

1 Wednesday, 16 October 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to hearings when  
4 we're going to start today, as you may have spotted,  
5 with the video link. It looks like the video link is  
6 ready to run; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

7 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

8 Yes, we are ready to run. The next witness is an  
9 applicant, he wants to remain anonymous in giving  
10 evidence and to use the name "Billy".

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

12 Billy, good morning. Can you see me all right?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, fine, thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: And hear me?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, perfect, thanks very much.

16 LADY SMITH: I'm Lady Smith. I chair this child abuse  
17 inquiry that's based here in Edinburgh and I'm grateful  
18 to you for agreeing to speak to us over the video link  
19 this morning.

20 Before we start taking your evidence, I'd like to  
21 put you on oath, please, and so that means starting by  
22 you raising your right hand, as I have just done, and  
23 repeat after me.

24 "BILLY" (sworn) (via video link)

25 LADY SMITH: Before I hand you over to Mr MacAulay, can

1 I just assure you that if you've got any questions at  
2 any time to do with the link or any difficulties with  
3 it, please let us know because we can pause if  
4 necessary. Also, if you have any questions at all about  
5 what's happening or you don't understand, please do let  
6 me know about that.

7 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and  
8 he will explain to you what happens next; is that all  
9 right?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's fine, thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Good. Mr MacAulay.

12 Questions from MR MacAULAY

13 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Billy.

14 A. Good morning.

15 Q. You have in front of you your statement. The first  
16 thing I want to do is ask you to look at the last page  
17 and while you're looking for that, I'll give the  
18 reference for the transcript: WIT.001.001.8120.

19 Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

20 A. (Pause). Yes, it is signed. The numbers didn't marry  
21 up at the front of the page. Yes, that's fine.

22 Q. Do you tell us in the final paragraph:

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

25 Is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes, that's fine.
- 2 Q. Do you also say:
- 3 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
4 statement are true"?
- 5 A. That's true, yes.
- 6 Q. Because you want to be anonymous, Billy, I don't want  
7 you to confirm your date of birth, but can you confirm  
8 for me that you were born in 1970?
- 9 A. Yes, I was born in 1970.
- 10 Q. Looking to your family background, I think what you tell  
11 us in your statement is that your father was in the  
12 Army; is that right?
- 13 A. That's right, yes.
- 14 Q. And based in Germany?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. As a young boy did you spend time in Germany?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But did there come a point in time when the decision was  
19 made that you should come to Scotland in connection with  
20 your education?
- 21 A. Yes, that's right.
- 22 Q. I think you had some relatives in Scotland, particularly  
23 a grandmother; is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And did you go to live with your grandmother for

- 1 a period of time?
- 2 A. Yes. Well, my grandmother and my grandfather until he
- 3 died, yes.
- 4 Q. I think you ended up by going to St Columba's College in
- 5 Largs and that was in 1978; is that correct?
- 6 A. That's correct, yes.
- 7 Q. So then you'd be, what, 8 years of age?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You tell us in your statement that you have two
- 10 brothers; is that correct?
- 11 A. That is correct, yes.
- 12 Q. These are two younger brothers?
- 13 A. No, one older, one younger, a year difference.
- 14 Q. Did your younger brother follow you subsequently to
- 15 St Columba's?
- 16 A. Yes, he did.
- 17 Q. What about your older brother, did he go to
- 18 St Columba's?
- 19 A. Yes, he was there a year before me.
- 20 Q. What you tell us in your statement is that you were at
- 21 St Columba's for about four years, up until about 1982;
- 22 is that correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So you'd leave when you were aged 11 or 12, something of
- 25 that sort?

- 1 A. Yes, just about turned 12.
- 2 Q. So far as the accommodation was concerned, Billy, what  
3 you tell us in your statement is that the establishment,  
4 if you can call it that, comprised of two main  
5 buildings; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes, that's right.
- 7 Q. I think you tell us that one of those was called  
8 Landour House and the other was called Northfield House;  
9 is that right?
- 10 A. That is correct, yes.
- 11 Q. Can you tell us what each of these buildings did? Let's  
12 look at Landour House. What happened in Landour House?
- 13 A. That was a boarding house, the house was we would go to  
14 generally after school was finished. It's where  
15 we would sleep, we would eat, we would shower.
- 16 Q. I think we understand from evidence that we have already  
17 heard that there were dormitories on the first and top  
18 floor of the building.
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. So when you went there at the age of 8, would you have  
21 gone into one of the dormitories in that building?
- 22 A. Yes, I went into room 1, which was the first floor.
- 23 Q. And at that time, when you went into that dormitory,  
24 were there other boys in the dormitory with you?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. How many were there at that time?
- 2 A. In that dormitory alone I think there was four or five  
3 other boys.
- 4 Q. During your period at the school, did you move from  
5 dormitory to dormitory?
- 6 A. Yes. I went into two other dormitories during the time  
7 I was there that I recall.
- 8 Q. Was there a time when you were in a dormitory with your  
9 younger brother?
- 10 A. Yes, the last year.
- 11 Q. Did you ever share a dormitory with your older brother?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Let's look at the other building. Was that known as  
14 Northfield House?
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. We understand that as you look to the front of  
17 Landour House, Northfield House was to the left of that  
18 building; is that correct?
- 19 A. That is correct, yes.
- 20 Q. Can you tell us what happened in Northfield House?
- 21 A. That was the schooling side of the house. On the bottom  
22 floor and the top floor was brothers' accommodation.
- 23 Q. We'll look at brothers in a moment. Was that  
24 accommodation for the brothers who were teaching at the  
25 school or also for other brothers as well?

- 1 A. Yes, for both.
- 2 Q. So there were brothers there who really had nothing to  
3 do with the school as such?
- 4 A. Not with teaching or anything to do with us, no.
- 5 Q. Were they more elderly brothers?
- 6 A. Yes. The ones that I saw were, but obviously being  
7 a child and looking at people of age, they could have  
8 been 30, they could have been 50. Some of them were  
9 old, grey, sort of baldy-looking, so they were quite  
10 old, yes.
- 11 Q. You mention, so far as Landour House is concerned, that  
12 there was a room that was referred to as the punishment  
13 room.
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. You mention that in your statement. Can you tell me  
16 about that room? What was that about?
- 17 A. Well, what it says, a punishment room.
- 18 Q. What --
- 19 A. Just a little room near the TV room. Just before you go  
20 down the main hallway, there was a little room kicked  
21 off, and I never wanted to go in that room anyway,  
22 so ...
- 23 Q. But were you ever taken to that room?
- 24 A. Only once, but a second time, when I was too scared to  
25 go in there, Brother Arthur took me in there to say,

1 "There's nothing to be scared, it's only a room." But  
2 that was years later.

3 Q. When you arrived at the school in that early period,  
4 can you tell me who the brothers were that you had  
5 dealings with?

6 A. Yes. Obviously, Germanus was the main brother. He was  
7 the one who was the housemaster. There was  
8 a [REDACTED] brother, who I believe was  
9 Brother <sup>MJZ</sup> [REDACTED] from New Zealand or Fiji, one of them  
10 type countries. I can't remember the names of most of  
11 them back then, to be fair.

12 Q. In your statement, you also mention a Brother <sup>MNQ</sup> [REDACTED]  
13 but I think you say you don't have any real recollection  
14 of him.

15 A. I just know that he had the bedroom above -- as you went  
16 into Northfield House, the main entrance, his was the  
17 bedroom straight in front with windows on either side --  
18 I remember one of the brothers told me one day that --  
19 because I'd have said that I didn't know who he was --  
20 I remember having this conversation with the brother --  
21 and he pointed saying, "You must remember" -- I still  
22 don't remember who Brother <sup>MNQ</sup> [REDACTED] was to be fair, but  
23 I know he was <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] because it's obviously  
24 written on my paperwork.

25 Q. Just to be clear, I think you said that Brother Germanus



- 1 was the housemaster in Landour House. Are you saying  
2 that Brother MNQ appeared to have been [REDACTED]  
3 SNR from what was in the documentation?
- 4 A. Yes. Only -- yes, from what I've learned now, from  
5 what was the documentation, but I always believed  
6 Germanus was SNR at that time.
- 7 Q. Did you consider that Brother Germanus was [REDACTED] of  
8 the establishment?
- 9 A. He was [REDACTED] as far as I was concerned, yes.
- 10 Q. As you go through the years, did the brothers there  
11 change?
- 12 A. Yes. To a certain extent, yes.
- 13 Q. And if you look to the latter period then, can you tell  
14 me what the changes might have been?
- 15 A. Yes. The changes were Brother Arthur coming in.
- 16 Q. What was his role, can you tell me?
- 17 A. He was the SNR [REDACTED] After Germanus got sent  
18 away, he came in because apparently he was the one to  
19 sort out the school according to the brothers.
- 20 Q. We'll come to look at that. Was there another brother  
21 by the name of Brother AKU that came when you were  
22 there?
- 23 A. Yes. He came roughly the same time as Brother Arthur.
- 24 Q. So far as his responsibilities were concerned, that's  
25 Brother AKU what were his responsibilities in

- 1 connection with the boys?
- 2 A. He took over from Germanus as the housemaster.
- 3 Q. If we look at Brother Germanus' position, did he have  
4 a room based in Landour House?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Where was it?
- 7 A. Beside room 1. As you walked in from the hallway on the  
8 first floor, you'd take a left and you'd see a big  
9 dormitory, which was room 1, and then there was a little  
10 kick that went off to one side, to the back of it, and  
11 that was his bedroom. Near enough where my bed was  
12 against the wall at one time, his headboard would be the  
13 opposite side of that wall type thing.
- 14 Q. You say that when you arrived at the school, the  
15 children were very welcoming towards you; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes, very welcoming, yes.
- 17 Q. Did you come across Brother Germanus at an early stage?
- 18 A. Yes, straightaway. My initial memory of him was him  
19 playing the harmonica, sat in the hallway against the  
20 radiator. It was just the look he gave us as I came  
21 into the house -- because they wouldn't let my gran take  
22 me up to the bedroom because women weren't allowed  
23 upstairs.
- 24 Q. When you say "a look", what do you mean by that?
- 25 A. Just when you look at -- that weird look that some of

1           them seemed to have. They just looked for too long.

2           The eyes followed you.

3           Q. You do tell us about an incident that happened early on  
4           in your time at St Columba's, you talk about it in  
5           paragraph 15 of your statement. Can you tell me about  
6           that incident that involved Brother Germanus coming in,  
7           I think, to the -- was it into a bedroom where something  
8           happened?

9           A. Yes. He came to the door, he was stood in the doorway,  
10          we were all in bed, and he started screaming at the boy  
11          who was right near the door, calling him evil.

12          Q. Did you say he was calling him evil?

13          A. Yes. Sorry.

14          Q. Okay. Can I just say, if you need a break at any point  
15          in time, Billy, just let us know.

16                    This incident you're about to tell us about, was  
17          that quite early on in your time at St Columba's?

18          A. Yes. I think it could have been my first few nights  
19          there.

20          Q. Can you tell us what happened?

21          A. Yes. He just screamed at him and dragged him out of  
22          bed. They were like hospital beds, so they were quite  
23          high and he hit the floor quite hard. The boy was  
24          screaming for his life and Germanus grabbed hold of him  
25          by his foot and started to drag him off and dragging him

1 down the hall, pulling him through the hallway, and he  
2 was holding on to the doorway or the architrave, sort  
3 of, to try and hold on, and then he gave him a really  
4 heavy tug and the boy -- it looked like his head  
5 clattered straight off the radiator. Then he kicked out  
6 and he kicked Germanus in the stomach.

7 I was running round the bedroom like a headless  
8 chicken at the time because I didn't know what to do.  
9 Boys were shouting at me, "Get back into bed, get back  
10 go bed!"

11 I remember jumping back into my bed again and  
12 looking and Germanus jumped over the boy and started  
13 hitting him and then dragged him off by his foot again  
14 into the shower room -- and then I just heard pure  
15 screaming. I remember pulling the blanket up and  
16 covering my ears.

17 Q. When you say he was hitting him, what did you actually  
18 see him doing to the boy?

19 A. He was over the boy, punching him.

20 Q. The boy that you're talking about, can you remember his  
21 first name?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Was he --

24 A. He was a tall boy, older than me.

25 Q. I was about to ask you about his age.

1 A. He was older than me, the boy, yes. I can't remember  
2 his name.

3 Q. When you say older, what age do you think this boy was?

4 A. Probably a year older than me, two tops, I would have  
5 thought because I don't know why he would have been  
6 in that room if he wasn't.

7 Q. So he was either 9 or 10?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you told us that, so far as you could tell, the  
10 boy was taken to the shower area; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what could you hear coming from there?

13 A. Screaming, screaming, "Help! Help!" Screaming. Then  
14 I got out of my bed because my big brother was on the  
15 top floor, and I'm assuming that's why I was running  
16 upstairs, to see my big brother, because as I got to the  
17 hallway, that other brother came to the hallway, told me  
18 to get back into bed.

19 I ran back into bed and then I heard him saying,  
20 "What have you done to this poor child?" and then I see  
21 the boy coming back to the bedroom, but he hasn't got  
22 any bottoms on. That brother gave him his pyjama  
23 bottoms back and told him to get back into bed, but  
24 I saw he had -- all down his leg he had all like shit  
25 and stuff running down his leg. Sorry, but that's what

1 he had running down his leg, that's what it looked like.

2 I don't know, but I just thought it was poo.

3 I thought he had pooped himself and I thought he was  
4 getting --

5 Q. The brother who intervened at this point, can you tell  
6 me his name?

7 A. No. I wish I could, but I don't know who it was.

8 Q. Was it one of the brothers that you had dealings with  
9 during your time there?

10 A. Yes. He was the brother that gave out punishment after  
11 dinner.

12 Q. So far as -- sorry, Billy, what did you say?

13 A. He was all right, as I remember, you know, he wasn't  
14 like Germanus.

15 Q. So far as Germanus is concerned, are you able to  
16 remember anything, the sort of things he was saying to  
17 the boy?

18 A. He was calling him evil. Saying, "You evil little boy."  
19 It wasn't that time, it was another -- well, it wasn't  
20 that time, but he said to me to keep away from him or  
21 I'd end up like him.

22 Q. Did you at some point, following upon this incident, in  
23 fact go and join your brother in his bed?

24 A. Yes. For the first -- I think after that happened,  
25 every night I ran up and I jumped into bed with my

1 brother, but I kept weeing the bed.

2 Q. Did you say you kept wetting the bed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Had you been doing that before you went to St Columba's?

5 A. Occasionally, but not regular like that.

6 Q. The incident that you've told us about that happened  
7 early on, what was your reaction to that?

8 A. I was terrified, petrified. It was the scariest thing  
9 I'd seen in my whole life. Still is, near enough. It's  
10 still the worst memory I've got of seeing someone in  
11 such fear, just screaming.

12 Q. In your statement you tell us a little bit about the  
13 routine at St Columba's. I'll just touch upon one or  
14 two aspects of that.

15 If you look at showering, for example, did you have  
16 quite regular showers when you were there?

17 A. No, I think we had showers twice a week.

18 Q. And how was the showering managed?

19 A. We were just sent into the shower room, Germanus would  
20 stand at the door, we would shower. He might  
21 (inaudible: distorted) wash or whatever but ...

22 Q. Did anything happen in connection with yourself and  
23 Germanus on an occasion when you had a shower?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Could you tell us what happened?

1           A. I was showering -- I was on my own, I don't know why  
2           there wasn't anyone else showering, so I'm assuming  
3           maybe I wet the bed or something along them lines.  
4           I can't think of another reason why I'd have to have  
5           a shower and no one else would.

6                     Once I had finished my shower, I was getting out the  
7           shower and he had my towel, and then he went to -- when  
8           I moved in front of him, he grabbed me round the back of  
9           the neck and started squeezing the back of my neck.  
10          I was trying to turn round to see what he was doing, but  
11          he kept using his thumb and pushing my neck. So i was  
12          like that (indicating) kind of thing, but I could see  
13          with his other hand he was messing around with his  
14          habit. I started to get really scared.

15   (Pause)

16                     Sorry.

17   (Pause)

18                     I then screamed for help, pushing my head forward  
19          and screaming "Help!" as loud as I could. His hand then  
20          let go of himself and then he put his hand around my  
21          face. But when he put his hand round my face, he put  
22          his hand like that (indicating).

23          Q. You're indicating, just so I can get it for the note,  
24          that his hand was over your mouth when he did this;  
25          is that right?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And what --
- 3 A. He put his hand on my mouth, but his forefinger was sort  
4 of in my mouth, so I just chewed into it as hard as  
5 I could. He screamed and then another brother come  
6 round the corner. I just remember him saying, "He bit  
7 me, the wild animal bit me", and the brother saying  
8 things to him, but he screamed at me to go to my room,  
9 so I just ran into my bedroom.
- 10 Q. What was the other brother saying to Germanus that you  
11 could remember?
- 12 A. I don't recall what he was saying. He was angry with  
13 him. I remember Germanus saying, "Look, he's bit me,  
14 he's bit me." I couldn't really hear what they were  
15 saying.
- 16 Q. When Germanus had his hand on your neck, were you naked  
17 at that time?
- 18 A. Yes, I'd just come out of the shower. He had hadn't  
19 given me my towel yet, he was holding my towel.
- 20 Q. Did he make any attempts to dry you?
- 21 A. Not on that occasion, no.
- 22 Q. On this occasion, then, you also said you saw that there  
23 was movement on his part. Can you just explain that?
- 24 A. Sorry, movement?
- 25 Q. Yes. I think you said you saw movement of his cassock

- 1 or something along these lines. Maybe I misunderstood.  
2 He's got one hand round your neck. What is he doing  
3 with his other hand?
- 4 A. He was pulling his habit up. That's what it looked like  
5 to me. He was messing about.
- 6 Q. When you bit him, did he let go of you?
- 7 A. No, he still had hold of me. It was only when that  
8 brother came round the corner, which was just the same  
9 sort of time he must have heard my scream.
- 10 Q. I think you were going to tell us about another occasion  
11 where you were also in the shower and something else  
12 happened.
- 13 A. Yes. I came out of the shower and I was drying myself,  
14 and then Germanus came in and said, "That's not how you  
15 dry." He took the towel off me and started to dry me,  
16 but he just concentrated on my private parts, drying  
17 them really fast and harsh, and just kept rubbing my  
18 willy constantly.
- 19 Q. And were other children there when this was happening?
- 20 A. Yes, there was other kids about and stuff, but there was  
21 one big kid there. He said to me after, "If he did that  
22 to me, I'd punch him in his head." But I was  
23 a little -- he was a big kid.
- 24 Q. Was he an older boy?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. So far as the food was concerned, Billy, I think you're  
2 not particularly complimentary of the food at  
3 St Columba's.
- 4 A. No, I mean, I don't know if it was a culture shock from  
5 what I was used to, but I wasn't used to that type of  
6 food at all. I definitely wasn't Oliver Twist asking  
7 for more. I just couldn't eat it.
- 8 Q. Did anything happen on any occasion when you just  
9 weren't able to eat the food?
- 10 A. Yes. Germanus would always pick on me. It was his tool  
11 for picking on me that I couldn't eat the food.
- 12 Q. What would happen?
- 13 A. He'd just constantly bicker at me and start hitting me,  
14 forcing me to eat the food, forcing me, shouting at me,  
15 hitting me.
- 16 Q. How was he hitting you?
- 17 A. Slapped me in the face when he was just stood beside me  
18 or behind me type thing, and telling me to eat the food.
- 19 Q. Did you see any such behaviour being directed towards  
20 any other boy?
- 21 A. That's what he was like, you know. I saw it with Aldo a  
22 year later (inaudible: distorted). It was if you were  
23 the new little kid, I think. I don't know. That's what  
24 it felt like, but he just seemed to be picking on me all  
25 the time until my big brother stepped in.

