

1 Tuesday, 6 November 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to further oral
4 evidence to start the day today. Mr Peoples, you have
5 somebody ready, do you?

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The next witness
7 to give oral evidence wishes to remain anonymous and has
8 chosen the pseudonym "John".

9 "JOHN" (affirmed)

10 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable,
11 John. One thing to remind you of: you may have used
12 microphones before, John, but you need to be in the
13 right position for that microphone so we can hear you.

14 You have brought your iPad with you; does that have
15 notes on it?

16 A. (Witness nods).

17 LADY SMITH: You have it ready?

18 A. I have it ready for my statement later.

19 Questions from MR PEOPLES

20 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, John.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. In the red folder in front of you there is a copy of the
23 signed statement that you provided to the inquiry prior
24 to coming here today. If at any point you want to look
25 at that and use it, then please feel free to do so; I'll

1 come to it shortly anyway for certain preliminary
2 matters.

3 But there's also, as you will see, a copy of your
4 statement on the screen in front of you. So again, it's
5 there for you to use if you wish to use it instead of
6 the folder. Please just choose whichever works best for
7 you.

8 With that introduction, can I first of all, for the
9 benefit of the transcript, give the reference we use for
10 the statement you've provided. The reference of your
11 statement is WIT.001.001.2534.

12 If I could ask you to turn to the final page of your
13 signed statement at page 2554 and confirm for me that
14 you have signed your statement on that page.

15 A. Yes, I have, that's my signature.

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

20 A. Yes, that's true. I can confirm I've no objections.

21 Q. Against that introduction, if I could turn perhaps to
22 the first page of your statement now. First of all,
23 I will ask you to confirm that the year of your birth
24 was 1959; I don't need your birthday.

25 A. That's correct, yes, it is.

1 Q. What I propose to do is to go through that part of your
2 statement that relates to your period of time in care at
3 Quarriers. You were in another care setting after you
4 left Quarriers and you tell us about that in your
5 statement, but for today's purposes I will be focusing
6 on your time in care at Quarriers.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Before I look at your time in care in Quarriers, perhaps
9 I could take from you very briefly some background
10 information to you going into care there. If we go to
11 page 2534, I think you give us some information about
12 the background, including that your father was in the
13 forces, the Royal Air Force; is that right?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. He and your mother were from the Greenock area of
16 Glasgow, near Glasgow?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You tell us, really, I don't want to go into the detail
19 of this, but I do want to get a little understanding,
20 you say your father had some struggles in finding work
21 and being successful at the jobs that he was employed to
22 do; is that right?

23 A. Yes, that's correct, he did.

24 Q. Indeed, whether for that reason or otherwise -- and
25 I think you tell us that your parents moved houses from

1 time to time and lived in various places, including
2 Greenock, Inverkip and Kirkcaldy, before coming back to
3 Glasgow, I think?

4 A. Yes, my father was a salesman, so because of the nature
5 of the work, and obviously the supply and demand at the
6 time, I think he obviously went where the work was and
7 that meant moving around to various places.

8 Q. Do you understand that might have explained the
9 different places that you were living in as a young
10 child?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you tell us that, at least from time to time,
13 your parents struggled to meet their financial
14 commitments including rent for accommodation that they
15 were living in. Is that something you've learned?

16 A. I think it's one of these things in life. Sometimes by
17 people -- you almost learn adversely from what other
18 people do. It's never been an issue for me personally,
19 but when you don't have very much and you're constantly
20 in a state of no money, then obviously it makes it --
21 when you grow up, you know, you can either have two
22 approaches. You can go either down the same route or
23 you can go down the route where you learn from that and
24 fortunately I've learned from that and it's never been
25 as big an issue for me as the struggle my parents had.

1 Q. The period we're talking about just now was essentially
2 between the time you were born until about the age of
3 6 --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- when you went into Quarriers; is that right?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. I think after that you spent a lot of your childhood in
8 care, initially in Quarriers, but you were moved, as
9 we'll no doubt hear briefly, in 1967 to Nazareth House
10 in Aberdeen?

11 A. That's correct. The struggle before we went into care
12 was very evident by the fact that we did on occasions
13 spend short periods in the Salvation Army hostels
14 because there was absolutely no money; this was prior to
15 even going into care. There were obviously challenges
16 with my parents being able to earn enough to maintain --

17 Q. And you have some memory of those occasions?

18 A. Yes, I do have some very clear, vivid memories of some
19 of them.

20 Q. I don't want to get into any religious issues, but at
21 paragraph 4 you tell us that your father was Protestant
22 and your mother was Catholic, and that caused a little
23 bit of friction in the wider family.

24 A. That was a big issue at the time. I think it was a time
25 in the sixties where -- or shall we say at that time it

1 was a relevant issue then. It might not be as big
2 an issue now, but it was then and it caused friction
3 between both sets of family members, that they came from
4 different religious backgrounds.

5 Q. Perhaps the fact that your mother was Catholic, did
6 that, as you understand it, at some point influence the
7 decision to move you from Quarriers to Nazareth House?

8 A. As far as we are aware -- this was only something we
9 found out later on in life. I think my -- we didn't
10 know why we moved from Quarriers to ... We were only
11 told by staff at Quarriers at the time it was partly to
12 do with -- Overbridge was a short-term place and
13 therefore children who stayed there on a longer basis
14 would be moved somewhere else. We didn't know where or
15 what was happening, but I remember that being told very
16 briefly to us, even as a child.

17 What we didn't know in the background that was going
18 on was my grandmother was really worried that if we were
19 going to be brought up in care, that she -- she had
20 apparently been quite instrumental in contacting Glasgow
21 Corporation at the time, who were obviously possibly for
22 our inception into Quarriers at the time, asking if we
23 could be moved to a Catholic institute. We weren't
24 aware of it at the time and we only found out many years
25 later.

1 So in the background, yes, the influence of my
2 grandmother, shall we say, was extremely strong and we
3 now realise that that was possibly a result of why we
4 ended up in Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

5 Q. And at the time, did you have any idea when you went to
6 Overbridge -- and we'll hear a little bit about
7 Overbridge in a moment -- that Quarriers also had
8 a large village at Bridge of Weir? Was that ever
9 discussed with you or your family that you would go
10 there?

11 A. No, there was never any discussion. The only thing
12 I think I've seen from some records, correspondence my
13 father had with Glasgow Corporation after I think he
14 came out of hospital, because he was ill at the time,
15 when he came out, was that they were unable to look
16 after the children and I think Glasgow Corporation made
17 a decision to place us in care and I don't know if it
18 was arbitrary or it was chosen, but we ended up at
19 Overbridge. So we had no idea Overbridge was
20 a satellite home, for example, from Quarriers. We had
21 no idea of that at the time.

22 Q. You tell us on page 2535, John, that you have two
23 brothers and one sister.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You have an elder brother who's three years older, and

1 you have a sister who's one year old, and you have
2 a younger brother who's three years younger than you.

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. Moving again on to the situation before you went to the
5 Overbridge establishment, there came a time when you
6 went back to Glasgow and you were attending a primary
7 school in Glasgow, St Brendan's; is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say at that point, something happened which I think
10 had a fairly significant effect on your family. That
11 involved, I think, an accident concerning your father.

12 A. Yes. He was involved in a car accident where he
13 accidentally killed a boy. It was in a rural area just
14 outside Glasgow, where -- I think it was a farmer's son,
15 the boy, and he came out of a side road, he didn't see
16 him, and there was a collision, and the boy
17 unfortunately died. Despite the fact that the police
18 had made it clear to my father that this was not his
19 fault at the time, he never recovered from that for
20 a long time, and I think that was instrumental at that
21 time in him obviously losing his job, going into
22 hospital, and I think -- I believe we were subject to
23 a warrant sale at that time in Glasgow because obviously
24 the bills weren't being paid.

25 So I think everything crumbled round about that

1 time, very quickly, and it was during that period

2 I think that we ended up in care.

3 Q. And his mental health deteriorated to the point where
4 he had to have some inpatient treatment?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think at the time you went into care, he was there,
7 receiving such treatment --

8 A. He was.

9 Q. -- and, as you tell us, because of these events, your
10 mother was struggling to look after a family of four
11 children.

12 A. She couldn't cope. She sought help from the Social Work
13 Department at the time saying she needed support.

14 I think she received some monetary support, but part of
15 the biggest challenge was affording accommodation where
16 she could look after us because she had to work as well.
17 I think eventually she had to be quite, how shall we say
18 it, assertive with the department and say, "I can't
19 afford to look after the children, you're going to have
20 to take them into care", not that she wanted to do that,
21 but at the time, she didn't have any option. So I think
22 eventually, we were then admitted into care.

23 Q. I think that all four children were sent to
24 Overbridge --

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. -- in early 1966.

2 Perhaps I could just get some dates at this stage to
3 put some context into the matter of when things
4 happened. We've seen Quarriers' records and I think you
5 have seen your own records --

6 A. I have, yes.

7 Q. -- as an adult.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you're familiar probably with some of the information
10 we are about to give, but you can perhaps confirm if it
11 accords with your recollection. We understand that
12 there was an application through the Children's Officer
13 in Glasgow -- Glasgow Corporation at that stage, I think
14 it would be. There was an application for admission to
15 Quarriers Homes.

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. And that application resulted in your admission to
18 Overbridge in Drumbreck Road in Glasgow, on
19 [REDACTED] 1966?

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. And that you stayed at Overbridge until you were
22 discharged along with, I think, your siblings, on
23 [REDACTED] 1967 when you were discharged via the local
24 authority again and then placed in Nazareth House in
25 Aberdeen.

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. On page 2536 of your statement, you tell us from the
3 children's perspective at paragraph 11, all of this
4 happened quite suddenly. Do I get the impression it was
5 without very much warning or explanation?

6 A. Sorry?

7 Q. The move to Overbridge happened quite suddenly without
8 explanation or warning.

9 A. I think as a child you're very clearly in a position
10 where you're following whatever's happening at the
11 moment. Events overtake you, you don't obviously have
12 any influence or any comprehension of what is actually
13 happening. At that time I think you probably have to
14 remember we were aware our father was in hospital, but
15 we didn't really know why at that time. So there was
16 a lot of, obviously, things that we weren't party to at
17 that time that created probably a lot of confusion in
18 our minds about what was happening.

19 All children need stability and when you don't have
20 stability, then obviously it creates a lot of
21 uncertainty and anxiety, shall we say, for children --
22 and I think we were going through a very anxious period,
23 all of us.

24 Q. Are you able to recall now, and it's a long time ago,
25 how you felt when it became apparent that you were going

1 to somewhere like Overbridge? Were you aware you were
2 going to be there for an appreciable period? Were you
3 aware of what was going to happen?

4 A. All I remember is someone, I think, picked us up in
5 a van and we were taken -- it was dark, it was night, no
6 idea who these people were, no idea where we were going,
7 and we came to this big house in Glasgow, the biggest
8 house I'd ever seen at that time in my life. I remember
9 that house, 1 Drumbreck Road, Glasgow, very well. It
10 was a huge old house.

11 We were taken in -- and the door seemed very big,
12 shall we say. We didn't know why we were there,
13 what was happening. I think even -- as children, you
14 probably didn't ask that many questions because you're
15 always taught at that time not to ask questions, just to
16 do as you were told.

17 It was a very anxiety-provoking period for me and my
18 brothers and my sister. We didn't really know what was
19 happening. Sent straight to bed.

20 Q. But you were of an age where you'd at least you would
21 have a appreciation that something was happening?

22 A. I knew my father was in hospital, I knew my mother was
23 struggling. So we knew that something was happening,
24 but we just didn't know what.

25 Q. And you're describing, I think, a situation where, from

1 your perspective as a child, and indeed that perhaps of
2 your siblings, you were being taken by strangers to
3 strangers --

4 A. Yes, that's correct.

5 Q. -- because these people were completely unknown to you?

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. Did you have a social worker at that stage that you had
8 any knowledge of that at least was a presence before
9 your admission to Overbridge?

10 A. I can't recollect. I can recollect in later stages of
11 our care arrangements being introduced to
12 a social worker, but at that early stage I can't
13 recollect anything at all. All I can recollect is that
14 we were brought in, we were sent to bed and somehow we
15 couldn't sleep -- I think I even wet the bed that night.
16 It's just one of these ridiculous situations where you
17 don't know where you are, what's happening, you're in
18 a room, remember, with other strangers, and you don't
19 know who they were.

20 Q. Am I right in thinking from the description you've given
21 of your admission that neither of your parents clearly
22 went with you on that journey?

23 A. No, I think my father was still in hospital at that time
24 and I think my mother was too distraught.

25 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 12 that you have a memory

1 of who was running Overbridge when you were first
2 admitted. Can you tell us what your memory of that is,
3 who was there?

4 A. My recollection is that there was probably three people
5 who I can remember significantly at that time. There
6 was a man who seemed to be the main house parent, whose
7 name was **QBP** and all the children were advised to call
8 him Uncle **QBP** That's what we had to call him.

9 Q. Who told you?

10 A. That's what all the children called him, Uncle **QBP**
11 therefore we were expected to call -- I didn't think
12 there was any actual you have to call him, it was more
13 like because they were all calling him that, we all felt
14 we had to fall in line.

15 There was a lady who was called Auntie **QBO** And
16 I believe at the time I didn't know they were married
17 but I found out later -- I believe they were a couple,
18 and there was a daughter they had there who was called

19 **██████████** Those are the three people I can remember in
20 terms of the house parents and the family situation.

21 I can't recollect any other staff members being there
22 at the time, although I do remember there was domestics
23 making meals or cleaning rooms, things like that, but
24 I don't know any of their names.

25 Q. So these were the three people that stand out --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- and that you can at least remember their forenames to
3 this day? But you think there might have been at least
4 other people doing some kind of domestic duties?
- 5 A. I think there might have been other support staff or
6 ancillary staff that were almost in the background but
7 not really relevant in terms of our care.
- 8 Q. So far as you recall, and I know it's a long time ago,
9 Uncle **QBP** Auntie **QBO** and **██████** were they the only
10 people who lived in Overbridge in the big house?
- 11 A. As far as I know, yes. As I say, it's difficult to
12 recollect whether there were any other arrangements for
13 staff who may have lived in or been there, but I can
14 only remember them three being there.
- 15 Q. You tell us in paragraph 12 that you have good memories
16 of the daughter called **██████**
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You tell us that she was a lovely person.
- 19 A. She was very nice indeed and one of these people that
20 you meet in a time when it's very difficult because you
21 don't know anyone, who's very kind and was very sociable
22 and obviously we used to play a lot in the garden at the
23 back and she was very, very kind to me and my other
24 siblings.
- 25 Q. Was she the -- she was the daughter, you think, of the

1 couple, **QBP** and **QBO**

2 A. As far as I know she was.

3 Q. What age was **██████████**

4 A. As I say, I was 6 at the time. I think possibly she may

5 have been about 11 or 12. She seemed to me a great deal

6 older because she was taller and obviously bigger. But

7 I think she was probably 11, 12, maybe a teenager,

8 I don't know. She certainly wasn't a young adult, she

9 was still, I would recollect, a child.

10 Q. Was she going to school?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I'm not sure what the school age was then. Was it 16 by

13 then or 15?

14 A. I think 15.

15 Q. So she'd be below that age, you think?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You estimate maybe around 11 or 12 possibly?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You told us about **██████████** We'll maybe come to Uncle **QBP**

20 in due course. But what about Auntie **QBO** What memory

21 have you of her?

22 A. I don't have that much memories of her. She tended to

23 stick more in the background, if you know what I mean.

24 My recollections at that time were house parents were

25 very busy people, so you didn't see them much, you were

1 left to your own devices to get on with playing with
2 each other. I can never remember any discussions or
3 dialogue apart from: set the table, clean this or do
4 that. It was more about -- they weren't particularly
5 cold people, unlike other house parents that I've lived
6 with, but they weren't particularly warm. They were
7 more sort of -- they wanted to make sure you were looked
8 after, but you might add, it was done maybe adequately,
9 but not well, if you know what I mean.

10 Q. When you say "looked after", do you mean in a material
11 sense rather an emotional or developmental sense?

12 A. There was no emotion. There was very little emotion
13 expressed or shown -- in fact, I would have to say that
14 -- in any care institute I have been in, that has been
15 one of the most consistent factors throughout, that
16 there was never any person giving you a hug, there was
17 no person telling you you'll be fine, there was no
18 reassurance, there was nothing like that. It was very
19 much you had to get on with it.

20 Q. That's the recurring theme, not just in Overbridge but
21 in your other care settings?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You said to you it was a big house.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you tell us how many children were there at the time

1 that you were at Overbridge? Have you got a memory of
2 the approximate number of children or young persons?

3 A. I ... It's a difficult thing to remember because ...
4 I remember when we were there initially, there did seem
5 to be older people who went out working who slept in the
6 boys' dormitory. And they kind of seemed to be in the
7 background. So they were almost like using Overbridge
8 as a place where they slept but they went out to work.
9 So you never really saw them much. Then of course there
10 were children you saw on a daily basis because you went
11 to school with them or played with them. It's quite
12 difficult to say now, but I would say probably anything
13 between 10 and 20 children at any given time.

14 Q. Boys and girls?

15 A. Boys and girls, it was a mix.

16 Q. That number would include you and your three siblings?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So there'd be four of you and obviously other children
19 and you think young persons some of whom may have been
20 going out to some sort of job in the community?

21 A. I think they were older and they had left school by
22 then.

23 Q. Did they appear to be in the care of Overbridge?

24 A. It almost seemed like they had their own independence,
25 but they were there, so obviously it was like an

1 accommodation arrangement. I don't remember any of the
2 older people, for example, sitting and having meals with
3 us. I don't ever remember that. It may be that they
4 had them separately. I don't know. But what I'm
5 meaning is I don't remember them partaking in part of
6 the family type set-up. There was nothing like that.

7 Q. During your time in Overbridge, because you're going to
8 tell us about another set of house parents that came on
9 the scene, but at any stage during that period did your
10 house parents sit down at mealtimes with you or not?

11 A. Yes, they did. They generally sat down. I can't
12 recollect it being all positive. There was a thing
13 about **QBP** he was a bit like a Jekyll and Hyde. On the
14 one hand he could be very pleasant and nice, but on the
15 other hand he would be humiliating and publicly
16 humiliate you if he felt that you were not doing
17 something that he wanted you should be doing or you were
18 doing something that wasn't right. He did that with all
19 the children. He also sometimes, you know, would
20 jokingly flick you against the back of your neck,
21 a thing like that (indicating).

22 Q. With his hand and his fingers?

23 A. Yes, which was quite demeaning and could be quite
24 painful and irritating to people -- he didn't just do it
25 to me, he did it to other children as well. It was

1 supposed to be a joke but it was only a joke to him, it
2 wasn't a joke to anybody else.

3 Q. These times when he would, as you describe, humiliate or
4 belittle, when you say it was done publicly, do you mean
5 in the presence of other children?

6 A. Oh, in the presence of other children. It was very
7 much -- he might wait until we were all together in the
8 area for eating and then explain someone had wet the bed
9 and they were shown the wet sheets: look, this is what
10 happens to people who do that. He thought that was
11 quite funny and he thought he was doing something to
12 deter people from not doing it again, which only
13 exacerbated the problem from what I could see because I
14 certainly wet the bed and was humiliated and I know that
15 my brother --

16 Q. Can you describe these occasions, what he might do in
17 terms of humiliation, if you can help us?

18 A. My younger brother and I -- he would have been 3 at the
19 time -- both on occasions wet the bed and I do remember
20 that we were paraded in front of the other children
21 downstairs when you did that and told to take the sheets
22 back upstairs and wash them ourselves.

23 Q. Who was telling you to do this?

24 A. This was **QBP** I can't remember **QBO** telling us anything
25 like that, but certainly he was.

1 Q. This was in front of other children that you were being
2 told to do this. So you were identified as children who
3 had wet the bed --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- in front of other children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What sort of things was he saying to you on these
8 occasions in front of other children?

9 A. He was saying things along the lines of: this is what
10 happens to people who wet the bed, you get brought down
11 here and spoken to in front of other children and I hope
12 you learn a lesson. It was supposed to be a deterrent
13 when I think about back it now, but it just made your
14 anxiety worse.

15 There were two occasions where just through absolute
16 fear I actually soiled my pants and I was so afraid to
17 go and see him to tell him, but of course obviously the
18 smell quickly got round the home and he was absolutely
19 furious that I didn't say or whatever. And he took me
20 upstairs and made me take my pants off and he actually
21 rubbed the excrement straight into my face, which -- to
22 this day I still have a revulsion any time I smell
23 anything like that, it just absolutely overwhelms me.

24 Q. So he rubbed your soiled clothing in your face?

25 A. Absolutely, he took it off and he made sure -- he rubbed

1 it in my face and then made me clean the pants myself at
2 the sink.

3 Q. This was upstairs?

4 A. This was upstairs in the bathroom.

5 Q. You say this happened on two occasions?

6 A. It happened on two occasions but he humiliated me by the
7 fact that he said, this is what happens to children who
8 do things like this. From his point of view, I can see
9 that he was very clearly thinking that somehow this was
10 a way of deterring other children from doing it. But it
11 just made it worse.

12 Q. To deter you and deter other children by showing them by
13 this form of humiliation that this was the way he was
14 doing things?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. To try and ...

17 A. So it was very much -- it was very clearly
18 a psychological abuse.

19 Q. When he rubbed the soiled clothing in your face, was
20 there anyone else present? You said you were
21 downstairs --

22 A. I can't remember anyone else being present when that
23 happened. The humiliation with the bed-wetting and the
24 fact that I'd soiled my pants was very much a public
25 humiliation. But when he took me upstairs, he was

1 clearly, from what I can remember -- in fact, I do
2 remember, we were on our own, it was just the two of us.
3 When he rubbed the pants in my face, I mean, to the
4 extent where I could hardly breathe, I was almost
5 choking, it was bordering on ... He was almost
6 asphyxiating me at the same time and I couldn't actually
7 breathe through the pants. This was his way of saying,
8 "Don't ever do this again, you don't ever do things like
9 that here, this is disgusting", and all the usual
10 comments someone might say, thinking that they were
11 trying to somehow help you in some way.

12 Q. Apart from the description of how you felt and how you
13 reacted, feeling almost asphyxiated, how emotional were
14 you feeling at this stage?

15 A. I just wanted to run away. I couldn't cope with it.
16 I couldn't understand how I couldn't get in contact with
17 my parents and speak to them, but obviously I knew that
18 they weren't around --

19 Q. Were you afraid?

20 A. Absolutely petrified.

21 Q. Because I think you said sometimes, was it through fear
22 you would also wet yourself or on some occasions soil
23 yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What was that fear that caused you sometimes to wet the

1 bed or on occasions soil yourself? What was the fear
2 that you had?

3 A. I think the fear was the fact that he was reinforcing
4 not to do it, and as a child that makes -- that
5 exacerbates it, it makes it worse, doesn't it? I think
6 that was the problem, that you were so fearful of doing
7 it that you actually end up doing it.

8 Q. Just to help us -- and I appreciate it's difficult
9 because you've already told us it's hard to be precise
10 about what [REDACTED] age was, but you thought she was maybe
11 11 and 12 and she was the daughter of QBP and QBO

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. What age were QBP and QBO if you can help us?

14 A. I remember he was quite a small man, thinning hair. It
15 was brown, slight grey on the sides, from my
16 recollection. So I'm going to say -- as a child every
17 adult looks old, don't they, but I would say he wasn't
18 old-old, if you know what I mean, he wasn't in his 50s
19 or 60s. I would say probably late 30s, 40s, possibly,
20 and I think QBO was probably the same age, about that
21 kind of age range.

22 Q. Obviously, if QBO was [REDACTED] mother, and [REDACTED] was 11 or
23 12, we can make some estimates of QBO age --

24 A. Yes, possibly.

25 Q. -- from that also, can we?

1 A. Mm-hm, I think you're probably right. QBP and QBO to
2 me, I think back now as an adult, they were probably
3 roughly about the same age.

4 Q. Okay. Was [REDACTED] the only daughter or sibling --

5 A. It's the only one I remember. I don't remember anyone
6 else.

7 Q. You don't remember them having any other children --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- when you were there?

10 A. Not that I remember, no.

11 Q. You tell us there came a time when there was what you
12 call a complete change of staff at paragraph 13 on
13 page 2536 and a new set of house parents arrived on the
14 scene.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell me who they were?

17 A. I just remember one day, QBP and QBO gathering everyone
18 into the canteen and they said that they were having to
19 leave and someone else was coming. It was like the next
20 day, there was no time to adjust or get to know -- even
21 in our own way to say goodbye to them, it happened so
22 fast. Then a family called the QAX/QCN arrived. My
23 recollection was that he was a [REDACTED] because he had
24 the [REDACTED] and he would quite often go out and
25 do shift work, so he would be -- we wouldn't see him

1 very much.

2 I think his name was [redacted] QCN I might be wrong,
3 but I think certainly he was the father, and the husband
4 of Mrs [redacted] QAX

5 Q. Do you remember what her name was?

6 A. Do you know, I can't remember.

7 Q. I can maybe help you, I don't think this is
8 controversial. Certainly at some point, and maybe the
9 dates are maybe not as clear, [redacted] QAX and her
10 husband [redacted] QCN moved from Quarrier's Village to
11 Overbridge. I think it's clear that they were there at
12 Overbridge when you were there.

13 A. Yes, they were.

14 Q. And indeed you have told us, and that they had a son.

15 A. They had a son and a daughter.

16 Q. But you mention the son, I think, in your statement.

17 They had a daughter also?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And you thought that Mr [redacted] QCN was a [redacted]
20 I think Mr [redacted] QCN if I could just tell you, because he
21 has provided some evidence to the inquiry, does tell us
22 about that and tells us that he was a [redacted]

23 [redacted] --

24 A. Right, okay.

25 Q. -- and would therefore be acting from time to time

1 in that capacity rather than that being his
2 full-time ...

