a List D school and he was allowed to come back to  
3 visit and he was smoking a cigar.

4 Q. How soon after this incident you've told us about in the  
5 shed where he locked the door and was running around  
6 with his penis out -- how long after that was it that he  
7 left? Was it much longer? Was there much of an  
8 interval or not?

9 A. I ... I honestly don't know. I'd be having a rough  
10 guess when I said maybe six months or so.

11 Q. At any rate, he did leave at some point?

12 A. He did.

13 Q. He did return at some point and you were rather  
14 surprised to see him back?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think before he left, you recall the same boy doing  
17 other things in a cupboard; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Where was this cupboard?

20 A. The cupboard was in the playroom.

21 Q. What happened there?

22 A. There was a cupboard -- it was a cupboard under the  
23 stairs -- sorry, under the window where you could put  
24 books or things in, but it was big enough to crawl into,  
25 and on occasion he would make me go in there and he

1           would kiss me and he would put his hands down my pants  
2           and get me to touch his penis.

3       Q.    So was his penis visible and exposed?

4       A.    Yes, yes.

5       Q.    You say he did the same to one of your sisters and  
6           another girl in the cottage?

7       A.    I didn't know at the time, but I found out later, years  
8           later.

9       Q.    Although you do say, I think, in your statement that  
10           he'd sometimes get the three of you together and try to  
11           do certain things.

12      A.    Yes.  That was -- that was my sister and the other girl  
13           I mentioned.

14      Q.    What would he try to get you to do?

15      A.    He would try and get us to play with his penis or  
16           he'd ...  He would try and touch one of us while the  
17           others would watch.

18      Q.    And I think you say he tried to make you put it in your  
19           mouth?

20      A.    Yes.

21      Q.    You estimate you might have been quite a young age when  
22           this happened?

23      A.    Maybe about 8 or 9, maybe.

24      Q.    I think you mention 7 or 8 in your statement, but you  
25           think --

1 A. Because I've got my timeline wrong. I thought when  
2 I went to Quarriers I was 7.

3 Q. So it might be a little bit older than that when this  
4 was happening.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If you're right that you were 8 or 9, and even if you  
7 were wrong that he was 15 or 16 and he was 12 --

8 A. There's still an age gap and, you know ... Obviously  
9 I know from research that ...

10 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what did you want to say?

11 A. I was saying, sorry, from my own professional experience  
12 I know that from research that children experiment with  
13 each other and there are certain things that would be  
14 considered within the realms of normality. However,  
15 when there's a big age gap and it's non-consensual and  
16 there are elements of fear, that's crossing over into  
17 abuse.

18 LADY SMITH: And that age gap of about four years or so is  
19 the age gap you're telling us seemed to apply in your  
20 case?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR PEOPLES: Was any of this that was happening with this  
23 boy, whether in the cupboard in the playroom or in the  
24 locked shed, was that in any way consensual?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Regardless of what age you were, you weren't a willing  
2 participant to these things?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Nor were the other girls you mentioned?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You mention another resident that you say sexually  
7 abused you and your sister. That's at paragraph 104 on  
8 page 9545; is that right?

9 A. That was a girl, yes. Yes, she did, yes.

10 Q. That girl, I think, was older than you were.

11 A. She definitely looked much older than me.

12 Q. I think possibly the information I have might suggest  
13 she might have been around two years older than  
14 you were, perhaps as much as five years older than your  
15 sister.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. At any rate, what would she do or ask you to do?

18 A. She would take us into the shed and there was a big --  
19 like a huge, big wicker hamper, a really big one, and  
20 she would strip herself naked and she would lie on it  
21 and she would ask us to examine her, touch her vagina,  
22 touch her breasts, kiss her.

23 Q. How often did this happen?

24 A. That happened a few times.

25 Q. Did you get anything for doing it?

1 A. Sometimes Polos.

2 Q. So that was --

3 A. That was kind of payment.

4 Q. That was your payment?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you tell us in relation to this particular  
7 matter or this particular form of abuse by this girl  
8 that -- I think you say at paragraph 110 of your  
9 statement that you didn't say anything about what this  
10 girl was doing to you or your sister at the time.  
11 I think you told the police later on, but you didn't say  
12 anything when you were in Quarriers.

13 A. No.

14 Q. One point I'd like to ask you on that was: would there  
15 be any reason -- would QNZ know that this was  
16 happening, this particular -- you've said about some  
17 things that you think she was aware of. But what about  
18 this particular abuse? Was she aware of that?

19 A. I honestly don't know.

20 Q. You don't think you can recall anything that happened  
21 that would have made her aware that you're aware of?

22 A. She never witnessed anything, this girl doing anything  
23 to us, but this girl slept in her room a lot. So it's  
24 possible -- I mean, there's a possibility that she  
25 herself might have been either abused in some way and



1 she was then acting that out on us, I don't know.

2 Q. When this was happening to you and your sister, was it  
3 happening at a time when this other girl was spending  
4 nights in [REDACTED] QNZ 's room?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It was the same period of time?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Maybe you could just -- you try to pull together your  
9 feelings about all of these things that were happening  
10 to you at paragraph 106 of the statement at 9545. Maybe  
11 you could just read that for me if you could. You have  
12 some reflections on the various forms of abuse that you  
13 were subjected to. Can you read that out?

14 A. "The physical and even the sexual abuse you could just  
15 about deal with, but all the emotional stuff, the  
16 constant belittling, humiliation, and calling you names  
17 was really hard to deal with. I suppose to anybody  
18 hearing about it, they might not think that it's that  
19 bad, but when that is happening on a daily basis for  
20 that many years, it really grinds you down. You live  
21 your life in a complete state of anxiety and fear, and  
22 then you get to the point where you're watching somebody  
23 else getting the same treatment, and all you can think  
24 about is that you're just glad it's not you. I suppose  
25 I lost a little bit of compassion for my fellow man,

1           except when it was one of my siblings."

2           Q.   So far as reporting of what was happening at the time,  
3           I just want to be absolutely clear: you can't  
4           specifically recall speaking to Dr Minto about this  
5           matter --

6           A.   No.

7           Q.   -- the things that were happening or Joe Mortimer?

8           A.   No.

9           Q.   But you did speak to Dr Minto's daughter and I think you  
10          say at paragraph 107 you might have said something about  
11          what **QNZ** was doing?

12          A.   I might have said -- yes, I might have told her that she  
13          was horrible. I might not have used specific words,  
14          but I might have said, "She's horrible, she's mean to  
15          us, she hits us".

16          Q.   If that was said and if it got back to Dr Minto,  
17          Dr Minto never raised the subject with you?

18          A.   No.

19          Q.   Although you'd have had the opportunity if you were  
20          round at his house?

21          A.   Yes.

22          Q.   You say, though, that you were telling, no doubt in  
23          words of a child, paragraph 108, social workers, the  
24          external ones, that **QNZ** was being horrible, was  
25          shouting at you and smacking you and so forth, and you

1 describe, I think, at paragraph 108 the response you  
2 got. You were told not to worry and they would speak to  
3 Quarriers. Did they tell you that?

4 A. Yes, "Don't worry, we'll sort it". You have to believe  
5 them because you think that's what they're going to do.

6 Q. So far as you were concerned, did anything change?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And did anyone speak to you about these things?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And I think you say, as time went on, you just stopped  
11 saying things?

12 A. Yes, because nothing was achieved.

13 Q. Indeed, you tell us, though, that QNZ in any  
14 event would be telling you from time to time not to say  
15 anything about what was going on in the cottage.

16 A. She did. She would say that she could hear us and that  
17 she'd be listening.

18 Q. You have a recollection of an occasion when two of the,  
19 I think, older residents -- this is paragraph 109,  
20 page 9546 -- asked to speak to the girls one by one in  
21 the playroom. Was this all of the girls or the older  
22 girls?

23 A. Mainly the older girls, the girls that were aged I think  
24 from 5 over.

25 Q. And you were asked to speak about another boy in the

1 cottage; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. On this occasion, they were asking if this boy had ever  
4 done anything to you; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And they were giving you certain assurances. What were  
7 the assurances you were getting?

8 A. They said that I wouldn't get into trouble if I said  
9 anything, that I could tell them what had happened and  
10 I definitely wouldn't get into trouble.