1 Q. In relation to the teaching brothers, you mention  
2 Brother AKU and we'll come to him later when he  
3 arrives later after you. You also mention a Spanish  
4 brother, perhaps someone who was maybe perhaps  
5 Brazilian. Was he a teacher?

6 A. Yes, I only remember him in the school. I ain't got  
7 much recollection of him either to be fair, but I don't  
8 think he was there for that long when I was there.

9 Q. How did he behave in the classroom?

10 A. It was in my early days, again, I hadn't been there that  
11 long, and I got put into the middle class of the three  
12 classes that were there.

13 I don't know what the boy did, but he came across,  
14 he had a big gold ring on his finger and he knuckled the  
15 kids in the head with it, and then picked the boy up and  
16 just threw him across the floor. As the boy went  
17 skidding towards the back of the classroom, his head  
18 clattered off the radiator and he just lay there.

19 I actually thought he was dead at first until he started  
20 to move again. But yeah ... He was scary.

21 Q. What age was this boy?

22 A. Probably a similar age to me. He would have been 8 or  
23 9.

24 Q. Just touching briefly on AKU, who I think came  
25 to the school in about 1980, you do tell us about an

- 1 incident where something happened in connection with him  
2 in the classroom. Can you tell me about that?
- 3 A. To do with myself?
- 4 Q. Yes.
- 5 A. Yes. He threw one of them wooden dusters at me, which  
6 hit me straight on the head and split my head.
- 7 Q. Why did he do that?
- 8 A. I think I wasn't paying attention. I was daydreaming,  
9 I think.
- 10 Q. Did that cause an injury?
- 11 A. Yes, it cut my head.
- 12 Q. Did it leave a mark?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You also tell us about what might have happened when you  
15 were doing PE, in particular in connection with  
16 AKU. Did something happen when you were dressed  
17 for PE involving AKU
- 18 A. He hit me with a barber's belt in the changing rooms.  
19 He had this barber's belt that he used to hit us with.
- 20 Q. Did he wear the belt?
- 21 A. No, it wasn't like that. It was a barber's belt, you  
22 know the ones they hang over the back of the chairs to  
23 sharpen their blades on? You can't wear that, it's like  
24 a solid piece of -- it's like a piece of wood.
- 25 Q. So he had that belt with him then?

- 1 A. Yes. He used to always make us not wear pants and stuff  
2 under our shorts.
- 3 Q. And on this occasion -- and I think you say it was  
4 because you celebrated your brother scoring a goal,  
5 he --
- 6 A. Yes, I spoke during the lesson, that was the thing, so  
7 he took me to the back bit and hit me with that belt.
- 8 Q. Where did he hit you?
- 9 A. Across the legs.
- 10 Q. You also mention in paragraph 31 that when you were at  
11 school in Northfield House, you weren't allowed to go to  
12 the toilet on your own; is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes, at first it was -- you could go on your own, but  
14 after something went on, we had to go in twos or there  
15 would be a toilet break where everyone would go  
16 together.
- 17 Q. And you tell us about an incident when an older brother  
18 appeared and called you and I think another boy over to  
19 him; is that right?
- 20 A. No, it was just me on this occasion.
- 21 Q. Was this an older brother who was being accommodated  
22 there but had nothing really to do with the school?
- 23 A. Yes. I hadn't seen him. I mean I might have seen him  
24 in the brothers' dining room or something, but I hadn't  
25 taken any notice of him. I didn't know who he was. He

- 1           looked new to me when he called me over.
- 2       Q.   And what happened?
- 3       A.   He put his hand out to shake my hand, so I put my arm  
4           out to say hello to him.
- 5       Q.   And then what happened?
- 6       A.   He just grabbed me and started pulling me up the stairs.  
7           I just screamed and screamed and Brother Arthur come  
8           running out and told me to leave him alone and then he  
9           said to him, which was really unusual, "You know you're  
10          not allowed down here when the children are here", which  
11          has always stayed in my brain. That just seemed very  
12          odd: why would he not be allowed down when then children  
13          were here?
- 14      Q.   And as far as these brothers who were being accommodated  
15          then in the upper part of the building, would you see  
16          these brothers at all during the day when you were  
17          around the school?
- 18      A.   No, no. Occasionally you might see one wave out of  
19          a window or something but, no, you wouldn't see them.
- 20      Q.   You go on and tell us a little bit about what holidays  
21          and trips you may have had when you were at the school.  
22          In particular, you tell us about a trip that you took to  
23          the seaside and your younger brother was with you on  
24          that occasion and something happened. What happened on  
25          that occasion?

- 1 A. He disobeyed Brother AKU for the second time -- he was  
2 walking on the grass because I remember him saying,  
3 "That's twice you've disobeyed me today", and I turned  
4 round and he just punched my brother straight in the  
5 face.
- 6 Q. And what happened to your brother?
- 7 A. He just went -- his feet came off the floor and he just  
8 landed straight on his back.
- 9 Q. This is a younger brother; what age do you think your  
10 brother was when this happened?
- 11 A. I would say he was 9 or 10, 9 probably.
- 12 Q. You also tell us about a trip that you took to Spain and  
13 you think it was Barcelona you went to.
- 14 A. It was Barcelona, yes.
- 15 Q. What year was that?
- 16 A. I think that was 1981.
- 17 Q. And who was in charge of the boys?
- 18 A. Brother AKU and there was another brother with a beard  
19 with him; I can't remember his name.
- 20 Q. How many boys went on the trip?
- 21 A. I'd say that it was probably ten kids, about that sort  
22 of amount.
- 23 Q. Can I just ask you about the sleeping arrangements that  
24 you had when you were in Spain? What was the set-up?
- 25 A. I think they lay on -- it was either straight on the



- 1 floor or we had lino-type things, but I think it was  
2 straight on the floor in a classroom. We all slept in  
3 sleeping bags.
- 4 Q. What about the brothers? What sleeping arrangements did  
5 they have?
- 6 A. Exactly the same.
- 7 Q. Were you in the same room then for sleeping?
- 8 A. Yes, we were all in the same room.
- 9 Q. And I think you tell us in particular that Brother AKU  
10 had a way of making boys jealous.
- 11 A. Yes. He'd offer things to certain kids and stuff and  
12 when you see other kids being given pop and sweets, you  
13 obviously feel a bit left out.
- 14 Q. I think you say that he had a way of making the boys  
15 sleep with him.
- 16 A. Yes. Well, in my case -- I didn't know at the time,  
17 I just put my hand up when I heard everybody shouting,  
18 "Me, me, me!" and I thought, me as well, so I put my  
19 hand up and he picked me and I thought, "What have  
20 I won?" He said, "You can sleep beside me tonight", and  
21 I thought, what? But I didn't know how to say no.
- 22 Q. Can I just understand then, as far as the sleeping  
23 arrangement would be concerned, would you both be on  
24 some form of lilo, is that what you're saying, or was it  
25 a sleeping bag?

- 1 A. I think <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED] was just on the floor. I don't think  
2 there was a lilo there to be fair. I can't remember a  
3 lilo there.
- 4 Q. Did you sleep beside him?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did anything happen?
- 7 A. I didn't recall anything happening during the night.  
8 Just before I lay down -- he was lying beside the door  
9 of the other brother -- I looked at him, he looked at  
10 him, and he shook his head from side to side. Then when  
11 I started to lay down, his head flopped to the floor.
- 12 Q. This is the other brother?
- 13 A. Yes, that's correct. When I got up in the morning  
14 because the Spanish kids were coming the next day to  
15 play us at football on the little five-a-side pitch at  
16 the front there. I remember coming outside and there  
17 was a little metal railing and I was holding on to it  
18 and I was looking and I was thinking, "What's that shit  
19 on my legs?" And there was all this, like, white dry  
20 skin there down the back of my legs, and I was scraping  
21 it off, saying to another kid, "What's this on my legs?"  
22 I didn't even know how it could have got there.  
23 Obviously I know now, but at the same time ...
- 24 Q. Well, looking back with the benefit of hindsight then,  
25 what do you say that was?

- 1 A. Well, semen.
- 2 Q. You also tell us about inspections and you say that you  
3 don't remember there being any specific inspections of  
4 the school.
- 5 A. No. I remember there was supposed to be an inspection,  
6 but I don't think it ended up going ahead because the  
7 school was closing. I'm sure there was supposed to be  
8 an inspection in 1981 because there was some noise about  
9 people coming to have a look round and the brothers were  
10 getting all scared about it. I think in 1981 there was  
11 supposed to be a school inspection but I don't think it  
12 happened. I could be wrong, I don't know.
- 13 Q. You've told us already that at a point in time,  
14 Brother Arthur came to the school and became the  
15 SNR is that right?
- 16 A. That's correct, yes.
- 17 Q. You mention in your statement that you remember  
18 Brother Arthur saying something like, "Things can't go  
19 on any longer as they are." Can I just understand the  
20 context of that? Why was that being said by  
21 Brother Arthur?
- 22 A. Just putting an end to what these guys were doing. He  
23 stopped quite a few things as soon as he arrived,  
24 especially to do with the beating side and stuff.  
25 I don't remember getting the cane on the nights anymore

1           and it just seemed to be a much more safer environment  
2           to be in as such when he was there. I felt safe when  
3           he was there. I didn't feel --

4           Q. Did you hear him say something along the lines that you  
5           set out in your statement? It's at paragraph 42.

6           A. (Pause). I remember it, but (inaudible: distorted) he  
7           said -- no, I can't even remember at the moment.

8           Q. Okay. Can we move on to something separate then and ask  
9           you about running away? Did any boys run away from the  
10          school during your time?

11          A. Quite a few boys ran away.

12          Q. Did they come back?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. Did you see boys coming back who had run away?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. And how would that happen? Who would bring them back?

17          A. Lots of times, I mean ... I think one time the police  
18          brought a boy back. That was early on, though, that was  
19          in my early years, I couldn't remember who it was or  
20          anything.

21                 And then when the other boy came back, I don't know  
22          how he came back, it just seemed he came back on his  
23          own. I don't know.

24          Q. You tell us about an incident involving a glass bottle  
25          that was found by the shore and what you did with it.

1 Can you tell me about that?

2 A. Yes. We'd all had enough and we didn't know how to get  
3 a word out. We found a bottle down by the seaside and  
4 one boy had a pen on him and was thinking what we could  
5 write and then we just put, "Help us, St Columba's  
6 College", on it and put it in a bottle, and then  
7 apparently, about a week later, it was found down by  
8 Nardini's because the police turned up at the school  
9 about it.

10 Q. What happened when the police came?

11 A. The brothers locked us in the TV room at the front there  
12 and told us to keep away from the windows and then went  
13 out and spoke to them. They just laughed and joked for  
14 a little while and then the police drove off.

15 Q. How long had you been at the school before this  
16 happened?

17 A. I would say it was in my first year.

18 Q. Just looking at discipline generally, you've told us  
19 about some things that happened in the classroom. Can  
20 I ask you how children were disciplined at the school?

21 A. Very different ways. Lots of times you would just get  
22 beaten, they'd just whack you in the mouth or punch you  
23 in your chest, especially Germanus.

24 A lot of teachers would smack you around the side of  
25 your face, but Germanus was always front frontal, smash

1           you as hard as he could right in the face. You'd  
2           usually end up with a bloody nose or something.

3           Q. How about the use of the belt? Did Germanus use a belt?

4           A. Germanus used a belt as well, but he wouldn't be too  
5           bothered about using the belt, he wasn't like the other  
6           brother where it was laid out proper on a night what  
7           you'd done wrong and you'd get one, two, whatever, whips  
8           of whatever he was whipping you with.

9           At the same time that was totally different from the  
10          way Germanus was. Germanus was just like -- he'd attack  
11          you rather than ... he wouldn't lay out some proper form  
12          of corporal (inaudible: distorted); he would just attack  
13          a boy.

14          Q. And where would he strike the boy if he was using the  
15          belt?

16          A. Anywhere. He wouldn't care. The one thing you learned  
17          straightaway is when Germanus hits you, you don't put  
18          your hands up because then he's going to go mental if  
19          you block his hit.

20          Q. You mentioned <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED] and that you were belted by  
21          him at least on one occasion because you'd been fighting  
22          with another boy. Do you remember that?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. What happened on this occasion? How were you belted?

25          A. I was taken to his bedroom, which wasn't on the top

1 floor at the time, it was that one where Germanus'  
2 bedroom was, and he opened his wardrobe door and there  
3 were lots of different belts there, but he chose one  
4 which was a shorter one, which looked like the sort of  
5 thing they would hit their backs with -- it had little  
6 metal -- I mean, it had little knots in the end of it  
7 and he just whipped me across the hand with that.

8 Q. So you put your hand out for that, did you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And how many strokes did you get?

11 A. Six.

12 Q. Did something happen that caused you to get some more of  
13 the belt from him?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What happened?

16 A. When I came out, I bumped into the same boy, and he made  
17 a comment to me, I made a comment back to him, he went  
18 and told on me, so I got six more.

19 Q. You've told us already, I think, about incidents in the  
20 showers. At paragraph 50, for example, you tell us  
21 about the time when you were last out of the showers.  
22 Is that what you've told us about already involving  
23 Germanus?

24 A. That's the bit we spoke about, yes.

25 Q. From that time on, did you try and get out of the

- 1 showers as quickly as possible?
- 2 A. Always. I got out of the shower as quickly as possible.
- 3 You just didn't want to be the last one in there. The
- 4 main thing that I did as quickly as possible was dressed
- 5 so he wouldn't start messing about with me. I wouldn't
- 6 dry myself, I would just throw my clothes on as fast as
- 7 I could and then dry my head.
- 8 Q. You also tell us in your statement about certain
- 9 exercises that Brother Germanus got you to do; can you
- 10 tell me about these?
- 11 A. Yes. It was just in the shower room again, where we had
- 12 to just do naked exercises. I just remember being there
- 13 and being naked and cold a lot of the time.
- 14 Q. And how many boys would be involved in this business?
- 15 A. Not everybody. Just certain ones.
- 16 Q. A number of boys?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And what age range are we talking about?
- 19 A. I don't recall seeing the big lads in there, the bigger
- 20 boys. Just similar age to me, I would think, sort of
- 21 like 8, 9, 10.
- 22 Q. What sort of exercises was he asking you to do?
- 23 A. Just stretching exercises and -- touching your toes,
- 24 that type of thing.
- 25 Q. How often did this happen?



1 A. I don't recall it happening a lot, just every now and  
2 then. But then when Brother Arthur turned up, he banned  
3 it. He banned naked exercises straightaway.

4 Q. Was he made aware of the fact that there were naked  
5 exercises going on?

6 A. Well, he banned it, so he must have done. The next  
7 thing we heard is that Brother Arthur had banned naked  
8 exercises, naked exercises were banned.

9 Q. You also tell us about Brother Germanus coming into the  
10 dormitory and waking up boys. Can you help me with  
11 that? What happened on those occasions?

12 A. We used to see him a lot in the bedrooms. Sometimes  
13 you'd just be out of bed, but mainly at one of the -- a  
14 couple of beds away from me on my left side where  
15 I slept, I used to see him quite a lot in that bed.

16 On occasions I'd see him taking a couple of boys out  
17 with him on a night-time. I would just wake up and see  
18 where I could see the (inaudible: distorted) where they  
19 go through on the landing there, you'd see him walk out  
20 with two boys. I started to question him about it, what  
21 are you doing? I thought they were getting pop or  
22 sweets or something decent, getting took out, and I was  
23 asking if I could go and Brother Germanus said, "No, you  
24 won't like it".

25 Then one night, he woke me up and said, "You can

1           come", so I put my slippers and dressing gown on and  
2           then he took me in and he had another boy with him,  
3           I can't remember that boy.

4       Q.   And what happened?

5       A.   And he took us over to Northfield. I remember walking  
6           across the path. I don't remember going in the door but  
7           I remember going up the stairs and ...

8           He then took us to the first bedroom on the left,  
9           which I believe was Brother MNO room.

10      Q.   Was that in Northfield?

11      A.   Yes. That's upstairs in Northfield, yes. There was  
12           another door in the middle. Brother Germanus opened the  
13           door, unlocked it from outside, he had a big bunch of  
14           keys, he unlocked it from outside and he pushed me  
15           inside, and then the door -- he locked it and I was  
16           still at the door, I'm looking into the room, and there  
17           was an old brother sat on the bed in his brother's  
18           outfit. I looked round and there was no pop or nothing.  
19           There just wasn't anything, just him sat on the bed and  
20           some desks and another bed over there (indicating). He  
21           told me to come to him, but I wouldn't. Then he stood  
22           up and started to come to me.

23           I just ran to the door and just went ballistic.  
24           I was banging that door screaming and then Germanus  
25           opened the door with a big cheesy grin on his face and

1 I just remember sprinting down to the bottom of the  
2 hallway and standing there not knowing whether to carry  
3 on running or ... but he said, "Wait there", and then he  
4 went and got the other boy and then took us back to bed.

5 Q. Where was the other boy?

6 A. He was in the next room along.

7 Q. Do you know if anything happened in relation to the  
8 other boy?

9 A. I wouldn't have thought so. I wasn't in there for too  
10 long and with the time that he had, I couldn't say no,  
11 definitely not, but I wouldn't have thought so. I don't  
12 know.

13 Q. You have already touched upon this, but you have said  
14 already that there were brothers who came and stayed at  
15 St Columba's in Northfield House --

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. -- but they weren't allowed out during the day.

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. They only came out at night?

20 A. Yes. Sometimes they would be in the brothers'  
21 dining room on a night, sometimes you'd have to take  
22 their dinner over to them, maybe the bigger boys would  
23 take dinner over to them of a night time and drop dinner  
24 outside of house for them. Then on a night you might  
25 see them walking around the grounds in single file, with

1           some brothers that wore different uniforms than them.

2           Q. When boys took dinners over to Northfield House, would  
3           they go to the rooms or would they place the dinners  
4           somewhere else?

5           A. I didn't go with them, but one time, I got told to take  
6           the dinners over with another boy, and we got told to  
7           leave them outside, but we left them at the door, rang  
8           the bell, and when the brother came to the door, he  
9           grabbed me by the arm and started pulling on me. And  
10          I just pulled away, I just pulled away. Me and the  
11          other kid ran off. After that, Brother Arthur said  
12          we were not to take dinners over to them anymore.

13          Q. The other thing you tell us in connection with  
14          Brother Germanus is that at night-time, he would be at  
15          boys' bedsides as well.

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. Did you see what happened?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. What was he doing?

20          A. (Inaudible: distorted) going on, just one boy in  
21          particular that I really remember, which was -- it was  
22          my first year and, as I said, I hadn't been there that  
23          long. I didn't like Brother Germanus obviously because  
24          of what I seen him doing with that other boy.