3 LADY SMITH: I suppose he would have an uniform for that.

4 A. I can remember the [REDACTED] very clearly. To me,
5 as a child, it looked like a [REDACTED]

6 MR PEOPLES: I don't think he's suggesting he wouldn't have
7 had an uniform to use as a [REDACTED] but that's
8 the information he has provided us with. It certainly
9 at least confirms that he had some connection with the
10 [REDACTED] and had some occasion to use an uniform, as you
11 now remember as a young boy.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Just on dates, because I think I might just deal with
14 this matter at this stage, that we've also got
15 a statement from [REDACTED] QAX [REDACTED] who tells us that she
16 started working for Quarriers at Bridge of Weir at the
17 Quarrier's Village in about 1958 and was initially
18 employed there as an assistant house parent and she
19 moved during her employment with Quarriers to
20 Drumbreck Road in Glasgow and clearly she was there when
21 you were there. She puts the date of that move as 1965,
22 but you arrived --

23 A. [REDACTED] 1966.

24 Q. So if you're right, she's not entirely accurate about
25 when she moved to Overbridge, because you've got a clear

1 memory that there was Uncle **QBP** and Auntie **QBO** You're
2 not in any doubt that there was someone else before the
3 **QAX/QCN** came on the scene; is that the position?

4 A. That's my position.

5 Q. I don't think she's offering any -- she's just saying
6 she believes it was around that time. The only other
7 information that may help us on that -- and it's maybe
8 as well to record it at this stage -- is that we
9 understand that when the **QAX/QCN** started at Quarriers,
10 or at least at some point after starting, they were in
11 cottage 42. This may not mean a lot to you, but
12 cottage 42 at Quarrier's Village is the information that
13 we've been given from Quarriers and that they moved at
14 some point to Overbridge.

15 What we know, I think, from some of the information
16 we've been given about house parents is that -- and
17 again I'm not expecting you to know this, but I think we
18 should just bring it out at this stage because it's
19 relevant to this issue -- a couple called Geoff and
20 Joyce Nicholson, we're told, started at
21 Quarrier's Village on **██████████** 1966, the year of the
22 World Cup in England, for all of us that remember.

23 They started on **██████████** according to the
24 information we've been given and they were in
25 cottage 42.

1 A. Right.

2 Q. And that at some point prior to that, the QAX/QCN were
3 in occupation of cottage 42.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. So it's possible that -- would it be possible that the
6 QAX/QCN came on or around [REDACTED] 1966 if you were
7 there on [REDACTED] or is it before then, do you think?
8 Do you know how long Uncle QBP and Auntie QBO were your
9 house parents at Overbridge?

10 A. No, I can't remember the exact -- all I know is there
11 was an 18-month period and that was from [REDACTED] 1966
12 to, I think, [REDACTED] 1967, when we were there. I suppose
13 what I've done -- and I may be wrong here, but when
14 I asked Quarriers for my records, just out of interest,
15 they did send me information. Now, they had indicated
16 that there was an entry written in [REDACTED] 1966 which said
17 at that point I had whooping cough and I remember it
18 clearly, I did have whooping cough, and it was a nasty,
19 nasty thing. It took me quite a long period to get over
20 it.

21 One of the things I remember was that we attended
22 church every Sunday and during -- even despite the fact
23 that I had asked not to go because whooping cough is one
24 of these nasty things where once you start coughing, you
25 actually can't stop, it's extremely debilitating and it

1 is extremely disruptive for anyone round about you. And
2 I had actually asked -- I had never asked before, but I
3 asked, and they said, no, you'll go to church like
4 everybody else, you have to go to church.

5 My recollection was, and I may be wrong, that it was
6 the QAX/QCN who took me to church, and that would have
7 been after [REDACTED] 1966 because I had it in the [REDACTED] Now,
8 whether I had it on two occasions -- but I can't
9 remember having whooping cough on two occasions.

10 Q. I think I can help you there, John. You moved to
11 Overbridge on [REDACTED] 1966.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say it was Uncle QBP Auntie QBO and [REDACTED] that were
14 at Overbridge at that time. Unfortunately, your records
15 don't actually tell us who the house parents were at any
16 stage in your stay, but what they do tell us is there's
17 an entry in your records for [REDACTED] 1966, which says:

18 "John off school with whooping cough."

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That's the only entry I think we have in the records
21 about you having whooping cough. It says you were off
22 school?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So if that's the occasion we're talking about and the
25 occasion that you asked to be excused attendance at

1 church, your clear recollection is that when you were --
2 you were basically told, no, you've got to go to
3 church --

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. -- and your recollection is that that was something that
6 you were told by the QAX/QCN

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So if that recollection is accurate, then by [REDACTED] of
9 1966, some time around early [REDACTED] 1966, QAX and
10 [REDACTED] QCN have made the move to Overbridge to
11 replace Uncle QBP and Auntie QBO. Would that all fit?

12 A. I mean, the only other explanation I could offer, and
13 I don't know, is maybe I had whooping cough twice.
14 Possibly I had it at a later stage. But my recollection
15 is I had such a nasty experience with having to go to
16 church that time that I didn't forget it. I remember it
17 was definitely --

18 Q. Don't remember too much about the date I gave you for
19 the start of the period with the Nicholsons. I was just
20 trying to see if we could --

21 LADY SMITH: The start of the period with the QAX/QCN

22 MR PEOPLES: When the Nicholsons came to cottage 42. It
23 doesn't follow that they came in [REDACTED] 1966 and that
24 the QAX/QCN stayed at cottage 42 until then. They
25 could have moved and there could have been some

1 temporary arrangement until the Nicholsons moved in, but
2 I was just trying to see whether we can work out
3 a picture of when the QAX/QCN got to Overbridge.

4 You're clear that they weren't there when you
5 arrived?

6 A. No, they definitely weren't there when I arrived.

7 LADY SMITH: That would indicate, one way or another, a fair
8 amount of your time at Overbridge was with the QAX/QCN.

9 A. Yes. You're right, that's right, my Lady.

10 MR PEOPLES: That would accord with your general
11 recollection --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- that they occupied the majority of the time that you
14 were at Overbridge?

15 A. Yes, absolutely, yes.

16 Q. Just going back, before we go to the QAX/QCN back to
17 Uncle QBP. Did he go out to work anywhere?

18 A. No, I don't recollect him going out to work. He was
19 always there, he was always at the house. I remember
20 that when you came home after school, he was there.

21 Q. Do you know whether during the day he would be doing
22 anything?

23 A. He could have been when I was at school.

24 Q. You wouldn't have known?

25 A. I wouldn't have known, I was sent to school each day.

1 Q. When you went to school he was there in the mornings and
2 when you came back, he'd be there at night?

3 A. Yes, that's right, he was.

4 Q. You've told us about Uncle **QBP** and how he behaved when
5 you wet the bed or when others wet the bed and when you
6 in fact soiled yourself on a couple of occasions. So
7 far as the **QAX/QCN** are concerned, you tell us at
8 paragraph 13 on page 2536 that Mr **QCN** would go out
9 in the morning, you have a recollection that he'd be
10 wearing a **██████████** from time to time.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But you never really saw much of him. Is that what you
13 broadly remember? He wasn't around a lot, whatever
14 he was doing?

15 A. I don't recollect seeing him. A lot of the duties and
16 responsibilities appeared to be left to Mrs **QAX** to
17 run or to give big decisions about what was happening or
18 where we were going or what was happening. He was
19 around -- I'm not saying he wasn't -- but it was more
20 infrequent, shall we say, is probably the best word to
21 use here. He was around infrequently. He wasn't around
22 all the time but he wasn't away all the time either.

23 Q. You say there, and to some extent it echoes something
24 you said earlier on about warmth and affection, that:

25 "The **QAX/QCN** were not, in [your] view, what [you]

1 would call a nice family. They didn't care for children
2 at all, there was no warmth, no connection, where you
3 felt comfortable or safe."

4 Does that really sum up what you recall of the
5 relationship of the QAX/QCN and the children including
6 yourself?

7 A. Despite obviously the abuse that QBP had dished out to
8 me, you know, you could on occasions connect with him
9 and you could obviously connect with QBO as well. It
10 wasn't a close connection, but you could connect. With
11 the QAX/QCN, there was absolutely no connection. It
12 was just one of these situations where it was almost
13 run -- like a business model: everyone does this and
14 gets on with it. Everything was matter of fact. There
15 was no warmth, no reassurance, no support or care that
16 you could see from a humane point of view. It was
17 extremely cold.

18 Q. Just a routine?

19 A. Just as a routine. I have spoken to my other siblings
20 since and they expressed the same sentiment. It was
21 just a very cold, non-existent environment where you
22 almost survived or existed but you didn't develop and
23 thrive. There was no cultivating. You went out to
24 school and that was it. If they were busy in the house,
25 go and play, whether it was cold or not, you had to go

1 out. It was quite a harsh environment. That's what
2 I remember. And it was quite a contrast from what had
3 happened when **QBP** and **QBO** were there in that sense.
4 You could then see what little warmth you had from them
5 was actually a great deal in comparison to the **QAX/QCN**

6 Q. So you had two sets of house parents to compare --

7 A. Absolutely, yes.

8 Q. -- with each other? And in some ways, life under
9 Uncle **QBP** and Auntie **QBO** could be better?

10 A. It was better in some ways.

11 Q. But obviously you have told us that in the case of
12 bed-wetters or those who soiled that Uncle **QBP** --
13 you have described what he would do on these occasions,
14 and you mentioned at times he might give you a flick
15 with his fingers.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. In passing, just before we move to the **QAX/QCN** did he
18 do anything else that you would recall or something you
19 didn't like?

20 A. No, I can't.

21 Q. Were these the main things that you recall?

22 A. These are the main memories I have.

23 Q. In particular the bed-wetting and the soiling and how he
24 reacted to that?

25 A. It's the public humiliation you don't forget. I suppose

1 you don't forget when someone's rubbing something into
2 your face. You do not forget something like that. And
3 the flicking was something that was kind of in the
4 background, it was happening, but it would be
5 indiscriminate, it would be -- at times you wouldn't
6 expect it, so it was almost there in the background.

7 Q. Was that the sole kind of contact of --

8 A. That's what I remember in terms of things that had
9 a deep impression or obviously irritated and frustrated
10 me as a child being there at the time, I remember, yes.

11 Q. But you remember enough to suggest it was happening
12 a regular basis?

13 A. Oh yes, absolutely. It was something he had when he was
14 in that mode of when he was flicking or just ticking off
15 children with that flick. As I say, I think he saw this
16 as something that was humorous and something that was
17 funny, but he was the only one that was laughing, no one
18 else was. He was almost tormenting children in a sense.
19 That's what he was doing, he was tormenting them, but
20 I don't know even know if he himself realised that --
21 I'm not making excuses for him, because I don't know,
22 but it almost seemed that it had gone over him that
23 he was actually tormenting children.

24 Q. Did you say that on the occasions when he was flicking
25 in this way, was it painful?

1 A. It was absolutely painful. He knew what he was doing.
2 It was behind the ear, that kind of thing where you
3 flick behind or on the ear. It wasn't nice at all and
4 it was almost like the more you complained about it or
5 got upset, it was more for him to do it. It didn't seem
6 to make sense.

7 Q. If I could move forward in your statement to page 2538.
8 You tell us a bit in your statement about the general
9 routine and I think we can read that for ourselves.
10 Obviously, as you've said, it was a routine in those
11 days.

12 On page 2538 you address the issue of food at
13 paragraph 22, if you have that. You say that you would
14 get up, get dressed, go downstairs for breakfast. Your
15 recollection is there was never enough food and you
16 remember being hungry, having pangs of hunger.

17 A. It was awful. I think when I was -- before I went into
18 care, my mother always recognised that growing boys ...
19 She was of Irish descent herself, so potatoes were part
20 of your staple diet at that time. So she would feed
21 you -- basically half your plate was full of potatoes,
22 which was fine for young boys, you just thrive on that,
23 but it was a shock when you went into care seeing how
24 meagre some of the meals might have been and it just
25 never seemed to satisfy. You were always feeling hungry

1 and it was that sense of powerlessness. There wasn't
2 anything like, oh, just go and get a slice of bread and
3 jam, or something like that that would keep you
4 satisfied between meals. You had to wait until --

5 Q. You couldn't just go to the kitchen and make yourself
6 a sandwich?

7 A. No.

8 Q. What would have happened if you had done that? Did you
9 ever test it?

10 A. I don't think we ever tested it. I think we were very
11 much told you had to wait until mealtimes and there was
12 nothing in between.

13 LADY SMITH: Was it the same with both Uncle **QBP** and
14 Auntie **QBO** and the **QAX/QCN** or was one worse than the
15 other so far as lack of food was concerned?

16 A. I can remember being hungry under both sets of
17 house parents. There wasn't any -- I think it was
18 partly -- it's always easy to look back and almost
19 surmise now about what might have happened. Was it that
20 their budget was tight and they were trying to stretch
21 it? You don't know at the time. Or was it the fact
22 that they felt that was enough for you to deal with?
23 I don't know.

24 MR PEOPLES: But we're not talking about the end of
25 World War II and a period of rationing in the 1950s.

1 You're there in 1966 to 1967, the Swinging Sixties,
2 I suppose, and perhaps there's less justification for
3 saying food was short or it was difficult to get certain
4 types of food like potatoes or meat or whatever.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But you're describing a situation where you didn't feel
7 you're getting enough food --

8 A. No, absolutely not.

9 Q. -- for whatever reason?

10 A. I remember when I used to go to school, the lady in the
11 canteen there knew that I was from the home and she used
12 to just give me extra food, which was very kind of her.
13 I remember that was a nice gesture that she did at that
14 time.

15 Q. And apart from the amount of food you got, you have some
16 observations on what you regard as the type of food.
17 You describe it as very basic and you give examples of
18 pie and beans rather than potatoes, meat, vegetables.

19 A. Potatoes was a huge staple, to be fair.

20 Q. Potatoes --

21 A. I don't know why I don't mention it but potatoes were
22 obviously a big thing at that time --

23 Q. So what was lacking other than enough food?

24 A. It was the volume, you might argue. You might get one
25 or two potatoes where your mother might have given you

1 four, something like that.

2 Q. I see.

3 A. It was more that there was never enough.

4 Q. So it is more you didn't get enough to satisfy your
5 hunger?

6 A. Yes, it was almost like the portions were smaller than
7 you might have wanted.

8 Q. I see. And this was something you recall happening
9 throughout the period with --

10 A. It was consistent.

11 Q. -- both sets of house parents?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can I move on to the next page of your statement,
14 page 2539. When you were at Overbridge, you were
15 attending the local primary school, Bellahouston Primary
16 School; is that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Although you make an observation that it was
19 a Protestant school, as it turned out.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say your elder brother and sister were sent to
22 a Catholic school.

23 A. I was quite frustrated at the time because when we
24 arrived at the school, I had been sent to a local school
25 and my brother and sister were sent to the local

1 Catholic school. I asked if I could join them and I was
2 obviously told in no uncertain terms by **QBP** at the time
3 that, you can't, you have to go there. I wanted to join
4 my sister and brother but they wouldn't let me.

5 Q. More to join them than because you wanted to --

6 A. It was nothing to do with the school, I wanted to be
7 with them.

8 Q. And did you ever get a clear explanation why you were --

9 A. The reason I was told at that time was that my brother
10 and sister had to get a bus to get to their school and
11 that I was too young to go with them, for them to look
12 after me, but when I was older I'd be able to go with
13 them. But I was never allowed to in the whole time
14 I was there.

15 Q. So the primary school you were at you'd be able to walk
16 to?

17 A. Yes, that's right. My recollection was it was an annex
18 of a bigger school that was on Paisley Road West.

19 I can't remember ... There was --

20 Q. It's quite near Ibrox football stadium?

21 A. That was the second school I went to. There was a first
22 school I went to, which was not far walking distance
23 from Drumbreck Road, but it was an annex of a bigger
24 school, I can't remember it -- it was kids of 5 years of
25 age, 6 went there, and I went there for about

1 six months. I think when I turned 7, I then went to
2 Bellahouston Primary School opposite Ibrox football
3 stadium.

4 Q. When you went there, how did you get there?

5 A. I walked. You had to walk. They still wouldn't let me
6 go -- I did ask to go when there was a transition period
7 between the -- they still wouldn't let me go.

8 Q. That never happened in all the time you were there?

9 A. No, it never happened.

10 Q. You describe in paragraph 29 something that happened
11 that sticks in your memory where you had received
12 a present of a remote-controlled car for your seventh
13 birthday from your mother, and you have some memory of
14 something involving Mrs QAX

15 A. I was really angry at the time. My mother had given me
16 a birthday present and Mrs QAX son had saw it and
17 he liked it, and he -- basically, there was a lot of
18 peer group pressure. He got all the kids in the home to
19 put pressure on me to say that he could give me a better
20 present and that one I had wasn't very good, and he gave
21 me something else, which obviously I relented and he
22 gave me -- and it ended up breaking down very quickly
23 and he had obviously taken my car. When I went to see
24 his mother, she was saying, that was your problem, you
25 had given it to him and she wasn't having any business

1 of returning it. And I was so angry because here was
2 something I got from my mother and there it was being
3 taken by someone else.

4 Q. What age was the QAX/QCN son in relation to you? Was
5 he older?

6 A. I think he might have been two or three years old, maybe
7 four, I can't remember.

8 Q. It's difficult to look back on these things. Was he
9 treated the same way as all the other children?

10 A. No, he wasn't. He was very much treated differently.
11 The QAX/QCN had a son and a daughter and they were
12 certainly visible and with us a lot of the time, but
13 they obviously had different things that we couldn't
14 get. They had family members who would come in and take
15 them out and do different things, extended family, aunts
16 and uncles. So you could see visibly they led
17 a slightly difficult lifestyle than we obviously did
18 because they were part of their family.

19 Q. Did that cause any resentment at the time or is it just
20 looking back there seems to have been a difference of
21 treatment?

22 A. I can't remember feeling any -- I think I was obviously
23 envious, would be probably a correct word to say, but
24 I don't remember feeling any resentment about it.
25 I don't know whether I recognised that there's a family,

1 maybe that had a different lifestyle than we might have
2 had, but you were certainly envious that they had things
3 that we couldn't get access to.

4 Q. You tell us on page 2540 that you think there were
5 probably some good times when you were at Overbridge,
6 like when you went on trips and holidays --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- such as going to holiday to Girvan, you found that
9 a positive experience, and the taxi driver outings --

10 A. The taxi driver outings towards Kelvin Hall circus.
11 They were great experiences that -- obviously you just
12 didn't want the day to end.

13 Q. Why did you not want it to end?

14 A. Because you were returning to what you were going to be
15 returning to.

16 Q. It wasn't just that the day itself was special, it was
17 what you were going back to?

18 A. Here were people who were actually giving you attention
19 and here were people who were actually spending time
20 with you and giving you treats, which you rarely got.
21 Rarely -- well, I don't think we ever did get them, but
22 what it was was you were getting something that was
23 a tradition that Glasgow taxi drivers at that time did
24 for children and it was something quite unique. Going
25 to Girvan, again, you were met by other staff there who

1 treated you with so much more warmth.

2 Q. When you say "other staff", who were the staff in
3 Girvan?

4 A. As I say, I remember there was a big house there.
5 I can't remember whether it was part of Quarriers or
6 somewhere they had hired or whatever. All I remember is
7 it was different staff when we arrived and they treated
8 you with so much more warmth and much more kindness,
9 that you just never really got the experience of where
10 you were.

11 That was something that, again, you didn't want
12 these holidays to end because you were actually being
13 treated -- I suppose you were in some ways thriving
14 under it. It was something that you were starved off
15 and here you were actually getting it.

16 Q. You deal in your statement with the matter of visits and
17 inspections and you tell us at paragraph 36 on 2540 that
18 you have no recollection of inspections from outside
19 agencies of Overbridge or even remember seeing or
20 hearing from the Social Work Department or other
21 individuals who were independent of the care home
22 itself.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You don't have a memory of seeing people come to inspect
25 or visit the children?

- 1 A. No, no recollection at all of anyone.
- 2 Q. And if such people did come for any reason, even if you
3 are not aware, you can't recall speaking to any person
4 in that capacity?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. No one came to say to you, "How are you getting on,
7 John, have you got any problems?"
- 8 A. I can't remember anyone coming to speak to me about
9 what was happening where I was, wherever I was, whether
10 it was there or Nazareth House. No one came to speak to
11 us to ask how things were.
- 12 Q. And of course in your case, you had been placed in
13 Overbridge by the local authority --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- who had some responsibility as a result of that. You
16 weren't a private placement?
- 17 A. No, no.
- 18 Q. You would have been a state placement, if you like?
- 19 A. Yes. No, I can't recollect anyone from
20 Glasgow Corporation ... I did seek my records from
21 Glasgow Corporation out of interest last year.
- 22 Q. Did they tell anything?
- 23 A. Well, part of the challenge is they're quite heavily
24 redacted, which makes it quite difficult sometimes to
25 make sense of what was happening.

1 There was quite intense dialogue between my father
2 and the childcare officers in relation to -- because my
3 mother and father were desperately trying to get us back
4 home. They wanted us to come home but they didn't have
5 the funds to buy, for example, beds. They had managed
6 to secure accommodation but they didn't have the money
7 to buy beds and they were asking Glasgow Corporation for
8 some sort of loan so they could buy the beds.

9 That was quite a long protracted correspondence
10 between my father and the Glasgow Corporation at the
11 time. And in the meantime we're still in care. I think
12 back in retrospect, for the cost of four beds, the cost
13 of four people in care, even then, it was still
14 obviously a lot of money and there was this debate about
15 whether we could -- they needed to get accommodation, he
16 needed to get a job -- it was all very clear that he
17 needed to get a job, he needed to get accommodation and
18 he needed to pay for the beds himself initially. That's
19 what was coming through.

20 Q. This exchange, was that occurring, so far as you can
21 recall, when you were at Overbridge or Nazareth House?

22 A. Overbridge. It was very clear. I managed to get copies
23 of the letters that my father was actually communicating
24 with at Glasgow Corporation, and he was very clearly
25 stating -- as I say, my mother and father were quite

1 keen to get us back home.

2 Q. They were keen to get you home, your father was having
3 this discussion with the local authority but not getting
4 anywhere it would appear.

5 A. I think a lot of it was to do with the fact that he was
6 having to recover from his illness, so there was a lot
7 of pressure from Glasgow Corporation that he needed to
8 get a job first. That was the first pressure on him and
9 he couldn't get a job because of his mental health
10 issues. He was struggling to get a job. But there was
11 still a lot of pressure from them saying he needed to
12 get a job before they could consider if the kids can
13 come back.

14 So there were all these protracted debates going
15 on: have you got work yet, have you managed to get
16 accommodation that would be suitable for your and your
17 four children? Valid questions, but at the same time it
18 was quite difficult that he couldn't at that time get
19 a job. That was part of the struggle.

20 Q. In the event after you left Overbridge in 1967 and you
21 went to Nazareth House. You didn't go home?

22 A. No, we didn't.

23 Q. And you stayed in Nazareth House for some time; is that
24 right?

25 A. From what I now gather from the dialogue between my

1 father and the Corporation, they were very close at that
2 time to getting their accommodation sorted out. They
3 were actually much closer prior to us being taken to
4 another institution. They were very close to getting
5 it. And it frustrates me when I now look at that
6 dialogue and see -- why on earth were we ever sent to
7 the Sisters of Nazareth? They were almost in touching
8 distance of the finish line and it did seem absolutely
9 crazy to move us from Glasgow to Aberdeen, where my
10 parents then couldn't see us.

11 I remember my parents attempted to visit us every
12 Saturday when we were in Overbridge. They were regular
13 attenders to the extent where there was even an entry in
14 the notes, I recollect, where -- I don't know if it was
15 Mrs QAX that wrote it in, but even she was saying,
16 you know, this is supportive parents with children
17 at the time. She was even noting -- whereas maybe some
18 of the other kids didn't have parents who were attending
19 on a regular basis to take us out, my parents were
20 coming every Saturday morning to take us out, to keep in
21 contact and keep the communication going, and ye at the
22 last moment all of a sudden we ended up getting shipped
23 out to Aberdeen. It just didn't make sense to me.

24 Q. I think I can say, John, that in your Quarriers records,
25 there is an entry on [REDACTED] of 1966, which says

1 this -- and I think this is against a background of your
2 parents visiting. Indeed, I think you were from time to
3 time having weekends with your grandmother as well.

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

5 Q. And what they say on [REDACTED] 1966 in the Quarriers
6 records is, and I quote:

7 "We have made repeated calls to the local authority
8 asking why the children continue in care, but we have
9 never received any information."

10 That's what they're recording, that they appear to
11 have been trying to see what the situation is and
12 perhaps thinking that there is a basis for you being
13 reunited with your parents --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- but you're telling us that if we look at the other
16 set of records, we see that there is this attempt to try
17 and move matters on, get some support from the authority
18 to take you back home, but it doesn't happen?

19 A. No. The only thing I don't know -- and I would
20 certainly never put my grandmother in a bad light here,
21 she was trying her best at the time. She was obviously
22 quite keen that because we were in care that we go to
23 a Catholic institution and I don't know how much bearing
24 that had on proceedings. But she was doing it with our
25 best interests at heart, she wasn't doing it because she

1 felt we needed to remain in care. That' for sure,
2 I know that. But it was just one of those situations
3 where I don't know how much influence she may have had
4 at the time.

5 Q. In your statement on the matter of visits at page 2541,
6 you do say that your mother was trying to visit you
7 straightaway, at paragraph 37, but was told she wasn't
8 allowed to and thereafter only allowed to visit on
9 Saturday mornings; is that your recollection?

10 A. My recollection was it was Saturday mornings my mother
11 would come or my father or, on occasion, both would
12 come, yes. That was very regular throughout our time at
13 Overbridge.

14 Q. Moving to what happened when you were at Overbridge, you
15 say at paragraph 40:

16 "If [you] did something wrong, [you] would normally
17 be beaten. Uncle **QBP** and Mrs **QAX** were the worst,
18 they were both very cruel. When Uncle **QBP** lost his
19 temper, he went to the extreme."

20 Can you help us with what form what you call "being
21 beaten" took, both in the case of Uncle **QBP** and in the
22 case of Mrs **QAX** so we're clear what you're referring
23 to?

24 A. I think I said initially that Uncle **QBP** -- he was
25 somehow a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde. One of the things

1 would be that he would be very nice and everything would
2 be fine and all of a sudden it would switch. It would
3 be very sudden.

4 Whatever it was that was upsetting him or whatever
5 you had done at the time, he would take you upstairs and
6 physically hit you. That's what he did. He would
7 physically hit you sometimes over the backside or he
8 would be pushing you about not to do that again. So it
9 was very much an intimidation type thing where you'd
10 push you and start shouting and bawling about whatever
11 the issue was at the time, whether for example you had
12 not done your chores or whether or not you had done
13 something. It seemed to be something, when you look
14 back, that was insignificant, but that was a big issue
15 and you had to learn to do it.