11 Q. Did you tell them what this boy was doing?

12 A. I did.

13 Q. This was a boy that was sexually abusing --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- you and others?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I think you say that the others who were spoken to  
18 said likewise?

19 A. Yes, they told what he was doing to them.

20 Q. You tell us here, and this might explain something you  
21 said earlier, that you don't really know what happened  
22 after that, other than that you infer that they must  
23 have reported this back to someone at Quarriers because  
24 the boy was taken away shortly after that and you were  
25 told he'd gone to an approved school?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So something happened on that occasion and the boy --

3 A. He was removed from the cottage.

4 Q. But you don't know how it came about that these two  
5 older residents -- were they the senior boy and girl in  
6 the cottage at the time?

7 A. They were two of the older ones. They may have been  
8 about 15 and I know that [REDACTED] QNZ really, really  
9 liked them. As I said, they came and asked us and we  
10 told them, and obviously they told somebody because he  
11 got moved.

12 Q. Do you have any reason to think it was [REDACTED] QNZ that  
13 asked them to go and speak to you or not? You don't  
14 know?

15 A. No, I don't know.

16 Q. But they did come and something happened?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You say, after that, you left Quarriers when you were  
19 aged 12 in 1975. I'll just take this from you shortly,  
20 if I may: at page 9547, paragraph 113, you tell us that:

21 "Really nothing much was done to prepare you for  
22 going home."

23 Was this the occasion when you -- sorry, this isn't  
24 1975. I think this was the occasion when you did go  
25 home and then you were there for a short period and then

1           went back to Quarriers. I'm sorry.

2           A. We weren't told we were going home. There was no  
3           preparation, there was no conversations with the  
4           social worker to say you're going home, there was just,  
5           "Get your stuff packed, somebody's coming to pick you  
6           up". And then we didn't know we were going home until  
7           we were in the car.

8           Q. And this was the occasion when you went down to the  
9           Liverpool area --

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. -- to be with your mum?

12          A. Mm-hm.

13          Q. And, as you tell us, you were there for maybe four or  
14          five months and then you were sent back to Quarriers?

15          A. That's right, yes.

16          Q. And then you think you were there maybe for a further  
17          six months, I think, before leaving in [REDACTED] 1975?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. And you went back to [REDACTED] QNZ [REDACTED]'s cottage?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. Did anything change? Was she a changed woman?

22          A. No, no. I think the only thing that changed was me.

23                 I was a bit more -- I think I was so angry at going back  
24                 there that I changed, I probably became a bit more  
25                 challenging, as in I was very compliant beforehand,

1           very -- tried to be as invisible as possible, but when  
2           I went back again, I think I kind of fought her every  
3           step of the way until I left.

4           Q. Did that mean that the behaviour lessened?

5           A. No.

6           Q. Just you challenged it more?

7           A. I challenged it more because I --

8           Q. Would she still be doing the punishments that you talked  
9           about or trying to?

10          A. Yes, but I think at that point I had felt I was never  
11          going to get out of there and I think I thought I was  
12          going to be there until I was 16, and I just thought,  
13          I can't do this, I'm not ... I'm going to fight, I'm  
14          just not going to sit back any more.

15          Q. After you left, you tell us in your statement about life  
16          after care, and I think we can read it all for  
17          ourselves. I think it's fair to say that you had  
18          a difficult time in your late teens and early 20s.

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. Having gone home, you eventually decided you had to  
21          leave home?

22          A. Mm-hm.

23          Q. I think you joined the forces for a time.

24          A. I did.

25          Q. And then you got married, but the marriage didn't last?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. But you had to bring up your three children on your own;  
3 is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I think things changed a bit because in your 30s, late  
6 30s --
- 7 A. Mm-hm.
- 8 Q. -- you went to college and university and qualified as  
9 a social worker?
- 10 A. I did.
- 11 Q. And, as you told us earlier today, you have since that  
12 time been working for a long period in child protection?
- 13 A. I have.
- 14 Q. You tell us a bit about the impact of your childhood  
15 experiences. This isn't just confined, I think, to  
16 Quarriers; obviously you had other experiences that were  
17 not good ones. One of the things you tell us is at  
18 paragraph 146 on page 9553, that really you don't really  
19 trust anyone. Is that maybe too broad a proposition?
- 20 A. I suppose it's too wide. I do trust people, I trust my  
21 children with my life, and my sisters. I don't have  
22 a wide circle of friends. My family tends to be my  
23 friends. I do have a few close friends, but with  
24 relationships and things, no ...
- 25 Q. Things have been difficult for you?



1 A. Just very difficult.

2 Q. Adult relationships?

3 A. Adult relationships, very, very difficult.

4 Q. Other than your children?

5 A. My children are my life.

6 Q. But you say that you consider perhaps that you may have  
7 been overly strict at times, really because you're being  
8 very protective of them?

9 A. I've been overly protective because I've spent my whole  
10 life trying to protect them from anything and everything  
11 that could possibly happen, and obviously it's  
12 unrealistic.

13 Q. But you say, I think, at paragraph 149 that that  
14 of course in itself feeds a degree of guilt because you  
15 feel that your experiences have made you this way and  
16 you have passed that through to your children and in  
17 some way that's affected your relationship with them;  
18 is that a problem?

19 A. Yes, when you're abused as a child it doesn't stop with  
20 you. It follows you through into an adult, into your  
21 relationships, and into how you parent your own  
22 children. And the effects of that ... Not so much the  
23 way I parented them, but maybe some of the things I did,  
24 because of my own issues that I had, have impacted on  
25 them and they now have their own issues to deal with.

1           So for me, it's almost like the abuse I went through has  
2           impacted them and it's unfair because they weren't even  
3           there, and yet they're suffering. I can deal with my  
4           suffering, but theirs is harder to deal with.

5           Q. There are just one or two other matters I would like to  
6           pick up on, if I may, before I finish. You tell us  
7           a bit about the court case and we have heard a little  
8           bit about it. You gave evidence and the charges that  
9           concerned you as a complainer were found proved.

10          A. Mm-hm.

11          Q. But you say at paragraph 153, the trial experience  
12          wasn't a happy one for you; is that right? Page 9555.

13          A. It was horrific. We were made to feel like we were the  
14          perpetrators. It was almost like QNZ was the  
15          victim and we were the ones who were on trial for  
16          abusing her.

17          Q. But you tell us at 154 that something kept you going.  
18          What was that?

19          A. I think it was just the fact that I needed people to  
20          know. It was the fact that we knew what we were saying  
21          was the truth. It didn't matter how many times we were  
22          asked or how many times I had asked or the question was  
23          rephrased, I couldn't have given a different answer,  
24          because what I was saying was the truth.

25          Q. In that paragraph you, I think, express a certain

1           disappointment about the trial process and the response  
2           to, presumably, the conviction and the situation you  
3           were in, the response from Quarriers. What were your  
4           concerns about that?

5           A. We never got to hear [REDACTED] QNZ give evidence.

6           I would have liked to have heard her responses.

7           Q. That wasn't really Quarriers doing that.

8           A. That was the court process. However, at no point, when  
9           she was found guilty, did anybody from Quarriers ever  
10          contact us to say, "We acknowledge" -- because ours  
11          wasn't the first court case, ours was maybe the fifth,  
12          I'm not sure. But at no point did anybody ever say from  
13          Quarriers, "We are so sorry, how can we support you as  
14          a family? Is there anything that we can do?" Even the  
15          word "sorry" would have done, to be fair. Just an  
16          acknowledgement that somebody who worked for them for  
17          such a long, long time was convicted of abusing children  
18          entrusted to them, and there was nothing.

19          Q. Were you looking for a personal apology and  
20          acknowledgement or just a public statement? I think  
21          Quarriers may say that after some of the convictions  
22          there were public statements -- they made certain  
23          statements about the situation and that they respected  
24          the verdicts and so forth. Do you recall anything of  
25          that being said in your case?

1           A. The difficulty there is that I was living in England and  
2           it never reached England.

3           Q. I suppose another point that might be made is if you had  
4           anonymity under the court process, it might be difficult  
5           for some people to contact you in these situations.