25                 I came to the doorway and Brother Germanus was there

1 with his back to me. He was on one of the beds. He was  
2 over ... There were other some clothes on the other bed  
3 when I think about it. We were not allowed to leave  
4 clothes on the bed, so them clothes shouldn't have been  
5 on that other bed.

6 A little boy's head poked out from underneath him  
7 and that shocked me completely. He said, "Help me, help  
8 me." I just ran away to my bedroom and then  
9 Brother Germanus followed me and told me and said  
10 he was -- the little boy was missing his mum and  
11 whatever. I didn't care at the time, as long as he  
12 ain't touching me.

13 Q. But did you see Brother Germanus putting his hands under  
14 the blankets of any boys in bedrooms?

15 A. I seen him around a lot of beds, including my own. He  
16 came to my bed and he ... He woke me up saying I'd wet  
17 the bed. How would he know I've wet the bed? This was  
18 the middle of the night.

19 I did mainly see him -- mainly with the boy two beds  
20 away from me on my left. He just seemed to be at that  
21 boy's bed a lot.

22 Q. Did you see what he was doing?

23 A. No, I was half asleep. I know that they had their hands  
24 under the covers, but I wouldn't have known what he was  
25 doing. I didn't know what they were doing to me at the

1 time.

2 Q. You also say that Germanus would try to get close to  
3 you. For example, if you were watching TV, would  
4 something happen?

5 A. Yes. It was (inaudible: distorted) sort of rather than  
6 Brother Germanus that would be trying to snuggle up to  
7 boys on the settees.

8 Q. Who would that be, sorry?

9 A. That would have been Brother AKU more than Germanus  
10 who would be sneaking up to boys on the settees.

11 Q. You tell us about an incident at paragraph 61 when you  
12 were in the TV room and Brother Germanus came up to you  
13 and opened his trousers.

14 A. Yes. I'd been walking down the beach -- we'd all been  
15 going along the beach that day. We came home, back into  
16 the front TV room, and my hands were like ice cubes and  
17 I said to Brother Germanus, "My hands are freezing", and  
18 he pulled the front of his trousers open and said,  
19 "Stick them down here, son". I remember staring at him  
20 and thinking, weirdo, and then I walked out of the TV  
21 room and I went and told Brother Arthur.

22 Brother Arthur was down near the kitchen and I went  
23 and said, "Brother Germanus said this to me", and he  
24 said to me, "You're probably confused", and I thought  
25 maybe I am.

1           I went back down and walked back into the TV room  
2           and there was another boy sat on his knee with his hands  
3           down Brother Germanus' pants. I then ran back to  
4           Brother Arthur and told him and Brother Arthur came back  
5           and the little boy came running out of the room as such  
6           and then I could hear Brother Arthur shouting at  
7           Germanus. From then, he kept Germanus out of the house  
8           as much as he could. Germanus did come over drunk and  
9           stuff, but he tried to keep him out the house.

10        Q. Did you hear what Brother Arthur was saying to Germanus?

11        A. No, no. I could hear him shouting at him.

12        Q. You do tell us about an incident involving one of your  
13        friends -- let's say his name was [REDACTED] --

14        A. Uh-huh.

15        Q. -- and what happened to him. Can you help me with that?  
16        What did you see happening to [REDACTED]

17        A. I went up to -- me and [REDACTED] shared a bedroom by this  
18        time, which was the one -- there's the shower room,  
19        there's another bedroom and there was one more bedroom  
20        and it was our bedroom. Me and [REDACTED] were -- I think we  
21        were in there our own for that year or part of that  
22        year.

23            I'd gone up to that middle level looking for [REDACTED]  
24            and he was with Brother Germanus. But as I looked into  
25            the bedroom, Germanus was dragging [REDACTED] down, just

1 behind the bed, and he was behind [REDACTED]

2 Then he looked up, saw me, and told me to go away,  
3 [REDACTED] will be with you soon, don't you worry, [REDACTED]  
4 will be with you soon, go away." When he tells you to  
5 go away, you go away, so I just went away. But [REDACTED]  
6 face looked so scared and I felt I'd let him down there.

7 Q. Did you ask him if anything had happened later on?

8 A. I mean, no one told each other anything about this side  
9 of things.

10 Q. How did he appear to you later then when you saw him?

11 A. He was upset, but ... He had a lot going on in his own  
12 life with his family, you know. But he was upset.

13 Q. You mentioned already that Brother Germanus could be  
14 drunk.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And how did he behave then when he was drunk?

17 A. A lot worse than when he was sober. He was bad enough  
18 when he was sober, to be fair, but at the same time ...  
19 yeah.

20 Q. What would he do if he was drunk?

21 A. Sometimes he'd be all right to me, you know, but ...  
22 He'd just be more aggressive.

23 Q. We've already touched upon <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED] after he had  
24 arrived at St Columba's in around about the -- I think  
25 it was the mid-1980s that he may have arrived there.



1           You tell us about him and, in particular, that he  
2           offered to take you to a local café, I think, called  
3           The Moorings. Do you remember that?

4           A. Yes, a snooker hall, yes.

5           Q. What happened on that occasion?

6           A. I was initially -- we were cutting the bushes down  
7           at the front of the house and stuff. It was swimming  
8           day when we'd generally go swimming with Brother MFY  
9           MFY He said if I helped finish off doing that and  
10          clean up, he'd take me to snooker instead. So  
11          I thought, yeah, that sounds good.

12          So we cut it all down and he says, I'll go and get  
13          a bath ready so you can get showered or bathed, before  
14          we shoot off to play snooker.

15          So, yeah, after we'd finished I went to the top  
16          floor where the bath was, the bath was already run,  
17          I just jumped in it, quickly started to wash myself  
18          down, and then Brother AKU walked in, he just dropped  
19          his towel, and then just jumped his fat arse and naked  
20          body in the bath with me. I just jumped out, jumped  
21          straight out. He said, "I thought we were going to bath  
22          together." I said I was already bathed and then I just  
23          went to my bedroom and got changed and then met him  
24          downstairs. It was an uncomfortable day.

25          Q. It was an uncomfortable day?

- 1 A. We didn't talk too much about and he said, "You're not  
2 going to tell your mum like thingy told his mum."
- 3 Q. I didn't quite catch that, Billy. Could you say that  
4 again? You said it was an uncomfortable day and what  
5 happened?
- 6 A. Yes, "I know you're not going to tell your mum like  
7 another boy told his mum."
- 8 Q. Is that what AKU said to you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Was that in connection with the bath incident?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Did anything like that happen again involving you and  
13 AKU
- 14 A. No, he didn't get into the bath with me or anything like  
15 that again, no.
- 16 Q. The one thing you do tell us about AKU is that  
17 he set up a CB radio system.
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. Can you just help me with that?
- 20 A. It was a sort of trend (inaudible: distorted) CB radios  
21 at that time. Some of the kids were into it already.  
22 I hadn't played on a CB radio before ever, maybe  
23 a walkie-talkie. That was his new thing in his bedroom,  
24 trying to bring the boys in.
- 25 Q. And did you see if boys were in his room with him?

1 A. All the time I was there as well. So yeah, boys were in  
2 his bedroom on a regular basis, whether it was to do  
3 with the CB radio, watching films, getting pop and  
4 sweets (inaudible: distorted).

5 Q. Insofar as you could tell, what did you see happening  
6 between [REDACTED] and the boys?

7 A. Not a lot, really. They were just in the room with him.  
8 I didn't really pay much attention at that time because  
9 I didn't like Brother [REDACTED] anyway, I thought he was  
10 a weirdo. It was only in the last year that I had more  
11 to do with him.

12 In that year before I didn't really have much to do  
13 with that Brother [REDACTED] The only thing I had was  
14 watching my little brother to make sure he wasn't  
15 mincing with him too much, you know.

16 Q. Did you see boys sitting on [REDACTED] lap?

17 A. Oh, that was regular in the TV room. I didn't see it up  
18 in the top bedroom, but I'm not saying it didn't  
19 happened. But downstairs in the front TV room, even  
20 I might be sat on his lap at stages, you know.

21 Q. You mentioned films; what sort of films were being  
22 shown?

23 A. Certificate 18 films, mainly horror films. He had this  
24 fixation on horror films for some reason. A lot of the  
25 boys didn't like that type of film because it was scary

1           enough in that big house, let alone watching that.

2           Q. Were you scared by the films?

3           A. Yes, of course. Frightening.

4           Q. Were other boys obviously scared by these horror films?

5           A. Oh, 100%, definitely. These were the scariest films  
6           made at the time. We weren't used to anything like  
7           that.

8           Q. How would boys react? What would they do?

9           A. Lots of times they'd be jumping up to get close to  
10          Brother AKU being the man of the room as such. You  
11          wouldn't want to go to bed or get sent to bed because  
12          you wouldn't want to be out in that big scary house on  
13          your own while they're all sat in the front room.

14                 But if you didn't watch the film and tried to go to  
15          sleep like I did one time -- I jumped on the back of the  
16          settee and he turned my head away from the TV and  
17          watched the settee and put my hand over my ears so  
18          I couldn't hear the music, because that was just as  
19          scary, and he told me to go to bed or sit and watch the  
20          film, so I watched the film.

21          Q. When you say boys were getting close to Brother AKU  
22          what was happening?

23          A. Generally, we sat either side of him, one boy might be  
24          sat on his knee watching a film, you know. At the time  
25          I wasn't aware of what he was doing and didn't

1 understand it anyway, so I would snuggle up to him as  
2 well. I wouldn't feel uncomfortable just jumping on the  
3 settee beside Brother <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED] He never made me think  
4 that ... I knew he was a bit of a weirdo, but I didn't  
5 understand how much of a weirdo.

6 Q. You do tell us about certain incidents. You tell us  
7 about an incident where you went to the toilet and you  
8 heard noises behind a door; this is at paragraph 69 of  
9 your statement.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I don't want full names, but you can use a first name  
12 for the boy. Did you see something happening with a boy  
13 and Brother <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED]

14 A. Yes. Two separate boys on two separate occasions, yes.

15 Q. Let's look at the first occasion then. Can you tell me  
16 what you witnessed?

17 A. Yes. I heard some funny noises outside the room --

18 Q. Whose room was it?

19 A. It was Brother <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED] room -- this is when he'd moved  
20 to the top floor. He had the room beside the toilet.  
21 I pushed the door open and he was on the other side of  
22 the bed and there was a boy on his knees in front of  
23 him, a straight-haired, boy.

24 Q. I'm sorry?

25 A. A straight-haired boy. He had straight hair.

1 Q. I don't want the name, but did you know the boy's name  
2 at the time?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What was his first name?

5 A. MGS

6 Q. What was happening?

7 A. Well, he was obviously -- I can't ... But at the same  
8 time looking back on it, obviously, he was making him  
9 perform oral sex on him.

10 Q. What age were you when you witnessed this?

11 A. I'd say 10.

12 Q. Did you know anything about sexual matters at that age?

13 A. No, nothing. I knew nothing about sex. I thought  
14 a willy was to wee out of, that's it.

15 Q. That's one incident. You also mentioned that you  
16 witnessed something else. Can you help me with that?

17 A. Yes. There was a few of us that day, it wasn't just me  
18 as a witness this day. There was a few of us outside  
19 the room and we could hear some weird noises again  
20 coming from AKU bedroom. We crashed the room, all  
21 jumping about in there.

22 As I went into the door, Brother AKU swung his  
23 back to the boy that was on his knees towards the window  
24 and was messing about with his belt. So once again,  
25 I obviously know that poor kid was performing oral sex

1 on him as well.

2 Q. When you say the boy was on his knees, are you saying  
3 he was in a kneeling position in front of Brother AKU

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You say in your statement that, certainly in your last  
6 year at St Columba's, you shared a bedroom with your  
7 brother; is that right?

8 A. Correct, yes.

9 Q. And that's your younger brother?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did something happen in connection with Brother AKU  
12 and your younger brother at a point in time when your  
13 brother was in bed?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What happened?

16 A. I remember waking up with my little brother going, "What  
17 is it, what is it?" and looking up and seeing the  
18 figure, which was Brother AKU stood over my brother  
19 and then he just raced out of the room and locked  
20 himself in his bedroom.

21 We followed him, chasing him, but he wouldn't come  
22 back out, so we went back to the bedroom and we found  
23 this water -- it looked like water until we started  
24 wiping it with our hands and smelling it, and it didn't  
25 smell like water either, but I didn't know that smell.

- 1 Q. Looking back, do you know now what it was?
- 2 A. Yes, he was obviously masturbating over my brother and  
3 it was semen.
- 4 Q. Did anything like that happen again that you can  
5 remember?
- 6 A. Not with MGR I know this isn't in my statement,  
7 but I do remember another boy, a bigger boy, coming into  
8 the washroom one day and he had like snot in his hair,  
9 but it wasn't snot. And I remember saying to him,  
10 "What's that shit in your hair?" and he said, "Get it  
11 out", "I'm not touching it, it's like snot." But  
12 obviously that was semen as well.
- 13 Q. Did you know if anything had happened between him and  
14 any brother?
- 15 A. No, I don't know. No. I just remember that as well as  
16 another thing that he came in ... I know they used to  
17 come to our bedrooms on a night and stuff.
- 18 Q. You also tell us about another brother who was an older  
19 brother who helped you with your reading.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Did something happen in connection with that brother?
- 22 A. Yes. He used to always have us sat on his knee and  
23 stuff. I remember Brother Arthur coming in and him  
24 losing him temper and then Brother Arthur made all the  
25 brothers who were teaching leave the door open to each



1 classroom.

2 I remember one time he came in when I was in the end  
3 one and I was sat on the brother's knee and  
4 Brother Arthur said he was fed up with this, "I'm fed up  
5 with this", and he shouted at me as if it was my fault,  
6 I remember, saying, "Don't sit on the brothers' knees",  
7 and after that I didn't get no more reading lessons.

8 That brother, he would sit you on his knee, but in  
9 between his legs, and move you about. I didn't  
10 understand what he was doing.

11 Q. But clearly, Brother Arthur was aware that things were  
12 going on in the school?

13 A. He must have been. I'm actually heartbroken about that  
14 because I had a lot of respect for Brother Arthur.

15 Yes, he definitely knew what was going on. He came  
16 into the TV room that time screaming at Brother AKU to  
17 get out of the seat and don't sit with the boys. On  
18 another occasion he said, "I'm fed up with the whole  
19 situation, I've had enough of it."

20 Q. You also mention another brother in paragraph 73.

21 I think you tell us he was kept locked up in one of the  
22 bedrooms.

23 A. Ah yes.

24 Q. But that bedroom was in Landour House, was it, not in  
25 Northfield?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. Was this an older brother?

3 A. Yes, he wasn't old like the old ones there. He was  
4 more, I would say, middle-aged, probably in his 40s or  
5 somewhere round there.

6 Q. What happened then in connection with this individual?

7 A. He used to be always locked in his bedroom. I used to  
8 see him -- because I was in the bedroom across from him  
9 at one point and he would come out of his bedroom and  
10 he had a metal bucket and he would go to the toilet with  
11 his metal bucket. He'd be in there for days sometimes  
12 and you would hear him banging on the door to be let  
13 out. I think he was ex-military, he was in the  
14 Territorial Army, Paras or something.

15 I remember we had gone into his bedroom one day  
16 because his door was open and he was out of it. We were  
17 looking out of the window towards the ocean. Next  
18 thing, he was behind us and then he went underneath his  
19 pillow and he took this big knife out. We were scared,  
20 me and the other boy, we didn't know what to do. I ran  
21 out, but he didn't manage to get out of the door, and  
22 the brother got hold of him and slammed him against the  
23 door and then held the knife up to his neck. I just ran  
24 off and told Brother Arthur what he had done.

25 But he was locked up on the top floor, Brother

AKU

1 was locked in his room on the middle floor, and then  
2 there was another one down on the bottom floor locked  
3 into the prayer room that was under the stairs.  
4 Brother Arthur went away for a weekend and then that  
5 brother on the bottom floor attacked a boy because --  
6 I'm sure it was Brother AKU that was there at the  
7 time, who was the keyholder who let them all out, all  
8 the ones that were locked in their rooms. When  
9 Brother Arthur came back he went ballistic and he moved  
10 them all out after that.

11 Q. I want to understand what you said. There were a number  
12 of brothers locked in rooms?

13 A. Yes, there was.

14 Q. Three brothers locked in rooms?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And the keyholder was Brother Arthur; is that right?

17 A. Brother Arthur was the keyholder, yes.

18 Q. On an occasion when he was away, was the keyholder then

19 AKU

20 A. I think it was Brother AKU yes, that took over the  
21 keys that day because whoever was the keyholder got told  
22 off that day about letting the other ones out of their  
23 rooms (inaudible: distorted).

24 Q. When they were let out of their rooms, what was  
25 happening?

- 1 A. I don't know, I was outside. I only came in and then  
2 I heard that the brother on the bottom floor had  
3 attacked one of the boys, but they didn't go into any  
4 detail about the attack.
- 5 Q. I'm reminded: did you say that Brother <sup>AKU</sup> was locked  
6 in a room or did you mean to say that?
- 7 A. He was locked in that top bedroom at one stage but  
8 (inaudible: distorted) just at one stage he was locked  
9 in his bedroom.
- 10 Q. Why was that?
- 11 A. Because he had been mincing with the children on  
12 a night-time. So Brother Arthur would lock him up on a  
13 night-time after we had gone to bed and then let him out  
14 -- come over in the morning and let him out. I saw him  
15 opening his door one morning and stuff.
- 16 I remember him banging on the doors and saying, "Let  
17 me out, let me out", but we couldn't let him out, we  
18 didn't have a key, and I wouldn't have let him out  
19 anyway. We didn't know who they were, but you could  
20 hear them shouting and banging on the doors to be let  
21 out at times.
- 22 Q. Let's focus on Brother <sup>AKU</sup> for a moment. You're  
23 saying that he was locked in a room by Brother Arthur;  
24 is that right?
- 25 A. That's right.

1 Q. In Landour House?

2 A. In Landour House, yes.

3 Q. And what was the reason for that, just so I can  
4 understand it?

5 A. Because he was a paedophile and he was mincing with the  
6 children.

7 Q. When was this then, looking to your period at  
8 St Columba's?

9 A. I don't think he'd been there too long, too long as  
10 such. He'd been there a while because ... I think it  
11 was in first year -- not the first little bit of year  
12 that Brother <sup>AKU</sup> was there, but during his first year  
13 there. I don't think -- it wasn't in his second year or  
14 it was early in the last year I was there, that type of  
15 thing, yeah (inaudible: distorted) dates.

16 Q. And once this happened, was this a regular occurrence or  
17 did it just happen on a few occasions?

18 A. Yes, it only happened on occasions. It wasn't  
19 Brother <sup>AKU</sup> was locked up the whole time because  
20 he wasn't.

21 The only time that Brother Arthur came over on a  
22 night-time, Brother <sup>AKU</sup> was sat on the settee with us  
23 all and Brother Arthur went mental, telling him that he  
24 knows that he's not to sit with the boys and he is to  
25 sit in the single armchair on his own his own and no

1 boys are to sit with him, don't sit with Brother [REDACTED] AKU

2 So we were told not to sit with -- it seemed at the  
3 time that it was us that was in the wrong for sitting on  
4 their knees, you know, the way that Brother Arthur would  
5 speak to us.