16 Q. You characterise that as a form of a beating.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So when you say he would hit you and sometimes hit you
19 on the bottom or whatever, was this with his hand or --

20 A. Yes, it was with his hand.

21 Q. How forcibly would he hit you?

22 A. It was pretty sore. You didn't forget when he hit you
23 with his hand or when he pushed you against your chest,
24 sometimes it was against the wall -- not necessarily
25 pushing you against the wall, but he would push you and

1 hit yourself against the wall. There were occasions
2 I remember that. And this was very much with an
3 intimidating voice to very much toe the line, stay in
4 line, you know.

5 Q. Did he appear on these occasions, as you put it, to have
6 lost his temper and not to be in complete control?

7 A. Yes, absolutely lost his temper. He would shout and
8 bawl. You could see it was a rage. What I would say,
9 and I don't mean this -- it would have been worse if he
10 had decided to. It was almost like he could control
11 himself enough to beat you in some ways but not what
12 could have been potentially worse, if you know what
13 I mean, that's what I'm meaning when I think about on it
14 now.

15 Q. When he struck you, how often would he strike you on
16 these occasions?

17 A. Probably five, six times. It was almost like he had to
18 get it out of his system and he would tell you why, if
19 you were asked to do a particular thing, you're supposed
20 to do it and don't --

21 Q. And this is him, as you describe it:

22 "Angry, shouting, in a rage, pushing, hitting --"

23 A. When I think back on it, it was disproportionate. That
24 is the best word I can use for whatever it was. It was
25 usually something that -- part of the challenge,

1 I suppose, was that there was no one who was accountable
2 for what he did. It was just very much when you only
3 look back on it as an adult you can see it was
4 disproportionate for what it was.

5 Q. When he hit you several times, maybe five, six times, or
6 whatever, did that cause pain?

7 A. Oh absolutely, it was painful, yes. It wasn't mild, it
8 was very much pain.

9 Q. And at this stage you were between 6, 7, 8?

10 A. 6 and 7, yes.

11 Q. Was there ever an occasion when it left any kind of
12 mark?

13 A. Do you know, I can't recollect. I think you probably
14 just ... You would just get back into line, whatever
15 was happening at the time, and not show your face and
16 keep your head down and get on ... I can remember the
17 pain, how shall we say it -- the heat of the beating,
18 shall we say, whereas when someone hits you so hard that
19 you feel that heat for quite a long time on your
20 backside. That remains with you for quite a while.

21 I can't remember any enduring pain, shall we say.

22 Q. Did it tend to be on the backside?

23 A. It tended to be, yes. On occasions he would push you on
24 the chest.

25 Q. And you might strike a wall?

1 A. You might strike -- back against the wall. But that was
2 again all done in anger or to intimidate or to make
3 you --

4 Q. And this was in addition to the flicking that --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That was something he did on a regular basis?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How often would these beatings in this form occur?

9 A. You know, I don't know if I was the easiest child to be
10 managed when I was in a care home and I'm not attempting
11 to make any excuses for staff. I did read in my records
12 that apparently I wasn't an easy child from Quarriers'
13 point of view. I don't know what that means, but what's
14 that they've said in their records at the time that
15 I could be a troublemaker and they had, at least on one
16 occasion, asked my father when he came on the Saturday
17 morning to have a word with me apparently.

18 So from that point of view, I don't understand -- at
19 that time I thought I was okay, but I don't know how
20 many times I tried to cross the threshold or wasn't
21 accepting of the regime, or -- I'm not making excuses
22 for my behaviour because I appreciate the fact that they
23 were the adults in this situation and I was the child.
24 But it does make me wonder that I don't think I accepted
25 the regime as easily, say, as my other siblings might

1 have, therefore I was probably exposed more to some of
2 the beatings or things that others maybe never had.

3 Q. But are you distinguishing between reasonable
4 chastisement and beatings in this context? You see
5 this as not simply punishment --

6 A. As I said, it was disproportionate. There was no
7 question about it when you looked at what it was you
8 were supposed to have done. But what I'm saying is that
9 there were certainly records in my records which said
10 that I was a troublemaker and that I wasn't the easiest
11 child.

12 Q. Although I think, if I've read the same records, things
13 improved over time?

14 A. They did, they did.

15 Q. They felt you were maybe more or less aggressive and,
16 for the most part, were mixing with children, playing
17 with them and perhaps settling down better?

18 A. That's probably true.

19 Q. I think you have probably seen the same records as
20 I have?

21 A. I think initially, if I think back on it, I struggled
22 with the whole adjustment period of going into care, as
23 I think maybe other children might as well, not just me.
24 I think I struggled with the whole concept of being
25 separated from my parents and being placed in an

- 1 environment which obviously didn't --
- 2 Q. Just in terms of -- that's Uncl [QBP] hat you've been
3 describing and how he might behave and that he would
4 from time to time give you a beating in the way you've
5 described. These beatings, would they tend to be
6 Uncle [QBP] and you upstairs on your own?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. In terms of Mrs [QAX] who you've also said -- you
9 seem to say she was also responsible for cruel
10 treatment. Can you just describe what you mean by that
11 in her case to clarify what you have in mind?
- 12 A. Yes. I mean, there was only one occasion I can remember
13 where she physically hit me. Most of the occasions with
14 Mrs [QAX] it was more emotional, psychological abuse.
15 It was more a cold treatment or humiliating or it was
16 very denigrating towards whatever the situation was in
17 front of other children. I can remember on several
18 occasions she really publicly humiliated me in the
19 canteen for things that maybe I'd done or things that
20 she had observed or not done my room or ... Again,
21 very --
- 22 Q. What would she say? Can you give us an example of the
23 sort of things she might say to you or did say to you?
- 24 A. My recollection of some of the things she would say is
25 I was a useless no-good, you'll never make anything of

1 your life, you're absolutely a total waste of space.
2 Very denigrating things that obviously at the time --
3 I suppose at the time I struggled to take any of that in
4 because the problem was I'd heard it so often from her
5 it really wasn't ... I just didn't listen to it any
6 more.

7 In many respects, I think probably at that time,
8 probably I was more aware of physical beatings than
9 I was of anyone who was shouting and bawling at me. It
10 didn't quite have the same impact, shall we say.

11 I'm not saying that didn't affect me later on in
12 life, it did, but at that time I think it didn't.

13 Q. Yes, at the time you probably focused more on the
14 beating types of --

15 A. It was almost like saving your other skin. As long as
16 it wasn't a beating, then it didn't seem quite as bad,
17 that was almost how you compared it at the time. It was
18 almost like managing Mrs QAX disciplinary regime
19 was somewhat easier for me than it was, for example,
20 than with Uncle QBP

21 Q. And I suppose the point you're making in relation to
22 what you call emotional or psychological abuse in the
23 form of humiliation, public humiliation, is that as
24 a child it didn't seem at the time to be as damaging as
25 the physical beatings, but in the longer term it's had

- 1 a significant effect?
- 2 A. Oh yes, it's had a huge impact. That's absolutely true.
- 3 Q. As an adult you've learned to -- or you see it
- 4 differently perhaps?
- 5 A. I think one of the things that I learned, having looked
- 6 at how I was treated in care, I went into the profession
- 7 of social work and I think one of the things I always
- 8 take with me is, when I am dealing with situations where
- 9 you're dealing with extremely vulnerable or sensitive
- 10 issues such as children's distress or children's
- 11 circumstances where they've been abused, I always think
- 12 back to when I was in care and I think that's how not to
- 13 do it, **LBL** that's how you don't do it. A very clear
- 14 message that you could almost learn sometimes from these
- 15 adverse situations. And that was one of the things that
- 16 always reminds me of this is how you don't do it. You
- 17 do it in a much more humane, obviously, and more
- 18 supportive way which will help children.
- 19 Q. I'm sure you wouldn't have wanted those experiences to
- 20 draw on, but you felt they've at least equipped you
- 21 better to understand it from the perspective of the
- 22 child --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- and also how to respond and deal with vulnerable
- 25 children?

1 A. Yes. I think the ability to empathise is obviously much
2 greater and deeper than it would have been if maybe
3 I hadn't had these experiences.

4 Q. I suppose you can see it from the child's perspective as
5 well as from the professional's perspective.

6 A. One would like to think so, that I probably have
7 a better idea of empowering children and allowing their
8 voices to be heard rather than seeing them for very
9 much -- which was a normal type relationship in the
10 1960s, which was children were seen but not heard.

11 Q. And I think you make the point at page 2542 that at the
12 time that you were in Overbridge, and perhaps no doubt
13 at the time you were in Nazareth House too, you say it
14 was very clear the system was designed to fit in with
15 the staff and their routine, it was not centred on the
16 child.

17 A. Absolutely. I take that point still. It was a very
18 clear -- the agenda was to ensure that children fitted
19 in with whatever was happening there. It was nothing to
20 do with looking at the needs of a child or what can be
21 done to support or help this child thrive or help them
22 through a very difficult situation in their lives so
23 that they'll return at a later stage under a -- maybe
24 more stronger and with more resilience. These things
25 were never, ever considered.

1 Q. You say actually in that paragraph that:

2 "There would be times when Uncle **QBP** and Auntie **QBO**
3 were house parents at Overbridge that you'd be sent
4 outside in freezing conditions. If you asked to get
5 back in, the response would be that you'd be hit over
6 the head."

7 A. Oh yes.

8 Q. Who did that?

9 A. That was **QBP** that did that, yes.

10 Q. And that you recall your feet being in pain --

11 A. Oh absolutely, the pain.

12 Q. -- from the cold?

13 A. Part of the problem was you might have the wrong shoes
14 on your feet were absolutely numb and you weren't
15 allowed back in because something was happening in the
16 house, whether it was a spring clean or something was
17 going on, nobody was allowed in, and so you'd be kept
18 for hours outside waiting.

19 Q. You mentioned earlier that, for the most part, the abuse
20 that you are speaking about in relation to Mrs **QAX**
21 time as your house parent was of an emotional,
22 psychological nature, and you've explained what you mean
23 by that. I think you said there was at least one
24 occasion where it took a different form.

25 A. That was the incident where I'd asked not to go to

1 church.

2 Q. I think you deal with that at page 2542 at paragraph 43.

3 Is this the occasion that you spoke about earlier?

4 A. Yes. I asked not to go to church and I said that

5 I couldn't stop my coughing. I was told I would go to

6 church. We were in the church pew sitting and of course

7 the minister was trying to speak and I was coughing, the

8 best way I can describe is coughing my guts up, it was

9 horrific at the time and I couldn't stop, it was

10 whooping cough, and I kept getting punched in the back

11 by Mrs QAX saying, "Stop it. Would you stop

12 coughing?" And obviously I could barely even speak, let

13 alone -- and it got so bad at one point that she

14 actually dragged me out of the church and she started

15 hitting me outside the church, complaining that I was --

16 "How could you cough in the house of God?" It was like

17 somehow I was supposed to be able to control it as

18 a child. That was the only time that I can remember her

19 physically assaulting me --

20 Q. You say she was hitting you outside and you tell us

21 in the statement that was on the face and body?

22 A. Yes. She'd lost it, she really had lost it.

23 Q. Can you describe how she hit on you that occasion?

24 A. Again, it was mainly on the back -- she was whacking me

25 on the back, but she was getting my head as well as

1 I was trying to duck. On occasion she would hit me on
2 the face.

3 Q. With her hand?

4 A. With her open hand.

5 Q. Not a closed hand?

6 A. No, no, it was an open hand.

7 Q. I think you said in church there was a punch.

8 A. That was a punch in the back. There were these punches
9 coming on the back.

10 Q. Repeatedly?

11 A. Repeatedly. Because of course she was an adult and she
12 was taller than me -- I was a child -- she was punching
13 me on the back like this (indicating) right into the
14 spine. I remember feeling it -- and, of course, it
15 actually made the coughing worse. It was just horrific.

16 Q. And outside she hit you, I think, repeatedly?

17 A. Repeatedly. She was so angry that I had disrupted the
18 service, despite the fact I had asked not to go because
19 I knew I just wasn't fit to go.

20 MR PEOPLES: I think that's probably a convenient point.

21 LADY SMITH: We're going to stop now for the morning break,
22 John.

23 A. Okay, thank you.

24 (11.28 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.45 am)

2 LADY SMITH: John, are you ready to continue?

3 A. Yes, fine, thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

5 MR PEOPLES: Can I ask you, John, to look at

6 WIT.001.001.2542, page 2542 of your written statement.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You've already told us, I think, when we were discussing

9 mealtimes about how you felt you were hungry all the

10 time and really didn't get enough food for your needs.

11 You also tell us at paragraph 44, under the heading

12 "Discipline", that there would be times when you'd be

13 sent to bed without dinner --

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. -- in addition to no doubt not getting what you maybe

16 thought was enough to eat.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. By whom was this used as a form of discipline? Was this

19 a particular house parent that would discipline you in

20 this way?

21 A. No, that was both. Indeed, it was also at

22 Nazareth House as well. It was quite endemic, wherever

23 I was. It seemed to be that if I was in trouble and

24 something was happening, on occasions -- it wasn't

25 regular, but on occasions I was deprived of my evening

1 meal.

2 Q. So this was a form of punishment that you experienced in
3 several care settings run by different providers?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. You also tell us another form of discipline, and you
6 give examples of when it might be imposed, would be
7 losing part of your pocket money.

8 A. Yes. That's right.

9 Q. When you talk about the example of when you broke
10 something or smashed a plate, do you mean accidentally?

11 A. Of course it was accidental.

12 Q. It wasn't a case of punishing you for a clear act of
13 smashing a plate?

14 A. There was no clear intent, let me put it that way. It
15 was more something that was -- you know, as a child you
16 move too quickly, it flicks off the table, it smashes
17 and I can remember Uncle **QBP** saying, "That's coming off
18 your pocket money". I don't know at the time whether
19 the true value of that plate was taken off, but there
20 was a deduction from your pocket money that, when you
21 went on a Saturday morning and everyone lined up to get
22 their pocket money, which we all did, he would then say,
23 "You broke a plate this week, so therefore you're
24 getting less". It was that kind of -- it was done that
25 way. I can't remember the calculations, how it was

1 done, but all I remember was it was noted and you
2 therefore got less pocket money because of that -- or on
3 occasions you never had pocket money --

4 Q. I think you say that, actually, do you not, in
5 paragraph 45, that you have a memory of at least one
6 occasion where you went without any pocket money and
7 therefore you couldn't buy some sweets?

8 A. Which meant that I was then dependent on my brothers and
9 my sister, who would usually give me a few sweets or
10 whatever if they had been over to the shop and got some
11 and then they would give me some and that's what ended
12 up happening.

13 Q. It might seem a small point now, but it clearly --

14 A. It was huge. I think there's a sense of injustice, you
15 know, that even then I feel it wasn't fair, I didn't
16 mean to break the plate or whatever. That was what you
17 were trying to say, it was an accident or whatever. It
18 was like: it's now damaged, therefore there wasn't going
19 to be any discussion about it, that's the way it
20 happened.

21 Q. You couldn't even explain, I'm sorry, I was a bit
22 clumsy, I didn't mean it, or anything like that?

23 A. No, there was no use in trying to justify your action.
24 It was more about: it's done, so therefore that's it.

25 Q. It's done and you get punished?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I'm not listening to any explanation; is that the
3 attitude that prevailed?

4 A. Well, in that particular context, if something was
5 damaged, there was a lot of hullabaloo, shall we say,
6 made about it at the time because property was seen to
7 be very important and children were having to be very
8 careful. It was part of the regime with Uncle **QBP** and
9 also with the **QAX/QCN** that you had to be extremely
10 careful with whatever you had.

11 I remember once, I think, wearing my Sunday best
12 clothes on a Saturday when my mother came to visit us,
13 and I was chastised heavily for that because that's your
14 Sunday clothes, you do not wear them on a Saturday.
15 I said I wanted to look smart for my mum because my
16 trousers were ripped, but I was told you have to go in
17 them.

18 That's a good example of where you didn't have any
19 say in what you could do or wear and it was very clear
20 that if you had damaged it or I had ripped my trousers,
21 then that was my problem.

22 Q. So there were no choices about clothing --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- and you wore Sunday clothes on Sunday?

25 A. Sunday for going to church, that was them, and they went

1 back into the wardrobe afterwards, and you never saw
2 them again until the following Sunday.

3 Q. To what extent were there clear and well understood
4 rules, if you like, whether written or unwritten,
5 in relation to this regime? Were there rules that
6 children simply understood existed and therefore --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- complied with?

9 A. Yes. I think there were some consistent rules like if
10 you broke something, damaged something, or if you missed
11 your chores or you didn't do them well enough. But
12 I think there were also very arbitrary ones, as well,
13 which is quite difficult for a child to get your head
14 round because if you don't have routines and consistency
15 for children then it makes it extremely difficult for
16 them to know how and where to apply -- you know, what
17 their behaviour might be.

18 Q. Can you give us an example of what you might describe as
19 an arbitrary rule rather than a fixed rule of the house,
20 as it were, that springs to mind?

21 A. I can remember on one occasion I was -- I had to, even
22 at primary school, return home on occasions for lunch
23 depending on whether the dinner money had been paid that
24 week or not, and I was told, "You have to come back to
25 today", and then you'd forget, you'd go to school and

1 you'd realise that you weren't supposed to be there,
2 you'd supposed to be back home, therefore you'd get
3 punished for that. I didn't know that. That would be
4 an example of where you'd forgotten something, therefore
5 you were then punished for that because you'd forgotten.

6 Q. You tell us that it was not dissimilar to arriving at
7 Overbridge when you left that you didn't have any clear
8 idea of where you were going and what was going to
9 happen next; is that correct?

10 A. Absolutely. As a child, you were -- the best way to
11 describe it is you're completely disempowered. There is
12 no discussion, there's no information where you're being
13 told what might be happening, and I think that would
14 have to go from when we arrived at Overbridge, when we
15 left Overbridge, to go to Nazareth House, and when we
16 returned from Nazareth House to our own family home. On
17 these three what I would consider major transitions of
18 your care arrangements being made, you were not in any
19 of these given any information about what was happening.

20 It was just, you know, you would then be told at the
21 very last minute you had to put your clothes in this bag
22 or something and you were taken downstairs and then
23 a van would turn up with a social worker or something,
24 and you would all get in this van. "Where are we
25 going?" "Don't worry, just wait." You'd be told just to

1 wait, wait, wait. And I'd ask my brothers, they
2 wouldn't know, my sister wouldn't know. You weren't
3 party to any of the information about what was actually
4 happening.

5 Considering, as I say, you went from a family home
6 to an institution, you weren't told anything. If
7 anything, the first night, as I mentioned, it was
8 just: go to bed and you were put in a strange bed.

9 Q. There was no preparation?

10 A. We didn't even know where we were. It could have been,
11 for all I knew, Ayr, it could have been Edinburgh.
12 I wouldn't have known where we were at that time. We
13 were just put in this place.

14 Q. Are you able to help -- and maybe you wouldn't know this
15 -- do you know to what extent people such as Uncle **QBP**
16 and Auntie **QBO** or indeed the **QAX/QCN** how much they
17 knew about your background? Did you ever sense that
18 they had an understanding of the circumstances --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- or the difficulties that you as a child had faced
21 before going into Overbridge?

22 A. I'm assuming that when we were admitted into Overbridge,
23 there would have been some background information given
24 to staff. I'm assuming that, I may be wrong, I just
25 don't know, on the basis of why we were going into care.

1 There would have to be some reasons recorded somewhere
2 you would think.

3 Q. I suppose wearing your other hat these days, you'd
4 probably tell me, and I'm sure it's well understood,
5 that in modern times if you like, in recent years, if
6 a child was making the transition, as you say, either
7 from home to a care setting or indeed from one care
8 setting to another, I take it that you're able to
9 confirm that there would be a great deal of preparatory
10 work done, a lot of information, a lot of discussion
11 with the child, a lot of explanation and so forth.
12 Would that be the case?

13 A. Yes, you're absolutely correct. I would echo that
14 sentiment, that a child would be at the centre of that
15 process and they would be involved, they would be asked
16 their opinion of what they thought about it, and also
17 they would be, how shall we say it, informed throughout
18 the whole transition period from before to when it
19 happened to support afterwards. It would all be done.
20 That would be as a matter of course.

21 Q. And as a matter of course these days -- and it may have
22 happened a little bit earlier than recent times -- there
23 would have come a point in social work practice at least
24 where children would be subject to regular reviews when
25 in care?

- 1 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 2 Q. And there would come a time, although it didn't come in
3 your time, when they would be participating in those
4 reviews to at least some extent -- maybe more so
5 currently than historically, but there did come a point,
6 I think you would confirm, where that became established
7 as part of the process or the system?
- 8 A. It's part of being in care, that every child is entitled
9 to progress and review reports about what's happening
10 and everyone who's interested or who has an interest
11 in that child would be invited to that review so they
12 could then have their say. And that would include
13 parents, if it was appropriate, significant others in
14 their lives, like grandmothers. All these people would
15 be informed and would be part of that process to ensure
16 that the child is supported in a way that's fundamental
17 to their needs as a person.
- 18 Q. And I suppose if that's a more child-centred approach
19 because, to an extent, it reflects a recognition that
20 children are individuals who have rights.
- 21 A. Absolutely.
- 22 Q. And that these rights have to be respected and
23 recognised and given effect to in practice?
- 24 A. Yes, you're absolutely right.
- 25 Q. Some of the things you've talked about there are ways of

1 respecting and recognising those rights?

2 A. Yes, you're absolutely right. One of the things -- I'm
3 not going to use it as an excuse, but in the 60s, when
4 I was in care, you literally had no rights. That was
5 part of the challenge at the time. And although it was
6 endemic throughout a lot of different institutions, not
7 just Quarriers at that time, you didn't appear to have
8 any rights and therefore your opinion, shall we say, or
9 what your needs were, went unrecognised and it was down
10 to the arbitrary decisions of whoever the house parent
11 was at the time to decide whether they thought you
12 needed that.

13 Q. Overbridge was obviously a distance away from
14 Quarrier's Village, which might be seen as the main
15 centre for William Quarriers, with a head office and
16 offices there. Are you aware -- and I know it's a long
17 time ago and you were quite young -- were you ever
18 conscious of anyone from Quarrier's Village or someone
19 in overall charge of the organisation coming to
20 Overbridge and talking to you or other children --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- or trying to establish how you were looked after?

23 A. No. What we were often told was that there was going to
24 be a fancy dress parade at the Bridge of Weir village
25 hall and we were to be part of that. So therefore you

1 then made clothes or dressed up and you went and you
2 were then part of the -- I suppose you could call it
3 Quarriers family. You were very clearly separated
4 because of the distance geographically, but at the same
5 time on occasions you were invited in where you were
6 involved in activities.

7 Q. Were these activities that were meant to be like open
8 days or for the public to see?

9 A. I'm not sure if it was open days for the public, but
10 certainly it was activities which were supposed to
11 involve you being together with other children. It was
12 quite fun things, I would say, at the time. It was
13 about helping children come together. But, as I say,
14 they were infrequent, they weren't very often, but we
15 did attend as a group of children and became involved
16 with these activities when they ever occurred.

17 Q. On page 2544, John, of your statement, at paragraph 52,
18 you deal with the issue of reporting of abuse and you
19 tell us that you didn't tell your parents or indeed
20 anyone else about the matters you have spoken of today
21 and what happened with Uncle **QBP** what happened with
22 Mrs **QAX** and so forth. Is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You never spoke of these things?

25 A. One of the challenges we had when we returned home, was

1 that I quickly picked up my parents had a deep sense of
2 embarrassment and shame that we were in care. And
3 I suspect that they knew that we had been exposed to
4 some form of abuse and I think they struggled with that
5 whole issue of knowing how to deal with disclosure at
6 that time. I don't think they knew. I think they were
7 afraid to open up something that may become a can of
8 worms.

9 They'd obviously heard bits on television about
10 other people saying things, whether it was Quarriers or
11 the Sisters of Nazareth. They had heard things and seen
12 things and I think they carried a great deal of shame
13 with them.

14 Q. The time that you're thinking of here is presumably some
15 time after you left Quarriers --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- and indeed after you left Nazareth House, that they
18 may have seen things and may have caused them to think
19 or feel in a certain way because you had been in care
20 with your brothers and sister?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But looking back, when you go to the time you left
23 Overbridge or the time you were in Overbridge, you
24 didn't mention these things to them or indeed other
25 people?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You didn't say, this is happening to me? So what I'm
3 trying to get at is, as the child then, who was between
4 6, 7, 8 in that time, are you able now to look back and
5 say, why was I not able to tell my parents or anyone
6 else that these things were happening to me? Can you
7 try and help us to understand from your perspective why
8 you couldn't say anything?
- 9 A. I think if I was to elaborate on it, probably the best
10 way to describe it was that I was just so relieved at
11 that time that we were returning home. Our parents had
12 managed to get a house, accommodation, and we were
13 actually returning back into a family, which is
14 something that -- even 18 months as a child is an
15 extremely long time and I was so grateful that we were
16 actually going back to live with our parents. The fact
17 that we never talked about anything was probably a lot
18 to do with the fact you just wanted to repress it. You
19 didn't want to discuss these nasty, negative things that
20 had happened to you and all you were keen to do was just
21 get on with your life.
- 22 Q. But when they were visiting you as well, when you were
23 in there, not the time you left or the time you
24 eventually went home after Nazareth House, but in the
25 time you were there and they were visiting, why did you

1 not feel able at that point to say to them, "Mum this,
2 is happening to me, I'm not happy, I'm getting this sort
3 of treatment. If I wet my bed, I'm being ..."

4 A. I think the worry would have been the repercussions you
5 might have got you were worried if you mentioned any of
6 these things and it got back to the house parents, what
7 the repercussions might have been -- and even as a child
8 you could feel that. I'm not saying there was anything
9 deliberate warnings from house parents to say, "Dont'
10 you mention what happened to you". There was nothing as
11 overt as that --

12 Q. In your case?

13 A. In my case. But what I think was you did feel it, that
14 you'd be worried that if something did happen, what
15 would Uncle **QBP** do? He might get really angry and it
16 might be worse, the beating or whatever. So I think
17 there was that innate sort of situation you were caught
18 up in where your parents were going to be dropping you
19 back off and you were going to be left in their care
20 again so you probably felt you'd better not say
21 anything.

22 Q. You didn't have any expectation that, having seen your
23 parents, you'd be able to stay with them and you'd have
24 to go back on these occasions? So you knew you were
25 going back?