6           A. If Quarriers had made a request to see whether we would  
7           be prepared to meet with them and they would respect  
8           our -- keep our identities confidential ... had they put  
9           forward that proposal then I would have happily met with  
10          them to accept an apology.

11          Q. I'm not going to take you through all of your lessons to  
12          be learned. I think you're in a very good position to  
13          say that, wearing both hats of a child in care and  
14          someone who has been involved in child protection, that  
15          you offer certain lessons that could be learned.

16                 I think to some extent one of the main points, and  
17          you elaborate on this in your statement, is that  
18          you have a special insight because you were a child in  
19          care, and so you can see it from that perspective as  
20          well as the professional's perspective. And I think  
21          your feeling is that that gives you an advantage in some  
22          ways that is denied to someone that hasn't got that  
23          experience.

24                 It sounds maybe -- you don't want people to have  
25          that experience, but you feel it does give you something

1 to offer.

2 A. I suppose in a way I'm fortunate -- and I use the term  
3 loosely with regard to the abuse, but I'm fortunate that  
4 I have experienced what I have. But that I'm also in  
5 a profession where I can use that for good. I can use  
6 my experiences in a way that I can understand how  
7 children are feeling when they're taken into care or  
8 when it happens suddenly. I know better than anybody  
9 what it's like to be faced with not knowing what's  
10 happening. I use my experience to always try and make  
11 sure a child knows exactly what's going on, what's going  
12 to happen.

13 Q. I suppose you can also say that this is how a child  
14 might react to this particular situation and how you  
15 think they might have wanted to be treated or how they  
16 might want to participate and how they might feel and so  
17 forth. Is that the sort of thing?

18 A. Absolutely. For people in my profession, you don't  
19 advertise that you've been in care and you don't  
20 advertise that you've been abused, but particularly in  
21 this forum here, somebody in my position now is --  
22 I suppose, if you were looking for lessons to be  
23 learned, I'm the kind of person that you would talk to  
24 to say as a professional, and as a person who's been in  
25 care as a child, what would you be doing, what could you

1 suggest to the government to try and ensure that these  
2 kind of things don't happen? What can we learn from  
3 somebody who's personally been on both sides and still  
4 is on both sides?

5 Q. I think you do make quite a few suggestions and I'm sure  
6 we'll consider them very carefully.

7 One of the main messages you leave us with is that  
8 when we're thinking about these things, we have to think  
9 about it from the child's perspective and put ourselves,  
10 as you said with the photograph, in the child's  
11 position.

12 A. Yes, you have to be able to view it -- if you've got  
13 a toddler and you're taking that toddler into care, how  
14 do you think that's child is going to feel? How do you  
15 think they're going to react to not having mummy and  
16 daddy, even if mummy and daddy have abused them? They  
17 love their mum and dad no matter what.

18 MR PEOPLES: These are all the questions I have for you  
19 today and I thank you very much indeed for coming today  
20 and telling us of your experiences and giving us your  
21 thoughts, some of which we haven't necessarily covered  
22 in your oral evidence, but we have them here and we'll  
23 consider them closely.

24 LADY SMITH: Fiona, just let me add to what Mr Peoples has  
25 just said about the lessons that you think need to be

1 learned and certainly when I read them, one that sings  
2 out loud and clear is to look at matters through the  
3 eyes of the child, stand in the child's shoes.

4 Am I right in thinking that one of your other strong  
5 messages is to realise that children will need  
6 reassurance, individual children might need reassurance  
7 about different things, but another challenge when  
8 a child is going into care and being kept in care is to  
9 give them appropriate reassurance because their whole  
10 sense of stability will have been knocked sideways?

11 A. I know from my own experience, but as a social worker  
12 when I've placed children in care, I've taken great  
13 pains -- and to be fair management haven't always  
14 agreed, because I will go off on a tangent. Somebody's  
15 doing paperwork. I'm not worried about the paperwork,  
16 I'm worried about does this child have their favourite  
17 blanket, do they have a particular toy, is there  
18 a routine that they follow at night-time? Most of all,  
19 a child needs to know what's happening to them. They  
20 need to know day by day, not for somebody to turn up  
21 a week later to say to them, "Right, we've made  
22 a decision and this is what's going to happen".

23 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I should have said, there's one other  
24 thing I should have mentioned. I think I ought to say  
25 to you that one of the individuals that we mentioned

1           today, the one that you mentioned in your statement that  
2           sexually abused you, the girl, the older girl, who was  
3           in [REDACTED] QNZ 's room a lot, she has provided  
4           a response. All I'm going to say is that her position  
5           is she doesn't accept that she ever abused you or anyone  
6           else and says that it simply didn't happen. I think all  
7           I need to say is that I think her general response  
8           is that she simply says that she believes that you were  
9           jealous of her and her brothers because her father was  
10          there every weekend.

11                 Do you have any comment to make on her response?

12           She just says that these are unfounded and malicious  
13           allegations. I'm duty-bound to say that to you.

14          A. That's fair enough. When children have been abused  
15           themselves, even as adults sometimes they're not  
16           prepared to acknowledge it, and she was also  
17           a vulnerable young person and for her, I'm not sure this  
18           is the end of her story, and it may be that at a later  
19           date she might come forward and come out. She might  
20           have her own disclosures to make. Her and I know what  
21           happened.

22          Q. Are you just basically saying, well, whatever she says,  
23           you're very clear that it did happen?

24          A. I'm very clear what happened.

25          MR PEOPLES: Thank you very much.



1 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
2 questions?

3 MR GALE: My Lady, there's just one matter, I wonder if  
4 I could ask Fiona --

5 LADY SMITH: What is it? You need to tell me.

6 MR GALE: It relates to a comment she made as she was giving  
7 evidence, which I noted, and it was to this effect:

8 "Whenever I heard anyone else speak about their  
9 house parents, they seemed nice."

10 And I wondered if Fiona could give us some context  
11 for that comment.

12 LADY SMITH: Fiona, can you help us a little bit further  
13 with that? I know there's something at the end of your  
14 statement about one particular house parent, but there  
15 may be some others.

16 A. I had a friend who was in one cottage and they called  
17 their house mother "Mummy QAJ?". I recall this girl  
18 talking about her house mother and the things that they  
19 used to do. She would sit with them and they would do  
20 things together, activities together that were nice, and  
21 she never once spoke about feeling scared or feeling  
22 worried going home. So to me, that was somebody who was  
23 nice. There may have been things going on there that  
24 I wasn't aware of, but she didn't seem to feel how  
25 I felt, so I just assumed her house parent was nice.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 Fiona, it just remains for me to thank you for  
3 engaging with the inquiry. Your written statement is  
4 enormously helpful with the inclusion in it not only of  
5 the detail of your own experience but the way you  
6 reflect on it as a professional working in this area.  
7 Now and otherwise it has been of tremendous assistance  
8 to have you here today. That helps me do the work that  
9 I need to do in this inquiry. I'm now able to let you  
10 go with my thanks.

11 A. Thank you very much.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: We need to have a mid-afternoon break anyway  
14 now, and perhaps we can get organised as to where we're  
15 going after that, Mr Peoples.

16 We'll have a short break.

17 (3.22 pm)

18 (A short break)

19 (3.35 pm)

20 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr Peoples.

21 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next witness has waived his  
22 anonymity and it's Stephen Findleton.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you. We should perhaps mention at this  
24 stage that if this evidence isn't finished by 4 o'clock,  
25 which I think is probably unlikely, we will just sit on

1 as long as it takes rather than have the witness  
2 required to come back another day.

3 STEPHEN FINDLETON (sworn)

4 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
5 If you can keep in a good position for the microphone,  
6 that would be really helpful.

7 A. I will do, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Could I begin by apologising. I know you've  
9 had a longer wait this afternoon than you thought you  
10 were going to have.

11 A. That's fine, honestly.

12 LADY SMITH: It has taken us a bit longer today to get  
13 through other evidence before we got to you. It doesn't  
14 mean that your evidence isn't as important as the other  
15 evidence.

16 Mr Peoples.

17 Questions from MR PEOPLES

18 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon. I'm not sure what I should  
19 call you. Can I call you Stephen?