6 But I could walk past Brother [REDACTED] AKU and he could  
7 grab me and sit me on his knee, you know.

8 Q. Just to come back to the locking up of Brother [REDACTED] AKU by  
9 Brother Arthur, I just want to understand -- and I think  
10 you're suggesting that was some time into the time  
11 Brother [REDACTED] AKU was at the school. I just want to  
12 understand how regular an occurrence that was. Did it  
13 just happen on a few occasions or did it happen on  
14 a continuous basis?

15 A. No, only on a few occasions. It was a period of time,  
16 I think, he was locked up for, and then after that  
17 he was let out.

18 Q. And when he was let out, was he then able to move about  
19 quite freely within the dormitories?

20 A. Yes, just at will. He was there on his own most of the  
21 time and there was no one else there. Brother [REDACTED] AKU had  
22 the total run of the building, especially in the last  
23 year. There was hardly anyone left so ... you know.

24 Q. You also talk about another boy in paragraph 75; let's  
25 call him [REDACTED] You mention something about him.

1           What happened in connection with [REDACTED]

2           A. Me and [REDACTED] had the bedroom that me and my brother  
3           had.

4           Q. You needn't ...

5           LADY SMITH: Don't worry if you mention a name that is  
6           protected by my restriction order. It can only be used  
7           here in this room and everyone is well aware, I hope, of  
8           the impact of that order. It means it can't be used  
9           outside and the transcript will be redacted accordingly.  
10          It's not your fault, I can see how easy it is to do.

11          A. Yeah, [REDACTED] came back to the bedroom from  
12          Brother [REDACTED] AKU bedroom one evening and went into  
13          a speech about what a weirdo he is and that he's going  
14          to tell his mum what Brother [REDACTED] AKU did to him. I was  
15          confused, I didn't know what he was on about, to be  
16          fair. [REDACTED] was quite sexually aware for a young  
17          child. He had a big brother and he knew things that  
18          I didn't know anything about, even though he was younger  
19          than me.

20          MR MacAULAY: Did he say anything to you as to what had  
21          happened to him in Brother [REDACTED] AKU room?

22          A. No, he didn't go into (inaudible: distorted). He just  
23          said that, "Brother [REDACTED] AKU is a weirdo", or whatever  
24          terms we used back then, poof, whatever.

25                 The next thing, I heard Brother [REDACTED] AKU call me, so

1 I got out and he's waiting just outside the door at the  
2 bottom of the three steps. He said, "Did he say he's  
3 going to tell his mum?" It was obvious he knew. I just  
4 nodded my head and said yes. I think after that weekend  
5 [REDACTED] didn't come back.

6 Q. Was that the last you saw of [REDACTED] then? He didn't  
7 come back to the school?

8 A. I didn't see [REDACTED] again after that weekend, I don't  
9 believe.

10 Q. Can you tell me when this was in relation to when you  
11 were at the school?

12 A. Yes. I'm only going by -- because I know I was with my  
13 brother in the last year, so it would be the year before  
14 that, so 1980 ...

15 Q. 1981? I think you left in 1982.

16 A. 1981, yeah.

17 Q. You've mentioned the brothers that were locked up in  
18 Landour House. Did Brother Arthur ever explain why  
19 these brothers were there?

20 A. No. No, he said they shouldn't be there, they shouldn't  
21 be in this house, he said.

22 Q. So you heard him say that, did you?

23 A. I did, yes.

24 Q. And did he tell you why they were there?

25 A. No.



1 Q. Did he tell you why they shouldn't have been there?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You say in your statement that there were also happy  
4 days at St Columba's; is that correct?

5 A. Yes. Definitely, there was fun days, there were lots of  
6 times I enjoyed myself, I remember it -- I can't  
7 remember exact points, don't get me wrong, but I know  
8 I had some happy times with a lot of the children, which  
9 sounds unreal, but we did.

10 Q. As far as <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED] was concerned, on occasions did  
11 you have a fairly happy and friendly relationship with  
12 him?

13 A. Yes, I never trusted him as such, but yeah, I wouldn't  
14 say that I had a really bad relationship with  
15 Brother <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED]. Lots of times I thought he was cool as  
16 pie. He was quite a fun bloke to be round lots of  
17 times. He played games with us, he organised stuff for  
18 us. So on that side of things ... but I obviously  
19 didn't realise the whole element to do with why he was  
20 doing this stuff.

21 But yeah, he seemed nice at times. But if he wasn't  
22 nice to you, he was really not nice with you. Like  
23 especially with my older brother, he didn't like [REDACTED]  
24 very much.

25 Q. Again, you needn't worry about names because they will

1 not go beyond this room.

2 I now want to move on and ask you about another boy,  
3 that's a boy by the name of Aldo Moroni. Do you  
4 remember Aldo Moroni at St Columba's?

5 A. Yes, I do, yes.

6 Q. Can you remember when he came there?

7 A. Yes. He came the year after me, but a bit late into the  
8 year. He came the same time as my younger brother, but  
9 he turned up a bit late, maybe a month or a couple of  
10 months after the term began.

11 Q. You're looking towards the latter part of 1979?

12 A. Exactly, yeah, I would think so, yes.

13 Q. In relation to you, was he a younger boy or the same  
14 age?

15 A. He was younger than me. He was younger than my younger  
16 brother, so he was about a year and a half, probably,  
17 younger than me.

18 Q. So what age do you reckon he would be then when he came  
19 to the school?

20 A. Seven.

21 Q. When he came to the school, did Germanus say anything to  
22 you as to why he was at the school?

23 A. Yes, he did. He said that he's a naughty boy and he's  
24 been sent here to get sorted out. So he said, "He's  
25 only a little boy, so if you hit him don't hit him too

1           hard." I remember him saying that.

2           Q. What did you make of that at the time?

3           A. He was a tiny boy. If you look at -- he was tiny. He  
4           wouldn't even ... If you were going to give a boy like  
5           that a hit, you'd give him a tap on the head or  
6           whatever, but you wouldn't hit a child the way that  
7           child got hit.

8           Q. And insofar as Aldo being at the school was concerned,  
9           did he play with the other boys?

10          A. Maybe at night-time, but not during the day and stuff.  
11          During school time, Aldo was put on his own. He was  
12          segregated away from us. We weren't allowed to play  
13          with him. They used the old "He's too young" excuse and  
14          they used to keep him around the side of -- where the  
15          kitchen area was, the sports hall. He'd just be there  
16          on his own all the time.

17          Q. You say you did play with him after school?

18          A. Yes. Sometimes at school time, we would nip round the  
19          side of the building, but you wouldn't want to be seen  
20          talking to him by Germanus because you would be in  
21          trouble. So we would run around the other side of the  
22          building, down the side of the sports hall, and we just  
23          would stick our heads round and ask if he was all right.  
24          He didn't seem to want to be talking to anyone anyway,  
25          to tell you the truth. Lots of times he'd tell you to

1 go away. He was very on his own, that child, in that  
2 way. We were the only people he had around him to do  
3 anything to help him. He was just angry with everyone.

4 Q. Did you see how Brother Germanus treated Aldo in this  
5 early period?

6 A. Yes, he treated him like shit, constantly picking on  
7 him.

8 Q. In what way?

9 A. Just the way he hit him and stuff, the way he hit him,  
10 the way he would mock him, the way -- his name was  
11 Moroni, but he would call him Moron, Aldo Moron, missing  
12 the i off the end and things like that. He was spiteful  
13 about him.

14 Q. Did you see him hit him in the early period?

15 A. Yes. The one that really sticks to mind was the smack  
16 in the face with the dining room where Aldo's glasses  
17 went from one side to the other side of the dining room  
18 after he clouted him. The cook, Frank, who was an older  
19 chap that worked at the school, stepped in and told  
20 Germanus that you can't hit little children like that.  
21 We were in disbelief ourselves, we were quite used to  
22 it. Frank hadn't seen that because he only obviously  
23 saw it happen that day, whereas us as kids were used to  
24 the way Germanus would hit children.

25 But that day was just -- it was a sad day to see

- 1 a little boy get hit so hard.
- 2 Q. Did Aldo say anything to you as to whether or not he had  
3 been hit in any other way by Brother Germanus?
- 4 A. No. Not that I recall, no.
- 5 Q. Did you see anybody come to visit Aldo during your time  
6 there?
- 7 A. Yes, I saw his mother, [REDACTED]  
8 turned up at one time, and also his stepdad,  
9 [REDACTED] MFZ
- 10 Q. Did you see [REDACTED] MFZ ?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. On how many occasions did you see him at the school?
- 13 A. At the very least a couple of occasions, probably more  
14 than that, but (inaudible: distorted) didn't just take  
15 much notice of him being there sort of thing. There  
16 were two main occasions that I remember [REDACTED] MFZ turning  
17 up there.
- 18 Q. You said a moment ago that he was his stepdad. What  
19 made you think that [REDACTED] MFZ was Aldo's stepfather?
- 20 A. Because Germanus said, "That's Aldo's dad."
- 21 Q. Sorry, could you repeat that?
- 22 A. Germanus said it was Aldo's dad, but looking at the two,  
23 you could obviously tell it wasn't his dad and obviously  
24 I questioned Aldo -- when his stepdad was there, I went  
25 to him afterwards and said, "How come your dad's got

1 [REDACTED] hair and [REDACTED] eyes?" because obviously Aldo  
2 looked like an Italian kid, darker hair, darker skin,  
3 dark eyes, he looked nothing like what I thought was his  
4 dad at the time. He went, "That's not my fucking dad,  
5 I fucking hate him, and I hate my fucking mum." And  
6 I said Aldo, "Don't say things like that", that was just  
7 me as a little boy saying, "You can't say things like  
8 that about your mum." I couldn't believe it. I said,  
9 "Don't say things like that Aldo." He goes, "I don't  
10 care, I do fucking hate her." Sad, very sad.

11 Q. You've given us some sort of description of  
12 MFZ [REDACTED]. Can we focus on that? First of all, you  
13 said he had [REDACTED] hair; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you thought [REDACTED] eyes?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What age do you think he was? I know it's difficult  
18 when you are a child, but what age do you think

19 MFZ [REDACTED] was when he came to the school?

20 A. I know he was a young man at the end of the day.  
21 He wasn't an old man, he was young, probably early 20s,  
22 whatever, Brother AKU [REDACTED] sort of age, I would have  
23 thought, somewhere around that.

24 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about his size? How tall  
25 was he?

1 A. He seemed a big man to me because when I saw him come to  
2 the school, he towered over Brother Germanus.

3 Q. Can you help me with his build?

4 A. Bulky build. I wouldn't say he was fat -- maybe a  
5 little bit. He was a well-built bloke. Big.

6 Q. And his dress? The times you saw him, how was he  
7 dressed?

8 A. Well, in civilian clothes. He wasn't dressed like  
9 a Marist Brother or anything. I can't remember his  
10 exact dress, but at the same time I would have just --  
11 just casual wear.

12 Q. And the times you saw him there come to visit, did he  
13 come on his own or was he with the other family members  
14 or any of them that you've mentioned?

15 A. The first time when I saw him, he was on his own.

16 Q. On that occasion, do you know if he visited Aldo or not?

17 A. Yes, he definitely visited Aldo because out on the  
18 little cobbled bit near the kitchen area where me and  
19 Aldo and a few other boys were told to stay there and  
20 play there. Then the back door of the kitchen flicked  
21 open and Germanus goes, "Look who's here to see you  
22 Aldo" -- no, he went, "Aldo, come here", and Aldo went,  
23 "I ain't done nothing", that kind of thing, and he went,  
24 "Look who's here to see you", and then this head poked  
25 over the top, which was MFZ . And Aldo went,

1 "I fucking hate that bloke."

2 I didn't know who he was at that time and that's  
3 when obviously he went -- he called Aldo in, Aldo went  
4 inside, me and the other kids were outside for a bit and  
5 then we went through to the main hallway. As I got into  
6 that main hallway and opened up the door from the  
7 hallway into the main front entrance, Germanus and  
8 MFZ came out of like a kissing embrace.

9 I stood there, looked there, and they smiled and  
10 Aldo was on the stairs, and MFZ said to Aldo, "Go  
11 upstairs and get changed." That's how -- "Go upstairs  
12 and get changed", and he didn't want to. Then Germanus  
13 told him, and said, "Do as your dad tells you, go  
14 upstairs and get changed", and Aldo just stomped off up  
15 the stairs and MFZ whispered something to  
16 Germanus. He was staring at me at the time and he said,  
17 "Oh no, no, no, that one's not for you" -- that stuck in  
18 my brain -- "That one's not for you", and then he told  
19 me to go outside and play.

20 Then Aldo didn't even go home that day, I don't know  
21 where ...

22 Q. Can I just come back to what you saw when you first saw  
23 MFZ and Germanus together. Can you just  
24 describe for me what you say you saw?

25 A. Yes. If I didn't think that definitely wouldn't have



1           happened, which I would have back then, they were  
2           kissing. They were kissing.

3       Q. Did you see them kissing?

4       A. Yes -- well, I saw their heads coming apart from a kiss.  
5           I didn't see them kissing-kissing. They were already  
6           at the back door with each other together, so why would  
7           they be embracing each other again? That's another  
8           thing that just didn't make sense.

9       MR MacAULAY: I'll come back to this in a moment then,  
10           Billy.

11           My Lady, I'm looking at the time. It's past 11.30,  
12           so we should probably have a break.

13       LADY SMITH: Billy, we usually have a break at this time  
14           in the morning, about 15 minutes or so. If it would be  
15           convenient for you, I'll take the break just now.  
16           Is that all right?

17       A. Fine.

18       LADY SMITH: Very well.

19       (11.31 am)

20   (A short break)

21       (11.50 am)

22       LADY SMITH: Billy, is it all right with you if we carry on  
23           now?

24       A. Yes.

25       LADY SMITH: I'll hand back to Mr MacAulay.

- 1 MR MacAULAY: Before the break, Billy, you were telling us  
2 about an incident involving Aldo Moroni that included  
3 involvement with the man we've referred to as  
4 MFZ . How did you get to know the name  
5 MFZ
- 6 A. Because at school, we used to call him "the MFZ "  
7 because of his name, MFZ . I just saw that online, to  
8 be fair, I saw that on their site, that his name was  
9 MFZ . Because when I read it, that's when  
10 I remembered the name -- I didn't remember it  
11 initially.
- 12 Q. At the time then, you didn't know him by the name  
13 MFZ ; is that right?
- 14 A. No. I just saw his face and knew that was the face.
- 15 Q. Where did you see his face?
- 16 A. On a picture to do with the MFZ Institute in  
17 Glasgow.
- 18 Q. So do I take it you've gone on to the internet, looked  
19 up the MFZ Institute, and you've seen Mr MFZ  
20 MFZ ?
- 21 A. Yes, something similar to that, yes.
- 22 Q. And do you recognise that face as the person you saw  
23 involved with Aldo Moroni?
- 24 A. Yes, I recognised him as Aldo's stepdad.
- 25 Q. But at the time I think the nickname you used for him

- 1 was the MFZ, you say, because of his surname?
- 2 A. Yes, MFZ, yes.
- 3 Q. One thing you did say before the break is that Aldo was
- 4 told to go upstairs and did you say that it was
- 5 MFZ who told him to go upstairs?
- 6 A. Initially, yes, but when he didn't listen, then Germanus
- 7 said, "Do as your dad tells you, go upstairs and get
- 8 changed", yes.
- 9 Q. What then happened after this had happened? Aldo has
- 10 gone upstairs; what did you do?
- 11 A. Germanus pushed me by the back of the head and told me
- 12 to go and play with the other boy that was there as
- 13 well, so we just went out and played.
- 14 Q. Did you see if MFZ left the area at all?
- 15 A. No. Apparently, he got thrown out that day.
- 16 Q. What happened?
- 17 A. He got thrown out, I didn't see what happened.
- 18 Q. How do you know he was thrown out?
- 19 A. Because apparently he was found in bed with Germanus and
- 20 MFZ.
- 21 Q. So just to be clear, MFZ was thrown out of the
- 22 establishment that day; is that what you're saying?
- 23 A. Apparently that's what I heard. That was the rumour
- 24 that went round the school, yes. I didn't see it,
- 25 I wasn't there as a witness to it, but that was the

1           rumour that went round the school, that MFZ had  
2           been thrown out and wouldn't be coming back.

3           Q. What was the reason why he was thrown out?

4           A. Apparently him, Brother Germanus and Aldo were all in  
5           the same bed.

6           Q. And do you know who threw him out?

7           A. No, I haven't got a clue, no. I just know they were  
8           out. Germanus -- not them, it was only MFZ.  
9           Germanus didn't get thrown out.

10          Q. You've said that, I think earlier, you may have seen  
11          MFZ on a couple of occasions at the school and  
12          you've been telling us about this occasion. The other  
13          occasion that you saw him, did you see what happened on  
14          that occasion?

15          A. Yes. I'd gone to my bedroom, which was room 1 at the  
16          time, Aldo was in the same bedroom as me. My bed was  
17          nearer the door, where his bedroom was up near the top  
18          window. I saw MFZ, Aldo, and MFZ  
19          was there as well. I think MFZ was there as  
20          well, but MFZ was there. It's MFZ who  
21          I remember.

22                 The MFZ jumped and landed on one  
23                 of the beds on his back -- and MFZ hadn't seen me at  
24                 this point, I don't think any of them had seen me,  
25                 I just walked into the room, saw him jump on the bed,

1 and I saw MFZ [REDACTED] punch the child. Then after he'd  
2 punched him, he did a big hammer punch down on his back,  
3 and the [REDACTED] boy screamed out.

4 He then looked at me and smiled. I just looked at  
5 him and then walked out and thought -- well, I ain't  
6 going to say what I thought.

7 LADY SMITH: Billy, can you tell me what [REDACTED] this  
8 child had at that time?

9 A. It's going to sound really horrible, but this is the  
10 term we used back then, which was [REDACTED]. There was  
11 something like that (indicating) [REDACTED] with him, with  
12 [REDACTED], and he [REDACTED].

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MacAULAY: Was he able to walk or was he [REDACTED]?

15 A. I think he turned up [REDACTED] but I didn't see  
16 him turn up [REDACTED], but I think he actually did  
17 turn up [REDACTED]. But when he was upstairs --  
18 they'd either [REDACTED] walk up the stairs -- I don't  
19 think he [REDACTED], but I didn't see that. The  
20 way I saw it, from the way he looked and stuff, it  
21 didn't look like [REDACTED] let's  
22 say.