1 A. Exactly. You knew it was a day out and you were going
2 back.

3 Q. Just more generally, Overbridge is in Glasgow. There's
4 Quarrier's Village and at the village there are various
5 people in overall charge of Quarrier's Village. If you
6 had wanted to or if you had thought, can I say
7 something, was there anyone that you felt you could have
8 even approached? Because you're not even in
9 Quarrier's Village, there isn't someone down the road in
10 an office. So did you ever think in those terms or did
11 you ever even think about saying, "I'll say something"?

12 A. It never occurred to you because there was no one you
13 could turn to. Whoever the house parent was at the
14 time, there was no external or third party independent
15 individual you could then turn to. There was no one.
16 There was never anyone I can remember who ever visited
17 or spoke to us, so therefore who would you be able to
18 turn to? Do you see what I mean? There was no facility
19 for turning to anyone else.

20 Q. And did anyone ever attempt to say to you, "John, if you
21 ever have a problem, even with your house parents, this
22 is what you should do, this is the person within
23 Quarriers that you should talk to?" or suggest there was
24 some other person you might confide in? Was that ever
25 said to you?

1 A. No. Never. You were in that closed group and that was
2 it. Despite the fact that we were aware we were part of
3 a bigger organisation, we were made aware that Quarriers
4 was in Bridge of Weir, we knew that, and we attended, as
5 I say, on occasions to be involved in activities. There
6 was never any indication that there was an individual
7 there or anywhere else that we could speak to if we were
8 having problems with what was ever happening at
9 Overbridge.

10 Q. Can I just touch upon life after care now -- and indeed
11 when I say "life after care", I mean you've been in
12 Quarriers and you've spent time in Nazareth House, and
13 then you eventually, I think, go home for a time.
14 I think you tell us, and indeed you've told us earlier,
15 that you left home when you were about 21. Is that
16 right?

17 A. Yes, about 22, something like that, 21, 22, yes.

18 Q. I think the situation with the parents had improved, had
19 it, by the time you got back to an extent?

20 A. Oh yes, yes, there was no question. My father had
21 recovered to an extent where he was working. My mother
22 was working. We weren't a family who were open in
23 discussing things, so therefore I think that also again
24 made it extremely difficult to discuss what happened in
25 care when we returned home. In many respects, I would

1 say, when I look back, we as children were probably
2 attempting to repress what happened and as adults the
3 fact that we were doing that, it was convenient for
4 everyone then not to say anything.

5 Q. And I think in your early 20s, if I understand, and this
6 is at page 2552, you worked as an unqualified
7 social worker and drugs counsellor for a time; is that
8 right?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. And then you did a course and became a qualified
11 social worker; is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And worked for a time as a general social worker in the
14 north of Scotland?

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 Q. Thereafter, during your adult life, you worked in
17 criminal justice social work for a time as well; is that
18 correct?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. And after living abroad for a while, you came back to
21 the UK in recent years and you currently work as an
22 approved mental health practitioner; is that right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Which you tell us is the equivalent in Scotland of
25 a mental health officer?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. Just in terms of the impact of your life in care, you
3 say at paragraph 92 -- and I just want to understand how
4 you put this matter:

5 "I don't think my time in care had a huge impact on
6 me as a child."

7 And I think maybe you tell us that:

8 "I have rationalised it more as an adult. I was
9 just grateful to be back with my family. I think
10 children learn to be resilient and learn to survive."

11 So for some children, that's simply the way to cope?

12 A. Yes. I think one of the main challenges we had back
13 then was that if you maybe had some sort of medium where
14 you could have discussed it and were encouraged to
15 discuss it, the chances are you may have then been able
16 to. But I still think these doors were still pretty
17 much closed in terms of the opportunity of speaking to
18 anyone about it. It was convenient for my parents,
19 I think, because of the guilt and embarrassment they
20 felt that they had placed us in care and that they
21 themselves didn't know how to cope or handle -- so
22 I think it was quite difficult -- on any occasion that
23 I can remember trying to mention it to my mother, for
24 example, she closed it down pretty quickly.

25 Q. During the time you were in Overbridge, and indeed

1 Nazareth House, and what I understand from the evidence
2 you've given, there really weren't those doors to go
3 into and talk to about things and confide, discuss, and
4 get support as necessary?

5 A. That's correct, yes.

6 Q. If these doors now exist -- and I think we understand
7 there obviously are more doors now and children get more
8 information about where they can turn if they have
9 problems or they're worried or they think behaviour is
10 inappropriate -- if all these things are in place and
11 you could put yourself back to being the 7-year-old
12 child, it might make a difference you know they exist.
13 But can I just ask you this: even if these things exist,
14 how do you encourage the fearful 7 or 8-year-old who
15 doesn't really know what the result of these processes
16 will be, how do you encourage them to speak and use
17 these processes? Are you able to give us any insight
18 because you were that child?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. They weren't there, but had they been there, would
21 you have used them? And, if so, how do you get children
22 to do that?

23 A. I think any child who's had an experience of being in
24 care, after they leave care, if there's an opportunity
25 to speak to someone -- and whether that comes from

1 someone else encouraging it or whether they decide
2 themselves they don't want to speak about it -- I think
3 you're very much led by the child at that stage. If the
4 child is willing and you give them the opportunity to
5 speak about it and they wish to speak about it then
6 you've opened that door. It may be that children are
7 not ready and they may decide at a later stage, but the
8 very fact that you give the opportunity and the
9 opportunity exists and the child knows that, it may be
10 that they will come at a later stage even if they don't
11 come immediately and use that facility. That was never
12 there when I was a child.

13 Q. But had it been there -- and you're trying to encourage
14 them at the earliest opportunity to speak up about
15 abusive experiences, I understand what you're saying,
16 but if you're trying to get them at the earliest time to
17 do that and feel confident and not be worried about the
18 repercussions, how do you achieve that? Can you give us
19 any insight into how that might be best achieved?

20 A. It has to be that every organisation has to devise
21 a system where it has to be able to allow that
22 opportunity to be available for children. It's just
23 that it wasn't available in these institutions then.
24 I'm not condoning it, I'm not saying it shouldn't have
25 been, but the very fact that they had a duty of care

1 towards children, to protect them, and they didn't do
2 that on many occasions -- not all occasions but on many
3 occasions -- therefore the only way you can do it is if
4 they themselves recognise that there needs to be
5 a system where staff, for example, are accountable and
6 staff are able to realise that children, if they need
7 to, can speak to someone else if they're not happy about
8 their situation.

9 These things were not available to us then --
10 obviously they could have been in place then and I don't
11 know if they were, but we never saw them, we never came
12 across them.

13 Q. I'm almost finished, but if I could move on to another
14 point you make. You say at page 2553 that the way
15 you've dealt with matters, you say, has been really to
16 deal with them on your own and you have not had formal
17 counselling. I think you've said that that's your way
18 of dealing with matters, although I'm sure you would be
19 an advocate of support services of an appropriate kind
20 for those who need --

21 A. Absolutely, yes.

22 Q. You also say, and I'm interested in this point you make.
23 After all you've been through and what you've told us
24 about today and indeed what your experiences were at
25 Nazareth House, you say that:

1 "Having been through all that I do not think that
2 the staff and nuns had any malicious intent. They had
3 power and they abused it because they were unable to
4 handle it."

5 Help me with why you look at things in that way.

6 A. I think it's like all situations. There is a fine line
7 between care and control. And I think what happens is
8 if you place responsibilities of care onto adults who
9 don't know how to handle that, it can quite often turn
10 and be abused and become control. Control can take many
11 forms, including as we know, psychological, emotional
12 and physical neglect. It can take many forms.

13 If you don't train people, if you don't train them
14 to know what they're dealing with and you hand them
15 a situation where they're responsible for other more
16 vulnerable young people and they're not trained, it's
17 inevitable that in some ways there will be a certain
18 percentage of these people who will end up exploiting
19 and misusing that power. That's what happened here: it
20 was misused.

21 If people had been trained properly in the first
22 place and if there had been accountability put in place
23 so that people knew that for every action they took they
24 were accountable to an organisation, surely then there
25 would probably -- probably -- have been a lot less

1 exploitation of children and abuse would not have
2 occurred.

3 Q. I suppose at least one clear benefit of training and
4 oversight and instruction and guidance is that you're
5 trying to allow people to handle situations which are
6 difficult to deal with at times without, as we've put it
7 earlier, losing the plot or losing it or getting angry
8 and reacting in some of the ways you've described to us
9 today.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is that part of what training brings and what oversight,
12 supervision, guidance, leadership and --

13 A. It's a number of things. It's not just training.
14 Training on its own won't solve or won't improve
15 situations. It's a contributory factor, but it's
16 also -- you've got to get the right people.

17 Q. That was the other thing I was going to say. I think
18 you make that point at paragraph 98 on page 2553. You
19 say that:

20 "None of the adults [you] met in care were suited
21 for the job."

22 A. I didn't feel that they were. In retrospect, looking
23 back on it, I felt some people were put in positions
24 where -- and I'm not condoning their behaviour, by the
25 way, as they are adults and they had capacity and they

1 knew what they were doing. What they should have done
2 was at least said to someone, "I'm not suitable for this
3 job", but I think, like all these situations, a lot of
4 people maybe don't know how to do it or decide to get on
5 with the job rather than realise they're ill-suited for
6 that particular task in life.

7 Q. You may or may not be able to help us with this, but if
8 it comes down to not simply qualifications, training and
9 all the other things that might happen in modern times,
10 but it still comes down to how you have to select the
11 right people who are suitable to care for vulnerable
12 children in a care setting. Can you help us as to how
13 one can find those people and assess whether people who
14 apply for care jobs in settings such as the ones that
15 you were in -- how you assess their suitability and
16 ability to handle situations in an appropriate way? Are
17 you able to or is it something that is a difficult
18 issue?

19 A. I struggle with the -- in the current climate, I don't
20 want to start getting political because I realise it's
21 quite difficult not to. It's the old adage: if you pay
22 peanuts, you end up with a certain type of person who's
23 doing a caring role. That's no disrespect to the
24 millions of carers who are doing this job throughout the
25 world, but if you want people who are appropriate to

1 deal with highly complex situations where you're dealing
2 with children who are in a distressed state or have been
3 taken into care or who need -- whose behaviour is of
4 such a challenge that they need the proper support, not
5 only do you need to train the right people -- and that
6 in itself, you know, there'll always be a certain amount
7 of people who get through who are not the right people,
8 but you need to make sure that you vet and make sure
9 these people are motivated and highly skilled at being
10 able to deal with situations, but you also have to
11 resource it properly and that means paying people the
12 proper amount of money to reflect the highly complex
13 situations that they're responsible for.

14 I see it all the time in many situations in my own
15 career that many, many people left dealing with
16 vulnerable adults or children are really not qualified
17 or in a position to do it, but it's partly because of
18 resources. And that's a sad indictment on our society
19 today that don't see the care of vulnerable children,
20 adults, elderly people, resourcing or investing in it
21 with the proper people as the way forward. It's almost
22 become an afterthought now where the caring profession
23 has almost taken a downward spiral where we're so busy
24 at looking at business models at how we can run things
25 and making sure we're in budgets and have lost sight of

1 the fact that we are dealing with highly complex
2 individuals who have been damaged and who need support
3 that probably goes beyond the remit of what these
4 organisations can offer at that time.

5 Q. Can I lastly turn, because I know you maybe want to say
6 something at the end, but before you do so, can I just
7 ask you to perhaps respond to -- I've already mentioned
8 that Mrs QAX has provided the inquiry with
9 a statement and I think that I just wish to put a few
10 matters from that to you for your response or comment.

11 We've already touched upon when she arrived at
12 Overbridge and I don't think we need to go back to that.

13 In relation to you, John, she says in her statement
14 that she has no clear recollection of you, but she does
15 say that your name rings a bell. So I think at least
16 that much she can recall. She's quite elderly now,
17 I may say. She says there are a lot of children that
18 passed through her care over the years and therefore
19 it's difficult to recall specific children.

20 Can I just say in relation to what you've told us
21 today, what she has said is:

22 "I cannot help in relation to the allegation which
23 he is making. I am not able to express a view as to
24 what they were like. I did not sanction or punish
25 them."

1 I think this is a general point she's making about
2 how she treated children:

3 "If there was misbehaviour on the part of a child,
4 the regime involved punishing by denying privileges.
5 For example, they would be sent to bed early and denied
6 the opportunity of watching telly or they would not be
7 allowed to go to swimming practice on a Tuesday. Once
8 per month an individual came with a cinema. If they had
9 misbehaved they would not be allowed to watch the film."

10 Then she completes this response to some of the
11 things that she has been made aware of:

12 "They were not physically chastised."

13 So what do you say to that?

14 A. We obviously have to agree to disagree on that statement
15 at the end there, don't we?

16 Q. Were you physically chastised by Mrs QAX ?

17 A. As I said, with Mrs QAX I can recollect on one
18 occasion. That was the occasion, the incident in the
19 church. She did physically chastise me. But she's
20 right about the denial of privileges. I would
21 certainly --

22 Q. She did do that, that was one of her methods of
23 punishing children?

24 A. Yes. But there was also a very -- denying of
25 privileges, public humiliation, denigrating people in

1 front of other people. Yes, there were certain ways you
2 could argue that if you don't do physical punishment,
3 there are many other ways that people can be punished.
4 It doesn't just involve denying privileges shall we say.

5 Q. In relation to her relationship with children and the
6 suggestion that she lacked warmth and failed to give
7 appropriate affection, she says this and I just put it
8 to you:

9 "The statement [and I think this is what you have
10 said in your written evidence] criticised the warmth or
11 connection we [that's, I think, the QAX/QCN had with
12 the children. I don't know how to answer that. I did
13 my very best."

14 How would you respond to that?

15 A. I certainly don't think -- I think you invest as much
16 energy in trying to be cold-hearted and dealing with
17 people as you can if you wish to be supportive and
18 helpful. I don't necessarily agree: that's a choice
19 people make.

20 Q. Do you think she could have done a lot more?

21 A. I think she could have done a lot more absolutely.
22 I don't think there's any issue. I think if you're
23 caring for people and you know it's your job, despite
24 the fact that you have many people to deal with, many
25 children with different needs, that's a choice you make,

1 that's not something that was beyond her control.

2 Q. And are you quite clear that in the time that you were
3 with her that you don't consider you got warmth and
4 affection of the kind --

5 A. Yes, there was absolutely none. I'm not going to say it
6 was black and white, it was 100%, but I can't recollect
7 any occasion where I felt I was given support or warmth
8 or affection that I would remember.

9 And the thing is you remember these moments. When
10 I was in Girvan and the staff treated me totally
11 different, you remember these moments when you get it
12 because you're starved of it.

13 Q. Indeed you said in relation to Uncle **QBP** and
14 Auntie **QBO** that although bad things happened, you say
15 there were moments when perhaps they were perhaps warmer
16 towards you?

17 A. Absolutely, you're right about that.

18 Q. I just want to check that is the situation. So you can
19 contrast them with Mrs **QAX**?

20 A. Easily, you could. There were certainly more warmth
21 from them. It's a bit like you said earlier and I said
22 in my earlier statement, there were some people you felt
23 weren't really qualified or suitable for the job.

24 Q. And would Mrs **QAX** fall into that category in your
25 opinion?

1 A. In my opinion, in terms of caring for children, I would
2 have said that she fitted that category, yes.

3 MR PEOPLES: John, I think these are all the questions that
4 I have.

5 My Lady, I understand that before John finishes he
6 would like to make a short statement. Perhaps this is
7 an appropriate time.

8 LADY SMITH: Certainly. Is that right, John?

9 A. If you don't mind.

10 LADY SMITH: Please go ahead.

11 A. Ever since I left Quarriers Overbridge home in [REDACTED] 1967
12 and transferred to Nazareth House in Aberdeen, I have
13 always struggled with many of the horrific experiences
14 I was exposed to by the Quarriers staff.

15 At the time I felt such relief when leaving, despite
16 the fact I was disempowered and not knowing what was
17 happening or what our next encounter would be. When
18 I eventually was reunited with my family after care,
19 I repressed many of the memories and experiences of my
20 life in care. Back home, no one asked me about what had
21 happened to me and therefore it was convenient to avoid
22 any reflection or recollections of my ill-treatment in
23 care and the incidence of abuse.

24 As best I could, along with my other siblings, we
25 created a better childhood for ourselves -- fortunately

1 with the support of our parents and family. As I grew
2 older, I began to realise that the reason no one in the
3 family spoke of our time in care was because my parents
4 were deeply embarrassed and, I suspect, fearful we may
5 have been abused and they did not know how to cope with
6 or handle such overwhelming disclosure.

7 They felt a deep sense of shame and guilt, even from
8 a young age. I always knew deep down that my parents
9 loved me and that they always did their best to care for
10 me and my siblings. That they carried this heavy burden
11 of regret and embarrassment and guilt throughout their
12 lives at what had happened to all of us in care should
13 not have been theirs to shoulder, but the very people
14 and organisations who had a duty of care to protect us.

15 In March 2018, 51 years after leaving Quarriers as
16 a 7-year-old child, I returned to Quarrier's Village in
17 Bridge of Weir with my wife and younger brother, who was
18 also an ex-child in care, expecting to be able to look
19 at archive material to see if any written material,
20 documents or photos were available that may have been
21 captured during our stay or when we visited.

22 Unfortunately, Quarriers were unable to assist us due to
23 reasons of confidentiality and sensitivity around data
24 protection. There was no recourse.

25 This only became clear when we arrived at Quarriers.

1 To say I was disappointed was an understatement.
2 However, I acknowledge even in my job that sharing any
3 information on any ex-children in care has to be done
4 lawfully and in a meticulous manner that does not breach
5 other people's confidentiality or their rights and is
6 executed according to the procedures and protocols that
7 Quarriers were attempting to do.

8 However, they did say that they were actively
9 attempting to catalogue all archive material, which they
10 hoped at a later date may be accessible to all children
11 who were in their care.

12 However, during a cup of tea with members of the
13 safeguarding team at Quarriers I was taken aback by
14 a comment shared with me and my brother. They stated
15 that children of Quarriers in the past, when we were
16 there, had received one or even sometimes two holidays
17 a year when in care and that they, meaning the
18 safeguarding staff, when they were children, had never
19 received a holiday. How fortunate were these children
20 to have been given holidays and they also had a small
21 lake in front of their cottages to enjoy and how they
22 never had that as children.

23 I was shocked, to say the least, as was my brother,
24 who was also in care. We departed feeling upset that
25 anyone could dare to compare children in care with

1 having a holiday as somehow more fortunate than any
2 other children growing up in ordinary family
3 circumstances.

4 This brief discussion with Quarriers staff has
5 demonstrated to me that in dealing with ex-children in
6 care, they had systemically failed to grasp the essence
7 of what the impact of being in care means or the
8 negative consequences it can have on any child in care
9 or their respective families.

10 As I say, this was my first encounter with Quarriers
11 staff since leaving 51 years earlier and I can only say
12 that I was struggling to comprehend the lack of insight
13 and empathy shown to both my brother and me by the
14 current staff from the safeguarding team.

15 It would have been helpful if Quarriers staff had
16 made it clear from the outset when I made my initial
17 enquiries that access to material, including photographs
18 was not possible. It might have saved me a journey
19 coming from England to Scotland and left me feeling
20 deflated and disappointed. This is especially relevant
21 for all care leavers who might make similar enquiries in
22 the future. I feel Quarriers even now in 2018 may have
23 to address such shortcomings if they want their staff to
24 meet acceptable standards of ethics, values and
25 competency expected when supporting ex-children in care.

1 Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, for
2 the second time, to thank the inquiry, support staff and
3 the inquiry for allowing me the space and time to share
4 my experiences as an ex-child in care at Quarriers. My
5 siblings and I spent 18 months in care at Quarriers
6 where I experienced much harrowing physical and
7 emotional abuse as well as my siblings. These
8 experiences have had a deep and lasting impact upon me
9 as a child growing up, as an adult, as a father and as
10 a social worker.

11 I consider myself to be extremely fortunate to have
12 survived and used many of these experiences in a small
13 way to empathise and support others. Whatever our
14 purpose in life turns out to be as humans, we have an
15 in-built ability to forgive others who may wrong us.
16 However, I also feel we have a duty to seek redress and
17 justice where appropriate.

18 I would like to pay tribute, finally, to all the
19 children past and present in Quarriers and care settings
20 throughout Scotland who have suffered and endured a wide
21 range of harrowing experiences that should never ever
22 have been allowed to happen and it is with optimism and
23 hope that I implore this inquiry to learn from the many
24 cruel and harrowing lessons shared by all witnesses and
25 also the many who went unheard, that all children in

1 care who are being looked after at present and in the
2 future will be safeguarded and have their voices heard
3 and be treated with the sensitivity, dignity and respect
4 that all of us would hope to receive if they were in
5 these children's shoes.

6 Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed, John.

8 Finally, are there any outstanding applications for
9 questions? No.

10 Thank you, John, for engaging with the inquiry as
11 you have done in providing the statement that's so
12 helpful about your own experiences and the evidence that
13 you've offered about your thoughts as an adult with your
14 skills and training reflecting on what happened to you
15 and other children you came across in care. This is of
16 great assistance to me, I'm very grateful to you, and
17 I'm now able to let you go. Thank you.

18 A. Thank you very much.

19 (The witness withdrew)

20 MR PEOPLES: I wonder if we could have a short break just to
21 prepare for the next witness. I'd like to make a little
22 progress before lunch.

23 LADY SMITH: We can certainly do that.

24 Before I rise, the usual reminder: this witness has
25 not waived anonymity, although his own first name was

1 used on a couple of occasions, but his pseudonym is John
2 and that's the only name that can be used about him
3 outside the hearing room.

4 In the course of his evidence, he mentioned two
5 house parents, Uncle **QBP** and Mrs **QAX** and in case
6 you hadn't realised it, they are covered by my general
7 restriction order, so their names cannot be used outside
8 the hearing room. Thank you.

9 (12.35 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (12.42 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr Peoples.

13 MR PEOPLES: Thank you for the short adjournment. The next
14 witness to give oral evidence wishes to remain anonymous
15 and she has chosen the pseudonym "Anne".

16 "ANNE" (sworn)

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

18 You'll have noticed the sound of the microphone
19 coming on there, Anne. It's really important that you
20 use the microphone so that we can all hear you and the
21 stenographers can hear you through their sound system.
22 I'll hand over to Mr Peoples and he will explain what
23 happens next.

24 Questions from MR PEOPLES

25 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Anne.

1 A. Good afternoon.

2 Q. In front of you, in the red folder, there is a copy of
3 the signed statement that you provided to the inquiry.
4 In front of you there's a screen and when I get round to
5 asking some questions, which I will do shortly, your
6 statement will appear on the screen. You can use the
7 screen but by all means use the red folder if it's
8 easier for you.

9 Can I begin, for the benefit of the transcript, by
10 giving the identification number that we use for your
11 statement, which is WIT.001. 001.3361. You don't need
12 to worry too much about that, it's just to give us
13 a point of reference.

14 Can I just start by asking you to turn to the red
15 folder and turn to the final page of your statement at
16 page 3387.

17 A. Sorry, what was that number?

18 Q. It's on the top right-hand corner. 3387 is the number
19 of the page. It should be the final page in the folder,
20 hopefully. Can I just ask you: can you confirm that
21 you've signed your statement on that page?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can I also confirm you have no objection to your witness
24 statement being published as part of the evidence to
25 this inquiry and that you believe the facts stated in

1 your witness statement are true?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I go back to the first page of your statement, if
4 I may, and begin by asking you to confirm the year of
5 your birth. Can you confirm that you were born in the
6 year 1960?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In your statement, you deal with a number of -- you were
9 in a number of care settings, and of course you'll
10 appreciate that this case study is concerned with your
11 period of care in Quarriers. Before I ask you about
12 that period, using your statement, and what you tell us
13 there, can I just get a little bit of information about
14 life before going into care. I'm not going to go
15 through all of the detail, but I think it's useful to
16 get a little context to what I'm going to ask today.

17 You tell us, I think, that you're one of quite
18 a large family; is that correct?

19 A. One of nine.

20 Q. And I think that you have an older brother and two older
21 sisters; is that right? I think it's paragraph 2 where
22 you tell us that if you want to check your statement so
23 I'm getting this right. You have an older brother and
24 two older sisters; is that right?

25 A. Yes. No, sorry. An older brother ... Yes, sorry,

1 I have two older sisters.

2 Q. There's not a lot of difference in age between you;
3 is that right?

4 A. A year.

5 Q. You tell us -- is it easier if I just call them by name?
6 We can do that if it's going to make life easier for
7 you.

8 LADY SMITH: Does that make it easier for you?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: They won't be disclosed outside this room if
11 you're more comfortable with that.

12 A. Okay.

13 MR PEOPLES: If I can say that the oldest sister is
14 [REDACTED]

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And she is 3 years older than you are. She'd be born in
17 1957?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then the next oldest is your brother [REDACTED] who
20 was born in 1958?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then we come to your other older sister, who's known
23 as [REDACTED] I think, who was born in 1959?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And then you were born in 1960?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Then you tell us that you have three younger siblings,
3 one of whom is [REDACTED] who was born in 1964.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You also have a younger sister, [REDACTED] who was born in
6 1965. And [REDACTED] is four years younger than you and
7 [REDACTED] is five years younger.

8 I'll come to the twin brothers in a moment, but the
9 youngest you mention by name in your statement is [REDACTED]
10 You tell us that [REDACTED] is, I think, your stepsister;
11 is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Your mother had remarried when she had [REDACTED] is that
14 right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think you also have twin brothers that were brought up
17 by your maternal grandmother?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you tell us that the twins are four years older than
20 you, so they were born in 1956?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You tell us a little bit about family life and that both
23 your mum and dad were working. But I think you tell us
24 a little bit about your father at paragraph 5, where you
25 say:

1 "Life wasn't great when he was around and that was
2 partly due to the fact that he was quite a heavy
3 drinker."

4 And you tell us he would beat your mum up from time
5 to time.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Indeed, that was something that you witnessed, I think,
8 on occasions. Indeed, you tell us, because I'll come to
9 some dates because I think -- I'll come back to the
10 precise dates. I think you were 10 years old when you
11 went to Quarriers.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But I think you tell us at paragraph 6 on page 3362 that
14 you were about 4 years old when you first went into
15 care; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that the first children's home you went to was in
18 Rhu near Helensburgh, I think, and that you spent
19 some time there --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- against the background that we've been talking about.
22 And you went there, I think, with some of your siblings,
23 the older siblings, [REDACTED] is that
24 right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In your statement, and we can read this for ourselves,
2 you tell us a bit about life in the children's home in
3 Rhu. It's Ardgair Children's Home, and how life was for
4 you and your siblings.