20 A. Stephen Findleton.

21 Q. Can I call you by your first name, would that be all  
22 right today?

23 A. That would be fine, thanks.

24 Q. Thank you very much.

25 Stephen, before I begin, just to explain, and

1 I think you have been told, there is a red folder in  
2 front of you which contains a copy of the signed  
3 statement that you've provided to the inquiry. So it's  
4 there for you to use if you wish to. But your statement  
5 will also come up on a screen in front of you, so you're  
6 free to use whichever is easier for you.

7 A. That's fine, yes.

8 Q. Before I begin, I'll just, for the benefit of the  
9 transcript, give the reference for your statement, which  
10 is WIT.001.002.0192.

11 Stephen, if I could ask you, first of all, to have  
12 the red folder in front of you and if I could ask you to  
13 look at the final page of your statement, which is on  
14 page 0213. Could you confirm for me you've signed the  
15 statement?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you also confirm that you have no objection to your  
18 statement being published as part of the evidence to the  
19 inquiry and that you believe the facts stated in your  
20 statement are true?

21 A. True, yes.

22 Q. Thank you. To begin with, can I take you back to the  
23 beginning of your statement, which will come up on the  
24 screen and is in front of you, and begin by asking you  
25 to confirm that you were born in the year 1958? I don't

1 need the date.

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. I think in the first part of your statement you tell us  
4 a little bit about your background and I think in  
5 paragraph 2, do we see that you tell us that you were  
6 born in the Govan area of Glasgow?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that you, in your very early years, lived with your  
9 parents [REDACTED]

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You say when you were about 3 years of age, in the early  
12 1960s, your mother left the family home?

13 A. I'm not really sure what happened, but I was in there  
14 for nine months [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 Q. I think the records -- we have some records from  
17 Quarriers which indicate, I think, that you had a short  
18 period, around nine months, in care in 1962 from  
19 [REDACTED] 1962 until [REDACTED] 1962.

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. But you were very young then and I don't suppose you'll  
22 have much of a memory of that time.

23 A. Not really, no.

24 Q. After you came out of Quarriers on that occasion, you  
25 went back home?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. By which time I think you'd moved to the Drumchapel area  
3 of Glasgow?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And at that stage your mother had come home; is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You lived as a family for maybe another, you think,  
9 about three years?

10 A. Up until about [REDACTED] 1965.

11 Q. And then in 1965, on [REDACTED] when you were aged 7,  
12 you were put back into Quarriers?

13 A. [REDACTED] yes.

14 Q. [REDACTED]

15 Just so that we get some dates to begin with,  
16 I think that the records indicate that having gone in  
17 for the second time at age 7, on [REDACTED] 1965, you  
18 remained in the care of Quarriers until [REDACTED] 1971?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. When you were aged 13?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think for most of that time, you were living in  
23 cottage 20; is that right?

24 A. Number 20, yes.

25 Q. Can you tell us who the cottage parent was?

1 A. Miss **QAQ**

2 Q. I think her name was **QAQ**

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. And just while we're dealing with it, to set the scene,  
5 I think that for a short period before you left  
6 Quarriers in 1971, perhaps for around five months or so,  
7 maybe six months, you spent a little time in cottage 34?

8 A. I was moved to cottage 34 before my 13th birthday that  
9 year, yes.

10 Q. And I don't know, do you remember who your cottage  
11 parents were?

12 A. Mr and Mrs **QHD/QHE**

13 Q.

14

15 A.

16 Q.

17 A.

18 Q.

19 A.

20 Q.

21 A.

22 I don't know why they moved me. I don't know.

23 Q. Most of your time was spent in cottage 20?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I think that's perhaps the cottage you're going to

1 tell us more about.

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. If I go to page 0195 of your statement, you tell us  
4 a little bit about the cottage and I think your  
5 recollection was there were around about 15 children --  
6 this is paragraph 19 -- in each cottage.

7 A. That's right. Two boys' bedrooms and one girls'.

8 Q. Would that be Miss **QAQ** cottage?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. There were five beds in each of the three bedrooms?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And there was a small toilet, you tell us, upstairs,  
13 which could be used by the children at night-time?

14 A. We used that at night-time, yes.

15 Q. You tell us that the house parent had her own bedroom  
16 and was that upstairs?

17 A. Yes, five bedrooms upstairs, three children's,

18 **QAQ** and the cottage auntie had a single  
19 bedroom upstairs.

20 Q. There was no house father in this cottage --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- but the cottage assistant or cottage auntie?

23 A. Cottage auntie she was called.

24 Q. And she stayed overnight?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. You tell us in paragraph 20, I think, what you called  
2 Miss ████████

3 A. Yes, we had to call her mummy.

4 Q. Who told you that that's what you had to call her?

5 A. When we went into the cottage we were told to call her  
6 mummy.

7 Q. By Miss ████████

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Although I think you indicate that that wasn't something  
10 you particularly liked doing?

11 A. No, I didn't like calling her mummy, no.

12 Q. Were you given any choice in the matter?

13 A. No choice, no.

14 Q. And you knew you had a mother and father?

15 A. My mother and father would come and visit on a Saturday  
16 whenever they could.

17 Q. Did this cause any difficulty if you were having to call  
18 Miss ████████ mummy but you had your birth mother --

19 A. Exactly. My mother would come and visit, I'd get back  
20 to the cottage after visiting time, and you called her  
21 mummy, which I didn't like.

22 Q. Can I ask you about something in your statement, you  
23 tell us a bit about the routine, and one of the things  
24 that you tell us is what would happen at night-time  
25 after the lights were out. I would just like to ask you

1 about that. At page 0196, paragraph 30, you say that  
2 the bedtimes depended on your age; is that right?

3 A. Yes. When you were younger, you went to bed at 6, as  
4 you got older you were allowed to stay up that bit later  
5 before you went to bed.

6 Q. You say that the house parent, Miss **QAQ** would go  
7 round the rooms after lights were out to check that  
8 everyone was in bed?

9 A. Sometimes she would come up the stairs and go round the  
10 beds to make sure we were in bed and asleep.

11 Q. After lights went out, were you allowed to talk?

12 A. No, if you were talking, which we did in the bedroom,  
13 Miss **QAQ** would come out to the bottom of the hall,  
14 down the stairs, and ask who was talking to come down  
15 the stairs.

16 Q. What would happen?

17 A. (Pause). Sorry, I'm upset.

18 She would sit at the bottom of the stairs, you would  
19 stand in front of her, in your pyjama bottoms, and she  
20 would take you like that -- and you would always face  
21 that way (indicating) over her knees, and she'd hit you  
22 with her left hand, and it was very, very painful. It  
23 was hot and it would sting.

24 You would stand up, you would sort yourself, then  
25 she would take you through the playroom to the back of

1 the cottage, called the shed, and you would plead with  
2 her, "Please, mummy, please", because she knew I was  
3 scared of the dark.

4 You went to the back of the shed -- at the back of  
5 the cottage we had a playroom and this was another  
6 playroom at the back of the cottage.

7 Q. So this was beyond the playroom --

8 A. This was part of the cottage at the back of the cottage.  
9 Every cottage had a shed and there was a play area.

10 There were two big brown doors, she would open the  
11 door, you'd go in the dark and she'd bolt the door  
12 behind you, and you stayed there for an hour in the  
13 dark, crying.

14 Q. And this was obviously, as you say, at night-time, so  
15 it would be generally dark?

16 A. It could happen any time in the year, whether it was  
17 light nights or dark nights: she would put you in that  
18 room for an hour and you'd be locked in.

19 Q. You are telling me this would sometimes happen at  
20 night-time, for example, if you were talking; would it  
21 happen at other times much day?

22 A. No, other punishments would be sent to bed without any  
23 tea.

24 Q. So this was her punishment at night?

25 A. If you were talking, she would hit you and lock you up.

1 Q. Okay. You've described how she would discipline and hit  
2 you. You'd have to come downstairs, she'd put you over  
3 her knee, you'd be wearing pyjamas at the time you came  
4 down the stairs --

5 A. Yes, you were in pyjamas, yes.

6 Q. Did you have to remove your pyjama bottoms before you  
7 were smacked?

8 A. You had to do that -- you stood in front of her and  
9 pulled them down and then she would take you over her  
10 knees and, as I said, I was always facing to the right  
11 and she'd hit you several times. When you were finished  
12 you stood up, you were crying almost from the pain from  
13 being hit, and then she would take you by the arm and  
14 take you to the back of the cottage and lock you up.