23 Q. You have told us what happened. Did you then leave the  
24 area?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Was that the end of the incident so far as you were  
2 concerned?
- 3 A. Yes. That was the end as far as I was concerned.  
4 I didn't see anything else after that.
- 5 Q. So far as Aldo was concerned, you've mentioned his  
6 bedroom. Did he share the bedroom with anybody?
- 7 A. Yes, us. That was that room 1, the main big room that  
8 all the junior kids -- generally it would be the  
9 youngest boys that stayed in there and that was where  
10 I stayed when I first went there, but there was older  
11 boys in there when I was there.
- 12 Q. But you were in the same bedroom then as Aldo?
- 13 A. Yes -- but not for too long. I just remember, I think  
14 I went into the other room beside -- the one beside the  
15 shower room some way through the term with [REDACTED].
- 16 Q. You go on to tell us about another incident that  
17 happened when you were playing with Aldo outside and he  
18 was called back into the house. Do you remember that  
19 incident?
- 20 A. Yes. I do, yes.
- 21 Q. Can you tell me what happened on that occasion?
- 22 A. Yes. A couple of us boys were around the side just  
23 checking Aldo out, and Aldo had a thing for kicking  
24 other boys. Even if you were being nice to him, he just  
25 seemed to lash out quite a lot. I don't know if we were

1           tormenting him or what was going on that day, as in what  
2           we were doing as children, playing about with him, and  
3           then Aldo went to kick one of us, I can't remember who  
4           he swung the kick at, it could have been me, could have  
5           been one of the other boys. The back door swung open  
6           just as he swung the kick and Germanus told Aldo to come  
7           to him. Aldo walked off to him and he just took Aldo  
8           inside the kitchen door.

9           Not thinking nothing of it, we just carried on  
10          playing for a bit. Then I'm not sure how long we were  
11          outside for, I don't think it was too long, we then went  
12          inside, but when we got into the main hall area we could  
13          hear shouting and screaming going on upstairs.

14          So I went to the first floor landing with another  
15          boy who had come in with us. I think we did like the  
16          Professionals thing, going up and down the stairs, going  
17          up with our little toy guns.

18          I got towards the top of the stairs and the other  
19          boy was with me dropped back a bit and there were about  
20          four, five boys at the top of the stairs either side of  
21          the doorway. As I went into the door there was a bigger  
22          boy stood there as well.

23          The Marist Brother that was there was shouting into  
24          the bedroom, very angrily, and then Aldo came out of the  
25          bedroom and he was just adjusting his clothes. He was

1 dressed, but he was just -- seemed to be adjusting his  
2 clothes.

3 Then Aldo walked down those three little steps and  
4 then his face was bleeding. He just collapsed on the  
5 floor in front of us. The other boy started to pick him  
6 up, but he was finding it quite difficult because his  
7 body had gone proper limp.

8 I then got on the other side and tried -- we lifted  
9 him up. That brother then screamed at us to get  
10 downstairs. I let go of Aldo at that point, he made me  
11 jump, and I just let go of him. But the other bigger  
12 boy just kept hold. Then we looked at the brother and  
13 the brother shouted again, "Get downstairs", and all the  
14 other boys started to move and stuff.

15 At that point, I went downstairs, that boy handed  
16 Aldo -- the brother then took Aldo and then walked off  
17 towards the shower rooms. I left. The other boy left,  
18 went down to the middle floor. I think it was the same  
19 brother that then screamed at us to get into our  
20 bedrooms.

21 Q. Who was this brother that was screaming at you?

22 A. I really wish I knew who it was. I just can't think who  
23 that brother was who was stood there.

24 Q. I think in your statement you thought that it was

25 Brother MJZ.



- 1 A. Yes. I'm not too sure whether it was. Thinking about  
2 it a lot, I think he actually left the school before  
3 Aldo's death, but I could be totally wrong. I just  
4 can't remember who that brother was. I thought it could  
5 have been him but I'm not sure.
- 6 Q. When you saw Aldo at this point, did you see if he had  
7 any injuries?
- 8 A. Yes, he had blood bleeding -- there was blood on the  
9 floor as well where he was.
- 10 Q. On his person, where was the bleeding coming from?
- 11 A. His face.
- 12 Q. Did you see Germanus when you were with Aldo at that  
13 point?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. What room had Aldo come out of; do you know?
- 16 A. Yes, it was the room that me and my younger brother --  
17 as you go up the stairs there's two rooms. You go up  
18 the two or three little steps, you look towards a  
19 straight wall there and there's one room there, one on  
20 your right, one on your left. It was the room on the  
21 left which was the room I stayed in in my last year.
- 22 Q. The brother that intervened, did you hear him shouting  
23 or screaming at anybody else apart from the boys?
- 24 A. Yes, he was shouting into that bedroom.
- 25 Q. What was he saying?

- 1 A. I can't remember. I can't remember what he was saying.  
2 I just knew he was shouting at him.
- 3 Q. When you say, "He was shouting at him", do you know who  
4 he was shouting at?
- 5 A. Well, it'd be Germanus because he was still saying  
6 things in the room even though Aldo was outside the  
7 room.
- 8 Q. What was he saying? Can you remember?
- 9 A. I can't remember at all. I just can't remember a word  
10 that he said. I just remember that he was shouting.
- 11 Q. What was the next thing that you remember happened on  
12 this particular occasion?
- 13 A. We went down to the middle floor and then the doctor  
14 came down with the other brother. The doctor was  
15 carrying Aldo, but they put a blanket or something over  
16 his head -- I think it was a blanket they put over his  
17 head. So at this point I actually had already --  
18 I thought he was dead already.
- 19 Q. And did they then leave the area? Did they leave the  
20 house?
- 21 A. Yes. When Germanus came down afterwards but ... He  
22 knew what he'd done. His head was down, he knew what  
23 he'd done.
- 24 Q. Later that day, did you go to the washroom and see  
25 something?

- 1 A. Yes, there was blood round the sink where they'd washed  
2 him off.
- 3 Q. I think you learned later on that Aldo had in fact died;  
4 is that right?
- 5 A. Yes, when I came back. We had some sort of like weekend  
6 back at home, so I went to my granny's for that weekend,  
7 and then we came back, and I remember running round.  
8 I ran to the top floor and I asked a brother where Aldo  
9 was and he said, "Has no one told you? Aldo's passed  
10 away." He said he died of (inaudible: distorted)  
11 problems. I said, "No, he didn't, Germanus killed him."  
12 Q. Is that what you said?
- 13 A. Yes. He just said to me, "I wouldn't say that. He  
14 didn't die like that." I said, "He did."
- 15 Q. Who was this brother?
- 16 A. I think it was the same brother who was shouting at him.
- 17 Q. It clearly wasn't Brother Arthur because you'd know  
18 Brother Arthur.
- 19 A. (Inaudible: distorted) at the time but it definitely  
20 100% wasn't Brother Arthur. That wouldn't have happened  
21 if Brother Arthur was there, I'm sure.
- 22 Q. In relation to your time away, you said it was  
23 a weekend; could it have been the mid-term break?
- 24 A. I think it was the mid-term break because we had very  
25 short breaks. We had longer holidays and a very short

1 middle break.

2 Q. So you think it was the mid-term break in fact that you  
3 came back and you learned that Aldo had passed away?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. After this episode, did Germanus leave the school for  
6 a while?

7 A. It didn't seem it was straightaway though. It wasn't  
8 long because I remember after that had happened, a few  
9 days after we'd come back, or maybe the day after we  
10 came back, a load of the Marist Brother hierarchy came  
11 through the place.

12 I remember being on the bottom stairs -- and I think  
13 it was probably that same brother again. I remember  
14 turning to him and just saying, because I was scared at  
15 this point because of what I'd obviously witnessed and  
16 knowing what they'd done. I said, "We're all going to  
17 die in here", and he sort of smiled at me and said,  
18 "Don't worry, Brother Arthur's coming", I'd never heard  
19 of Brother Arthur, but he said, "He'll sort it out."  
20 But yeah, Germanus left after that.

21 Q. Did he come back?

22 A. He came back, yeah.

23 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Billy, that from  
24 time to time you'd get visits from groups of children to  
25 the school; is that right?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. Who would bring these children?

3 A. I think another Marist Brother it was, because  
4 I remember there was a brother there that came with them  
5 one time. I don't know. I just remember playing with  
6 the kids. They were supposed to be like footballers,  
7 but there was only one of them I remember that could  
8 play football, decently anyway.

9 Q. What happened on these visits?

10 A. The first few times that they came, I remember we used  
11 to just go out and play football and stuff. There was  
12 one occasion with the same little kid who I liked to  
13 play football with when he turned up, he was in that  
14 middle hallway, and I said, "Are you coming out to play  
15 football?" and he started, "No, no, I've got to go to  
16 bed", but it was like early afternoon at the latest,  
17 I would have thought. I said, "You've got to go to bed?  
18 What have you got to go to bed for?" He goes, "I've got  
19 to travel tomorrow." But they'd only come from Glasgow.

20 Then I said, "Ask if you can come and play  
21 football", so he went and asked and they said, no,  
22 he had to go to bed. So he came back and he wasn't very  
23 happy.

24 Brother Germanus was in the hallway and then there  
25 was all this rowdiness going on in the hallway.

1 I remember Brother Germanus going out to these men  
2 outside and saying, "If you don't pipe down, you'll all  
3 be out." And I think I must have just got my football  
4 or whatever and I started to leave the bedroom and one  
5 of them -- that other brother that was there said to me,  
6 "Come on, you, get into the bedroom", and then Germanus  
7 said to me, "What are you doing up here? You know  
8 you're not allowed up here. Get out."

9 So I went to go out and there was a line of men  
10 outside in that hallway going along, about five  
11 different men, who were waiting outside for the boys to  
12 go into the bedroom along with that brother as well and  
13 Brother Germanus.

14 Q. How many boys were there?

15 A. That football team, probably five or six.

16 Q. Were they going into the same bedroom or different  
17 bedrooms?

18 A. They were going into the bedroom right beside the shower  
19 room, the first bedroom closest to the shower room.

20 Q. And the men in the hallway, were they just standing  
21 there?

22 A. Yes. They were just one behind the other, all ... it  
23 was all quite rowdy, that sort of thing going on, when  
24 I was stood there. It seemed quite noisy out there.

25 Q. Did you recognise any of them?

- 1 A. Yes, MFZ was in that line.
- 2 Q. Was this before or after you knew or saw him as being
- 3 Aldo's stepfather?
- 4 A. This was before.
- 5 Q. Was this before Aldo was at the school?
- 6 A. I think it was, yes.
- 7 Q. How often did you see groups of boys coming to the
- 8 school?
- 9 A. It was mainly that group. They were nicknamed something
- 10 like the "weekend boarders" because usually we had
- 11 weekly boarders, but it was weekend boarders because
- 12 they came on a weekend and boarded sometimes.
- 13 Q. Do you know where they came from?
- 14 A. I think they came from Glasgow.
- 15 Q. Were they the same sort of age as you?
- 16 A. Yes, they were a similar age to me. I remember there
- 17 was a bigger boy, but he came on his own with one of the
- 18 brothers. He was a tall kid. I only remember him
- 19 because he slapped me because he didn't support the same
- 20 football team and I said something about his football
- 21 team.
- 22 But he was brought in by the Marist Brothers. But
- 23 he was a bit older than me. I would say he was more
- 24 towards 12 when I was 8 or 9 or whatever.
- 25 Q. You've told us about the occasion when you saw men in

1 the hallway. Was that just on one occasion you saw that  
2 or was that more than one occasion?

3 A. Only when I saw them in the hallway was one occasion  
4 when they were lined up like that, but I saw a similar  
5 type of environment but without the line of people where  
6 they were going to the bedrooms.

7 Q. Were there men there as well then?

8 A. Not that I remember, not like that. This was just  
9 something that sticks in my brain, that there was a line  
10 of them outside.

11 Q. You also tell us that once or twice a year a group of  
12 Marist Brothers would come [REDACTED] to visit;  
13 is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you remember the names of these brothers or any of  
16 them?

17 A. I couldn't, but once again, I've looked at the faces and  
18 I know who most of them are, yes.

19 Q. Who can you tell us about?

20 A. Brother [REDACTED] who's [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED] at this time. He was the funny-eyed  
22 brother who grabbed me in the hallway.

23 He didn't do anything to me; he just grabbed me as  
24 I walked past and started to pull on me. I managed to  
25 just shirk away from him like I did with the others and



1 I ran to Brother Arthur about him and he said, "He's  
2 really nice", but then he looked and he said, "What was  
3 he doing?" and I said, "He just grabbed me", and he  
4 said, "What did you do?" and I said, "I didn't do  
5 anything, I just walked past him", but I walked past him  
6 speedily because you would do with these brothers --  
7 I wouldn't walk slowly past a brother, I would try to  
8 keep away from any of them. We all did. You'd see  
9 dribble spots on the floor and you'd know Germanus had  
10 been there because he was always dribbling, so you'd go  
11 the other way, that type of thing.

12 Q. So he's one name you mentioned. Anyone else?

13 A. Yes. (inaudible: distorted) close to him, yeah.

14 The worst one out of all of them, because as soon as  
15 he came into the school, he hurt my big brother first  
16 and then I went to play billiards with two of the other  
17 boys who were in the room with me. We were playing  
18 billiards and he came in and I was with my back to him,  
19 going to take a shot, and he picked up a snooker cue and  
20 whacked it between my legs and started bouncing it  
21 between my legs.

22 I stood up and looked at him all weird and he smiled  
23 at me and the other guys were giggling or laughing.  
24 I bent down to take my short again and he stuck the  
25 snooker cue up my bum.

1 Q. What was the name of this brother? What was his name?

2 A. Brother <sup>MKA</sup> [REDACTED]. He used to wear like a big Dr Who  
3 type scarf, a coloured thing that near enough went down  
4 to his feet. He was a massive, massive man. He was  
5 a big, big bloke.

6 But he then -- I tried to get out of the door but he  
7 moved across the doorway and wouldn't let me out. So  
8 I ran back round the table and then he came back round  
9 the table that way (indicating) and I sprinted round and  
10 legged it out of the room. Another boy followed me and  
11 we legged it out of the building.

12 After a bit of time he walked round the side of the  
13 building and walked round to the back door of where  
14 we were in the first place, to see about the other boy.  
15 When we got there, the Marist Brothers were all around  
16 the doors and that, the door was open, there were boys  
17 there as well, and the little boy was under the table  
18 with his trousers down.

19 Q. Who were the Marist Brothers that were there?

20 A. That was all [REDACTED] and the ones who generally  
21 would look after us. There was a lot of them there.

22 Q. Do you know what had happened to the little boy?

23 A. No. He got sent away and I didn't speak to him about  
24 what happened to him.

25 Q. Can you remember any other [REDACTED] brothers' names?

1           A. Yes. There was Brother [REDACTED] obviously. He was there.  
2           I haven't got a bad word to say about him. Others  
3           could, but he seemed okay-ish.

4           I remember that brother who was another one of them,  
5           Brother [REDACTED]. I was in the kitchen one day a group of  
6           these visiting brothers were there -- these weren't the  
7           [REDACTED] brothers though. I don't think they were all  
8           brothers. I believe these were the people who today are  
9           at the [REDACTED] Institute because they came along with  
10          a 14 or 15-year-old boy as well, who I believe was  
11          called [REDACTED] and he was from the [REDACTED] Institute.

12          We were told to keep down the bottom end while these  
13          lot were here and then I went up to get a jam piece and  
14          they came into the kitchen. I shook hands with that  
15          young bloke -- I think he was about 14 or 15 at that  
16          time -- and he was part of this people who apparently  
17          sort the Marist Brothers out because I think they were  
18          having problems. I remember something like that being  
19          said.

20          [REDACTED] came in and told me off because he heard the  
21          other brother was telling me off because I was supposed  
22          to be down the other end and then he joined in for some  
23          reason. That's the only recollection I have of them  
24          lot.

25          On the photos there's still quite a few more of the

1           brothers. Yes, there was a Brother ██████ that was  
2           there during the time I was there as well, but I don't  
3           remember him doing (inaudible: distorted) ██████  
4           brothers, et cetera, that <sup>MKA</sup> ██████ attacking that boy.  
5           And that Brother ██████ grabbing me.

6           Q. Very well, Billy.

7                     Can I move on to when you came to leave  
8           St Columba's. I think, as I've already taken from you,  
9           you left in 1982 and it closed shortly after that;  
10          is that right?

11                    You tell us that you then went to a school in  
12          Ipswich in England; is that correct?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. So far as your secondary education was concerned then,  
15          did you have your secondary education at that school in  
16          Ipswich?

17          A. (Inaudible: distorted).

18          LADY SMITH: Something's happened to the sound. Just  
19          a minute, Billy. Can you adjust your position  
20          in relation to the microphone? We're hardly hearing  
21          you.

22          A. Is that any better?

23          LADY SMITH: That's much better, yes.

24          A. Sorry.

25          MR MacAULAY: Did you tell anybody within your family as to

- 1           what was going on at St Columba's?
- 2       A. Not in a -- I told (inaudible: distorted) I didn't
- 3           actually, my auntie told -- I told my auntie about
- 4           Germanus killing Aldo and she went and told my granny.
- 5           My granny didn't believe me. She just ... I was a kid
- 6           with a wild imagination. Not so wild now, is it?
- 7       Q. What about the sexual things that you've been telling us
- 8           about? Did you tell anyone within your family about
- 9           these matters?
- 10      A. No, I didn't understand it properly. I told my mum
- 11           about Germanus grabbing me in the shower and I did
- 12           obviously tell her about Aldo, but she didn't understand
- 13           me. I told her about the boy as well that got dragged
- 14           out of his bed and got poo down his legs. She said,
- 15           what was he doing? I think they must have been hitting
- 16           him and he pooped himself. I didn't realise that things
- 17           like that were going on. But yeah.
- 18      Q. One thing -- sorry, carry on.
- 19      A. I did tell my mum, but my mum was stuck in Germany. As
- 20           a young woman -- my dad was away -- she didn't know what
- 21           to do.
- 22      Q. One thing you have done is you have been to the police
- 23           in connection with certain aspects of AKU
- 24           behaviour; is that right?
- 25      A. Yes, that's right, yes.

1 Q.

2 AKU

3 A.

4 Q.

5

6 A.

7

8

9 Q.

10

11 A.

12

13 Q.

14 A.

15 Q. From paragraphs 119 through to 120, you give us some  
16 information about your personal circumstances and your  
17 employment history. I think at the moment you're not  
18 working because you haven't been well; is that correct?

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

20 Q. So far as the impact you would say what you experienced  
21 at St Columba's may have had on you, what would you say  
22 about that? Can you summarise the impact that you think  
23 your experience had on you?

24 A. Yes. I think there's lots of various different things.  
25 I think you get trapped in your childhood, to be fair,

1           for one. If there's people who are in authority, it  
2           makes it very difficult to deal with them, makes you  
3           quite confrontational. A lot of anxiety to do with  
4           situations, even whether it's work-related. Like an  
5           interview to one person might be so simple, but to me,  
6           to go into that environment or into other institutional  
7           environments -- because everything's about getting  
8           certificates these days, I don't have any because  
9           I didn't go to any institutions to learn anything,  
10          because I'm just not going to go to institutions.

11         Q. Have you received any counselling for any impact that  
12           your experiences had on you?

13         A. No.

14         Q. And you then tell us about lessons to be learned. If  
15           I can pick up one or two points there.

16                 One of the questions you raise is:

17                 "If we could try and stop sexual abuse, how could we  
18                 stop it?"

19         A. Mm-hm.

20         Q. That's one of the questions you raise. What's your  
21           answer to that question?

22         A. Well, I'm no professional, obviously, you know, and I've  
23           been with a lot of professionals over time and a lot of  
24           different ideas put forward. But it's their human  
25           rights, which I don't believe they should have, for one.

1           Castration is obviously a sensible move, where -- it's  
2           done in Europe already, they decide to sign up to it  
3           themselves.