5 Then you tell us, I think, that there came a point
6 where you got back home again; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And I think you take that matter up at page 3364 of your
9 statement, if you want to turn to that and refresh your
10 memory. I think basically, you make the point again
11 that life was fine at home as long as your dad wasn't
12 around.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But when he was around, there were problems?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I think indeed it wasn't just your mother he abused.
17 I think you describe certain abuse that he committed
18 in relation to you; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. On page 3365, I think you tell us that, when you were
21 about 8 years of age, your mum and dad split up and in
22 fact your mum met somebody who became your stepfather;
23 is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You then tell us, I think, there was an occasion when

1 your father came back to the house you were living in
2 and I think basically there was an incident then and
3 your mum had to leave the house, is that right --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- because of the way your dad was behaving; is that
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Indeed, such was the incident I think that your mum left
9 the house at that stage and headed to south of the
10 border; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The upshot of that, and we can read it for ourselves,
13 basically what happened as a result of that is that your
14 father also left at that point and went away again.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And, through a social worker, you, your sister [REDACTED] and
17 your younger sister [REDACTED] were taken to Whinwell
18 Children's Home in Stirling; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And some of your siblings, your brothers, were taken to
21 a home in Cardross; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. [REDACTED]

24

25

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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3 A.

4 Q.

5 A.

6 Q.

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9 A.

10 Q.

11 A.

12 Q.

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14

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16 A.

17 Q.

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20 LADY SMITH: Anne, if at any time you want a break, we can

21 do that. We could stop now for the lunch break if you

22 would prefer us to do that because it's just a few

23 minutes from the lunch break anyway.

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. We'll stop now and sit again at

1 2 o'clock.

2 (12.57 pm)

3 (The lunch adjournment)

4 (2.00 pm)

5 LADY SMITH: Do you feel ready to carry on just now, Anne?

6 A. Yes, thanks.

7 LADY SMITH: As I said before, any time you need a break,
8 just tell me, will you?

9 A. All right.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

11 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Anne.

12 A. Good afternoon.

13 Q. We were looking at your childhood before you got to
14 Quarriers, and as I said, our focus is on Quarriers
15 today. I'm not going to go into what you've told us
16 about the Whinwell home other than to say that I think
17 you moved from Whinwell to Quarriers and we'll take some
18 dates in a moment, but I think you were admitted to
19 Quarriers, according to their records, on

20 [REDACTED] 1971 --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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A.

Q.

A.

Q.

So far as Quarriers is concerned, I think all I need to confirm, just to give us some dates to work with, is that, as I've said, you were admitted, according to the records, and I think this accords with your own general recollection, on [REDACTED] 1971 when you were 10 years of age.

A. Yes.

Q. The records disclose that you were discharged from the care of Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1975 when you were 14 years of age.

A. Yes.

Q. You'll come on to tell us a little bit about this, but what I think is clear from the records that we've been shown is that you were in a number of cottages when you

1 were in Quarriers over a four-year period, basically.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. We'll discuss those in a moment.

4 You tell us in your statement at paragraph 3372, at

5 paragraph 61, that in some ways this was a happy time

6 for you because you were reunited with some of your

7 brothers and sisters; is that right?

8 A. All my brothers and sisters.

9 Q. So how many of you were there --

10 A. The ones that were in care, yes. There was ...

11 Q. Was [REDACTED] there?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And [REDACTED]?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. [REDACTED]?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Not [REDACTED]. So she wasn't there, okay. What about

18 the younger ones? Were any of them there at that stage?

19 A. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

20 Q. Is that five of you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You tell us a bit about some of the cottages you were in

23 during that stay in Quarriers and the first cottage that

24 you tell us about is in paragraph 63, where I think you

25 began in cottage 5 with a couple called the Durrants;

1 is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And their names are Uncle Bob and Auntie Gina?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. As you say, I think, you tell us that they were great
6 house parents and you were happy there.

7 A. Very happy, yes.

8 Q. But you didn't have a long time in their company because
9 they were retiring?

10 A. Yes, they were.

11 Q. And they indeed did retire shortly after you arrived at
12 Quarriers; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Just in terms of -- because it's something that we've
15 asked questions about in this inquiry because it's
16 a matter of interest to us, is how any problem with
17 bed-wetting was dealt with. I think you tell us that in
18 cottage 5, at paragraph 64, that you did have problems
19 from time to time with bed-wetting but that that wasn't
20 an issue in that cottage. Is that right?

21 A. Yes, that's true.

22 Q. And your bed was simply changed?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At page 3373, paragraph 66, you tell us something about
25 the meals, and again you are complimentary, I think,

- 1 that they were good means [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You also tell us, because again this is a matter of
5 interest to us, that it wasn't a problem in cottage 5 if
6 you didn't want your meal or couldn't finish it. What
7 happened on those occasions? If you couldn't finish
8 something and you didn't want it, was it just --
- 9 A. It was fine, yes.
- 10 Q. Did you get something else if you couldn't --
- 11 A. If we didn't like -- yes, we did, yes.
- 12 Q. So you wouldn't go hungry because you --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. You tell us in paragraph 69 that Mr and Mrs Durrant
15 retired approximately a year after you got there. One
16 consequence of that was, I think in paragraph 70, you
17 tell us, that that involved a degree of separation from
18 some of your siblings; is that right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. You tell us that you and [REDACTED] your older sister, were
21 placed in cottage 6?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. [REDACTED] your older brother, went to cottage 3, and your
24 younger brother and sister, [REDACTED] went to
25 cottage 15?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But you say that you still had an opportunity to see
3 them at school and play with them -- is it every other
4 day you say?
- 5 A. Every day.
- 6 Q. Sorry, every day. So although there was a separation in
7 terms of where you stayed, you were still able to see
8 them?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. What you do tell us at paragraph 71 is that you didn't
11 actually get any explanation why you couldn't all stay
12 together in one cottage. Was that never really
13 explained to you why that wasn't possible?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Cottage 6 was the -- the house parents were Jan and
16 Alexander Wilson when you went to cottage 6; is that
17 right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You tell us a bit about cottage 6. As you say, and
20 I think you just say at paragraph 72 on page 3374,
21 cottage 6 was great at first.
- 22 A. Yes, it was.
- 23 Q. I think you tell us, and I won't just ask you about her
24 just now, Auntie Jan, as you called her, that you felt
25 she was a good house mother to you?

- 1 A. She was brilliant.
- 2 Q. And indeed, you say she was like a mother to you. So
3 you had no concerns that you weren't treated as a child
4 would be treated by their own mother?
- 5 A. We weren't treated any different to her son.
- 6 Q. So she had a son of her own?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I suppose when you went there, you'd be aged 11, 12?
- 9 A. 11.
- 10 Q. What age was her son, do you remember, roughly?
- 11 A. 2 or 3.
- 12 Q. So he was a young child?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. But in terms of the treatment of the children in the
15 house, Aunt Jan didn't make any distinction between her
16 own son and the other children?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Would there be children younger than you in cottage 6?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. I know you'd be maybe 11, but would there be children
21 between her son's age and your age?
- 22 A. About 5, the younger ones were about 5.
- 23 Q. So 5 would be about the youngest one other than her own
24 son?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did he eat with you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did Jan eat with you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So it was just like a family situation --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- where you all ate together?

8 You say:

9 "She was very, very motherly and a lovely warm

10 person."

11 Do I take it from that evidence that she gave you

12 appropriate affection and warmth when you required it

13 and when you needed some sort of comfort?

14 A. Yes, she did.

15 Q. Was she any different in that respect from, for example,

16 Mrs Durrant, who I think was a bit older, I would

17 assume, because she was on the point of retirement?

18 Were they similar in terms of how they related to

19 children? Did the age difference make any difference?

20 A. No. Aunt Jan was -- I can't say she was more motherly

21 than Aunt Gina, but Aunt Jan had had miscarriages --

22 Q. Right.

23 A. -- so she was very affectionate to the children.

24 Q. I don't know if I asked you this. Did the Durrants --

25 you said in paragraph 63 they had a son; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was he a bit older?

3 A. Yes, he was.

4 Q. I'll come to the house father in a moment, if I may.

5 I think you've indicated that you don't really like to

6 refer to him at all, do you, by name?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. We'll find out why in a moment.

9 Just going back to cottage 6, if I could at this

10 moment then, at paragraph 74 you tell us that the

11 house parents had their own sitting room in cottage 6.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Just one thing I'm interested in that you told us there,

14 that you say they did the reports in there. Were you

15 aware that they were writing some -- one or other was

16 writing a report, was that about the children, or do you

17 know?

18 A. Not until I left Quarriers.

19 Q. Okay. You became aware that they were writing reports?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is that because of something you'd seen in your records?

22 A. Yes, I got my records.

23 Q. So it was apparent from the records that, at least

24 at the stage that you were staying in cottage 6, that

25 there were records which showed reports being made by

1 the house parents?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You tell us, as far as adults in the household were
4 concerned, that the house father at that time was
5 working in the laundry, is that right --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and wasn't around a lot of the time because he was at
8 work; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did he have to work at the laundry simply during the day
11 or did he have evening work or weekend work? Can you
12 recall whether he was around in the evenings and
13 weekends?

14 A. He was around in the evenings and the weekends, yes.

15 Q. You say there was a cottage auntie and a cleaner in
16 cottage 6.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. One of the cottage aunties, you can remember her first
19 name; is that [REDACTED]?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was that [REDACTED]? Does that ring
22 a bell?

23 A. There was two Aunt [REDACTED].

24 Q. I see. Well, you were there maybe around 1971/1972. If
25 I say that [REDACTED] was around 19 or

1 20 at that time, would that be the [REDACTED] you had in
2 mind?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You only knew her as [REDACTED]?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you said she was 16, but I'm suggesting that the
7 [REDACTED] I mentioned might have been born in around 1952.
8 You think she was younger than that? Do you remember,
9 for example, if I mention another name, it may not mean
10 anything to you, [REDACTED]?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you remember her?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. She was born in 1954, so she was a bit younger than
15 [REDACTED]. Was she there when you were there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was she a sort of cottage assistant --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- in cottage 6?

20 A. Yes.

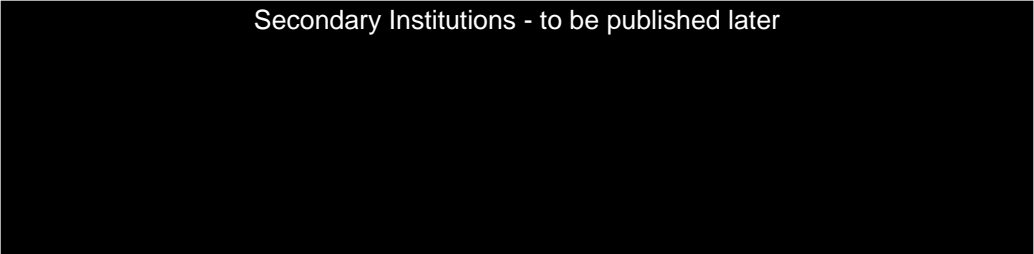
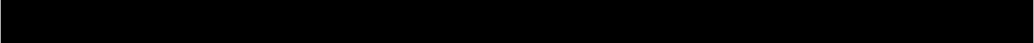
21 Q. And [REDACTED] was too?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But you say, I think, you tell us -- and just so I'm
24 clear, did you call them Auntie [REDACTED] or just [REDACTED]?

25 A. No, auntie.

- 1 Q. The aunties, [REDACTED] did they stay in
2 cottage 6 generally or did they have somewhere else?
- 3 A. No, they stayed in cottage 1.
- 4 Q. Was that a sort of staff quarters?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You tell us, I think, that cottage 6, in your time, was
7 a mixed cottage with boys and girls.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And I think you've told me that they maybe ranged from 5
10 upwards to -- what was the oldest you can remember?
- 11 A. 15 or 16.
- 12 Q. In terms of your time in cottage 6, we know you were in
13 Quarriers for around four years, just short of four
14 years. I think by my calculations, based on the
15 records, you spent perhaps in all over three years in
16 cottage 6. Was that with the same house parents?
17 I think you were there twice, were you not, in
18 cottage 6? Do you remember that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Who were the house parents the first time?
- 21 A. The Wilsons.
- 22 Q. And who were the house parents the second time?
- 23 A. The McBays.
- 24 Q. So would I be right in thinking that the Wilsons were
25 your house parents for maybe around about a year --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- and then they left? Then am I right in thinking the
3 McBays came in and took over?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. At page 3375 of your statement, at paragraph 77, you
6 gave us some information about the routine in cottage 6
7 and we can read that for ourselves, but I think you
8 summarise it, that the routine so far as you remember,
9 was very relaxed, just as it had been in cottage 5.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Indeed, in relation to wetting the bed, then you say
12 again it was not a big deal in cottage 6 --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- and Aunt Jan would just change the bed?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Just on that matter, you tell us at paragraph 80
17 something that you did when you wet your bed for the
18 first time in one of the cottages. You tell us what you
19 actually did. Just tell us about that.
- 20 A. I just made my bed as normal to hide the fact that I'd
21 wet the bed.
- 22 Q.  Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 23
- 24
- 25 A. 

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

- 1 Q. [REDACTED]
- 2 A. [REDACTED]
- 3 Q. But you say that there was an occasion, I think you
4 recall, when Aunt Jan came home and discovered that your
5 bed was wet that you'd made.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Just describe for us what her response was.
- 8 A. She just said I should tell her in the morning when we
9 got up if I'd wet the bed and not to make the bed and
10 that everything would be sorted.
- 11 Q. I think you tell us that effectively you got reassurance
12 that you mustn't feel --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- you can't tell them?
- 15 A. That's right, yes.
- 16 Q. And that it wasn't a problem and it wasn't something
17 that you should worry about. Is that both cottage
18 parents, Mrs Durrant, Auntie Gina and Aunt Jan both said
19 these things to you?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And I think as was the case in cottage 5, if we go to
22 the next page of your statement at 3376, you tell us
23 that the food was very good in cottage 6 also; is that
24 right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And that I think Aunt Jan was a good cook.
- 2 A. She was very good.
- 3 Q. On that page -- and this is where I go back to something
4 I said earlier -- you describe a number of happy times
5 that you had in Quarriers, and I think it was only one
6 thing that made it an unhappy experience for you, and
7 we'll come to that. But you describe things that
8 happened that you enjoyed; is that right?
- 9 Trips out of Quarriers. You say that there were
10 certainly lots of leisure activities, there were groups
11 that you could participate in. These were all things
12 that you --
- 13 A. They were all within the village.
- 14 Q. Sorry, did you ever go outwith the village then in the
15 time you were there?
- 16 A. Yes, we went on holiday.
- 17 Q. To Girvan?
- 18 A. To Girvan.
- 19 Q. And so far as the activities are concerned, did you take
20 part in those then?
- 21 A. Yes, I did.
- 22 Q. And did you enjoy them?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Did you have a favourite activity?
- 25 A. Netball.

1 Q. Indeed, you tell us that some well-known names came to
2 do concerts and so forth. You mention the Corries and
3 indeed Cliff Richard came as well at one time. These
4 are quite big memories, I suppose.

5 A. Very good memories, yes.

6 Q. You tell us also, again, about another good memory, as
7 you say, when you were on holiday in Girvan that you did
8 rather well on one occasion. You won a singing contest,
9 is that right --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- when you sang Amazing Grace?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. On the matter of discipline, paragraph 88, on the
14 following page, 3377, if you could have that in front of
15 you, you tell us that there was discipline but in
16 cottage 6 it didn't involve hitting or smacking or
17 anything of that kind, corporal punishment. Is that the
18 way it was in cottage 6?

19 A. Yes, that's true.

20 Q. But you might be told you couldn't go out, a loss of
21 a privilege to go out or do something?

22 A. That would be our punishment, being kept in, yes.

23 Q. Can you remember, so far as cottage 5 is concerned, what
24 the situation was about punishment, if you did
25 something?

- 1 A. It was the same thing. It'd be the same.
- 2 Q. You tell us a little bit about schooling and I think you
3 loved school as well. Is that so?
- 4 A. Yes, I did.
- 5 Q. You tell us something about the classes. There was
6 quite a number of classes that you were in and did
7 various subjects; is that right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. So far as chores are concerned -- and I think you say
10 this in a positive way -- there were chores to do but it
11 was a way of earning some pocket money and I don't think
12 you regarded it as in any way onerous or some form of
13 punishment or something that you had any problems with;
14 is that right?
- 15 A. No, that was the way it was, that we earned our pocket
16 money by either doing dishes or polishing the shoes,
17 peeling potatoes.
- 18 Q. Am I right in thinking when you talk about having chores
19 to do and getting pocket money in return and earning it
20 in that way that in cottage 6, as in cottage 5, I'm
21 presuming, chores weren't used as a form of punishment?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Again, you say Christmas was a great time as well.
- 24 A. It was, yes.
- 25 Q. You have a section in your written statement at 3378

1 about visits and inspections. If you could have that in
2 front of you, I will just ask a few questions about that
3 if I may.

4 You say there were times when you would have a visit
5 from your mum, for example, and I think there was one
6 occasion when you were introduced to your stepsister and
7 you maybe remember replying she wasn't a sister of
8 yours.

9 A. I did.

10 Q. So you've got a memory of that.

11 You say there came a time, I think, when you started
12 to go home to your mum's at weekends, but that wasn't
13 until after the Wilsons had gone from Quarriers. So far
14 as timing, was this in the McBays' time you went to your
15 mum's?

16 A. Yes, it was in the McBays' time.

17 Q. And you mention a social worker called Mrs McKenzie at
18 paragraph 98. Was she the person who took you to
19 Quarriers? Do I understand that or did she become
20 involved with the family when you were in Quarriers?
21 Can you remember?

22 A. She was involved before we went into the homes and she
23 was involved when we went to Quarriers.

24 Q. She was, I take it, a social worker from the local
25 authority?

- 1 A. She was from where I lived.
- 2 Q. Maybe you can just answer this for me at the moment:
- 3 I think by the time you went to Quarriers, Quarriers had
- 4 established an in-house social work department, if you
- 5 like, with social workers who were employed by
- 6 Quarriers, and our understanding is at least that they
- 7 would at that time have been assigned various
- 8 cottages -- there would be a number of social workers
- 9 and they'd each have certain cottages that they were to
- 10 look after and support. Do you remember seeing any
- 11 in-house social worker in the time you were in
- 12 Quarriers?
- 13 A. When I first arrived, at the office, when we first got
- 14 taken to Quarriers, we were introduced to
- 15 a social worker, but that was all that I can remember.
- 16 Q. So you don't have a memory of any contact with an
- 17 in-house social worker when you were in cottage 5 or
- 18 cottage 6 or the other cottages?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. And you don't remember anyone sitting down with you and
- 21 asking you how you were and how you were getting on and
- 22 how you were doing?
- 23 A. No, not at all.
- 24 Q. What about Mrs McKenzie? Did you have conversations
- 25 with her when you were in Quarriers?

- 1 A. Yes, she would come and visit us.
- 2 Q. Would she speak to you on your own or not?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. But one thing you say, and I'll come to -- let's just go
5 straight to it. You were sexually abused by
6 Sandy Wilson --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- the house father, and he was convicted for that
9 abuse.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. I'll come back to that, but that's something that we
12 need to know at this point, I think. I think you tell
13 us that after that you changed.
- 14 A. Very much so, yes.
- 15 Q. But so far as Mrs McKenzie is concerned, you say on
16 page 3379 that she didn't notice a change in you after
17 this abuse. You say you probably put on a face for her.
18 Are you saying that you hid from her the change?
- 19 A. Yes, I did.
- 20 Q. You tried consciously to hide what had happened to you?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So you're not criticising her as such, are you, for not
23 noticing?
- 24 A. Oh no, not at all.
- 25 Q. You say at paragraph 100 you don't have any memory of

1 people coming round to inspect the cottages or anything
2 of that kind, some sort of inspection that was carried
3 out. You can't remember something like that happening
4 at all?

5 A. No.

6 Q. But you say there would be people who would come from
7 time to time and take you out for the day to places like
8 Largs. Is this people that would be what we might call
9 befrienders?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And where would these people have come from? Do you
12 know?

13 A. I don't know that.

14 Q. Were they just people who turned up and they would take
15 you out for the day?

16 A. They were well-known to the cottage parents.

17 Q. Right. Because we've heard evidence that -- obviously
18 you've told us about the organised holidays to Girvan,
19 for example, during the summer which you enjoyed and
20 we've heard that annually the taxi drivers in Glasgow
21 would have an outing for children. I don't know if you
22 were involved in one of those.

23 A. No.

24 Q. No, you weren't?

25 A. No.

1 Q. What you're describing here are people who were known to
2 the cottage parents, who would come to the cottage and
3 take -- is it particular children out for the day?

4 A. It would have been two or three of us.

5 Q. Would it tend to be a group of you that would go out, in
6 your experience at least?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You and some others would go out with a person who would
9 come to take you out?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you'd go out for the day and come back?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So far as Quarriers is concerned, we know that there was
14 someone called the superintendent and there were people
15 in overall charge and I think in your time it would be
16 a Mr Mortimer and Dr Minto. Do these names mean ...

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You remember the names?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you see much of them in your time in Quarriers?

21 A. Probably just in passing. You know, if we passed them,
22 we would -- we knew who they were and we would say
23 hello.

24 Q. Do you remember whether they ever came to the cottages
25 that you were staying in?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You don't have a memory of them coming in --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- and talking to you or to the house parents?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Can I move to the abuse which you speak of in the
7 cottage. Before I do so, because we're talking about
8 Sandy Wilson --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I maybe say, just to get this into the official
11 record, that Alexander Wilson -- Sandy Wilson, as he is
12 known, I think -- who was the house parent in cottage 6,
13 was convicted at Glasgow High Court on 17 March 2004,
14 and I think you gave evidence at his trial.

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. He was found guilty unanimously on 15 charges.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. He faced a total of 19 charges.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. He was found guilty unanimously on 15 of those charges,
21 including a charge in which you were the complainer,
22 charge 13.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So far as the other charges are concerned, can I make it
25 clear that, having seen some documents relating to the

1 trial, the other four charges were withdrawn by the
2 Crown, the advocate depute, during the case itself, so
3 these charges didn't go to the jury, but of the 15 that
4 did, they found him unanimously guilty.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. They made one deletion from a charge that didn't concern
7 you, but otherwise they found him guilty in accordance
8 with the charges that they were asked to return
9 a verdict on.

10 So far as these charges are concerned, they were
11 a mixture of charges. There was a significant number of
12 charges of what the law calls lewd, indecent and
13 libidinous practices and behaviour. So there were
14 a number of charges within the 15 in that category.
15 There were also assault charges as well.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. As we understand it, of the charges that were found
18 proved beyond reasonable doubt, including the charge
19 that related to you -- you as a complainer -- there were
20 eight female complainers, including you.

21 I don't know if you know this, but six were former
22 residents of Quarriers --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and two were staff. [REDACTED]

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were the
2 two who were staff.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The majority of the charges related to assaults and
5 lewd, indecent and libidinous practices at
6 Quarrier's Village when the complainers were under the
7 age of 18.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But there were some charges in relation to former
10 residents in relation to a time when they were adults or
11 had left Quarriers. That wasn't your case, but I think
12 there were some charges in relation to some former
13 residents where he had continued to carry out some
14 criminal behaviour in relation to them. I don't know if
15 that's something you were aware of.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So far as the charge that was found proved in relation
18 to you is concerned, can I just make it clear that what
19 he was found guilty of was that he used lewd, indecent
20 and libidinous practices and behaviour towards you on
21 two occasions between 1 September 1971 and
22 2 December 1972, and that he handled your private parts,
23 inserted his finger into your private parts and kissed
24 you on the mouth.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think you gave evidence at the trial about that
2 charge; is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think you tell us a little bit about that charge and
5 that matter in your written statement. You do so at
6 page 3379 and page 3380 at paragraphs 102 to 104.

7 I don't know whether you're able to tell us today about
8 that abuse. Are you able to tell us a little bit about
9 what it involved?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do your best.

12 LADY SMITH: Anne, you can tell me as much or little as you
13 feel able to do. If you need to pause, you can pause at
14 any time. All right?

15 A. I was in bed and it was during the day, and the only
16 reason I can think why I would be in bed would be that
17 I was unwell as I had a lot of illnesses in Quarriers,
18 ie chickenpox and measles, throat infections, ear
19 infections.

20 I was in the dormitory alone in the top bunk when
21 I heard somebody coming up the stairs. As I was
22 facing -- my bunk bed would have been just as you walked
23 in the door and I would be facing the fire escape
24 window. So I would have my back to whoever was coming
25 in the room. When I turned round, it was him -- I'm

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Are you able to tell me whether you were
3 approaching puberty or had reached puberty at this
4 stage?

5 A. Yes, I was.

6 LADY SMITH: Beginning to develop breasts --

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: -- and other signs of change?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR PEOPLES: Can I ask you what your feelings were at the
12 time that this was happening? Can you describe for us
13 how you felt as this was happening? I think you tell us
14 a little bit about it in your statement, but can you
15 tell us in your own words what you were feeling in terms
16 of emotions at that point?

17 A. I felt very dirty, obviously it wasn't right, it wasn't
18 proper. I felt ... that's how I would put it ...

19 Q. But you did nothing to cause this to happen to you?

20 A. Oh no, no.

21 Q. And indeed you tell us, you were terrified.

22 A. Yes, I was, I froze.

23 Q. So you weren't in a position to even say very much, you
24 just were so frozen, this happened as you described;
25 is that right? And then he walked out?

1 A. Yes, he just did what he did and just walked out the
2 room.

3 Q. And really, as I understand it, all he said really
4 during that episode was simply to tell you to sit up and
5 then he proceeded to do what he did to you and then
6 eventually told you to lie back down.

7 A. Yes, he did.

8 Q. And that was all he said?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. To you at the time, as you put it, it seemed to be
11 lasting a lifetime. I think that's how you put it in
12 your statement. I know it didn't, but it seemed to be
13 lasting --

14 A. Oh, to me it was a long time.

15 LADY SMITH: And you were a child.

16 A. Yes, I was.

17 LADY SMITH: And you were in bed because you weren't well.

18 A. Yes.

19 MR PEOPLES: Am I right in thinking that something happened
20 one more time? Because I think there's a reference
21 in the trial to the charge -- there were two occasions
22 when he did something?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me about the second occasion?