15 Q. How many times would she slap you or strike you?

16 A. It was several times, but it was very, very painful.

17 Q. You were in cottage 20 for most of your time between  
18 1965 and 1971. How often would this be happening  
19 in that period?

20 A. It would happen -- it started from the very start when  
21 I was 7, when I went into cottage 20, and I couldn't  
22 understand why she was doing this because at home in  
23 Glasgow my mother and father would never do this to us.  
24 It happened dozens and dozens of times.

25 Q. Did it just happen to you or did it happen to other

1 children?

2 A. No, it happened to other children. My bedroom up the  
3 stairs was the middle bedroom, and I could see out on to  
4 the top landing, and I could see other children going  
5 down and there was no other sound in the cottage and you  
6 could hear the smacking, you heard them crying and  
7 pleading not to be locked up.

8 Q. So they were getting the same treatment?

9 A. Yes. Every other child in the cottage would get the  
10 same treatment, yes.

11 Q. You told us the numbers of children; what was the sort  
12 of age range in the cottage?

13 A. [REDACTED] up to about  
14 15, 16. There was a girl -- when he went into the  
15 cottage 20 in 1965, the [REDACTED] was called [REDACTED]  
16 Each cottage had a [REDACTED] or a [REDACTED] and she would  
17 have been about 16 on 17 or at the time.

18 Q. So it wasn't just all boys when you went in --

19 A. No, there was more boys than there was girls.

20 LADY SMITH: I think you said you remembered two boys'  
21 bedroom and one girls' bedroom.

22 A. Yes, there were three bedrooms for the children: two  
23 boys' and one girls', yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: [REDACTED]

25 A. To start with, [REDACTED]

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2  
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Q.

A. Yes.

Q. And just going back to paragraph 30 of your statement, if I may, you've described what would happen when she came in, and particularly if you were talking. You also say that she would sometimes say things when she would come in to you. Can you tell us about that?

A. I don't know why, but she used to come to my bed at night-time and she used to tell me that the human body and human mind was dirty and disgusting and I didn't understand. I was only a small child and she wanted the good Stephen, not the bad Stephen. I don't understand why she said these things to me.

Q. Do you know, when she came into the room at night, whether she said this to other children?

A. I can't remember, but she always came to my bed and she would stand beside the bed and say these things to me.

Q. And I think, as you say, you estimate you can remember this happening from quite an early age, when you were 8 or 9?

A. It started not long after I moved in, yes.

1 Q. Would that be something she continued to say to you?

2 A. Yes, over a long period of time, yes.

3 Q. You also tell us -- you describe the routine in the  
4 cottage at paragraph 31. You tell us that you had some  
5 chores to do in the morning.

6 A. Every Saturday morning, after breakfast was finished,  
7 the chores were -- there was linoleum on the floor, all  
8 the floors except the stairs. It was a dark brown  
9 linoleum and we had to polish it and buff it up, all the  
10 areas. In the kitchen, there was a big kitchen -- the  
11 old-fashioned kitchen range, which we had to clean and  
12 scrub out, and to shine it up. And you were always  
13 worried you weren't finished in time if you had  
14 a visitor coming today and you were worried that you  
15 were going to miss your visitor.

16 Q. I think we've heard other evidence that at least at  
17 Quarriers visiting time might have been from 2 to 4 on  
18 a Saturday.

19 A. A Saturday for two hours in the afternoon, my mother or  
20 my father would come down to visit for a couple of hours  
21 on a Saturday afternoon, yes.

22 Q. At the time you were there, were they allowed to come  
23 every Saturday if they wanted?

24 A. It wasn't every Saturday, we didn't get visits every  
25 Saturday. Miss QAQ kept a record -- in her study

1 in the cottage she had a cupboard where she kept records  
2 of the visits. And if you had any money, she kept the  
3 money for you.

4 Q. At least in her cottage, she had some kind of paperwork  
5 that she would keep a record of visits and other things?

6 A. I've got some records at home that states who came to  
7 visit and whatever.

8 Q. I think we've been asking sometimes whether in cottages  
9 someone kept a record of events and things, but you're  
10 telling me you know that at least she was keeping some  
11 record of the visits because you've seen it from  
12 records?

13 A. In her study, yes.

14 Q. And indeed she would keep some record of money that was  
15 given?

16 A. As far as I remember, yes, because any money my father  
17 gave me, my mother gave to Miss QAQ and she kept it  
18 for us.

19 Q. What was your attitude to the chores then that you had  
20 to do on a Saturday morning? Did you have a problem  
21 doing chores?

22 A. No, you just had to do it, you were told to do it and  
23 you had to do it, and you had to sweep up and you had to  
24 buff up, polish and buff up the linoleum.

25 Q. Did you use any kind of machine?



1 A. There was not a machine. All the stuff was kept under  
2 the cupboard under the stairs and one of the things we  
3 used for buffing up was like a dry mop and you had to  
4 rub it up and down and polish up the floor. I don't  
5 remember any machines, no.

6 LADY SMITH: Was there a name for that dry mop?

7 A. I can't remember, but that's the only way I can describe  
8 it.

9 LADY SMITH: Was it heavy?

10 A. It wasn't all that heavy, no. There was another tool as  
11 well, it was like a block.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes. That's what I'm wondering about.

13 A. You had to use that as well to buff up.

14 LADY SMITH: Did you use that?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Was that heavier than the dry mop?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: How heavy?

19 A. I can't remember. I was only young at the time. It did  
20 feel quite heavy, yes.

21 MR PEOPLES: These chores, just so I'm clear, were these  
22 routine chores rather than punishment chores?

23 A. They weren't punishment. You had to do chores every  
24 Saturday morning -- and you also had a cleaner that came  
25 in from outside our cottage. As far as I am aware it

1           wasn't every day that the cleaner came into our cottage.

2           Q.   So during the week, and no doubt some of the children  
3           would be at school, there would be someone that was like  
4           a domestic coming in to do some cleaning --

5           A.   Yes, that's right?

6           Q.   -- and housework?

7           A.   Yes.

8           Q.   But at weekends the children were expected to do these  
9           things?

10          A.   On a Saturday morning we done the chores, yes.

11          Q.   And do you recall whether the domestic was around on the  
12          Saturday or --

13          A.   No, as far as I know, she wasn't there, no.

14          Q.   So in those days it would be the children that were  
15          doing things?

16          A.   We done all the chores, yes.

17          Q.   Did you have to do the scrubbing and cleaning of the  
18          kitchen range from time to time?

19          A.   Yes, that was one of my jobs as well. We had to clean  
20          all the old coal out and all that and you had to scrub  
21          up and it was all polished up, all the handles, and then  
22          you filled it up with coal from the coal shed.

23          Q.   Did you get any help to do this?

24          A.   Yes, there may have been one or two of us doing it while  
25          the other children were doing the other chores around

1 the cottage.

2 Q. Did Miss **QAQ** inspect to see the quality of --

3 A. You had to do it right, yes.

4 Q. And what if she thought you hadn't done it right?

5 A. You'd have to do it again until she was happy.

6 Q. So you could do it several times if she didn't like it?

7 A. You'd have to do it and make sure it was done properly,  
8 yes.

9 Q. Mealtimes. Can I move on to that? You deal with that  
10 in your statement also and you tell us that there was  
11 a dining room where the children ate at paragraph 35 on  
12 page 0197 if you want to have that in front of you.

13 A. It was a TV dining room -- in the bit where we watched  
14 the television was a chair, Miss **QAQ** chair, which  
15 was a wooden armchair. We had a settee. There was  
16 a fireplace with an electric fire, a black and white TV  
17 in the corner. On the other side was the tables where  
18 we sat for meals. One of the tables was in the opposite  
19 direction but Miss **QAQ** could sit and watch us all  
20 when we were eating.