4           The other option is what Gerald Fitzgerald said, who  
5           was the servant of the parish priest. He started off in  
6           various institutions, including the [REDACTED] Institute,  
7           another institution in Stroud, the Southbound Institute,  
8           (inaudible: distorted) in America. There's lots of  
9           them, about ten to 12 of these different institutions  
10          where these men were treated after they abused us  
11          children. His idea was to get an island and stick them  
12          on it. He even bought the island, but the church didn't  
13          go for it. But these people shouldn't be around  
14          children ever, ever, ever again.

15          I mean, come on. The law and everyone else decided  
16          -- it's all right turning around and saying don't hit  
17          your kids and banning hitting your kids, then a woman  
18          hits her kid, you take the kid off her and you stick  
19          a kid in an institution, and it gets raped. I'd rather  
20          get a smack.

21          Q. At the end of your statement, you confirm that you've  
22          provided documentation to the inquiry and, in  
23          particular, photographs in connection with St Columba's,  
24          which we've found very helpful.

25          A. Mm-hm.



1 MR MacAULAY: Can I say, Billy, these are all the questions  
2 I propose to put to you today. I can see it has been  
3 quite an emotional roller coaster for you giving your  
4 evidence, but thank you for engaging with the inquiry.

5 My Lady, I can confirm that I haven't received any  
6 other questions to put to Billy.

7 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
8 questions of this witness? No.

9 Billy, that does complete all the questions we have  
10 for you. It simply remains for me to thank you for your  
11 engagement with the inquiry. We have your very detailed  
12 written statement, which is valuable evidence for us,  
13 and you've given us so much today in talking to us over  
14 the video link about your experiences.

15 As Mr MacAulay's already commented, it's plain that  
16 it's not been an easy task for you, I have noticed that,  
17 but I can only thank you for going through with it and  
18 I'm delighted to be able to say that's an end and I can  
19 let you go.

20 A. Okay. Thank you for your time.

21 (The video link was terminated)

22 LADY SMITH: I think that's the link off now. What next,  
23 Mr MacAulay?

24 MR MacAULAY: We have another witness, my Lady, who I think  
25 is available. I think I can perhaps just call him.

1 LADY SMITH: We're ready to move on? Let's do that.

2 MR MacAULAY: He is an applicant and wants to use the name  
3 Jack in giving evidence.

4 "JACK" (sworn)

5 LADY SMITH: Jack, please sit down and make yourself  
6 comfortable.

7 You'll see the red light is switched on on the  
8 microphone. I'd ask you to try to make sure you stay in  
9 a good position for us to hear you through the sound  
10 system. It's really important.

11 I'm not sure what you've got with you to help you,  
12 but if you need to refer to your own notes --

13 A. I do have my statement here.

14 LADY SMITH: Ah. Don't worry, it's in the red folder, and  
15 it'll also come up on the screen, so we can help with  
16 you that.

17 But if you have any questions at any time, please  
18 don't hesitate to ask.

19 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and  
20 he'll tell you what happens next; is that all right?

21 A. Yes, no problem.

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 Questions from MR MacAULAY

24 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Jack.

25 A. Good afternoon.

- 1 Q. In the red folder you'll find your statement and I'll  
2 give the reference for the transcript: WIT.001.002.6172.  
3 Could I ask you to look at the last page, the final  
4 page of the statement that's in front of you, the hard  
5 copy?
- 6 A. (Pause). That's my signature, yes.
- 7 Q. Can you confirm, as you tell us in the statement, that  
8 you have no objection to the witness statement being  
9 used as part of the evidence?
- 10 A. I beg your pardon? Sorry, I'm a little hard of hearing.
- 11 LADY SMITH: I think if you can get into a really good  
12 position to maximise the amplification of your voice and  
13 the microphone, that will help Jack, Mr MacAulay.
- 14 MR MacAULAY: I'll do that: can you hear me now, Jack?
- 15 A. If I look straight at you, at your lips, I'll be able  
16 to, yes.
- 17 Q. Can you confirm you have no objection to the statement  
18 being part of the evidence to the inquiry?
- 19 A. Absolutely no objection whatsoever.
- 20 Q. Is what you say in the statement true?
- 21 A. 100%.
- 22 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, but can you  
23 confirm that you were born in 1969?
- 24 A. Correct.
- 25 Q. And in your statement, you provide us with some family

- 1 background --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- leading up to a point where you go to St Columba's  
4 School in Largs; is that right?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. I think what you tell us is that you went to  
7 St Columba's at the age of about 8.
- 8 A. Yes, [REDACTED] 1977.
- 9 Q. I think you left in 1980, when you were about 11?
- 10 A. Circa [REDACTED] 1980, yes.
- 11 Q. Can you remember who the Marist Brothers were at the  
12 school when you went there?
- 13 A. Yes, I do.
- 14 Q. Could you tell us who they were?
- 15 A. Okay. There was a Brother **MNQ**, a Brother **MFW**,  
16 a Brother Germanus, a Brother **AKU**, a Brother **MJZ**,  
17 and a Brother Robert. At the moment, I think that's all  
18 I can remember.
- 19 Q. You mentioned a Brother **AKU**. Did he come to the  
20 school after you had been there for a while?
- 21 A. He came literally just after there was a -- something  
22 mysterious happened at the school and Brother Germanus  
23 was faded out and Brother **AKU** seemed to appear.
- 24 Q. Is it the case that one of the people you had most to  
25 deal with was Brother Germanus?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But what did you see the hierarchy to be at the school?
- 3 By that I mean who do you think was in charge? When you
- 4 went there who was in charge?
- 5 A. Well, as far as I was concerned, Brother Germanus wasn't
- 6 a teacher, he was a dormitory brother, and he was in
- 7 charge of around 15 or 16 little vulnerable children.
- 8 Q. You do mention brothers smelling of drink in your
- 9 statement. You do mention brothers who smelt of drink
- 10 in your statement.
- 11 A. Yes. Yes, absolutely.
- 12 Q. Can you name them? Who were they?
- 13 A. Brother MFW and Brother Germanus.
- 14 Q. Can I just touch briefly on the sleeping arrangements?
- 15 When you went there, you'd go to a dormitory; is that
- 16 right?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Where was your dormitory located?
- 19 A. My dormitory was on the first floor and it was
- 20 dormitory -- as far as I can remember, it was 40-odd
- 21 years ago, it was dormitory 2.
- 22 Q. And did you move from that dormitory to other
- 23 dormitories during your time at the school or did you
- 24 stay in the one place?
- 25 A. I did, but to be truthful, I can't tell you. I was

1           never in a dormitory upstairs; it was always downstairs  
2           in the first floor.

3           Q. One thing you say in your statement -- and it'll come on  
4           the screen if you want to look at the screen -- in  
5           paragraph 18 is:

6                     "Germanus knew how to slap a boy without leaving  
7           bruises."

8           A. Correct.

9           Q. Can you just explain that for me?

10          A. Because he told me.

11          Q. What was the context?

12          A. He just said, "I know how to -- I've slapped boys before  
13          and they've never bruised." That's what he said to me.

14          Q. Were you ever slapped by Germanus?

15          A. On many occasions. And physically abused -- and  
16          seriously.

17          Q. Can you provide us with some detail then?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. Could you help me with that?

20          A. Okay, absolutely. I was only a little boy and he ...  
21          I was in the dormitory with a friend of mine, another  
22          little boy.

23          Q. Can you tell us his first name?

24          A. His first name?

25          Q. Yes.

1 A. His first name is MNO .

2 Q. What happened on this occasion?

3 A. What happened to him -- well, what happened is the  
4 lights were out in the dormitory and we were just, as  
5 little children do, giggling and laughing. And all of  
6 a sudden, the light switched on and Germanus stormed in  
7 like some sort of crazy man and he said, "What's going  
8 on here?" And of course, we were only little boys  
9 laughing and giggling in our beds, and we said, "Oh,  
10 nothing's going on, Brother Germanus", and he said,  
11 "Right", and he pulled out a huge leather strap.

12 He threw my friend over the bed. He pulled his  
13 pyjama bottoms down and he beat the little boy on the  
14 bare bottom around eight to ten times, maybe eight to  
15 ten times.

16 My friend, he was screaming and screaming, asking  
17 for him to please stop, and the tears were running down  
18 his eyes, and the other boys in the dormitory, the fear  
19 of God was put in them, and he was -- so I was shaking  
20 watching it happening. And then my friend -- he said,  
21 "Right, pull your pyjama bottoms up", and the other boy  
22 was crying and screaming and he put him in his bed and  
23 he looked at me and said, "You're next."

24 He grabbed me, threw me over the bed, pulled my  
25 pyjama bottoms down and beat me as hard as he could

1 with -- he had a small thingummy, he hit me with a man's  
2 hit, whacking me, and I was screaming and shouting,  
3 "Please stop, I can't deal with this", it was hurting so  
4 much and the tears were streaming down my eyes. And to  
5 this day, it has traumatised me all my life, being  
6 assaulted by that animal.

7 Q. How many times do you think that he hit you?

8 A. Eight to 10 times.

9 Q. Apart from that incident, were you hit on any other  
10 occasion?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And in what way? Can you help me with that?

13 A. I was just ... I was walking along with other children  
14 in broad daylight and I -- sorry, could I say something  
15 before?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. The time he assaulted me in the bedroom with my other  
18 friend, he was smelling of drink, there was a smell of  
19 alcohol off him. Okay? I just have to tell you that.

20 Q. Perhaps I should ask you this: how long had you been  
21 at the school?

22 A. This was before the Aldo Moroni event.

23 Q. I'll come to that. How long do you think you'd been  
24 at the school?

25 A. Maybe a year.



1 Q. So you'd be, what, age --

2 A. I'd be around 9.

3 Q. You were moving on, Jack, to tell me about something  
4 else.

5 A. Yes, okay.

6 So I was walking along, just broad daylight, and  
7 I was actually standing next to him, and of course  
8 I don't know whether you've heard from other people, but  
9 he always had a hip flask with him and he'd be sipping  
10 from it. I was talking and maybe I said a word in the  
11 wrong tense or the -- like, a wrong verb that was --  
12 maybe said something the wrong way and he said to me,  
13 "That's the wrong word", and he turned round and he  
14 punched me straight in the face like this (indicating).  
15 A man's punch; not like slapping a child, he punched me.

16 I blacked out. I fell on the grass. And then,  
17 basically, I was gone, and then I got up and then  
18 I went ... And basically he punched the fear of God  
19 into me and then I just got myself together and I had to  
20 walk again with the group of children who I was with.

21 Another time, he decided he was going to show us how  
22 to do boxing, which -- I would think that he had no idea  
23 whatsoever. There was no medical people or anybody that  
24 knew anything about boxing or whatever, but he took us  
25 into this room, and he gave us all boxing gloves. So he

1           said, "You've got to box, we're all going to box." So  
2           I got my boxing gloves on, there was another boy, and he  
3           put us in a ring. I was maybe 8 years old and this  
4           other boy just went like that (indicating) and punched  
5           me and knocked me out, and I was lying flat out.  
6           I could have been dead, I don't know, but all I remember  
7           is Germanus slapping me in the face, trying to waken me  
8           up.

9           Q. Was the other boy that you were matched up with an older  
10          boy?

11          A. No, he was a very similar age. I can tell you his name  
12          as well if you want to know it, but that's up to  
13          yourself.

14          Q. We don't need to know names at the moment.

15                 So that's another incident you're telling us about.

16          Were there other incidents involving Brother Germanus?

17          A. He was a very violent man.

18          Q. So were there other episodes of violence then during  
19          your time at the school?

20          A. With me?

21          Q. Yes, with you.

22          A. Well, the night he assaulted my friend and I, that's  
23          always affected me most of my life, I've known that.

24          And yes, he punched me straight in the face.

25                 There was just other things where he'd maybe slap

1           you or push you or things like that. It was well-known  
2           in the school by the pupils that he would do that.

3       Q. And did you see how he behaved towards other pupils,  
4           leaving aside your friend that was belted? Did you see  
5           how he behaved towards other pupils?

6       A. Yes, oh yes. Yes, he was a violent man. I presume this  
7           hip flask that he used to sip out of during the day was  
8           full of alcohol. Maybe that changed his mood or ...  
9           I don't know.

10      Q. You also tell us, Jack, about an incident when you had  
11           a rash between your legs.

12      A. That's correct.

13      Q. Can you tell me about that?

14      A. Yes. I was just running about with the rest of the  
15           children and I felt this itch in between my legs. So  
16           of course, there was no nurses or anybody you could talk  
17           to apart from this person, this animal, I would call  
18           him. And I said, "Brother Germanus, I've got a terrible  
19           rash between my legs, I'm really itchy", so he said,  
20           "Are you? Wait and I'll sort that out for you." So he  
21           said, "Come into my bedroom", so I went into his  
22           bedroom.

23      Q. At what time of day was this?

24      A. This was the bedroom next to the dormitories.

25      Q. Was this when you were going to go to bed or was it

1           during the day?

2           A. No, no, he took me into the bedroom to apparently fix  
3           the rash. Yes? Okay? So he told me -- he said, "I've  
4           got some cream here, but what you need to do, you need  
5           to take all your clothes off", and he made me lie on top  
6           of his bed naked, and he gave me the cream and he said,  
7           "Open your legs", and he told me to start rubbing  
8           this -- maybe it was Germolene or something, whatever,  
9           start rubbing it in between my legs, and he sat in the  
10          chair opposite me for a good 5 to 10 minutes, and he  
11          kept saying to me, "You keep missing a bit, keep doing  
12          it", and obviously, as a child you don't understand  
13          what ... you just didn't understand what he was doing.  
14          But as far as I believe -- and I'm 100% -- he had his  
15          hand underneath his robe and he was masturbating while  
16          watching me rubbing cream, naked, on his bed.

17          Q. And were you lying on your back on the bed?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. How long did this last for?

20          A. Circa 10 minutes. He kept saying to me, "You've missed  
21          a bit, keep rubbing it in, keep rubbing it in."

22          Q. Did he himself make any contact with you?

23          A. No.

24          Q. I now want to ask you about the boy whose name you've  
25          already mentioned, and that's Aldo Moroni.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can I ask you about that? Did you become aware when  
3 Aldo Moroni came to the school?

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. And it was some time after you had been there; is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes, that's correct. He just appeared. He was just  
8 a lovely little boy. Looked very healthy and he was  
9 much younger than other children. He just ran about  
10 with other children, but he seemed to be victimised by  
11 Germanus.

12 Q. You tell us about an incident that you witnessed --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that I think was late at night; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Can you, first of all, tell me about it? What happened?

17 A. So I was in my bed and, basically, I needed to go to the  
18 toilet, and I got out my bed and I went up to -- the  
19 toilet was one floor up and it was a little toilet that  
20 was like a ... it was the smallest toilet you could ever  
21 see and I couldn't understand why for 15 or 16 boys you  
22 had this tiny little toilet.

23 But anyway, I went up the stairs to use the toilet  
24 and I got to the top of the stairs, and I put my head  
25 round because I heard some commotion, and I seen Aldo

1           in the hallway screaming and shouting, "Please let me  
2           in, please let me in", to the toilet.

3           Q. So was he at the toilet door?

4           A. He was right at the door, okay? Germanus was beating  
5           him. He had his pyjamas down, he was battering him.  
6           He had his pyjama top, pulling him back like that  
7           (indicating).

8           Q. And you're indicating holding by the collar?

9           A. He was pulling him back and he was going like that  
10          (indicating) he was battering him and battering him and  
11          then shaking him like a rag doll and Aldo was screaming  
12          and screaming. He said, "Please leave me alone, leave  
13          me alone", and he's saying, "Shut up, shut up." And  
14          Aldo was a lovely wee boy and he had the glasses on and  
15          the glasses came falling off and he was battering him.  
16          He was just throwing him about like a rag doll.

17                 I absolutely was scared to death. Germanus was not  
18          aware that I had my head -- I was on the landing but  
19          I was standing on the stairs, but I looked round and  
20          I seen what they were doing; okay? Literally, he was  
21          shaking the life out of Aldo. I ran back down the  
22          stairs and I jumped into my bed and I wet my bed from  
23          fear and I pulled the covers over myself.

24                 As far as I was led -- as far as I remember, Aldo  
25          maybe was dead a day or two days later.

1 Q. Just going back a little bit, you say that Germanus was  
2 battering Aldo?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. What was he doing?

5 A. He was ... Basically, Aldo was standing up, Germanus  
6 was standing straight behind him, and he had him by the  
7 pyjama top like this (indicating).

8 Q. The collar. I think you're indicating the collar.

9 A. Right. He pulled his pyjama bottoms down, he was  
10 battering him with a man's full -- like a man's full  
11 hard punch, hitting him as hard as he could, and shaking  
12 his head with the top of his hand, shaking him.

13 This is a very vulnerable 7-year-old boy, literally.  
14 He was quite a weak little boy. He looked healthy but  
15 he was -- and he was shaking him. His glasses fell off,  
16 he was crying, he was screaming, he was kicking the  
17 bathroom door, kicking the bathroom door, "Please let me  
18 in, please let me in." That traumatised me enough and  
19 to me that was battering Aldo. To me that was hitting  
20 him.

21 Q. And which part of his body? You've indicated --

22 A. He was hitting his bottom and shaking his head, shaking  
23 him like a rag doll.

24 Q. You went back to your bed and I think you told us you  
25 wet the bed.

1           A. That's correct, I wet myself in the bed. I was scared  
2           to death, I was traumatised and I was under the  
3           covers ...

4           Q. You also tell us -- was it another night that you saw  
5           something?

6           A. Yes. There was another night, yeah. I seen -- but  
7           another night, there was a commotion.

8           Q. Can you tell me about that? What was the commotion?

9           A. There was a commotion. I was in the middle dormitory,  
10          downstairs and there was a commotion and there was  
11          something going on upstairs, as I was led to -- as  
12          I believe, Aldo was in our dormitory on his own, which  
13          was very suspicious, considering all the other boys had  
14          companionship with other boys down in other dormitories.  
15          Aldo was kept on his own in a dormitory upstairs.

16                 So anyway, there was a commotion that night. There  
17          was a few Marist Brothers appeared and a lot of the boys  
18          got out their bed and we all went out to the first  
19          balcony and we were all looking up and there was  
20          something going on and one of the Marist Brothers  
21          shouted to the boys, "Go back into your beds." But it  
22          was so -- the boys were all wondering what was going on  
23          and not a lot of us did go back into our beds.

24                 I witnessed a body or a child or somebody being  
25          brought down the stairs and they had a blanket round him



1           and as far as -- I think it could have been a towel over  
2           his head. And there was -- Germanus was walking behind  
3           them with his head down. There was another  
4           Marist Brother, which to this day I can't name him, but  
5           as far as I know, one of the other gentlemen was  
6           a doctor.

7           Q. But you say this particular incident was also an  
8           incident that happened at night?

9           A. I beg your pardon, sir?

10          Q. I think you're telling us, Jack, that this incident was  
11          also one that happened at night.

12          A. Yes, it happened at night, yes. That was the last time  
13          I ever seen Aldo ever again.

14          Q. Do you know if at this time you were due to go on  
15          a break from the school or can you remember? Do you  
16          know if you were to go on a break?

17          A. Sorry, sir?

18          Q. Do you know if at this time you were to leave the school  
19          for a break, a holiday or a weekend break?