25 A. He did the same.

- 1 Q. The same thing?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. As you tell us, within what you think are a matter of
4 weeks after Sandy Wilson doing these things to you, the
5 Wilsons left Quarriers. That's your recollection and
6 they left shortly after this abuse?
- 7 A. They left very quickly.
- 8 Q. Very quickly?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And I think when you say very quickly, do you mean after
11 the second incident?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. The first one was maybe a bit before they left, but the
14 second one was shortly before they left?
- 15 A. The second one was -- they left very quickly after the
16 second event.
- 17 Q. It's your belief, I think, that they left, as you call
18 it, under a cloud. I think you tell us in your
19 statement and I don't need to dwell on this -- I don't
20 think you said anything to anyone at that stage about
21 what had happened.
- 22 A. No, I didn't.
- 23 Q. On either occasion?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. But they left and do you know what the cloud was then

- 1 that caused them to leave or did you ever find out?
- 2 Because we know now that a lot of things were happening,
- 3 not just to you but to other residents and staff --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- and he was guilty of these things.
- 6 A. Yes, he was.
- 7 Q. But do you know what the cloud was, if you like?
- 8 A. I think it was later on we were told -- because when
- 9 they first left, we got put to another cottage until the
- 10 McBays took up residence of cottage 6, and we were told
- 11 that they were leaving to take on a pub, they were going
- 12 to be landlady and landlord of a pub down south.
- 13 Q. Was this something you were told when you were still at
- 14 Quarriers?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. After they left, and I don't think I need to take too
- 17 much from you on this, you continued to live in
- 18 cottage 6 and your knew house parents were Eric and
- 19 Carol McBay.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And you describe them as a lot stricter than Aunt Jan
- 22 and Aunt Gina; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes, they were.
- 24 Q. And not as motherly in the case of Carol McBay?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. I think you tell us -- and I think we can understand,
2 the reasons why this might be so -- at 3381,
3 paragraph 109, that you didn't really like your new
4 cottage father but I think in fairness you do say that
5 because of what had happened, really you were
6 distrustful of men in general by that point based on
7 what had happened with Sandy Wilson.

8 A. Yes, that's true.

9 Q. And indeed, as you say in your statement, and I think
10 we can read it for ourselves, again for reasons which
11 are clear, there was a change in your personality and
12 perhaps you were more difficult --

13 A. I was very difficult.

14 Q. -- to deal with.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And indeed, you tell us that there were at least two
17 occasions you can recall when you ran away from
18 Quarriers; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Had you done that before this abuse had happened?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Because you'd been happy before then?

23 A. I didn't have any reason to do it.

24 Q. You say that really no one could understand why there
25 had been this change in you after the Wilsons left;

1 is that right? No one really got to the bottom of
2 what -- did anyone try to find out?

3 A. No, nobody did.

4 Q. Did they say, "We've noticed you've changed" --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- "we need to try and work out why that is". You had
7 no one come to you and say we have noticed things have
8 changed but we can't quite work out what's happened?

9 A. No, at all.

10 Q. Can I just ask you this -- and it may be a difficult
11 question to answer now, but had someone done that and
12 sat down with you, do you think there's any possibility
13 that you'd have been able to have told them what
14 happened?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Can you help us to understand why you wouldn't have
17 found it easy at that time, even if someone had asked
18 you, to say anything?

19 A. I was very close to my family, I was very close to my
20 sisters, and if there was anybody I was going to tell,
21 it would have been my sister, and I didn't even tell
22 her.

23 (Pause)

24 LADY SMITH: Anne, can I just reassure you about something?

25 A note was passed up to me. It's nothing to do with

1 you, it's just confirming arrangements for later this
2 afternoon for other witnesses. I don't want anyone
3 sitting there thinking that something suspicious is
4 going on. It's just confirming a matter for later on.

5 MR PEOPLES: No one asked the question anyway, but you don't
6 think, really, looking back, you'd have been able to
7 tell them at that time?

8 A. No, I wouldn't have.

9 Q. You tell us that you left Quarriers and you deal with
10 that at page 3382 and you went home. I think you'd be
11 14 when you went home; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And life wasn't that easy when you went home, I think.
14 We don't need to go through it today, but it wasn't the
15 easiest time for you, was it, after you went home?
16 There were difficulties at home as well because of
17 perhaps things like lack of money and things like that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I'm not thinking that there are other difficulties, but
20 there were difficulties and that didn't make life easy?

21 A. No, it didn't.

22 Q. But you tell us you left school when you were 16 and you
23 went to work?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. And you tell us on page 3383 that you left home when you

1 were 17 and you went to [REDACTED] for work?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then you got married, you had children, and
4 unfortunately your marriage didn't work out, but you had
5 your children and that's an important part of your life?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Just so far as Quarriers are concerned, at page 3383 at
8 125, you tell us that -- and I think it's become
9 apparent from what you have told us today -- that you'd
10 had good experiences until you were abused by
11 Sandy Wilson.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Indeed you tell us that after you'd left Quarriers, you
14 did actually, with a friend, go back to Quarriers and
15 indeed you went to see Jan.

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. You had nothing against Jan Wilson because of what her
18 husband had done?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were you surprised to learn that the Wilsons were back
21 at Quarriers?

22 A. Very much so, yes.

23 Q. I take it when you went back, though, you'd gone back
24 well before the trial and well before he was being
25 investigated; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you still hadn't told anyone what had happened?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. But I think you say at paragraph 126 -- and I don't need
5 to get the date -- that you basically avoided
6 Sandy Wilson on that occasion when you went back?
- 7 A. Yes, I went in to see -- I phoned first to ask if it was
8 okay, if I could go down and see her, and she said yes,
9 and I went with my friend and we were sitting and she
10 said, "Here's him coming". I immediately said, "I need
11 to go and pick up my children from school".
- 12 Q. Just so you weren't going to meet him again? You did
13 that as a reason not to see him?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You tell us that so far as disclosing what had happened
16 is concerned, you never told anyone about the abuse
17 until you were contacted by the police, I think, when
18 they were carrying out a large investigation into
19 allegations of abuse at Quarriers.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And it was at that point, having been contacted in
22 connection with another person at Quarriers, that you
23 disclosed where you'd been, you'd been in cottage 6, and
24 that you had been a victim of abuse?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So that was the first time you'd said anything about the
2 abuse?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You say:

5 "I always knew in my heart it would come out."

6 Did you think someone would eventually realise what
7 was going on?

8 A. Not on my part --

9 Q. But someone would find out?

10 A. As abuse was coming more aware on the television and
11 there was also somebody else convicted, I knew that
12 it would eventually come back, it would come out.

13 Q. I think I know the answer to this, but just to confirm
14 that -- we've said there were eight women, six former
15 residents and two former young staff who gave evidence
16 in relation to charges that were found proved. You
17 didn't have any knowledge when you were in Quarriers
18 that these other former residents had been abused, some
19 in similar ways to you?

20 A. No.

21 Q. That was something that would have been news to you by
22 the time it came out? It wasn't something that you had
23 knowledge of, that other people had suffered the same
24 types of abuse?

25 A. No, nothing.

- 1 Q. So far as the court case is concerned, you tell us in
2 your statement it took a while to get it to the trial
3 stage.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And I think that was a source of distress and concern to
6 you and no doubt to others at the time; is that right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can I just say this, that so far as that period between
9 it getting into court and getting to trial is concerned,
10 which was quite a long time, I think he appeared in
11 petition, as we call it, I think in 2002 and he was
12 tried in 2004, in March 2004, so it was a long time.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Were you given any information about the reasons for the
15 time it took? Can you recall?
- 16 A. Not until later on, no.
- 17 Q. When you say later on, was that after the trial or
18 during the trial?
- 19 A. During.
- 20 Q. After the proceedings or during them?
- 21 A. During the proceedings. I asked why it took so long.
- 22 Q. And did you have to ask?
- 23 A. Yes, I did ask.
- 24 Q. No one just told you, "Well, the reason that we're not
25 going to trial yet is because of whatever"? You didn't

- 1 get --
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. You had to ask?
- 4 A. I asked.
- 5 Q. And I think we do know that one of the reasons that
- 6 there was a delay was that Mr Wilson had to go into
- 7 hospital to have a leg amputated; is that right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. So that did cause a delay in the process and indeed
- 10 caused applications for the trial to be postponed?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. I think another reason, but it didn't result in a long
- 13 delay, was that the case was due to start -- the trial
- 14 was due to start in Kilmarnock on 11 February 2004, and
- 15 I think you'll recall that because I think you'd been
- 16 lined up to give evidence at that trial.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But I think on that occasion, and I don't know how much
- 19 you know about this, there was some form of
- 20 demonstration outside the court before the trial
- 21 started, where leaflets were being distributed about
- 22 abuse at Quarriers.
- 23 A. The only thing I knew was on the news, that it was
- 24 stopped because of ...
- 25 Q. Of these activities?

- 1 A. Because of a demonstration.
- 2 Q. I think the explanation in the official documents would
3 be that there were potential jurors that would be
4 attending the court to be balloted for jury service and
5 they would be going into the court and there were people
6 outside handing leaflets out to people outside court.
7 That seems to have been the background to the decision
8 to halt the trial and have it started a month later in
9 Glasgow.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Were you given an explanation about that at the time?
- 12 A. No, I'd just seen it on the television.
- 13 Q. And finally, the trial did get underway in March 2004
14 and I've already read out, really, the number of
15 charges -- we've already heard about the number of
16 charges and indeed the result and you gave evidence on
17 that occasion, as indeed did Alexander Wilson.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. As a result of the verdict of the jury on the
20 15 charges, Alexander Wilson, on 27 April 2004, was
21 sentenced in respect of the charges found proved to
22 a total period of imprisonment of seven years and six
23 months.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And I think at paragraph 131, and I'll just take this

1 from you shortly, I think you make it clear that you
2 felt he should have got a lot more.

3 A. Of course.

4 Q. I think we can see for ourselves in the section that's
5 headed "Impact", it's at page 3385, that what happened
6 to you, in particular the sexual abuse by Sandy Wilson,
7 did have a profound effect on you and still does.

8 A. Yes. Yes, it does.

9 Q. And that that caused difficulties in issues of trust,
10 for example, particularly towards men?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You've also said quite candidly that you maybe felt
13 you've been overprotective of your children.

14 A. Yes, I was, very overprotective.

15 Q. Indeed, you made it clear to them that they must tell
16 you if something was happening, whoever that person --
17 whoever they were wanting to tell you about, they must
18 tell you if they had any concerns or worries or
19 something bad was happening?

20 A. I told my children never to be afraid to tell me of
21 anything that they didn't feel was right for them, even
22 if it was their dad.

23 Q. I think you tell us, and I don't want to go through the
24 detail of this, that after the court case you had
25 a significant breakdown in your health --

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. -- mental health, and had to receive some treatment,
3 psychiatric treatment, for that. You tell us -- and
4 I just want to ask you about this -- at paragraph 137.
5 In relation to this matter, on page 3386, you say:
6 "I never got any assistance through the police or
7 court."
8 Do you feel you weren't adequately supported during
9 the trial proceedings?

10 A. No, we weren't -- well I wasn't personally.

11 Q. You don't feel you got the support that you should have
12 done?

13 A. Just on the day of giving evidence.

14 LADY SMITH: I suppose it must have been quite a long trial
15 with that many charges. Was it?

16 A. It was supposed to last three weeks and it lasted less
17 than two.

18 LADY SMITH: Still quite a long time.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Did you go every day?

21 A. No.

22 LADY SMITH: How often were you there?

23 A. It was a closed court, so I went on the day that I gave
24 evidence, and after everybody gave ...

25 LADY SMITH: After the complainers had finished giving their

1 evidence?

2 A. Yes, and it was then in open court, I went every day.

3 LADY SMITH: Right.

4 MR PEOPLES: On the final page of your written statement,
5 Anne, at 3387, paragraph 142, you have a section
6 entitled "Hopes for the inquiry". I think your biggest
7 hope for this inquiry is that it can do something to
8 help make children less afraid to come forward and speak
9 out:

10 "Children shouldn't think they won't be believed.
11 That culture of fear of not being believed needs to
12 change."

13 A. Of course it does.

14 Q. Do you think if the culture of fear, of not being
15 believed was to be addressed effectively and steps were
16 taken to make children confident that they could speak
17 out, just as you wanted your children to speak out to
18 you, had that happened in your day, do you think you
19 might have been able to say something? Would you like
20 to hope you would have done if you felt confident you
21 could speak out?

22 A. I would have hoped that I would have been able to speak
23 to somebody, whether it be my own sister or a member of
24 staff.

25 MR PEOPLES: Well, these are all the questions I have for

1 in any event.

2 MR PEOPLES: Ms Rattray will take the next witness.

3 (3.04 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.20 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

7 MS RATTRAY: The next witness is an applicant who wishes to
8 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym "Alison".

9 "ALISON" (affirmed)

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

11 It looks as though you're organised, there, Alison.
12 One thing I would ask is if you try to stay in the right
13 position for the microphone: it's very important that we
14 hear you properly.

15 Ms Rattray.

16 Questions from MS RATTRAY

17 MS RATTRAY: Good afternoon, Alison.

18 A. Good afternoon.

19 Q. It has probably been explained to you that in the red
20 folder in front of you you will find a copy of the
21 statement you gave to the inquiry. That statement has
22 a reference that we've given it, which is
23 WIT.001.002.1788.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You should also see your statement come up on the screen

- 1 in front of you.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Generally, as we go through your evidence, if you find
4 it easier to look at the paper version or the screen
5 version, whatever's best for you.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. In the first instance, if I could ask you to look at the
8 paper version and turn to the back page, which is
9 page 1814.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed your statement?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And if you look at the paragraph above your signature,
14 paragraph 150, can you confirm that you have no
15 objection to your witness statement being published as
16 part of the evidence to the inquiry and you believe the
17 facts stated in your witness statement are true?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. To start with, Alison -- you can put that to one side
20 now -- could you confirm the year of your birth? We
21 don't need the day or the month, simply the year you
22 were born.
- 23 A. 1962.
- 24 Q. When I ask you questions based on your statement, I'm
25 going to do it in three general parts: some initial

1 background information to set the scene for us so we
2 understand the context of your later evidence; then,
3 secondly, I'll ask you some questions about your
4 experience in Quarriers; and, thirdly, I'll ask you
5 about perhaps more recent contact with Quarriers as an
6 adult and also the effect that your experiences in
7 Quarriers have had upon you in your adult life.

8 So turning to the first part, just a bit of
9 background. It's always helpful to us to know the dates
10 that you were in Quarriers. You tell us in your
11 statement that you went into Quarriers in 1968 and you
12 would have been about 6 or 7 years old?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Your recollection is you left Quarriers in 1980, when
15 you were 18.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I can confirm that from the records that I've seen from
18 Quarriers, which give precise dates, they say that you
19 were admitted on [REDACTED] 1968 and you were
20 discharged on [REDACTED] 1980, so that generally fits
21 with your memory.

22 In relation to cottages, you tell us that you had
23 three different sets of house parents.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you confirm which cottage you were in?

- 1 A. 22 for the whole time.
- 2 Q. For the whole time? So house parents came into the
3 cottage, you weren't moving between cottages?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You tell us that your first cottage house parent -- who
6 was that?
- 7 A. That was [REDACTED] QOE [REDACTED] She was unusual
8 because she was, like, not part of a couple. Usually
9 the house parents were a married couple, but she was on
10 her own, and we had a cottage auntie and a cleaner who
11 came in every day as well.
- 12 Q. You say that you remember that [REDACTED] QOE [REDACTED] was your
13 house parent until you were aged about 10 or 11.
- 14 A. Yes, maybe about then, maybe slightly older, I'm not
15 dead sure of the dates.
- 16 Q. But perhaps somewhere around 1972 or 1973?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Something like that. Who were the house parents who
19 replaced [REDACTED] QOE [REDACTED] ?
- 20 A. [REDACTED] QKG/QKH [REDACTED]
- 21 Q. Do you remember what age you were when they in turn were
22 replaced by your third set?
- 23 A. Probably just early teens, 12, 13, because I think the
24 next set came when I was about 15 --
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. -- or 16.
- 2 Q. I have seen a reference in your records to suggest that
3 your next set of house parents -- who I think were June
4 and William Wilson, is that right --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- may have arrived around July 1978.
- 7 A. Right.
- 8 Q. Would that generally fit?
- 9 A. That would be about right, yes.
- 10 Q. I'm just going to touch shortly on your life before you
11 went into care.
- 12 You have given us some background in your statement.
13 In general terms, you tell us that you lived in Glasgow
14 with your parents and six brothers and sisters.
15 You have described your life at home as chaotic in
16 circumstances where your dad had a drink problem and
17 there was a lot of fighting and a fair amount of
18 violence in the home.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you say that your mum was at the end of her tether
21 and then there was an incident where she tried to gas
22 herself.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. That is something you obviously remember now; was it
25 something you were aware of when you were a child?

1 A. My sister and I found her. We saw her in the kitchen
2 lying on the floor and we asked some workmen to come and
3 get the door down because my mum was lying on the floor.
4 The next thing I knew, we ran to my granny's, but when
5 we came back, there were policeman, there was an
6 ambulance, she was lying on the bed in the living room.
7 I think she'd just had enough, you know.

8 Q. It was after that event that you and five of your
9 brothers and sisters were taken into care?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And why was it that one sibling wasn't taken into care?

12 A. I think because he was the oldest, [REDACTED] was the oldest,
13 so he went to stay with my granny; we were all a bit
14 younger. Then when we did get into Quarriers, [REDACTED]
15 wouldn't settle, he cried and cried and cried and cried,
16 solidly cried at school, cried through the night, cried
17 through his meals, so he got to go home and stay with my
18 Granny [REDACTED]

19 Q. So that left you and your remaining siblings in care in
20 Quarriers?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I understand that initially, you went into Lochgarry
23 Children's Home and then shortly after that were
24 admitted to Quarriers?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. At 1789, paragraph 6 of your statement, you've described
2 at the outset that you have certain views of comparing
3 and contrasting your experiences at home in Glasgow
4 compared to Quarriers because, although there was a lot
5 of chaos at home -- tell me a bit more about that.

6 A. My home life was chaotic, and as a mum now and as an
7 adult now, I can see that it wasn't suitable and there
8 was a lot of dysfunction, but it was -- there was loads
9 of love, absolutely loads of love from my dad, from my
10 mum.

11 As an adult now, looking back, I appreciate how hard
12 it must have been for my mum because as charming and as
13 handsome and as great as my dad was, he was completely
14 unreliable. He would gamble a lot, he was in prison
15 periodically, he had a drink problem, and there was lots
16 of violence when the parties would sort on go on too
17 long and there would end up being some sort of fight
18 about something. So that was quite traumatic to see
19 them go about it with each other and the blood and what
20 have you.

21 But for all there was all of that, for every year
22 I spent in Quarriers, there was not one ounce of the
23 same.

24 Q. So I think you say in your statement that there was no
25 love or proper affection or warmth, and was that your

1 experience throughout Quarriers?

2 A. At the end, when the Wilsons -- they were a nice couple
3 and they were probably a little bit more affectionate,
4 but they were just kind, they were just nicer people.
5 And my music teacher, he was ...

6 Q. I think you tell us quite a lot about your music
7 teacher, who had a sort of important part --

8 A. And some of the teachers were nice as well, but it was
9 quite marked how ... And I know you need structure and
10 I know you need order in a child's life, and mealtimes
11 and getting up and going to school and all that sort of
12 stuff, so there was plenty of that. But there was no
13 proper ...

14 You know, as a little kid, I missed that the most
15 from my mum and dad, loads of cuddles, tormenting you,
16 having fun with you, you know, rubbing your head,
17 running to the shop and getting some sweeties. There
18 was none of that sort of genuine warmth. But it's funny
19 because I did like the order, I did like the structure,
20 I did like going to school, I did like having three
21 meals a day, you know.

22 Q. What I'm going to do now, Alison, I'm going to ask you
23 more about your experiences in Quarriers.

24 You've told us that you were admitted to cottage 22
25 and [REDACTED] was the house mother there. What about

- 1 your brothers and sisters? Did they join you there?
2 Were they admitted to 22 with you?
- 3 A. Some of them were, but [REDACTED] I think she was in
4 cottage 3 and QKI was in cottage 7, or it was the
5 other way around, and when space became available in 22,
6 they came down there as well and we were all together.
- 7 Q. What kind of time span do you think it was between the
8 times you were separate and then you were brought
9 together?
- 10 A. I would probably think maybe a month or two at most. At
11 the most. That what's it felt like.
- 12 Q. What were your first impressions when you arrived at
13 Quarriers, if you can tell us about your first day
14 there?
- 15 A. I just remember not liking all the greenery and the
16 countryside. I was used to the city and concrete
17 and ... I just remember not liking all of that. And
18 the house, it just -- it had a funny smell to it as
19 well. I don't know, it's hard to -- like boiled veg or
20 something, it had a funny smell. I sort of remember
21 being looked at a lot by all the other kids and sort of
22 being stared at. I remember QOE was quite rough,
23 after my mum had went away, getting your coat off to get
24 in and get something to eat. I remember it being really
25 sad when she had to leave.

- 1 Q. That's your mum; yes?
- 2 And what did you call [REDACTED] QOE ?
- 3 A. You had to call her Auntie [REDACTED] QOE
- 4 Q. You said you had to call her that? Who told you you had
5 to call her that?
- 6 A. I don't know if she said, "You call me Auntie [REDACTED] QOE , or
7 something or you just heard other people calling her it,
8 so that's what you ...
- 9 Q. Okay. You mentioned there were other staff in the
10 house. Can you tell me a bit about the other staff?
- 11 A. I think the other one was called [REDACTED] QKF and she had long
12 hair. That's all I really remember about her.
13 Mrs McCurdie was the little cleaner who used to come in.
14 I think she lived in Bridge of Weir and she came in
15 every day for a few hours. I think she would be in from
16 maybe, say, 8 o'clock until about 2, maybe.
- 17 Q. And [REDACTED] QKF did she live in the cottage or outwith?
- 18 A. They had cottage auntie houses in the homes, so there
19 was accommodation for them, so they would sleep over in
20 them, but she would come in early in the among and she
21 would stay until lunchtime and she'd maybe go back up
22 about 1 o'clock, and then have a bit of the afternoon to
23 himself, and then come back down for teatime and then
24 she would maybe leave about 7, 7.30, and that was her
25 for the day.

1 Q. I'm going to ask you a bit about your general daily life
2 in cottage 22. You have spoken about structure. Can
3 you describe the routine of a normal day in cottage 22?

4 A. You would just get up and you would get ready to go down
5 for breakfast, make your bed, go down for breakfast,
6 have your breakfast, you'd all have jobs to do after
7 that, so you'd either be clearing away the dishes and
8 sweeping up the dining room floor and maybe setting the
9 tables up for the next meal. Some people were washing
10 dishes, a couple of people would be drying dishes
11 because there were a lot of dishes.

12 There was all jobs like doing the shoes -- sometimes
13 you had the milk can in the morning, you would go and
14 get the milk can from the edge of the path and bring it
15 into the house and top up the metal jugs with the milk,
16 and then clean out the milk can and put that out at
17 night so it'd be picked up in the morning and a new one
18 put in.

19 Cleaning the shoes. You know, everybody had
20 different jobs. I remember they had an old fire, an old
21 sort of -- probably a bit like what those Agas are like,
22 those cooker-y things, but you had to clean them with
23 emery paper -- and I remember that, it had to be my job
24 sometimes and you had to wait until it cooled down.

25 Sometimes that -- you'd get burnt off that. But

1 that was one of your jobs as well. And then they got
2 modern cookers.

3 Q. So were these the kind of chores that the children did?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Other cleaning, was that down to Mrs McCurdie?

6 A. Yes, she'd maybe do windowsills, dusting, maybe
7 polishing some of the linoleum floors, maybe she did the
8 bathrooms, that sort of thing.

9 Q. After you'd done your jobs, was it then to school?

10 A. School, yes; and then you'd stay at school until
11 lunchtime, and then you came back to the cottages for
12 your dinner, and then after dinner, back to school for
13 the afternoon and then finished about 3.30, 3.45.

14 Q. After school, was there a particular homework time or
15 was it playtime? What happened then?

16 A. It was pretty much free time, I think. You could come
17 home and sort of do what you wanted. You would get out
18 of your school uniform and put on your play clothes and
19 if it was light you could go out and play. I liked
20 going up to the music room where Mr Peterson ... Yes.

21 Q. So in relation to mealtimes, how was the food?

22 A. See, I quite liked the food. Lots of mince and tatties
23 and pies and chips and -- yes, I liked it. There seemed
24 to be plenty of it. Cereal in the morning or porridge.
25 Sometimes they made you have corn flakes in the winter

1 with warm milk, which was horrible. But plenty to eat
2 at dinner time, plenty to eat at teatime.

3 Q. So when you had your meals, did [REDACTED] QOE sit round
4 the table with you and eat with you or did she eat
5 separately?

6 A. Our dining room had three separate tables so, there
7 would maybe be four or five on each one, and she was at
8 the head of one, and maybe the cottage auntie would be
9 at another one and another older boy or girl at the
10 other one.

11 You just helped yourself. The food would come
12 through and everybody would eat and take the plates
13 through, and then if it was lunchtime you'd get a bit of
14 pudding, so you'd go and get your pudding.

15 Q. You enjoyed your food?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What would happen if a child didn't like a particular
18 meal or didn't want to eat it or was leaving their food
19 there? Was that a problem?

20 A. Yes. You know, you had to eat it. You had to not waste
21 anything. That was a big no-no. And I remember one
22 girl hated stew, she just hated stew, and you'd probably
23 get it at least once a week, you know, one of the
24 dinners would be stew. And she just had umpteen sort of
25 battles with her for this stew. Then one day, it ended

1 in her just grabbing her by the chin, holding her nose,
2 putting her chin up like that, and getting it and just
3 throwing it in her, force-feeding her to have this stew.

4 Q. Who did that?

5 A. **QOE** did that. And just like sort of built up
6 to it, you knew it was coming because she was like,
7 "You're not wasting good food, madam, you'll sit there
8 until it's eaten", and she just seemed to snap. Will
9 I say her name, the girl?

10 LADY SMITH: We don't need the name, it's fine. Somebody
11 who was another resident in the cottage?

12 A. Yes, and she ended up being violently sick, sick all
13 over the table, and crying and her lip was cut. It was
14 just like to prove a point: **QOE** was going to make her
15 eat this stew.