21 Q. She didn't eat with you?

22 A. She ate with us but she had her own separate table.

23 Q. But she was eating as well?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But she'd be watching you as well?

- 1 A. Yes, she kept an eye on you, yes.
- 2 Q. Were you allowed to talk at the dinner table?
- 3 A. You used to talk, as far as I remember, yes.
- 4 Q. What would happen if you didn't like the food or didn't  
5 want to eat it?
- 6 A. You had to sit and eat it until it was finished.
- 7 Miss **QAQ** would stand over you and say, "Don't bother  
8 turning on the waterworks", if you were crying. You  
9 could be there for an hour or two and you had to finish  
10 what was on that plate. All the other children were  
11 finished and cleared up and out playing and the other  
12 children had to sit there as well, not just me, but it  
13 happened to other children.
- 14 Q. So it could happen to any child that didn't want  
15 something or like something?
- 16 A. It was one particular meal I remember, none of the  
17 children liked this meal, and she couldn't stand over  
18 15 children and it had to be binned and she wasn't  
19 happy.
- 20 Q. But generally, if it was just one child, she would just  
21 make them --
- 22 A. You would sit in a chair at the table and she would  
23 stand at the back of you --
- 24 Q. Until you finished?
- 25 A. -- and she would stand there until finished that plate.

1 Q. And if for any reason you didn't finish, what would  
2 happen?

3 A. You couldn't leave until it was finished.

4 Q. You did finish it then?

5 A. You had to finish it then.

6 Q. So you didn't even get the point that it was re-served  
7 to you?

8 A. Not that I remember. You could not leave that table  
9 until there was nothing on that plate.

10 Q. What if someone found the food such that they felt sick  
11 or something like that?

12 A. You had no choice. You had to eat it.

13 Q. Did you ever feel sick?

14 A. You would feel sick if you --

15 Q. You felt sick?

16 A. -- didn't want it, but you had to eat it. You had no  
17 choice. She would not leave that chair until you were  
18 finished.

19 Q. And you tell us that she didn't seem to show much  
20 sympathy if a child cried on these occasions?

21 A. No. There was one occasion in the kitchen, where we had  
22 a big large wooden table and sometimes if some of the  
23 children were away, rather than being in the dining  
24 room, we'd have the meals in the kitchen table and there  
25 was one girl who was in with her brother and she was

1 crying this time and Miss **QAQ** said, "Don't bother  
2 turning on the waterworks". She wasn't interested why  
3 the girl was crying. She was really, really hard on  
4 this particular girl.

5 Q. I think you tell us about that in paragraph 37. I think  
6 you describe Miss **QAQ** generally as a hard woman.

7 A. She was. I can remember how she used to dress as well.  
8 She used to wear an elasticated watch on her wrist,  
9 a turtleneck top, a skirt and brown shoes.

10 Q. Was she the sort of house parent that showed any  
11 sympathy or affection or warmth towards the children  
12 that she looked after?

13 A. No, we were her children and we had to behave ourselves  
14 to keep her happy.

15 Q. And if a child cried would she ever attempt to console  
16 them?

17 A. No, she'd always say, "Don't bother turning on the  
18 waterworks".

19 Q. You tell us a bit in your statement at 0198 about bath  
20 times.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You describe at paragraph 40, I think, the general  
23 routine, that you'd -- would you be sitting waiting in  
24 turn to take a bath; is that right?

25 A. There were two baths in the bathroom. There was

1 a modern bath, there was a partitioned wall and  
2 the second bath was a big high old-fashioned bath.  
3 We would sit on a bench in the bathroom with towels  
4 wrapped round us and she would call you in to get  
5 a bath.

6 Q. Did you just bath one at a time?

7 A. No. None of the children could bath themselves -- I  
8 remember going into the big bath one time and  
9 the cottage auntie was drying me afterwards. I was  
10 11 years old and I was very embarrassed that she bathed  
11 me and I got out and she dried me.

12 Q. And you didn't have any clothes or any towel?

13 A. No, you just had a towel around you to dry you --

14 Q. She was drying you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that was happening when you were 10 or 11?

17 A. Because when I went into the cottage the first time, we  
18 had an older cottage auntie. After she left we had  
19 a Dutch cottage auntie for a couple of years. When she  
20 left, we had a young cottage auntie, and this was the  
21 one who used to dry me after the bath time.

22 Q. You were uncomfortable with that --

23 A. I was very embarrassed.

24 Q. -- because of your age?

25 A. Yes. Because I was embarrassed.

- 1 Q. In terms of bathing, was it just one child at a time in  
2 the bath?
- 3 A. No -- yes, one child in the bath. There were two baths.  
4 The older ones would go in and see to themselves, but  
5 myself and the younger ones would go into this other --
- 6 Q. And then you got out and the cottage auntie would --
- 7 A. -- and then another child got into the bath.
- 8 Q. But as you were getting dried off there there'd be a  
9 child in the bath?
- 10 A. There'd be one getting in to get bathed, yes.
- 11 Q. Was there any privacy between you and the child that was  
12 in the bath --
- 13 A. The girls and boys were separated. You didn't go and  
14 stand there with the girls. They were separated.
- 15 Q. There could be two boys, one in the bath, one getting  
16 dried off with the cottage assistant?
- 17 A. Yes. Miss QAQ would be there as well.
- 18 Q. Did she doing any of the drying off?
- 19 A. Sometimes, yes, when you were younger.
- 20 Q. You tell us about schooling and I think that you say  
21 that at paragraph 42 that you went to the  
22 William Quarrier's School in the village itself?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- 24 Q. Was that the only school you attended --
- 25 A. Yes --



- 1 Q. -- in your time there?
- 2 A. -- in my time I was there, yes.
- 3 Q. You have a memory of a couple of teachers that you  
4 mention at paragraph 43. You remember getting the belt  
5 from an English teacher, but I think you also had  
6 a memory of an art teacher?
- 7 A. Yes. QAI his name was and he actually ran at  
8 with you with the belt. He'd stand you up in front of  
9 the class and he'd step back and run at you with the you  
10 and belt you.
- 11 Q. What sort of belt was he using?
- 12 A. It was a proper leather belt they used in schools in  
13 those days.
- 14 Q. A tawse?
- 15 A. Yes, and it'd be right up your wrist and he'd belt you  
16 six times.
- 17 Q. Would that be on one hand?
- 18 A. You'd have to ...
- 19 Q. Put your hands together, one under the other?
- 20 A. And he would belt you.
- 21 Q. He would run at you with a belt.
- 22 A. He would try and run at you, yes.
- 23 Q. That suggests that there was a degree of force being  
24 used?
- 25 A. There was.

1 Q. What sort of -- were you in pain from that sort of  
2 belting?

3 A. It was very painful, yes. I'm saying -- it'd be on that  
4 part of your hand above your wrist, and it'd be very  
5 sore and red, yes.

6 Q. So it would leave some kind of redness?

7 A. Yes. Sometimes you couldn't hold the pencil when you  
8 were finished --

9 Q. Because of the pain --

10 A. -- because of the pain.

11 Q. How often would you get the belt from him?

12 A. Any time you spoke. You'd have to go to the front of  
13 the class and he would belt you.

14 Q. I get the impression that when you -- in your statement  
15 you deal in your statement under a heading "Leisure  
16 time" and you tell us some of the things that you did  
17 in the village and we can read those bits for ourselves  
18 but I get the impression that those might be perfectly  
19 good memories, the activities you might generally get  
20 involved in.

21 A. Yes, you could go and play down in the park. Sometimes  
22 you weren't allowed to leave the front of the cottage,  
23 Miss **QAQ** would keep you there, but other time she  
24 would let you down the park and you'd play in the swings  
25 and they had a pond with the little paddle boats in the

1 pond you could play on. And there was two football  
2 pitches on the other side of the river, the  
3 River Gryffe, of the cottage, the village. And there  
4 was also a red asphalt football pitch in front of the  
5 school and you could play football. They also built  
6 a sports centre for us in the 1960s.

7 Q. Which John Greig opened?

8 A. John Greig and the rangers team came and opened that,  
9 that's right. And you could go in there and do roller  
10 skating and they had a big trampoline down there and a  
11 quarry(?) you could play on.