20          A. Yes. It was just basically -- it could have been maybe  
21          a Thursday and a lot of the boys went away on the Friday  
22          to -- some of the boys, I would say 80% of the boys,  
23          went away if their parents lived in Glasgow or  
24          somewhere, they went away for the weekend, back to their  
25          families. So a lot of the boys went back and the news

1           was given out sort of -- I wasn't personally told that  
2           Aldo had died, but I was told by other boys, but other  
3           boys were told that Aldo died.

4           Q. Was that some time later?

5           A. No, that was probably on the Monday, maybe on the  
6           Monday. I came back on the Sunday -- I would come back  
7           on Sunday night -- it could have been the Sunday or  
8           Monday. It's 43 years ago.

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

10          A. Yes, it was a long time ago.

11          Q. Can I ask you this: did you see if Aldo had visitors  
12          when he was there?

13          A. He never had -- he spent a lot of time on his own and he  
14          seemed to be stuck up in this dormitory on his own.  
15          He was a lovely little boy and I don't know why he  
16          couldn't have been in a dormitory with the other boys  
17          for friendship or companionship, to keep him thingummy.  
18          But for some reason he was kept in a dormitory up the  
19          stairs on his own and there was a gentleman used to  
20          come -- and I remember he was a man in his early 20s  
21          with [REDACTED] hair, slim, and he was well -- he was kind of  
22          always kind of well-dressed. I don't know his name, but  
23          we used to ... I remember the boys would ask, "Is that  
24          your father, Aldo?" and of course it wasn't because the  
25          guy -- Aldo was Italian, dark, and this man had [REDACTED]

1           █ hair.

2           He came to visit -- he seemed to have this ... When  
3           he did come, it was all about Aldo. He would come and  
4           ask about Aldo, and Brother Germanus seemed to say --  
5           bring Aldo in and say, "This chap is wanting to talk to  
6           you", or something.

7           Q. Okay. How often did you see this person at the school?

8           A. Quite often. Aldo had a mysterious death, so I never  
9           seen him again after Aldo died, but he did -- he was  
10          coming back and forward to that school. As far as I'm  
11          led to -- I'm thinking in my mind that he was ... They  
12          didn't let members of the public like -- they didn't  
13          like your parents coming in to see the horrible cesspit  
14          it was. But this chap was maybe something to do with  
15          the institution and he wandered about happy as Larry.  
16          He seemed to be made welcome by Germanus.

17          Q. You tell us, Jack, at paragraph 57 of your statement  
18          that:

19                 "Apart from the physical and sexual abuse [and  
20                 you have told us about the rash episode] the mental  
21                 abuse was awful."

22                 Can I just ask you to tell me what you mean by  
23                 mental abuse?

24          A. Mental abuse? Well, mental abuse was -- there was  
25          physical abuse.

- 1           Mental abuse was to me being in classrooms ...
- 2           I don't know where I maybe ... well, being sexually
- 3           abused is mental abuse to me, basically, I would say.
- 4           But being in a classroom and having a blackboard duster,
- 5           which is basically that size (indicating) -- it is like
- 6           a brick, a wooden brick -- and having that thrown at you
- 7           in the classroom and hitting you off the head, to me
- 8           that would be mental abuse. I always remembered to
- 9           me ... and being caned.
- 10          Q. Did that happen very often?
- 11          A. Yes, on several occasions.
- 12          Q. Who would throw the duster?
- 13          A. Brother MFW. He was a drunk, an alcoholic drunk.
- 14          Q. I think you've already told us that the physical belting
- 15             that you had left a mental scar.
- 16          A. Yes, absolutely.
- 17          Q. You then go on to tell us, Jack, about leaving
- 18             St Columba's.
- 19          A. Yes.
- 20          Q. And you then went to school in Glasgow; is that right?
- 21          A. Yes. I got sent to another private school in
- 22             Great Western Road.
- 23          Q. And after school I think what you did was you went
- 24             working in your grandfather's business?
- 25          A. That's right because I left school with no

1           qualifications. I'd been at a prestigious boarding  
2           school and learned nothing.

3           Q. You then set out for us at paragraphs 63 to 65 things  
4           that you've done and some personal aspects as well;  
5           is that correct?

6           A. Sorry, sir?

7           Q. In the next few paragraphs, you set out what other  
8           employment you've had and you also provide us with some  
9           personal information.

10          A. Yes. I had a lot of problems, a lot of health issues,  
11          and my mother had cancer and I had to give up a lot of  
12          things I was doing and I had to look after my mother,  
13          which traumatised me in my life as well.

14          Q. But then looking to the impact that you would say your  
15          experiences at St Columba's had on you, how would you  
16          describe the impact?

17          A. It's horrific to me. Three years of hell. Three years  
18          of hell, but the fact that I was dragged, as  
19          an 8-year-old boy, to Aldo Moroni's funeral and  
20          I watched him being put in a box in the ground, and the  
21          perpetrator was standing right next to me, and I knew  
22          what I seen. Okay? And as far as I believe, Germanus  
23          took it too far and that was partially -- mostly to do  
24          with the death of Aldo Moroni. I was traumatised being  
25          taken to that funeral and I seen the perpetrator

1 standing right next to me with a grin on his face and  
2 a pipe hanging out of his mouth.

3 He took 15 other boys and the boys were all crying  
4 and traumatised as well and basically he was trying to  
5 make out that it was nothing really to do with him, but  
6 we all knew -- well, I now know many years later. I knew  
7 then. I knew what he'd done.

8 Q. I am aware that talking about the funeral is something  
9 you wanted to do --

10 A. Yes, I've got that, yes.

11 Q. -- and you've now mentioned that.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is your view then, Jack? Do you think you and the  
14 other young boys should have been --

15 A. Actually, if you just give me one second, I wrote it  
16 down so I could actually memorise it a wee bit more.

17 Could I just read this out?

18 LADY SMITH: That would be very helpful, Jack. Please do.

19 A. Thank you, Lady Smith.

20 I would like to add the following:

21 "Shortly after the sudden and unexplained death of  
22 Aldo Moroni, I was forced to attend Aldo's funeral in  
23 Dunoon. I was not asked or given any option not to  
24 attend, nor were my parents asked or informed about me  
25 attending Aldo's funeral.

1           "Knowing that I had seen Brother Germanus beating  
2 Aldo on numerous occasions, I felt the whole experience,  
3 as a 9-year-old child, both traumatic and sickening, as  
4 the main perpetrator, Brother Germanus, attended Aldo's  
5 funeral also and had until recently been regularly  
6 beating Aldo, which I had painfully witnessed on  
7 numerous occasions.

8           "Brother Germanus was one of many Marist Brothers  
9 perpetrating heinous abuse on innocent children decade  
10 after decade. The Marist institution, in the knowledge  
11 of what was going on, opted to turn a blind eye, doing  
12 nothing to protect children such as I and many more."

13           Thank you.

14 MR MacAULAY: Thank you.

15           Just on what you've said there, you've already told  
16 us about the incident that you witnessed involving Aldo  
17 and Germanus when Aldo was at the toilet door.

18 A. Mm-hm, yes.

19 Q. You've told us about the commotion.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you also mention there that there were other  
22 beatings. Did you see or did you witness --

23 A. He'd just slap him about all the time in front of  
24 everybody. Obviously, I seen that one horrific beating,  
25 but he'd slap him or hit his bottom in front of people

1 or throw him about.

2 But the horrific beating I seen that night is the  
3 night I went down and wet myself in the bed. I was  
4 horrified.

5 Q. Do you think Aldo was a particular target?

6 A. Yes. I can guarantee it, yes.

7 MR MacAULAY: Well, Jack, thank you for answering my  
8 questions and thank you for providing the statement  
9 you've just provided as to what your feelings were about  
10 the funeral. Thank you also for coming along to engage  
11 with the inquiry.

12 A. Thank you, sir.

13 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I have not been sent any questions to  
14 put to Jack.

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

17 Jack, that does complete all the questions we have  
18 for you today. Thank you very much for engaging with  
19 the inquiry in the way you have done. You've provided  
20 a detailed written statement that's so helpful and  
21 coming along today to make your words come alive has  
22 been of enormous assistance.

23 Thank you very much for that and I'm now able to let  
24 you go.

25 A. Lady Smith, I would just like to thank you very much for



1 everything you're doing too. Thank you.

2 (The witness withdrew)

3 LADY SMITH: Well, it's just after 1 o'clock, Mr MacAulay,  
4 so I think we'll stop for the lunch break now and we'll  
5 be starting again at 2 o'clock, hopefully with another  
6 video link, which I know will be checked over the lunch  
7 break, and we should be ready to roll then.

8 Thank you.

9 (1.03 pm)

10 (The lunch adjournment)

11 (2.00 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

13 Ms MacLeod, it looks as though we have the video  
14 link up and running for this afternoon; is that right?

15 MS MACLEOD: We do, my Lady.

16 The next witness is an applicant who wishes to  
17 remain anonymous and he'll use the name "David" in  
18 giving his evidence.

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon, David. Can you see me and hear  
20 me all right?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can, hello.

22 LADY SMITH: I'm Lady Smith and I chair the Scottish Child  
23 Abuse Inquiry that's based here in Edinburgh. Can  
24 I start by thanking you for coming along to engage with  
25 us today by video link. That's very helpful. I will in

1 a moment hand back to Ms MacLeod, who's going to take  
2 your evidence this afternoon. Before we do that,  
3 I would like you to take an oath, please.

4 "DAVID" (sworn) (via video link)

5 LADY SMITH: David, if you're ready, I'll hand over to  
6 Ms MacLeod and she will take it from there; is that all  
7 right with you?

8 A. That's fine, thank you.

9 Questions from MS MacLEOD

10 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, David.

11 A. Hi.

12 Q. I don't need your full date of birth, David, but were  
13 you born in 1971?

14 A. I was, yes.

15 Q. And are you now 48 years old?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You've provided a statement for the inquiry and  
18 I believe you have a copy there in front of you; is that  
19 right?

20 A. Yes, I do.

21 Q. I'll give the reference for the transcript and that's  
22 WIT.001.002.8804.

23 Can I ask you to begin by turning to the final page  
24 of the statement.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Have you signed the statement?
- 2 A. I have, yes.
- 3 Q. In the last paragraph do you say:
- 4 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
- 5 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?
- 6 Is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 8 Q. Do you go on to say:
- 9 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
- 10 statement are true"?
- 11 A. Yes, I do, yes.
- 12 Q. You begin, David, by telling us a little bit about your
- 13 life before you went to boarding school.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. I think you tell us that you were brought up near
- 16 Glasgow; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did there come a time when you were quite young and your
- 19 parents separated?
- 20 A. That's right, yes.
- 21 Q. I think you tell us that when you were around 8 years
- 22 old, your mother moved to Blackpool?
- 23 A. That's right, yes. That's correct.
- 24 Q. Was it around that time that a decision was made that
- 25 you would be sent to boarding school?

- 1 A. Yes. That's correct, yes.
- 2 Q. Can you tell me about your recollections of that  
3 decision being made?
- 4 A. Yes, sure. It was -- obviously my mum and dad had  
5 separated and my mum wanted to start a life for us both  
6 in England. The idea was this she would go ahead, start  
7 a life, buy a [REDACTED], get the business up and running,  
8 put me in boarding school, and then eventually bring me  
9 down after two years when everything was up and running  
10 and settled and she was -- rather than the upheaval of  
11 bringing me down and then starting a business, she  
12 thought she'd put me in boarding school, settle me  
13 there, and then when she started the business ...
- 14 Q. I think you tell us that you and your mother were very  
15 close.
- 16 A. Yes, very close, yes.
- 17 Q. And is that indeed what happened, that you went to  
18 boarding school and your mother moved down to Blackpool  
19 to start a business there?
- 20 A. Yes, she did, yes.
- 21 Q. You tell us that you went to St Columba's College in  
22 Largs in 1979; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 24 Q. So would that be when you were 8 years old?
- 25 A. Yes. I was there from 8 to 10, yes.

- 1 Q. Was that from 1979 to 1981?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You set out for us in your statement some information  
4 about the set-up of the building or buildings at  
5 St Columba's and I just want to ask you a little bit  
6 about that. Were there two main buildings in which the  
7 school was set?
- 8 A. Yes. There were two buildings as far as I remember,  
9 yes.
- 10 Q. Did the buildings have names, do you recall?
- 11 A. I can't remember if they had names. I know one was the  
12 boarding area where you had your dormitories and your  
13 kitchen and you ate. And the other building was where  
14 you had your lessons in the day. The Marist Brothers  
15 used to live above the classrooms and then we had  
16 a housemaster in our main house where the boarding rooms  
17 were.
- 18 Q. So the building where the boarding accommodation was,  
19 the other house that you mentioned, was that to the left  
20 of the --
- 21 A. Basically if you face the building, it was to the left,  
22 yes.
- 23 Q. Did any of the brothers live within the building where  
24 you boarded?
- 25 A. Yes. Just one that I can recall of.

- 1 Q. And --
- 2 A. One housemaster.
- 3 Q. Who was that?
- 4 A. Brother AKU, I knew him as.
- 5 Q. When you arrived at the school, were you assigned to
- 6 a particular dormitory?
- 7 A. Yes. I can remember when I first arrived, yes, it was
- 8 on the top floor, I think. I remember the building was
- 9 on three floors and the first dormitory I had was on the
- 10 top floor and it looked out on to the sea. I remember
- 11 that.
- 12 Q. Did you move dormitories as you progressed through the
- 13 school?
- 14 A. Yes. For some reason, we did move dormitories.
- 15 I recall being in three different dormitories in my time
- 16 there. I don't know why we moved dormitories, but I do
- 17 recall moving dormitories yes.
- 18 Q. When you first arrived were you with boys who were
- 19 around your own age?
- 20 A. Yes, I think so. I know there were boys there of
- 21 different ages. I think I kind of -- we kind of stuck
- 22 to the boys that were in your class, your age group.
- 23 Q. Looking at the school as a whole, do you have
- 24 a recollection of the number of boys that were there in
- 25 1979?

1           A. I don't think there was that many. I would say on  
2           average -- I don't think there'd be that many. I'd say  
3           on average 30 boys maybe, max, because the buildings  
4           were not very big -- and I think the classrooms in the  
5           other building, there weren't that many classrooms in  
6           that building. I imagine there'd be about three or four  
7           classrooms in there so there might have been 30 or 40  
8           boys maximum, if that. Maybe less than that. I know  
9           there were day children who came during the day as well  
10          as boarders, so we were mixed with people who lived in  
11          Largs or lived locally who would come to the day school  
12          as well.

13         Q. I think you tell us you recall your very first day and  
14          very first night at the school; is that right?

15         A. Yes, I do, yes.

16         Q. What can you tell me about that?

17         A. I just remember entering the building and it was like  
18          a grand staircase that took you round. I remember there  
19          was a very big statue of the Virgin Mary on the  
20          staircase and then there was a -- the headmaster was  
21          Brother Arthur. He was there to greet us and take us  
22          in.

23                 Then I got introduced to Brother AKU, I think,  
24          at the time. And then I can remember being shown --  
25          obviously I was very upset because I'd been left by my

1           mum. I think that was really upsetting me at the time,  
2           8 years old, because you don't understand the reasons at  
3           that age, why you're being left.

4           But then (inaudible: distorted) in the dormitory and  
5           I remember being on my own and writing a letter to my  
6           auntie and uncle about how I didn't like it and it was  
7           -- I just remember -- it was quite a cold building and  
8           I felt so alone and quite isolated and I can't remember  
9           if anyone else was there. I'm pretty sure I was on my  
10          own the first night in the room because I remember being  
11          very scared and I remember crying a lot and feeling  
12          isolated.

13         Q. And did more boys arrive and come into your dormitory  
14          over the next few days?

15         A. Yes (inaudible: distorted) started to make friends again  
16          in a strange place, in a strange building and share  
17          a room. Yeah, it's pretty daunting but yeah.

18         Q. You've mentioned Brother Arthur being the headmaster.

19         A. Yes.

20         Q. And you've mentioned Brother AKU. What was  
21          Brother AKU role?

22         A. He was a teacher. He was also the dormitory  
23          housemaster, so he was in charge of the main house where  
24          we all stayed. He was again a person that I always saw  
25          every single day, but he also took us for certain



1 lessons as well. I remember him teaching me certain  
2 lessons.

3 Q. When you arrived in the school, and were allocated to  
4 a dormitory, was Brother AKU room near your  
5 dormitory?

6 A. Yes. He was always nearby, he always had a room near  
7 where you were, I think to make sure you were safe and  
8 he always kept an eye on you.

9 Q. In paragraph 20 of your statement, David, you mention  
10 remembering that a particular boy was Brother AKU  
11 what you call, blue-eyed boy.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I don't need the full name of the boy, but could you  
14 just tell us the boy's first name?

15 A. MGR

16 Q. In what way was he Brother AKU blue-eyed boy?

17 A. He was just -- because obviously MGR was the same  
18 age as me, we'd become very good friends at boarding  
19 school, and I just remember (inaudible: distorted)  
20 always. It just seemed like everything I did, I was  
21 always getting in trouble for some reason, for things  
22 I didn't even know I was in trouble for, whereas MGR  
23 always seemed to not get into trouble for things and he  
24 was always -- he was the favourite, I thought. He was  
25 the one that got away with a lot of things where I was

1           punished for a lot of things, along with other boys.

2           MGR           seemed to get away with things more. I always  
3           thought he was the favourite.

4           Q. So if we look at Brother AKU           role then in relation  
5           to you, on a daily basis when would you see him? For  
6           example would he be involved in getting you up in the  
7           morning?

8           A. Yes, he was there. He was constantly there. He was  
9           always there, day and night. He'd always make sure you  
10          were up in the morning, showered, out, breakfast, and  
11          he'd be there at night-time when you had your dinner and  
12          he would make sure you were put to bed. He was always  
13          there, yes.

14          Q. What was the showering arrangement at the school?

15          A. It was a communal shower block and for some reason --  
16          it's in my statement I think -- we always seemed to be  
17          getting weighed. We were always having to be naked and  
18          take our clothes off in the shower block. For some  
19          reason Brother AKU           thing was always wanting to weigh  
20          us. I don't know why, but I always seemed to find  
21          myself on the weighing scales quite a lot. We would get  
22          weighed naked and have to shower. We would all line up  
23          and get weighed and then go in the shower.

24          Q. So do I take it from that that there would be a number  
25          of boys lined up waiting to be weighed?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And would the boys be naked when they were lined up?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How many boys are we talking roughly?

5 A. Well, it would be my sort of class or dormitory at the  
6 time, so our age group, so I think maybe 10 of us, not  
7 very many.

8 It wasn't the whole school, it was just my class  
9 I felt that was just getting -- it wouldn't be any older  
10 boys or younger boys.

11 Q. And how often do you think you were lined up in this way  
12 to be weighed?

13 A. I don't know. This is the thing, but it always felt  
14 like a regular thing. So I think we -- we obviously  
15 showered, but I don't know whether we showered daily --  
16 I think we maybe showered four or five times a week,  
17 I think. But it seemed to like -- we always seemed to  
18 be on the weighing scales before we got in the shower  
19 for some reason. I don't know why that has stuck with  
20 me, but I always felt I was always standing on weighing  
21 scales while Brother <sup>AKU</sup> was sat down next to the  
22 weighing scales weighing us and then we'd go to the  
23 shower. And we'd shower -- I think the shower held  
24 about four or five boys at a time, if I remember  
25 rightly.