16 MS RATTRAY: Was that a one-off occasion or did that happen
17 more than once?

18 A. I remember it once. But there would definitely be
19 tension around food if people weren't eating stuff or
20 anything was left. There would be a big thing: get it
21 eaten, you're not moving until it's eaten. Forcing
22 people, even if they sat an hour, two hours later,
23 they'd be sitting there until it was eaten.

24 Q. You tell us that at page 1803, paragraphs 86 and 87.

25 We see at paragraph 87 -- it might be blacked out on

1 your copy, but we see that you refer to:

2 " QKF the house auntie, would often get dragged
3 in to help QOE force-feed children and that
4 [you] felt sorry for QKF because you got the sense
5 that she didn't want to be part of it."

6 A. QKF was very mild-mannered and just a young woman,
7 you know. I'd say if she was 20, you know, that would
8 be being generous. She seemed really young and just
9 maybe like her first or second job.

10 QOE would be doing this (indicating), "Right,
11 QKF get her hands", and she's stuck in the middle,
12 she has to do what QOE says and hold her hands while
13 she's forcing the fork into her mouth. But you always
14 got the sense it was half-hearted with her, she didn't
15 like it, she didn't really agree with it, didn't want to
16 be doing it. Between a rock and a hard place.

17 Q. Her part in it, on the instructions of QOE was
18 to hold the child's hands?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. She wasn't involved in putting the food --

21 A. No, absolutely not, absolutely not.

22 Q. Or grabbing the child?

23 A. No, absolutely not.

24 Q. You tell us back at page 1793 about the general
25 arrangements for washing and having a bath and so forth,

1 and I think you've indicated at paragraph 31 that maybe
2 younger children might share a bath and younger children
3 may well be supervised --

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. -- but otherwise, you recall you had a bath on your own?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. As you got older, did you have the privacy to be in the
8 bathroom on your own?

9 A. You did, but the way it was partitioned in our bathroom,
10 there was a bit at the top that was free, so some of the
11 boys used to jump on the sink tops and stand and look
12 over. That was a nightmare, you were grabbing a flannel
13 and shouting the odds -- so as soon as you heard
14 anybody, you quickly tried to get yourself washed and
15 get out and covered with a towel because you didn't know
16 if they were just going to jump up on the thing and then
17 look over the top.

18 Q. You also refer at paragraph 32 to clothing and just to
19 confirm, you were given your own clothes to wear, you
20 weren't sharing clothes with other children?

21 A. No, no, no. You were given a note, if you needed
22 something, **QOE** would write a note, "Two new T-shirts
23 and one winter jumper", and you'd take that note up to
24 the drapery. The woman there was called Phoebe. She
25 quite liked me so she would find me nice things -- it

1 was second-hand stuff, good quality second-hand stuff
2 I think for the most part that had been donated and she
3 would sort it out, jumpers and cardigans and whatever.
4 So I loved going up to the drapery, I loved getting new
5 clothes.

6 Q. You also tell us at 1794 that you had a locker for your
7 own belongings?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you had somewhere to keep something which --

10 A. Yes, but you couldn't lock it, they weren't safe and
11 anybody could just take them, you know. It's a bit
12 dispiriting when you'd get a really nice dolly or
13 something at Christmas and two weeks later it would have
14 a moustache drawn on it, people would look in to see
15 what you had. You had to try and hide things, maybe in
16 your clothes drawers, things you wanted to keep. So
17 there was no lock on it, it was just a wooden stack of
18 cupboard doors with like little holes that anybody could
19 open it.

20 Q. What were the sleeping arrangements in the cottage?

21 A. There was girls' rooms and boys' rooms mostly, so the
22 genders would be separate.

23 Q. What would happen if a child had a problem with
24 bed-wetting? How was that dealt with by the
25 house mother?

1 A. That was traumatic because we were all sort of chronic
2 bed-wetters. I remember bed-wetting a lot and QOE
3 would go mad. She'd just be infuriated and slapping
4 your head and poking at you. She had these sharp nails.
5 But I remember she took us to the doctor and he said,
6 "Give her a bell". It was a bell in a box, which was
7 like completely humiliating. So they attached it to
8 a rubber mat under your sheets and this wire was
9 attached to this bell in a box. I was sleeping and
10 I slept through the bell going off, and other people
11 in the bedroom were woke, and they would waken me and by
12 this time she was out of her bedroom and it was the
13 nails dug into the back of the neck, dragged out of bed,
14 "Get that stripped, get that stripped". You'd have to
15 pull all the wet sheets off the bed, haul the wet sheets
16 -- she'd have you by the neck -- down the stairs,
17 through the playroom, out of the back where the bathroom
18 was, and put them in the bath and run the water and get
19 them in there and get them all washed properly, and all
20 the meanwhile poked and jabbed and scudded on the head.
21 Then the next morning you'd be wringing it out into
22 a bucket, getting the bucket down into the mangle thing
23 in the shed and then trying to put it through the
24 mangle. Then from that, lifting it out on to the
25 washing line in the backyard. Stressful, super

1 stressful.

2 It didn't stop you wetting the bed. I think it made
3 it worse. You were so flipping stressed about the whole
4 idea. She'd wake you up, she'd definitely make sure you
5 went to the toilet before you went to bed, and sometimes
6 when she was coming to bed, she would wake you up to go
7 to the toilet, which I could understand, you know, if
8 you're trying to get somebody to stop wetting the bed.
9 I don't know what, 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock, "Get up, go
10 to the toilet, do the toilet". But we wet the bed for
11 years.

12 Q. And this behaviour you have described, the grabbing, the
13 pinching with nails and being pulled down in the middle
14 of the night to wash a sheet, was that happening to
15 other children as well as yourself?

16 A. She was like that with most people, yes. Definitely.

17 My thing with **QOE** is I just think she was out of
18 her depth, I just think she couldn't cope and she -- to
19 mask that she would be over-controlling and she would be
20 more aggressive and more vicious to try and make you
21 conform to what she wanted to do. Because she was out
22 of her depth, they were traumatised kids, they were
23 acting out, they were misbehaving and she didn't know
24 how best to deal with it. Instead of saying, "I'm
25 struggling her", she sort of went further and further in

1 her behaviour.

2 Q. So as we're on the subject of her behaviour, you've
3 described what happened if some child wet the bed, which
4 is obviously something that child can't control. But
5 how would she manage a situation if it was considered
6 the child wasn't behaving, if a child was naughty or
7 hadn't done something right?

8 A. Daft things, honestly. When you went to bed at night,
9 you know, the girls would all be roughly about the same
10 age, so we'd all be going to bed about the same time.
11 So you would be chatting in bed, you wouldn't be quiet,
12 you wouldn't be sleeping, you would be chatting to each
13 other, giggling, having a laugh about something, and
14 she'd shout up a few times and then it'd go really quiet
15 and then you'd whisper again, start up with a bit of
16 giggling and what you.

17 She used to wear these Scholls all the time, you
18 could hear her coming with these Scholls on, they were
19 like clip-cloppy on the linoleum. She'd take them off
20 and she'd quietly come up the stairs really, really
21 slowly, really, really quietly. And sometimes you'd
22 hear a creak and you'd think, was that **QOE** and
23 everybody would go quiet for a wee bit and then it would
24 be quiet for ages and we'd think we'd be okay and you'd
25 start up. Next minute, boom, she would be in the room:

1 "What have I told youse about settling down at night?
2 Get to bloody sleep. You come with me", and she'd drag
3 you out of bed.

4 It would either be she'd heard you giggling or
5 something or the nearest one to her. Again, the nails
6 in the back of the neck, dragged down with force and
7 into the shed and that was you there. And she'd just
8 sit you there, lock the door, and you were there until
9 she came and got you to go out.

10 Q. So where was this shed?

11 A. Where the bathroom was, the shed was the next bit. So
12 the bathroom and the toilet and where the shoes were was
13 all sort of part of the house. The shed was different.
14 It was like it had one concrete wall and then it had the
15 roof, a wooden thing with the windows, a wooden frame
16 with windows, and a concrete floor and there's a big
17 sink there for whoever did the potatoes, peeled the
18 potatoes -- there was a sack of potatoes there and the
19 big sink, that's where they would get done. There was
20 a bench at the bottom with poles and that's where all
21 the wellies would get put. There was a toilet and then
22 there was some coat hangers where the duffles would go.

23 Q. So you were dragged down to the shed for talking after
24 lights out?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. How long would you be in the shed?
- 2 A. It seemed like ages, you know. Sometimes I think she
3 must have forgot because when she did come to get you,
4 there was nobody around.
- 5 Sometimes she'd come and there would still be the
6 telly on and some of the older kids would be watching
7 the telly, so you'd think it was maybe only an hour or
8 something she'd left you down there.
- 9 But sometimes she would come down and there was
10 nothing on so maybe it was she was going to bed and she
11 remembered you were there and came back down and got
12 you. Honestly, it was like ages some nights.
- 13 Q. And were you able to get out of the shed?
- 14 A. Oh no, no, no, no. You just had to sit there and, like,
15 you know, get a duffle coat, keep yourself warm, stick
16 your feet in some wellies if you could get some of them.
- 17 Q. So you were obviously in your pyjamas?
- 18 A. Yes and no slippers, no time -- once she grabs you,
19 you have no time to put any slippers or anything on.
20 You're just dragged down to the shed, "Sit in there,
21 I warned you umpteen times, bloody see how you get on
22 down there, lady". That's it, she locked the door, and
23 you're just sitting there.
- 24 Q. What about a light?
- 25 A. No, there was no light.

1 she was pregnant and she was saying to [REDACTED] and I,
2 "Youse can pick the name". We were annoyed with my mam
3 because we wanted my dad and we didn't know who this man
4 was. I just remember being really sort of fed up with
5 her.

6 Normally, we'd be all over her, sitting on her knee,
7 stroking her hair, kissing and cuddling her, but this
8 fella was there that we didn't know anyway. She said,
9 "I'm going to have a baby and it might be a wee brother
10 or wee sister, you can choose the names", she was
11 winning us round a little bit and the rest of the visit
12 went okay. It was the Monday morning, so I don't know
13 how -- I think we must have said to [REDACTED] "QOE" "My ma'am's
14 going to have a baby and we can choose the name", and
15 I came up with one and [REDACTED] came up with one and
16 [REDACTED] got picked.

17 On the Monday, when Margaret McCurdie was in, the
18 cleaner, they were having a break and we were doing the
19 dishes after lunchtime. [REDACTED] was on the washing and
20 I was on the drying. She was just tearing strips of my
21 mum, "Bloody disgrace, what is she playing at having
22 kids when she can't even look after the ones she's got,
23 what an absolute disgrace she is as a woman, blah, blah,
24 blah". I could just see [REDACTED] getting madder and madder
25 and I was looking at her and she was looking at me and

1 our faces were bright red. It was so humiliating, your
2 mum getting talked about like that.

3 [REDACTED] just went mad. She just -- she had soap suds
4 hanging off her arms, went over and [REDACTED] [QOE] was sitting
5 with -- I remember she had this red chiffon scarf and
6 rollers in her hair and Mrs McCurdie was having a fag
7 and she was going, "She never is, another baby?" You
8 know, this business. [REDACTED] just grabbed her hair and
9 got her down on the deck, "Don't effing talk about my
10 mother like that", fucking this, that and the other,
11 shouting the odds. [REDACTED] [QOE] was screaming and trying to
12 hold on to her hands to stop her ripping her hair.
13 Mrs McCurdie was in shock and she couldn't really do
14 anything -- she was a bit old anyway. But for the
15 20 seconds that [REDACTED] had her, she properly had her and
16 was writhing her about the floor. One of her bloody
17 rollers fell out and bounced across the ... And I'm
18 just standing watching and in my heart I'm going, "Get
19 her, [REDACTED] get her for saying that about our ma". But
20 my other part was like, "Oh my God, this is like
21 stressful and she's going to get into so much bother for
22 this".

23 Q. Just to be clear, was it [REDACTED] [QOE] who was saying derogatory
24 things about your mother?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And it was [QOE] that [REDACTED] lost her temper with and
2 went for her?

3 A. Yes. [REDACTED] wouldn't take any shit from [QOE] about
4 anything.

5 I remember one night [REDACTED] had been shouting the
6 odds and got sent up to bed and been woken up by her
7 crying and just seeing [QOE] and this other older boy
8 leaving. He'd held her while [QOE] punched her and
9 shouted at her and she was sobbing and she said, "I'm
10 not crying because it was sore, [QLW] I'm crying
11 because the way he held us down, my face was in the
12 pillow and I thought I was going to die because they
13 didn't realise I couldn't breathe".

14 It was the whole, "Don't you dare raise your voice
15 to me, young lady, don't you ever dare again speak to me
16 like that". It was just again that level of viciousness
17 and getting you back because she knew [REDACTED] wasn't
18 frightened of her, [REDACTED] would stand up to her, so she
19 had to rope somebody else in to help her.

20 Q. This older boy, was this another child from the --

21 A. One of the older ones.

22 Q. I think you've also said -- you've described in your
23 statement at 1802, paragraph 83, having spoken about
24 being taken to the shed and so forth. But you described
25 [QOE] as vindictive and that she was always stopping you

1 from doing things if she wasn't happy with your
2 behaviour.

3 A. Just like -- sometimes she would take slides if we went
4 on holiday or somewhere, and there'd be slides and she'd
5 sometimes do a slide show and if she wasn't happy with
6 you, you'd get sent to bed while everybody else watched
7 the slide show. You used to get bus loads of women's
8 visitors, people from churches and whatever, and
9 sometimes they would drop in a tin of biscuits or some
10 sweeties or something and she would share those out with
11 everyone and we wouldn't get any and she would make sure
12 that everyone told you, "We got loads of sweeties last
13 night", or, "We watched the slide show".

14 I remember, it must have been the first few months
15 when I was in, [REDACTED] my little brother, he was in
16 a cot and I had to change the cot bed, I had to change
17 his cot when he had wet it. And I made it all up, she
18 came upstairs and I hadn't realised, but the rubber mat
19 that should have gone on first and then the sheet and
20 the blankets was under the cot. She just went mad.
21 I don't ... That wasn't the reason why she punched us
22 when she did. There must have been something else going
23 on with her because she just completely overreacted
24 about a rubber mat. And she punched us here
25 (indicating) and my head hit off the side of the cot and

1 then I started crying and sort of big cries, "You stupid
2 idiot, useless, you forgot the blooming rubber mat, get
3 it done again properly". Because I was crying she
4 punched us again and I remember thinking, "I'm annoying
5 her", my [sobbing noise] that was annoying her, that was
6 winding her up, so trying to keep yourself as quiet and
7 still as possible. I remember doing that. I must have
8 been about 7.

9 Q. Whereabouts on your body was she punching you?

10 A. The head, the side of the head.

11 Q. When you say a punch, are you --

12 A. A punch, like (indicating), "Stupid idiot".

13 Q. You're clenching -- a closed fist?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. To the side of your head?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And she punched you more than once?

18 A. And the other side hitting off the iron railings of the
19 cot. And she did it a second time, "Shut up, shut up";
20 the clenched teeth.

21 Q. Obviously if a child had done something wrong or had
22 misbehaved, then perhaps missing out on a slide show or
23 not getting a share of the sweeties might be
24 a reasonable form of chastisement. But what's your view
25 on whether being punched on the head would be

1 a reasonable form of chastisement?

2 A. No. I keep saying it, I keep saying it: she was out of
3 her depth, she couldn't cope. And because there's
4 nobody there to check her or there's nobody there,
5 there's no checks or balances in it anywhere.

6 In my best moments I think, right, maybe two days
7 later she might have thought that was a bit over the
8 top, I should never have done that, that was a terrible
9 thing to do, but there was nobody taking her to task
10 about it, so she would just maybe shrug it off and
11 think, "I'll just try and do better next time". Do you
12 know what I mean? There was nobody to say, "You were
13 absolutely out of order, that was completely over the
14 top, you were striking a 7-year-old kid because they
15 forgot a mat to go on a cot", do you know what I mean?
16 And you're still new to the home and you're still
17 missing your mother.

18 Q. You say there were no checks. Do you have any memory of
19 anyone else coming into the cottage to check what was
20 going on, to speak to the children or anything of that
21 nature?

22 A. Well, you would get a social worker coming in maybe once
23 a year, but it tended to -- most years it would be
24 a different social worker, so you never, ever made
25 a proper bond with anybody.

1 Q. That social worker, was that a social worker from within
2 Quarriers?

3 A. From Glasgow, that would be the one from Glasgow. And
4 then you would go up for a Panel maybe once a year, but
5 again that would be different faces usually on the
6 Panel. Your mum and dad is there, so you don't want to
7 tell them what's happening. I didn't have any faith or
8 trust that if you told anybody what was going on,
9 anything would change, so you just sort of swallowed it,
10 you just took it.

11 Q. I think at page 1799 of your statement, you there make
12 a reference at paragraph 67 to attending
13 a Children's Panel, a children's hearing. You said
14 there that:

15 "I'm sure we attended a Children's Panel every year.
16 I think it was a review of our care but you never really
17 had a voice."

18 A. Absolutely not. They would say, "How are you? How's
19 things going this year?" and you'd say, "Oh fine",
20 "I hear you got your grade 4 piano exam", "Yes", "Are
21 you enjoying that?" "Yes", "Yes", but that's it.

22 Q. You said that you couldn't say that **QOE** was horrible
23 and battered you? Was she there? You say that **QOE**
24 was always there.

25 A. Yes, and the next set of house parents and the next, so

- 1 no.
- 2 Q. At any stage do you remember being offered the
3 opportunity to speak to the Panel members on your own?
- 4 A. No, I don't remember speaking to the Panel members on my
5 own. I remember the odd time a social worker would come
6 up from the Glasgow ones, but it'd be some new face that
7 you hadn't seen before. I think it's quite
8 psychological because you see **QOE** chatting to them,
9 blah, blah, blah, oh here's the kids now, so **QLW** and
10 this is such-and-such and he's coming to ... So as
11 a kid you see them two adults pally, chatty, and it
12 seems to you they're in cahoots, they're of a same mind.
13 And you don't know him and you're thinking, I'm probably
14 never going to see him again and it'll be somebody
15 different. So there would be the odd time when you'd be
16 with them on your own, "How's school? How's things
17 going? I hear you're in the Brownies". You'd never
18 say -- why would you say? Why would you say so that
19 you're going to be left with her and get retribution
20 from her. That's madness to me.
- 21 Q. So even if, for example, you had had an opportunity to
22 speak to Panel members on your own, would that have been
23 a situation where you would have felt safe enough to be
24 able to tell them what was happening?
- 25 A. No. I think it would need to have been somebody -- like

1 when I think how much I liked Mr Peterson and how much
2 he helped me --

3 LADY SMITH: That's your music teacher?

4 A. Yes. I could never tell him, you know, some of the
5 stuff.

6 MS RATTRAY: So I'm going to take you back to when you were
7 telling us about experiences of abusive behaviour in
8 cottage 22. You tell us about that at page 1802. I'll
9 turn now to page 1804. You refer firstly to your
10 friendship groups at paragraphs 91 and 92 and that
11 friendships generally were good unless you fell out with
12 somebody, and you make reference to having fights with
13 children and claiming people. Can you tell me a bit
14 more about what that was about?

15 A. That was just daft kids' stuff, wasn't it? I don't
16 know, like 12 or having a boyfriend, [REDACTED] and
17 just thinking the sun rose and set on him. And then my
18 friend [REDACTED] was sort of flirting with him. Next thing
19 I knew we were walking to school one morning and someone
20 comes up and says, "[REDACTED] chucked you", I was furious
21 because I thought [REDACTED] s done something to get herself
22 in with [REDACTED] So I says to him, "I'm not bothered, you
23 can chuck us anyway but you're claimed", so let's have
24 a fight. So the whole day everyone's like, "When are
25 you fighting? When are you fighting?" and it was just

1 stupid fighting with a boy, it was ridiculous.

2 So it got to the whole day and it got to the end of
3 the day and he was waiting at the gates and it was
4 madness. I don't even know why I said I'd do it, but
5 I was there so I had to do it. So he pushed me and then
6 I pushed him and he had no hair to grab, so it was just
7 like a few fights -- punches, and he'd won, and I was
8 crying. Because it was frustration as well because I'd
9 nothing to grip on and obviously I wasn't as strong as
10 him.

11 I was sort of totally humiliated. Not only had
12 I been chucked, I'd been battered by him as well, and
13 [REDACTED] I remember, was walking away and she sort of
14 linked up with him, "Ah, she's a such-and-such anyway".
15 I was just like furious, "You're claimed". So it was
16 like I could have cut my tongue off, fighting two people
17 in the same day. So she came back and the two of us had
18 a fight and, oh my God, like terrible, and scratches
19 and ... But I won that one just because I was properly
20 enraged. And I remember, you know, that night or the
21 next day, having to go up for a music lesson and [REDACTED]
22 covered in scratches and my nose had been bleeding but
23 I looked a lot better once the blood had come off and
24 Mr Peterson having heard about the fight and was just
25 like, "Girls I am so disappointed, you have no idea.

1 I expect so much more of you", and he only had to talk
2 for about two minutes and the two of us were in tears
3 and were, like, really remorseful because we'd let him
4 down. That was worse than anything, not looking good in
5 his eyes. He made us shake hands and be friends because
6 we were in the same music group, we were in the same
7 choir. It was daft not to be friends, but just daft
8 fights.

9 Q. So that kind of response which it seems to be what you
10 found a very helpful response --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- to two fighting children, did you encounter that kind
13 of response or similar response from any other adult in
14 Quarriers?

15 A. Some of your teachers were canny. Like my English
16 teacher was nice. Mrs Lamont in Primary Seven, she was
17 brilliant, I loved her. My science teacher,
18 Mrs Milligan, was great. You could maybe sort of get
19 talked to like that from them. But it was weird, you
20 still wouldn't tell them what was going on. You
21 just ... I don't know what it was, I don't know what
22 it would have taken to feel safe enough to talk to
23 somebody.

24 Q. Further down on page 1804, you talk about someone you
25 describe as "a horrible boy at Quarriers" and describe

- 1 him as a real predator.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What happened with him?
- 4 A. He was hard work. He was just like ... You had to be
- 5 really careful being around him and try and not get
- 6 yourself on your own with him. Sometimes you'd get
- 7 a treat on a Friday night and you'd be allowed to stay
- 8 up and watch the horror, so it would be a Frankenstein
- 9 or a Dracula or something and he would just start
- 10 masturbating and say, "Do you want to touch it? Go on
- 11 girls", and you properly didn't want to give him any eye
- 12 contact. He would take up most of the chairs and be
- 13 watching the telly masturbating, and me and the other
- 14 couple of girls would be sitting watching the telly --
- 15 even another boy, he would do it in front of them. And
- 16 it was just stressful being around him because you just
- 17 didn't know when he was going to do what he did.
- 18 Q. Was this when [REDACTED] **QOE** [REDACTED] was in charge?
- 19 A. Yes. And she would be in her sitting room, so there
- 20 would be long gaps where there would be no supervision,
- 21 like, with the kids watching the telly, they'd watch
- 22 telly, and in her sitting room she'd have her own telly,
- 23 so she'd be watching her own programmes.
- 24 Q. You describe an incident which took place in the
- 25 cornfields.

1 A. Yes. We were only young and I could only have been
2 about sort of 10, 11 at the most. It must have been the
3 holidays of some sort because we'd all been -- down from
4 cottage 22 is the park, you go over the park and the
5 pond, and then there's the main road and then there was
6 a big field and like the corn was really high. You just
7 ran through it and you flopped down and you could just
8 hide anywhere. There were loads of us. I'd say there
9 must have been eight of us had played that game in the
10 morning, and we came home at lunchtime for our food.
11 Everybody was talking about it, it was great.

12 Then when we went back in the afternoon, bloody --
13 the fella who followed me to where I was, and him and
14 this other boy, and he started again, you know.
15 I thought, oh for God's sake. I'm on my own and he's
16 there, and you're ready, you're stressed thinking what's
17 going to happen. He just started again to get it out,
18 "Just have a little touch, it'll be fine", "No, no, no",
19 and then I was getting up to go away and he grabbed us,
20 pushed us down, laid on top of us, had his thing out,
21 and it was erect, and I just remember, he was trying to
22 get my pants -- and I just remember holding them
23 like ... until I could feel that they were practically
24 cutting into us, as tight as anything, holding on,
25 hoping my arms wouldn't get weak, you can't get past

1 this.

2 It was kissing, "I love you", it was almost like
3 he was -- I don't know -- fantasising something out in
4 his head, but all the while trying to get you. And the
5 weight of him was so bloody much you couldn't even
6 scream or anything, it was barely enough to keep your
7 breath. And just crying and crying and crying. And
8 eventually, the other boy had been saying to him, "Get
9 off her, she doesn't want that", and he pushed him off
10 and I was away like a shot, I was absolutely done. And
11 I just kept away from him properly after that.

12 Q. How old were you at the time?

13 A. Probably only about 10, 11.

14 Q. And how old was this older boy?

15 A. I would say about 15.

16 Q. Was this a behaviour, this kind of behaviour, something
17 that staff at Quarriers were aware of?

18 A. Oh, I don't think the staff were aware of, no.

19 Q. When I say staff, I mean in more general terms like
20 house parents.

21 A. No. Well, I never said anything because I was
22 frightened of the retribution from him, and he's not
23 going to say anything, and the younger boy's not going
24 to say anything who pushed him off because he'll be
25 frightened of the retribution from him as well.

1 There was probably a little part that thought if you
2 ever spoke about these things, because it was dirty
3 things, you would get into trouble somehow because you'd
4 done something wrong.

5 Q. At page 1805, paragraph 97, you tell us that at a later
6 date, in about 2003/2004, your brother took this older
7 boy, then an adult, to court because he made your
8 brother have oral sex with him in the bathroom at your
9 cottage and that **QOE** was also part of that. Were you
10 present when there was something happening in the
11 bathroom at the cottage?

12 A. No. I remember trying to get into the bathroom one time
13 and the door was locked for ages, and looking through,
14 and it was this fella and somebody else, another boy,
15 but I didn't know what they were doing and I didn't
16 suspect anything weird was going on.

17 It was only when we left Quarriers that my
18 brother -- this came to light, what this person had done
19 to him in the bathroom. But she wasn't part of that,
20 she was part of that court case.