12 Q. Would I be right in thinking that in terms of facilities  
13 you had quite a lot of facilities?

14 A. Yes, they had a swimming pool as well, which  
15 Bobby McGregor, the swimmer, opened up as well.

16 Q. So far as facilities went, there were things to do?

17 A. Yes. There were things to do, yes.

18 Q. Were you happier outside the cottage than in it?

19 A. Outside I used to get bullied by other boys, no matter  
20 where I went. It wasn't just happening in the cottage.  
21 As long as you were left alone, you were happy enough,  
22 yes.

23 Q. But you were a child who was bullied outside at times?

24 A. Yes, I was.

25 Q. And were you bullied at school?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were you bullied in the cottage?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You tell us that from time to time children at Quarriers  
5 would have trips away and holidays away in different  
6 places. At page 0201, if you could turn to that,  
7 please, you tell us about some of the trips that you  
8 went on, including to go to Turnberry.

9 A. It was next to the Turnberry Hotel and it was called  
10 Little Turnberry, and Mr Ian Hodge, the millionaire  
11 businessman, owned it, and we'd go there for a fortnight  
12 holiday and Mr Hodge would pay for us to go to Butlins  
13 there for a day or Glenapp Castle, and every time we  
14 went there and he came to see us, he gave us half  
15 a crown each. He also built a swimming pool for us as  
16 well at the property.

17 Q. You say at paragraph 64 that:

18 "The holidays were a little bit better than being in  
19 Quarriers. You still got disciplined and the  
20 house parent would still get you into trouble, but she  
21 couldn't lock you up."

22 So was that one of the --

23 A. She'd still get you into trouble if you wet the bed.

24 One particular year I wet and soiled the bed and I told  
25 Miss QAQ in the morning and she told me to go and get

1 clean. She was very angry. She pulled all the dirty  
2 sheets off to get washed. After breakfast we were out  
3 playing and Miss [redacted] and the cottage auntie called me  
4 over and she said to me it was their holiday as well and  
5 I'm not here to clean up my dirty disgusting mess and  
6 she completely humiliated me in front of the other  
7 children.

8 Q. I think you estimate that you might have been around 10  
9 or 11 when that happened.

10 A. I was a wee bit older that time, yes.

11 Q. But this was all done in front of the other children?

12 A. The other children. Even back in the cottage in  
13 Quarriers, she would humiliate you in front of other  
14 children for wetting the bed.

15 Q. You tell us that in page 0203, at paragraph 71, that you  
16 ran away twice to get away from the cottage and  
17 Quarriers.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Just so that we're absolutely clear, why were you  
20 running away?

21 A. Because we were unhappy and we were unhappy being abused  
22 all the time.

23 The first time I think there were five of us, we  
24 opened the front door and we just bolted. We ran into  
25 the countryside to this farm outside of Quarriers and we

1           went into a barn and we went up to the hayloft. I can  
2           remember we climbed up the ladder. We were going to  
3           stay there the night, but we heard a noise, we thought  
4           it was a farmer, so we went back to Quarriers -- this  
5           was night-time in the dark -- and we hid behind a wall  
6           just outside the main gate.

7                     We went back into the village and across the way  
8           from cottage 20 was another cottage, 11, and the  
9           house father there caught us and found us and took us  
10          back to cottage 20.

11         Q. When you say you were running away from the cottage, it  
12          wasn't just because you wanted to, say, for example to  
13          go home, you were missing home, was it because of life  
14          in the cottage?

15         A. Because of what was happening to us, we were being  
16          abused and humiliated, and we'd had enough and we  
17          decided to run away.

18         Q. And further on in that page, you've told us already  
19          about what might happen if you were talking in bed and  
20          you'd be taken downstairs, and eventually, after getting  
21          smacked, you would be taken to the shed.

22         A. Yes.

23         Q. And it would be bolted and you'd be left in the dark --

24         A. That's right.

25         Q. -- for up to an hour.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And just so that I'm clear, at page 0204, paragraph 75,  
3 you're saying that on these occasions you'd be crying  
4 from the pain?

5 A. You'd be crying and also be crying because you were  
6 scared of the dark. You'd plead with Miss **QAQ** when  
7 she took you down to the back of the cottage, "Please  
8 mummy, please mummy", but she wouldn't listen to you and  
9 took you down and locked you up. You were crying from  
10 both: from being hit and being locked up because you  
11 were scared.

12 Q. So far as bed-wetting is concerned, just at paragraph 78  
13 on that page, page 0204, you say that:

14 "The house parent [that's Miss **QAQ** I take it]  
15 would humiliate you in front of other children if you  
16 wet the bed."

17 A. That's right, yes.

18 Q. But you say most children were wetting the bed in this  
19 cottage?

20 A. We did. We had rubber sheets on the bed and we were  
21 scared to go to the toilet in the wintertime. Because  
22 of the linoleum floor, we used to wear a bed jacket and  
23 socks and we would actually slide across the linoleum to  
24 the toilet across the landing, not to make a noise in  
25 case Miss **QAQ** found you out of bed and got you into

1 trouble.

2 Q. Would you get into trouble for going to the toilet?

3 A. You were scared to go to the toilet in case Miss **QAQ**  
4 found you out of bed and took you down the stair and  
5 smacked you and locked you up.

6 Q. What else could you do if you needed the toilet?

7 A. The other reason for wetting the bed was because we had  
8 emotional problems --

9 Q. No, no, but Miss **QAQ** if you wanted the toilet,  
10 surely the natural thing to do is to go to the toilet --

11 A. You would still go to the toilet but by that time for  
12 whatever reason, if you wet the bed, but you were scared  
13 in case she caught you.

14 Q. You were scared to go to the toilet because she might  
15 catch you going to the toilet and punish you?

16 A. No, for being out of bed.

17 Q. Just for being out of bed?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Although the reason was to go to the toilet?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us, I think, that there was never any attempt  
22 by Miss **QAQ** to ask or try and work out why you were  
23 wetting the bed or why other children were wetting the  
24 bed?

25 A. We were never asked why we were wetting the bed, no.



1 Q. You mention an occasion, and you have told us already in  
2 paragraph 81, that you can recall at least one morning  
3 after a service on a Sunday when you were walking from  
4 church and a boy started to pick on you and was bullying  
5 you. You say the house parent was behind you and saw  
6 it.

7 A. It was a Sunday morning service and we always went to  
8 the back of the church and came out that way. We were  
9 all walking back and Miss [redacted] was behind me and this  
10 other boy started to hit me and pick on me and  
11 Miss [redacted] did not intervene.

12 Q. But she saw it all?

13 A. She saw it. She was right behind me, we were walking  
14 back to the cottage and she never said anything to the  
15 boy. Another boy intervened to stop it.

16 Q. You tell us at paragraph 87 that from time to time you  
17 got visits from a social worker or there would be visits  
18 from a social worker.

19 A. Yes. It was from Glasgow Council Children's Welfare  
20 Department. And a social worker would come down to  
21 visit, not just me, other children. And she would talk  
22 to us inside Miss [redacted] study. Miss [redacted] would  
23 always say to us we were to tell the social worker  
24 we were happy. So when the social worker asked how  
25 we were, we told her we were happy.

- 1 Q. So although you weren't happy, you told her you were  
2 happy?
- 3 A. We had to tell her, yes, because Miss **QAQ** told you to  
4 say that you were happy.
- 5 Q. Did you have any idea or expectation what would happen  
6 if you'd said anything different?
- 7 A. One of punishments was she would send you to bed.
- 8 Q. If you'd said anything out of line --
- 9 A. The social worker would have said something to  
10 Miss **QAQ** and Miss **QAQ** would punish you.
- 11 Q. You also say that really, you didn't feel that there  
12 would be anyone that would listen to you if you said  
13 anything?
- 14 A. No, nobody would listen to you, no.
- 15 Q. And in fact, you say at paragraph 88, at page 0206, that  
16 you didn't even feel able to tell your father?
- 17 A. No, I couldn't tell my father, no.
- 18 Q. Why was that? Because you told us it was a much  
19 different household that you came from.
- 20 A. Yes, at home we didn't get into trouble for talking in  
21 bed. I just didn't tell my father. I don't know why,  
22 I just couldn't tell him.
- 23 Q. And I think you say that had you told him, you feel that  
24 Quarriers would have just said it wasn't true?
- 25 A. Yes, they would have done that, yes.

1 Q. Do you feel --

2 A. If I did tell my father and he questioned them, they'd  
3 have said that wasn't happening.

4 Q. You go on to tell us a little bit about your move to the  
5 second cottage, which was cottage 34, which we  
6 understand was with Mr and Mrs QHD/QHE

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That was for a fairly short period before you left  
9 Quarriers, and you deal with that at page 0206, and you  
10 tell us, I think, that the general routine wasn't much  
11 different --

12 A. There was no difference. Mr and Mrs QHD/QH  
E had their own  
13 two sons and we had to call them Mr and Mrs QHD/QH  
E and  
14 the sons were better treated than the children.

15 Q. You have a memory of what would happen if you tried to  
16 say anything to the house parent?

17 A. Mr QHD would tell you to shut up. One particular time  
18 I was in the hall talking to Mr and Mrs QHD/QH  
E I was  
19 trying to tell them something and he kept telling me to  
20 shut up.

21 Q. On page 0207 of your statement, at paragraph 95, you  
22 have got a memory of an occasion, I think, where you had  
23 come back to the cottage and I think it was a day when  
24 you'd had two uniforms, is it?

25 A. It was my 13th birthday. On the way to school in the

1 morning going past the girls playground and group of  
2 boys and girls surrounded me and covered me with eggs  
3 and flour. They were crying and all laughing at me.  
4 I was back to the cottage and got showered and changed.  
5 Later on in the day, the same group of children dragged  
6 me over to the river and threw me into the river. And  
7 I remember sitting there and they were all laughing and  
8 back to the cottage and I asked the house auntie where  
9 Mrs QHE was, and the cottage auntie said Mrs QHE  
10 not going to be happy with you.

11 So later in the day, after teatime, I was wringing  
12 my uniform with a wringer in the shed. Mrs QHE came  
13 to speak to me, I tried to tell her what had happened,  
14 but she was angry that I'd gone through two sets of  
15 uniforms and when I finished I was to go to bed, and she  
16 sent me to bed at 6 o'clock, crying on my birthday.

17 Q. She wasn't prepared to listen how this had all happened?

18 A. I tried to tell her who had done this and she was just  
19 so angry about the two uniforms.

20 Q. I think things changed when your father took you out the  
21 Quarriers just after you turned 13?

22 A. Yes, in August -- that's right.

23 Q. And after that, I think that you left Quarriers behind  
24 and some of the memories at that stage. You tell us in  
25 your section on life after care really how things

1 unfolded and I think that in more recent times you had  
2 a number of problems and you felt that the memories of  
3 Quarriers came back to you particularly after 2003 when  
4 you'd watched a programme.

5 A. Yes, Frontline Scotland. I watched a programme about  
6 a house father in a cottage had abused children and the  
7 day after I went down to Quarriers because I thought  
8 they might have some records on me, and I went to the  
9 head office and I told them who I was. A while later  
10 I went back down, they had my records -- Josie Bell was  
11 the lady in charge of the records at the time -- and  
12 after I saw the records, not long after I started a new  
13 job in Epsom. I took the records with me and then  
14 that's when the memories started to come back of what  
15 happened.

16 Q. I think that once you'd seen this programme and once  
17 these memories were coming back to you, you took some  
18 action and indeed you consulted a lawyer and you --

19 A. Can I say first, please, before we jump to that, I had  
20 actually gone missing for three days when I left Epsom  
21 and three police forces were looking for me. And I was  
22 picked up in Carlisle and I was taken to the hospital in  
23 Carlisle and that's when it all came out, how it  
24 happened, what had happened to me.

25 Q. I think you've told us quite fully in the statement and

1 we have read it and --

2 A. Yes, I just feel I have to say that. That's important.

3 Q. Absolutely. I think the upshot of this was that having  
4 consulted a lawyer, you took steps to raise proceedings  
5 against Quarriers.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think that you want to say something about that, just  
8 about what happened. I think you have certain questions  
9 that you would like to --

10 A. If I could, please, yes.

11 Q. -- raise --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- at this stage. Maybe I could give you that  
14 opportunity. What is it that you'd like to say?

15 A. Firstly, I would like to ask Quarriers if they're here  
16 today -- sorry, in 2006, at the court, the Quarriers  
17 argument was I was aware of what happened to me, so  
18 therefore I was time barred.

19 Later on, back to court, Quarriers brought in  
20 a Dr Janet Boakes to claim I had false memory syndrome,  
21 which I don't. The case was dismissed. In April this  
22 year, at the court in Greenock, the Quarriers argument  
23 was the memories are too long ago and my memories are  
24 unreliable because I've got mental health issues. And  
25 my question to Quarriers, it can't be all three. Which

1 one is it, please? And I'd like an answer.

2 Q. So these are the questions you would like to leave to  
3 Quarriers to try and answer for you?

4 A. Yes. Because they all contradict one another. It can't  
5 be all three.

6 Q. Stephen, I think, so far as the inquiry is concerned,  
7 and indeed why you -- you explain one of the reasons why  
8 you took action in going to court and just at  
9 paragraph 127 of your statement, towards the end, at  
10 page 0213, you tell us that one of the reasons you  
11 wanted to go to court was to be listened to and be  
12 believed.

13 A. That's important because in Quarriers we were not  
14 listened to and we were not believed.

15 Q. And you said every time you tried to raise an issue,  
16 particularly with Miss **QAQ** she didn't want to know?

17 A. And Mrs **QHE** would tell you to shut up.

18 MR PEOPLES: These are all the questions I have for you  
19 today, and I thank you for coming. I'm sorry it's been  
20 so late in the day.

21 A. Can I say thank you for letting me be here today.  
22 Thank you, my Lady.

23 Can I say one more thing, my Lady?

24 LADY SMITH: Certainly. What is it?

25 A. I would like to say that after here, I intend to go

1 public about the Quarriers and tell the truth about the  
2 Quarriers, [REDACTED] Thank you  
3 very much. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Can I check if there are any outstanding  
5 applications? No.

6 Stephen, thank you very much for engaging with the  
7 inquiry. It has been very helpful to have both your  
8 written evidence and you here today to talk to us in  
9 person about your experiences. I am sorry it's so late,  
10 but I'm able to let you go now.

11 A. Thank you very much, my Lady. Thank you very much.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 LADY SMITH: Just before we turn to what's happening  
15 tomorrow -- and Mr Peoples, you can correct me if I'm  
16 wrong -- a number of names have been mentioned today,  
17 members of staff, other children in care and teachers at  
18 the school in Quarriers.

19 I think I'm right in saying that other than  
20 Effie Climie being convicted of offences of violence  
21 in relation to the witness who was referring to her and  
22 [REDACTED] QNZ likewise, none of the others were convicted  
23 of anything. There have been allegations made about  
24 Effie Climie today and about [REDACTED] QNZ which go  
25 beyond the matters of which they were convicted. Have



1 I got them right? If I deal with them by reference to  
2 people who have convictions rather than the others.

3 MR PEOPLES: I think the important point in relation to the  
4 ones who have been convicted is we've heard some  
5 evidence going beyond the convictions and clearly  
6 therefore they fall within the restriction order.

7 LADY SMITH: The charges of which these people were  
8 convicted are not covered by the restriction order. To  
9 put it more strictly, the evidence about those charges  
10 is not covered by the restriction order, but the other  
11 evidence is.

12 Tomorrow, we start at 10 o'clock with more witnesses  
13 giving evidence in person; is that right?

14 MR PEOPLES: We'll certainly have one witness giving oral  
15 evidence. There may be other evidence read in. I don't  
16 think we'll have other oral evidence tomorrow.

17 LADY SMITH: Of course, tomorrow is Friday. You did tell me  
18 there was probably only going to be one witness in  
19 person tomorrow.

20 MR PEOPLES: That witness will be giving evidence starting  
21 at 10 o'clock, I hope.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23 Thank you all very much. I'll rise now until  
24 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

25 (4.25 pm)

1 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
2 on Friday, 2 November 2018)  
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I N D E X

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2

3 "DAVID" (sworn) .....1

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5 Questions from MR PEOPLES .....1

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7 "FIONA" (sworn) .....101

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9 Questions from MR PEOPLES .....101

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11 STEPHEN FINDLETON (sworn) .....179

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13 Questions from MR PEOPLES .....179

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