21 Q. Okay. I understand now.

22 I am going to ask you a little bit on the subject of
23 abuse because you say something in relation to -- your
24 next set of house parents, the **QKG/QKH**. In general
25 terms, what was your experience with the **QKG/QKH** when

- 1 you compare that to your experience with [REDACTED] QOE ?
- 2 A. They weren't as bad as [REDACTED] QOE . But they weren't
- 3 great either, you know. I just got the impression that
- 4 they were just doing a few years until their retirement
- 5 and then that was just going to see them through. For
- 6 me, I just always got the sense that their heart wasn't
- 7 properly in it. They weren't doing it for the right
- 8 reasons, because they loved kids and wanted to support
- 9 them; it just seemed like a sort of filler job before
- 10 their retirement age that they could probably do without
- 11 any major qualifications being needed.
- 12 Q. In relation to for example, bed-wetting, did you get
- 13 a more sympathetic response perhaps from the [REDACTED] QKG/QKH?
- 14 A. Yes, because I don't remember them ever doing anything
- 15 like that for anybody who had wet the bed. This time
- 16 I'd be older and it would be younger ones than me.
- 17 I don't remember them doing that. I just remember them
- 18 sometimes being a bit sort of rough with [REDACTED] QKI and
- 19 [REDACTED] my brothers. I remember them just sort of
- 20 manhandling them a bit, "Do what you're told", and
- 21 shoving them around and sort of poking them, that sort
- 22 of thing, but not punching them.
- 23 Q. Was that [REDACTED] QKG or [REDACTED] QKH ?
- 24 A. Mr [REDACTED] QKG
- 25 Q. So you saw Mr [REDACTED] QKG as you describe it, manhandling

1 and shoving your brothers?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What about mealtimes with the QKG/QKH? Was that a more
4 relaxed experience than with QOE or was
5 a similar approach taken?

6 A. No, that was less stressful, that was more ordinary,
7 they were fine. They wouldn't force-feed anybody
8 anything.

9 Q. I think you yourself refer to an occasion where perhaps
10 you felt demeaned by Mr QKG. Can you tell me a bit
11 about that?

12 A. Just a simple thing, you know, like a couple of
13 times ... One was I'd been keeping this wee diary and
14 I hated it when he lost his temper with QKI and
15 and I used to think: you're always going to win because
16 you're bigger than them, you're just an idiot. And I
17 used to write these things in my diary: I hate him, he's
18 too rough, he's this, that and the other, and there's
19 nobody else to stand up for them, so I was trying to
20 stand up for them in my own way.

21 Anyway, I don't know, maybe somebody else had found
22 it, one of the cottage aunties, and passed it to them,
23 but I remember coming in at lunchtime from school one
24 day and everybody else was in the dining room and he was
25 holding this up in the hallway, "What do you call this?"

1 and I could see it was my diary. "I've read that from
2 cover to cover and I know what you're saying about me,
3 this is libellous, I could go to a solicitor and get you
4 done", and sort of putting the fear of God into you.
5 I didn't know if that was true, you could get
6 a solicitor and get me, you know. So I was just raging
7 inside, but also a bit frightened, thinking, oh my God,
8 have I done something really wrong that I could get into
9 bother for.

10 LADY SMITH: So he had been reading your personal diary?

11 A. Yes, yes. And read everything. And, "Don't you dare
12 say these things about me", and, "Your brothers are an
13 absolute nightmare, they're lucky they don't get more",
14 that sort of thing.

15 I remember once as well in Turnberry when we went on
16 holiday, if you had to get the table set and you put the
17 cups out, and because it was holiday time, you'd get
18 orange juice, which was a right treat, like diluted
19 orange. So I made up a big jug and poured it into all
20 the cups. Once I had poured it in, I took a little sip
21 out of quite a few cups, just because I liked it.

22 I wasn't going to take loads out, it was just a little
23 bit out of quite a lot. He caught me and then it was
24 like humiliating me in front of everybody. "The reason
25 you've got less orange juice is because **QLW** been

1 helping herself to everybody's." It's a childish thing
2 to do, isn't it, just to have a wee sneaky, but to make
3 you embarrassed in front of everybody and hold you up
4 like that. That was him.

5 MS RATTRAY: I think you also say at page 1805,
6 paragraph 101, that you always got the feeling that
7 he was looking for ways to put you down, undermine you
8 or give a negative impression of you, and he was talking
9 about, at a Children's Hearing, that you hadn't been
10 practising as much at music.

11 A. Yes. It would be things like, so that you would know
12 they were in charge, that they had a little bit of power
13 over you, that they could make you a little bit
14 miserable. So then you'd go along to this Panel
15 thinking everything was okay, and he'd say, "No, she's
16 not really been working as hard as she could have been".
17 And you're like, "I think I have", or if you haven't,
18 "Why are you not asking me why am I not practising as
19 much?" Have I stopped liking music, am I struggling
20 with something? If you've noticed that, why are you not
21 asking me what's happening? Why are you saving that up
22 to give to the Panel people to say she's not as good as
23 she thinks she is, you know.

24 Q. Moving on to your third set of house parents, the
25 Wilsons, June and William Wilson. If you could describe

1 in general terms how life was different under their care
2 compared to [REDACTED] QOE and also to some extent
3 compared to your experience with the [REDACTED] QKG/QKH.

4 A. Yes, because there was a home. I can't remember what it
5 was called or what number it was, but I think it was run
6 by somebody called Gavin Roy and it was for the older
7 adolescents and they all stayed in this place when they
8 got to a certain age. I was considering going in there
9 and I'd been in cottage 22 from really young. So I was
10 sort of frightened to leave there. But I was sick of
11 them and I was sick of feeling rubbish and sick of
12 feeling picked on.

13 So I was thinking, I'll just sign up to go in here,
14 which was supposed to be a little bit more independent
15 living and all sort of older people. But I don't know,
16 I ... It was like a security, it was the only security
17 I'd known, so I was loath to go in there, but I was so
18 sick of them, I was thinking I'm just going to go in.

19 Q. When you say "them", who are you referring to?

20 A. The [REDACTED] QKG/QKH. Then I heard that they were leaving and
21 we were getting new house parents, and I thought I'll
22 see what these people are like, and they were great.

23 What was nice about them was they had a daughter the
24 same age, and instead of -- there was one room that
25 could have been just for her. They partitioned that

1 room off and her and I were roughly the same age, so
2 they put a bed in one half and one in the other, and we
3 both got our own room because we were the oldest girls.
4 I really appreciated that because it wasn't like you
5 were stuck in with all the other girls. So they didn't
6 just favour their own daughter, they were fair about
7 things.

8 They let us go -- they were Christian people. And
9 sometimes [REDACTED] would go off to Christian groups, you
10 could go with her if you wanted. They were relaxed
11 about food. So if you wanted to make a bit of toast or
12 a cup of tea, "Yeah, help yourself". Warm, proper,
13 genuine. She worked really hard, June. Sometimes you'd
14 look at her and she'd have big bags under her eyes
15 because she'd be up early in the morning and she'd be on
16 the go the whole time and she was always doing for
17 everybody. She was really nice.

18 Q. What would happen if someone didn't behave when the
19 Wilsons were in charge?

20 A. She would speak to them. Willy would be more the
21 authoritarian one, but he was more bluster than
22 anything. There was no real badness behind him. He
23 would go, "That's ridiculous, pack that in now, I've had
24 enough of this", and that would be enough.

25 June would be very much, "So come on then, what's

1 going on with you? You're not usually like this, what's
2 got into you today?" She'd be much more kind and take
3 time and sort of get to the bottom of things.

4 Q. You refer to them as Willy and June; is that what you
5 called them?

6 A. Auntie June and Uncle Willy.

7 Q. At an earlier stage, I think when you were with
8 QOE you refer to running away.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that right? What happened?

11 A. Not far. Some of the kids would say, "I'm running
12 away". [REDACTED] was great, she would properly run away,
13 and be away for hours, sometimes she would get to
14 Glasgow, right up to my mum's house. She was good, she
15 knew what she was doing. I was a big scaredy cat.
16 I was frightened of being further than the gates,
17 really, as I didn't know what would happen and I didn't
18 want to get in trouble.

19 The police would bring her back and she looked
20 really cool, getting dropped off by the police, and I'd
21 be like terrified thinking, "Oh my God, if the police
22 ever spoke to me, I'd be demented". So no, I maybe got
23 to the gates or the top of the hill and that was it, I'd
24 change my mind and I'd come back. It would be in a fit
25 of, "I'm not putting up with this any more, I'm sick of

1 her grabbing at us, I'm sick of her shouting at us, I'm
2 going to run away", and then you'd get so far and just,
3 no, come back.

4 Q. I take it from that, the reasons for running away were
5 [REDACTED] QOE [REDACTED] abusive behaviour towards you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And what would happen when you were returned? Was there
8 any consequence for running away?

9 A. I never did properly. She never knew I did because
10 I would only get as far as the hill or across to where
11 the -- sometimes if you went where that field was, if
12 you followed the road up to the top, that road would
13 take you into Kilmacolm and those kind of villages.
14 That would be as far as we got, really.

15 But with [REDACTED] you know, she was tested by [REDACTED]
16 a lot. And just the whole -- "You think you're clever,
17 you think you're this, it'll be somewhere else for you,
18 lady, mark my words", you know. It was all of this sort
19 of threatening things, "You're not for here much longer,
20 you'll be sent somewhere else for your behaviour", sort
21 of threatening.

22 Q. Was she ever punished for running away?

23 A. I don't remember. I don't remember any specific
24 punishments.

25 Q. Did anyone ever ask your sister why she ran away?

- 1 A. I don't remember anybody. Maybe the police did.
- 2 Q. You say about threats that she would be sent somewhere
3 else, and in your statement after you describe the
4 incident where [REDACTED] lost her temper after [REDACTED] [QOE] was
5 speaking in a demeaning fashion about your mum, it
6 wasn't long after that that [REDACTED] left.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Is that right?
- 9 A. I mean, things like -- I ended up getting foster
10 friends, but they were actually for [REDACTED] She was
11 supposed to get them because this couple had a daughter
12 who was [REDACTED] age and it was to be like a sort of
13 friend for this only child, I think. And I remember
14 [REDACTED] [QOE] saying, "You're supposed to be getting
15 such-and-such, but she's absolutely out of control and
16 she will not be suitable for you, so we're going to let
17 you have [REDACTED] [QLW] as a foster friend", which was great for
18 me because I thought, great, I'm going to be able to get
19 out at the weekend and go stay with these people.
- 20 [REDACTED] -- this was her getting her own back on [REDACTED]
21 for everything that [REDACTED] had done and she would have
22 really benefited from that, having somebody that would
23 give her a little breather from Quarriers every
24 fortnight. That would have been great.
- 25 Q. I understand from your statement that you enjoyed your

1 time with foster friends.

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. And that wasn't the only positive experience you had in
4 Quarriers?

5 A. Oh God, no. I mean, if I say nothing else, I must say
6 the music teacher, he was like the absolute saviour for
7 me in that place.

8 Q. Tell us about that. You've touched on that on several
9 occasions and it's clear from your statement that your
10 love of music and the support of your music teacher had
11 helped you a lot. Can you tell us about that?

12 A. It wasn't even love of music; it was him. It was
13 being -- I remember my friend having piano lessons and
14 going up and hearing her because we were going to swap
15 this dolly and I had to go back to her house with her,
16 and just watching him with her for a start. He wasn't
17 dodgy, he was perfectly respectful. You had to watch
18 a lot of the men in the homes. And there's things that
19 I haven't put in my statement which I'm not going to put
20 in that went on, do you know?

21 So you quickly worked out who was safe to be around
22 and he definitely was safe to be around. And he was
23 just so -- he was old, you know, little bald head, wee
24 moustache, super canny, dead patient. So I quite liked
25 him. He just -- there was just something about him

1 I liked. So I says, can I have piano lessons, yes, yes,
2 you can start your piano lessons. So when I started,
3 I got on great, really quickly. Who knew? And within
4 about a year, I'd started doing the grade exams. He
5 would put us into the Greenock festival. Sometimes the
6 duet class, sometimes the single classes. One of the
7 classes, my other friend she did it as well, so she won
8 certificates as well.

9 And it was just ... It became like the best place
10 to be, like at the end of the day, I didn't want to go
11 home, I would just go up to the music room, and it was
12 in the Sommerville Weir Hall, which was a big building
13 up in the centre of Quarriers. In that there's a main
14 hall, but if you go up the stairs right to the top
15 there's a little room, which was just a little music
16 room, and he had all the instruments and the music
17 stands and he had cupboards full of music and scripts
18 and scores and what have you. So just any excuse
19 I could have to be up there. Shall I clean out this
20 cupboard for you, Mr Peterson? Shall I sort out all the
21 costumes? Shall I copy this music for you? I'm just
22 going to practise for a little bit. It was just being
23 around him.

24 He used to always have in his bag a little plastic
25 bag with teabags, a flask, a little bit of milk and

1 chocolate digestives. When he'd finished his work or
2 you'd finished your lesson, he would say, "You can stay
3 and have a little chocolate digestive, can't you?" "Of
4 course I can, "and you would stay and get a wee cup of
5 tea with him and a we chocolate digestive.

6 What he gave me -- so I joined the choir, I joined
7 the small singing group, I joined the percussion group,
8 I joined everything musical, and went through all the
9 grades.

10 After a couple of years or so, he said you're sort
11 of getting too good for me, girls, I'm going to audition
12 you for the Royal Scottish Academy and see if you can
13 get up there on a Saturday to get your lessons up there.
14 We went up for the audition and got in, and Quarriers
15 paid for that obviously, but he did that, he saw that
16 that happened, and he put you in for the graded exams
17 and he put you in for the Festival and he made you
18 believe that you were talented and that you ... He
19 would say, you know, "It's 1% talent, 99% hard work,
20 you've got to put the work in, you won't get good just
21 by hoping you'll be good, you've got to put the work
22 in".

23 He was brilliant and he gave me something that was
24 a bit of a sort of release, you know, because when you
25 were in the playroom, kids would be coming and going and

1 running about, but as soon as you started playing, you
2 sort of lost them and you forgot about them and you
3 just -- and it was a way of sort of -- it sounds really
4 cheesy, but soothing you. It soothed you. It made you
5 calmer. You expressed yourself. It was a good thing.

6 Q. Mr Peterson, was he based at the Quarriers school?

7 A. Yes. And he was the church organist and he ran the
8 choir and he was the music teacher in the school.

9 Q. You mentioned there about how you felt safe with him.
10 But there were men in Quarriers that you didn't feel
11 safe with; is that right?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. I don't want to ask you about something that you're not
14 comfortable with answering, but do I take it from that
15 that there were others -- was that an issue you had
16 personally or was it because certain people were known
17 to --

18 A. No, no, this was another incident that was personal and
19 it was somebody I thought was good, but they weren't.
20 So I just stopped seeing them, I stopped going.

21 Q. Was this someone employed by Quarriers?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are you able to help us at all with who it is?

24 A. No.

25 Q. That's fine, okay.

1 In relation to positive experiences, I think you've
2 told us, and we don't need to go into it at length, you
3 enjoyed your birthdays and Christmas.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Those were positive occasions?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you also had trips and holidays which you enjoyed at
8 Quarriers?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And it's also clear from your statement that you enjoyed
11 school.

12 A. Yes. And I was good at school. I think we were the
13 first sort of cohort to go through who got any sort of
14 O levels. So we got some O levels and then we went to
15 Park Mains High School to do Highers, which was a bit
16 scary, actually, but Quarriers didn't do Highers, so it
17 was the only place we could go, really.

18 Q. I'm going to move on and ask you about leaving care. We
19 know from your statement that you left Quarriers and you
20 went on to study nursing.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You've indicated in your statement that you felt that
23 you weren't prepared for living on your own out of care,
24 out of Quarriers. Can you explain why you felt that
25 way?

1 A. Just because when I left, I remember thinking I don't
2 know what I'm going to do, and a girl who'd already left
3 a year, a friend of mine, [REDACTED] she was already doing
4 her nurse's training and she says, do your nurse's
5 training because you can stay in the nurses' home, you
6 do the training and you get paid as you are doing it.
7 She was really enjoying it and I thought, I'll do that.

8 It felt like I had to sort of write off and get the
9 details, the address, who to sort of send to, to apply,
10 fill in the forms. I went along for the interview.
11 I don't remember how I got there, I must have said,
12 "I've got an interview", and maybe one of the drivers
13 took us and dropped us off. I got accepted to go on the
14 course and applied to stay in the nurses' home and they
15 said I could stay there.

16 I remember on the Sunday being dropped off by the
17 cottage auntie in the afternoon, and she handed me
18 a fiver from her, not from the home, just from her, and
19 saying, "You take care and keep in touch and let us know
20 how you're getting on". And it was only when [REDACTED] came
21 in that night, I said to her, "Actually, this is all
22 I've got. When do we get paid?" and she says, "It will
23 be a month", so she lent me some money until the end of
24 the month.

25 Q. Quarriers have indicated from your records that in your

1 records there's reference in August 1980 to
2 a three-month period of discussing your past and future
3 with someone called Marie Stuart.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you tell me a bit about that?

6 A. See, that was never sold to me as discussing my past and
7 future. I think it was Ian Brodie who approached me and
8 he said, "Marie is learning to be social worker and
9 you've been here since you were 6, you're 18 now, coming
10 up to 18, would you be willing to talk to her and talk
11 her through all your experiences coming in, what it's
12 been like, just to give her some idea, some insight into
13 what it is like for somebody in care who's in care
14 long-term?" And I said yes, yes, I don't mind at all.
15 And I quite liked it because she would meet up away from
16 the house and you would maybe go into Bridge of Weir and
17 into a little café and she'd say, "Describe what your
18 trip in the car was like, coming into Quarriers,
19 what was the first few weeks like?" and she'd just ask
20 you general things like that.

21 Q. So it's your understanding you were helping the student
22 social worker --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- rather than it being part of a preparation for you
25 leaving care?

1 A. Yes. Now, I don't know if we -- you know, we might have
2 touched on me going into Ross House and becoming
3 a nurse, but that was not my understanding that she was
4 going to prepare me for leaving.

5 Q. I think there's reference in -- in fact, there is, I've
6 been shown it -- reference in your records to
7 Ian Brodie, who was a social worker within Quarriers --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- for you. I'll ask you a wee bit more about him in
10 a minute. But there's reference to him referring to you
11 coming back to Quarriers to visit after you'd gone for
12 training as a nurse.

13 A. Mm-hm. I had, what, maybe six weeks after -- if not
14 even that. Coming back to visit. Because Paisley
15 wasn't far from Quarriers -- it was maybe, what, half
16 an hour on the train, so it was easy enough to go back.
17 I remember me, off my own back, going back to visit
18 them, probably because there would be no sort of family
19 to go and see on your days off or anything because
20 I wasn't really connected back to my mum. My dad had
21 died, so it would be the only people you would have to
22 visit. Do you know what I mean?

23 I liked June and Willy Wilson, so it wasn't hard to
24 go back and see them and say hello and stay for dinner
25 and sometimes stay overnight.

1 That was me making -- not somebody saying, "Can you
2 come back for a meeting?" or, "Can you come back so's
3 we can have a chat?" I just remember going back to
4 visit them.

5 Q. There's reference in your records to possibly a visit,
6 that someone from Quarriers, I don't know if it was
7 Ian Brodie, but Ian Brodie refers to it, to you at your
8 nursing --

9 A. I don't remember that at all.

10 Q. -- in November 1980. Do you remember that?

11 A. No, I don't remember that at all.

12 Q. I think amongst that there's reference to perhaps you
13 expressing positive feelings about Quarriers.

14 A. I would have positive feelings because I would have
15 ended with the Wilsons and I had a job. Yeah, you know,
16 my whole thing is, like, although the bad things
17 happened, there was lots of good things happened for me.
18 So I can't just go, oh, it was terrible, it was
19 a nightmare, because it wasn't. There was lots of good
20 things happened as well that I'm really grateful for.

21 So if I did see him, if he did come, I don't
22 remember it. Yeah, I can imagine I would have been
23 positive.

24 Q. There's a letter on file as well from Ian Brodie
25 suggesting that he would come and visit in July 1981;

- 1 is that something you remember at all?
- 2 A. See, that does not ring a bell. That would be a whole
3 year later.
- 4 Q. So at what stage did Ian Brodie become your in-house
5 Quarriers social worker?
- 6 A. He was a nice enough bloke. He was a mild-mannered --
7 sort of gentle aura about him. A couple of years maybe,
8 before I left. That's just an approximation.
- 9 Q. At that stage you were with the Wilsons?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Had you had someone like Ian Brodie as an in-house
12 social worker when you were with [REDACTED] QOE or with
13 the [REDACTED] QKG/QKH would he have been a person that you could
14 have reported the abusive behaviour to?
- 15 A. I don't know. There was a real sort of mistrust that
16 the adults were all in it together. Do you know what
17 I mean? They would all stick together, so you ...
18 I wouldn't have liked to have risked it, I don't think,
19 even with him.
- 20 Q. You referred there to the death of your father while you
21 were at Quarriers.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. How was that handled by Quarriers?
- 24 A. It was just -- I remember getting told that he wasn't
25 well, "We've got a little card here, why don't you and

1 your brothers write something on the card and we'll get
2 it posted". I wasn't worried because they didn't sound
3 worried that anything was wrong. They didn't say
4 anything was wrong with him. He had cirrhosis of the
5 liver and if I had known that maybe I would have been
6 prepared for him dying, but it just sounded like he was
7 unwell, so we were sending off this card, and it must
8 have been a couple of weeks later being told that he
9 died.

10 Q. And who was it who told you that?

11 A. **QOE** saying that he was an alcoholic and this, that
12 and the other, and you know, just ...

13 Q. Did she tell you in a supportive way at all?

14 A. In the sitting room, away from everybody, and my two
15 brothers just giggled -- I think it was just nerves with
16 them, they just started laughing. It didn't sound real
17 to them, I don't think, and I was annoyed at them, "Why
18 are you laughing? Our dad's died". She was just matter
19 of fact: there will be a minibus, the funeral is
20 tomorrow or the next day and they'll be going up to
21 Glasgow, unless you don't want to go. And I was like
22 no, I wanted to go. But that was it. After that, you
23 just got on with it. I just remember feeling sad the
24 whole time.

25 I remember people just eating their dinner and

1 thinking, they're eating their dinner, they're getting
2 on with ordinary things, and my dad's just died, you
3 know.

4 Q. Were you --

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, how are we doing for time? I'm
6 just thinking about the stenographers at the moment as
7 they've been going for more than an hour and a half
8 since we resumed.

9 MS RATTRAY: We're almost a conclusion.

10 Were you offered any counselling or support?

11 A. No, nothing.

12 Q. Two more things to ask you about, and the first one is
13 your records. You have said in your statement that you
14 asked for records, but were given only a few sheets,
15 which surprised you as you expected they would be far
16 more extensive than that. When did you ask for your
17 records?

18 A. God, that must have been in the 90s some time. I'd been
19 up visiting the home. I had a friend and I was showing
20 them around it, and all the different -- the church,
21 this, that and the other. And bumping into Bill Dunbar
22 and he was the archivist. And he was all, yes, I'll get
23 those sent through to you, don't worry. And when it
24 came through, it was literally a couple of sheets with
25 "Admission into Quarriers, father in prison, mother

1 whatever". Nothing ...

2 Q. I have been asked to say that your records are far more
3 extensive than that and certainly Quarriers are happy to
4 assist you at the present time if you're wanting to
5 recover a full copy of them.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But that wasn't made available to you?

8 A. No, and I don't know why they never gave me them when
9 I asked for them.

10 Q. Lastly, you've told us at some length in your
11 statement -- and it has been considered very
12 carefully -- about your life after care as an adult and
13 the impact your experiences in Quarriers had upon you as
14 an adult. Could you summarise, just generally, what you
15 feel the impact has been on you as an adult of being
16 a child in care in Quarriers?

17 A. I think it's ... I think it made me quite sad a lot of
18 the time when you would think back to some of the harder
19 times. Alcoholism runs right through our family and my
20 brother and sister have both died of it, and they were
21 only 50 and 51. Then sort of -- because I left the home
22 one week on the Sunday afternoon and I met my -- who's
23 now my ex-husband -- the following Saturday and I think
24 I just latched on to the first person who was giving me
25 any sort of attention, and that wasn't the best thing

1 that I did because he absolutely wasn't right.

2 But I stuck with it because I thought, "I'll make it
3 work". I didn't want Social Services getting involved
4 in my life, the way they had in my mum and dad's. But
5 then as things got worse between them in the marriage
6 and I was thinking about divorce, I drank too much
7 myself.

8 Long story short, I got to AA in the year 2000 and
9 have never had a drink since. But I've watched it
10 decimate the rest of my brothers and sisters who are
11 very angry about Quarriers and very bitter about the
12 life that it's left them.

13 So on balance, now, I would just say that I'm
14 resigned to -- there was bad things that happened, but
15 I've tried to sort of balance my thinking about it out
16 and I'm sort of choosing to go on the happier side and
17 I'm choosing to focus on the better things that happened
18 there, and my life's good, you know. I'm sober, my
19 family's well, my kids are doing well, I've got a wee
20 grandson. You know, just ...

21 Q. And you were able to go on and you studied music for
22 three years?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then you went to university to do teacher training?

25 A. Yes. And I'm a teacher.

1 Q. You're now a teacher of music and English?

2 A. Yes.

3 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I have no further questions for this
4 witness, unless there are further questions from anyone
5 else.

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

8 Alison, thank you very much. Thank you for engaging
9 with the inquiry in the way you have done, both with
10 your written statement and coming along today to talk
11 about your life at Quarriers and since, and indeed
12 before, as vividly as you have done. It's tremendously
13 helpful to me and I can now let you go. Thank you.

14 A. Thank you.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the day, a final reminder
17 about restriction orders. Anne mentioned her siblings'
18 first names at one point, but people probably picked up
19 that I had reassured her they wouldn't be mentioned
20 outside the hearing room.

21 Alison has also mentioned [REDACTED] QOE and insofar
22 as what she was talking about related to allegations of
23 which [REDACTED] QOE has not been convicted, those are
24 covered by a restriction order.

25 She also mentioned, I think, the names of some

1 children and one house auntie, which are covered by
2 a restriction order and cannot be mentioned outside the
3 hearing room.

4 Other than that we will leave it until tomorrow
5 morning at 10 o'clock, is that right, Ms Rattray?

6 MS RATTRAY: That's right, my Lady, when we have three oral
7 witnesses and also a read-in.

8 (4.55 pm)

9 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
10 on Wednesday 7 November 2018)

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"JOHN" (affirmed)1

Questions from MR PEOPLES1

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Questions from MR PEOPLES99

"ALISON" (affirmed)152

Questions from MS RATTRAY152

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