1 Q. Was there any privacy in the showers or could you see  
2 the other boys showering?

3 A. You could see the boys. There was no privacy. It was  
4 like an open, communal shower.

5 Q. And was Brother [AKU] there when the boys were  
6 showering?

7 A. Yes, he was there, always there.

8 Q. You've mentioned that Brother [AKU] taught you in the  
9 classroom as well as being involved in the dormitory.  
10 How did Brother [AKU] treat you and other boys in the  
11 classroom setting?

12 A. He had this thing to have to be in control. I was  
13 always so frightened of him. I was petrified of him.  
14 He had this thing of putting fear in you. So in class,  
15 he was just -- he would have this threatening behaviour  
16 that -- he had a thing about throwing the -- he had  
17 a big wooden blackboard duster that he'd throw at you  
18 and if it hit you then you knew about it.

19 On one occasion when he thrown -- (inaudible:  
20 distorted) I remember doing a times table and I got  
21 a times table wrong, a maths times table, and he threw  
22 the duster at me. Not only that, he came over and he  
23 punched me in the side and knocked me off the chair and  
24 I fell to the floor, and I was really upset by that.

25 Q. I think you tell us about that, David, in paragraph 44.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. When you say he knocked you off your chair, how did he  
3 do that?
- 4 A. It was a fall to a punch on the side. I remember there  
5 being -- just seeing his right arm come down to my --  
6 his right arm down to my right shoulder, top of my arm,  
7 and I remember not being -- being forced off the chair,  
8 that's how forceful it was. I came off the chair and  
9 I was on the ground and I just remember being really  
10 upset and crying and running out of the classroom  
11 because obviously I'd been punched. I'd been hit by  
12 a blackboard duster and then I'd knocked off my chair  
13 with force. It was awful. I remember being really  
14 upset by that.
- 15 Q. Do you remember how old you were?
- 16 A. It must have been ... 9 years old maybe. Maybe I'd  
17 been there for a while, so 9 years old maybe.
- 18 Q. Once you left the classroom, what happened?
- 19 A. I just remember running out of the classroom and in the  
20 corridor at the time was Brother Arthur, who was the  
21 headmaster, he saw me, he got hold of me and I just  
22 remember him -- it's funny I remember these things, but  
23 he sort of gave Brother AKU a look -- he didn't say  
24 anything, but gave him a look as if to say, what are you  
25 doing, and I remember Brother Arthur taking me away into

1 one of the bathrooms nearby and cleaning me up, because  
2 obviously I'd been thrown to the floor, I was covered in  
3 dust and dirt, and I think I had chalk on me from the  
4 blackboard, from the blackboard duster hitting me. He  
5 cleaned me up.

6 I can't remember if there was -- if I was bleeding  
7 or not. I knew I was badly shook up. I know I was in  
8 a bit of a bad way. I know I must have had a bruise on  
9 my arm but I don't know if there was any blood of  
10 anything. But I was pretty -- he cleaned me up in the  
11 bathroom anyway and made sure I was okay before I went  
12 back into any more lessons.

13 Q. You mention in your statement that Brother Arthur gave  
14 Brother AKU a look of disgust.

15 A. Yes. It's funny how things stay with you. I just  
16 remember looking at Brother Arthur and I could see this  
17 face how -- a look of like saying, what are you doing,  
18 you can't do this. He didn't say anything, he didn't  
19 exchange words with him at the time, because obviously  
20 I was there, but it was a look he gave him that made me  
21 think obviously he is aware of what happened and this is  
22 not acceptable to me, to treat a child ...

23 Q. When Brother Arthur was cleaning you up, did he ask you  
24 what had happened?

25 A. I can't remember. I think he might have asked me what

1           happened yeah, but I can't remember (inaudible:  
2           distorted), if I'm honest.

3           Q. Do you remember if you told him what happened?

4           A. I can't remember. I think he -- yeah, I can't remember.

5           I think he might -- I can't remember -- maybe we had  
6           that conversation. I just remember him cleaning me up  
7           in the bathroom and making sure I was okay. I think he  
8           was more looking after my welfare to make sure I was  
9           okay. I think he could see what had actually happened,  
10          that something serious had happened in the classroom.

11          Q. Do you know if there was any investigation or any  
12          questioning?

13          A. No, never.

14          Q. Did you wet the bed when you were at St Columba's?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. How was that dealt with in the school?

17          A. You were petrified to say anything. Too scared to even  
18          tell a soul. I remember doing it and I lay in bed  
19          pretending to be poorly in order to not to have to deal  
20          with it, and get the wet sheet off the bed once school  
21          had started and hide them under my bed until one of the  
22          cleaners had found them. I remember that happened a few  
23          times.

24                    I'd never wet the bed until I'd gone to there.

25                    I don't know why I started doing it at the age of 8,

1           9 years old. It was a strange thing, but it happened on  
2           a few occasions and I was scared to tell anybody I'd  
3           done it.

4       Q. Why were you too scared?

5       A. Too scared of what punishment I'd get and what would  
6           happen to me.

7       Q. In terms of punishment, if we focus, first of all, on  
8           the dormitory side of things, who was in charge of  
9           punishment?

10      A. Brother **AKU** would be the one in charge of punishment.

11      Q. What about in the school setting in relation to you?  
12           Was there anybody who was in charge of punishment?

13      A. The only one person I remember giving out punishment  
14           was -- Brother **AKU** is the only one I can remember  
15           receiving punishment from and it'd be with the belt  
16           being used.

17      Q. And would he do that in the classroom setting?

18      A. Yes, he'd do it in the classroom and you'd get it across  
19           the hand if you got something wrong or he wasn't happy  
20           with what was happening in the classroom, then you'd get  
21           it, yeah.

22      Q. Would something happen at lunchtime in relation to  
23           punishment and what was going to happen later in the  
24           day?

25      A. No, it would be dinner time. It'd be -- I think it



1 was -- it could have been lunchtime, but I'm pretty sure  
2 it was dinner time where he would bring up punishment,  
3 what happened during the day. Say for example I'd been  
4 naughty the other day for some other reason, whatever  
5 I'd done, he'd bring it up at dinner time (inaudible:  
6 distorted), "David has done this today, so he's going  
7 to get punished tonight", and he'd say you'd have to go  
8 to his room and see him at a certain time. He would  
9 allocate you like a slot, to be precise.

10 So say for example three boys were naughty during  
11 the say he'd say, right, you come at this time, and then  
12 other boy would (inaudible: distorted) but you would go  
13 to his room at a certain time.

14 Q. And just to be clear, is that Brother **AKU** you're  
15 talking about?

16 A. Brother **AKU**, yes. Brother **AKU**, sorry, yes, yes,  
17 yes.

18 Q. So do I take it from that there was a time in the day,  
19 either at lunchtime or dinner time, when he would tell  
20 the boys if there was something that they needed to be  
21 punished for?

22 A. Yes, he would -- sorry.

23 Q. And how often would that happen, that kind of  
24 announcement? Would that be --

25 A. Whenever there was punishment being dished out, that's

1           when he would make it -- it was like he was quite proud  
2           to be able to make it -- I think it was a way of  
3           embarrassing you as well in front of other children to  
4           make it known that the whole -- because when we were  
5           having dinner together, you would have dinner with all  
6           the pupils and we would all have lunch or dinner  
7           together in the main building. So I think it might be  
8           his way of just making sure that everybody knew who was  
9           naughty that day and this is what's going to happen.  
10          That's the way I look at it now.

11         Q. What information would he give at that time about what  
12           was to happen? What instructions were given?

13         A. He wouldn't give instructions what was going to happen  
14           to you; he just said you go to his room for your  
15           punishment after dinner.

16         Q. I see. I think you mentioned earlier a slot. Were you  
17           given a particular time to go to his room?

18         A. Yes. That's how I kind of remember it being because on  
19           the occasions I do remember it was me that was going to  
20           have to go to his room, there would be maybe three of us  
21           would be selected to go and you'd have to go at  
22           a certain time or else you'd queue up outside of his  
23           room until someone else had come out and then you would  
24           go in. That's how I remember it to be, yeah.

25         Q. I see.

1           I think you do tell us that in paragraph 41 that  
2           when you went to Brother AKU room, you usually went  
3           on your own, although there were other boys waiting  
4           outside --

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. -- for their turn?

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. So once you got into -- I should ask you this first of  
9           all: is this Brother AKU room near your dormitory?

10          A. Yes. Yes. His room would always change as well.  
11          Whenever we moved rooms, he would always move rooms as  
12          well. I remember his room being in three locations  
13          in the school.

14          Q. So did he move his room when you moved your room or --

15          A. Yes. Yes.

16          Q. Did you have any understanding of why that was at the  
17          time?

18          A. Why we moved dormitories, why we changed rooms? I have  
19          no idea why we changed rooms. I have no idea. I don't  
20          know. Maybe the numbers of classes changed? I don't  
21          know. I wouldn't know why we changed because I had  
22          three different dormitory rooms when I was there. In  
23          the two years I was there, it was three dormitories  
24          rooms I had.

25          Q. And your recollection is that Brother AKU room

1 changed as well?

2 A. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. So once you were went into Brother AKU room on these  
4 occasions when you've been asked to go there, what would  
5 happen?

6 A. Do you want me to say -- what kind of situation are we  
7 talking about? Because there's quite a lot of times  
8 I was in his room where I was told to get naked or is  
9 this to get the belt or is this -- there were lots of  
10 situations I was in his room.

11 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 41 that when you went  
12 to his room, just generally speaking, you tended to be  
13 given three options in relation to punishment.

14 A. Yes, right, yes. Yes. So this is the occasion when  
15 there was three boys picked out at either lunch or  
16 dinner time, a mealtime anyway, to go to his room after  
17 dinner -- it must have been after dinner because it was  
18 a night-time -- to receive punishment.

19 I remember two of us going into his room together.  
20 We were told to take our clothes off, get naked, and  
21 the -- he always gave you a choice of punishments. At  
22 that time there was a choice of a belt over the hand,  
23 a belt over the backside, or he wanted me and this other  
24 boy to sort of caress each other and sort of like hold  
25 each other. It was a bit of a weird thing to ask

1 a little boy to do. Obviously that's the easy option  
2 because that's not -- you are not going to get any abuse  
3 or hit, so we obviously went for the option, or I did,  
4 it was the -- I remember thinking this is a really  
5 strange thing to do.

6 So we were two young boys, sort of holding each  
7 other and just caressing each other and hugging, but  
8 he wasn't satisfied with that. So he went back to, "If  
9 you weren't doing it right, you have had to pick another  
10 punishment." I felt like I was in that room for an  
11 eternity, I felt like it was going on and on, and  
12 I remember being so upset and crying, I just wanted to  
13 get out of that room, and thinking I don't want to get  
14 hit and I don't want to stand here caressing another  
15 boy. I just didn't know what to do.

16 I remember when the option came I went over for the  
17 belt -- over the backside I think I remember getting hit  
18 with a belt -- because the caressing thing, I just  
19 didn't know what we were meant to be doing, neither of  
20 us did, but it wasn't to his satisfaction and he wasn't  
21 happy with what we were doing, so it was back to being  
22 punished.

23 Q. I see.

24 And these three options that you've outlined  
25 happened on that occasion, were these three options of

1           punishment that you were given on other occasions when  
2           you went to his room for punishment?

3       A. No, not that I remember. That was just that one time  
4           I remember. I remember that was my options for just  
5           that one time I remember that happening.

6       Q. I see.

7           On other times that you went to his room for  
8           punishment, what were you given in terms of punishment?

9       A. It'd be the belt, either over your bum or your hand.

10      Q. So the occasion you've just told me about involving  
11           yourself and another boy, was that the only occasion you  
12           were given a choice of punishments?

13      A. With that punishment of the caressing put in there, yes,  
14           that was only one. As for the other times, I think he  
15           just issued the punishment or gave you a choice of  
16           whether you got it over your hand or backside. I think  
17           he just gave it to you and you didn't get an option --  
18           that's why it's always stuck with me, I thought it was  
19           a strange thing he's given me three options, so I picked  
20           the easy option that I thought would be the lesser of  
21           all them, the lesser of all the evils, but it wasn't to  
22           his satisfaction, so ...

23      Q. You tell us about an occasion when a group of you went  
24           to a show in Largs and I think you won a competition.

25      A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that?

2 A. It was a fairground. It's funny how these things stick  
3 with you and just stays with you.

4 It was a fairground in Largs, it was on the  
5 seafront. It was obviously in the late 1970s, early  
6 1980s. I think it was something you had to throw darts  
7 or something or collect ducks. Anyway, I won a small  
8 teddy bear, a really small teddy bear, and I was so  
9 chuffed being that age at winning something.

10 I remember Brother AKU confiscated it off me, took  
11 it off me and said it belongs to the school and I wasn't  
12 allowed to keep it. He took it off me and confiscated  
13 it off me there. I remember thinking I thought that was  
14 awful. That was something that I thought I'd won and I  
15 was so chuffed to get, but no, he took it off us and he  
16 confiscated it.

17 Q. You mention an occasion when Brother AKU you say made  
18 the whole school watch the film The Deer Hunter.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think you go on to say that that's a film that was  
21 probably not suitable for young boys.

22 A. Yes. The thing about The Deer Hunter that sticks in my  
23 mind so much is to do with the going back to the  
24 incident where we were in his room where there was  
25 a choice of three punishments. So that was the night --

1 "The Deer Hunter" is a very long film as I know now. We  
2 watched part 1, say, the night before. Say that was  
3 a Thursday night or a Friday -- say Friday night we had  
4 watched part 1, half The Deer Hunter, and the second  
5 night we were going to watch the second half of The Deer  
6 Hunter. But I'd been called to his room with the choice  
7 of these three punishments and I can remember basically  
8 thinking, let me just watch the second part of The Deer  
9 Hunter, thinking I have no idea what The Deer Hunter was  
10 about. I think I've seen it now, but I still don't know  
11 what it was about.

12 At 8 years old I had no idea what the film was about  
13 and I was suddenly thinking I would rather watch the  
14 second half of The Deer Hunter than have to go to his  
15 room and deal with whatever I have to deal with in his  
16 room, I would rather watch the second half of The Deer  
17 Hunter.

18 So that was the night of the punishment we were  
19 taken to his room and I was given the choice of three  
20 punishments.

21 Q. That's the occasion you have just told us about?

22 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

23 Q. And on that that occasion you told us that one of the  
24 choices you are given was that yourself and another  
25 boy --



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you used the word caressing, that you and this  
3 other boy could caress each other.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you recall what Brother AKU said in relation to  
6 that option and what he asked you to do?

7 A. I can't remember what he said. I just remember  
8 obviously what he does -- to kind of touch each other  
9 and put our hands -- I remember kind of sort of hugging  
10 each other in a kind of hugging, caressing way.

11 I think he was directing our hands to move our hands  
12 around, but it was obviously very unusual and very  
13 uncomfortable for me to do and obviously the other boy  
14 to do as well.

15 Q. And --

16 A. Hence why -- sorry.

17 Q. Carry on, carry on.

18 A. Hence why -- we didn't do it to his satisfaction hence  
19 why I think we went back to getting punished rather than  
20 go through the caressing thing.

21 Q. And what were you and the other boy wearing at the time?

22 A. We were naked. We were naked.

23 Q. And had he asked you to remove your clothes?

24 A. Yes, he had asked us to remove our clothes. That was  
25 the first thing we did. I felt like I had been in that

1 room for an eternity, because I remember being really  
2 cold and I was crying and I was waiting to get out of  
3 the room, but it felt like I was in there for a long  
4 time.

5 It could have been half an hour, it could have been  
6 two hours, I don't know how long I was in there. It  
7 felt like I was in there for a long time. Because I was  
8 stood naked with this other boy for such a long time,  
9 I mean ... I just remember being really cold and I just  
10 wanted to (inaudible: distorted).

11 Q. We don't need his full name, but do you recall the boy's  
12 first name?

13 A. Yes. Do you want me to say his name?

14 Q. Just his first name.

15 A. [REDACTED].

16 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement about something  
17 that happened once you were in the dormitory on the  
18 second floor, so once you had moved dormitories.

19 I think you tell us Brother AKU [REDACTED] had also moved his  
20 dormitory to the second floor at that time.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did something happen once you moved to that dormitory?

23 A. I think you're referring to the time when I was called  
24 to his room -- I was called to his room on numerous  
25 occasions. But the first occasion which sticks to my

1 mind was -- is this what you're referring to?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. I was called to his room. I can't remember -- I am  
4 thinking all of the boys were asleep and I think he's  
5 come and got me out of dormitory and taken me to his  
6 room and I remember being in his room and he's asked me  
7 to take my pyjamas off, to get naked.

8 Q. When he came into your room, was that late at night?

9 A. I'm presuming it must have been late at night  
10 (inaudible: distorted) asleep. I can't remember if it  
11 was -- I'm guessing everybody was asleep. It was lights  
12 out I think maybe because it was obviously -- because  
13 there was nobody else around. Because I always remember  
14 being ... hustling ... it was like hustly and bustly  
15 when everyone was getting ready for bed and everyone is  
16 climbing into bed and there was a lot going on, people  
17 were brushing their teeth, people were loitering around,  
18 and there was none of that. So I'm guessing that  
19 we were asleep or going to sleep or lights were out  
20 because it was only me in the corridor on the way to his  
21 room. That's the way I remember it.

22 Q. When he came into the room, did he say something to you  
23 or come to your bed? What happened?

24 A. I think he just tapped me on the shoulder and told me to  
25 follow him or go to his -- just follow him behind him.

1 Q. And you mention there once you were in his room --

2 A. What sticks in my mind, I followed him to his room and  
3 he sat down at kind of like a desk thing and I remember  
4 him having a kind of Atari machine, like a games  
5 console, where you smashed the balls into the ...  
6 I remember him just sat there playing this kind of Atari  
7 machine game --

8 Q. Is that a computer game?

9 A. Yes, yes, yes.

10 I go into the room and I think he's turned round and  
11 told me to take my pyjamas off and to get into his bed,  
12 lie on his bed on the left side of his bed. That's when  
13 he's initiated me to sort of start doing things while he  
14 carries on playing the game. He's sat at a screen --  
15 obviously in his screen he can see my reflection so he  
16 knows I'm sort of lying -- I'm behind him, literally  
17 behind him on his bed, so he can sort of see -- so he's  
18 playing the game but he knows that I'm sort of literally  
19 behind him. So in the reflection he will see where  
20 I am.

21 Q. Are you lying on the bed with no clothes on?

22 A. With no clothes on, yes.

23 Q. And did he ask you to do something?

24 A. Yes, he asked me to start playing with myself.

25 Q. Is that with your private parts?

1       A. Yes, to start playing with my genitals, to start playing  
2       with myself, to get aroused. Yes.

3                Again, it's at such a young age, obviously I can't  
4       do very much at 8 or 9 years old. So yeah, I remember  
5       just sort of playing with myself and thinking -- again,  
6       this is really awkward and I don't know what I'm meant  
7       to do and what this is -- this is a strange situation.

8                But I remember he came over to the side of the bed  
9       and he was quite angry that I wasn't doing things right  
10       or the way he wanted it to be. I wasn't sort of  
11       performing well or I wasn't playing with my genitals the  
12       way he wanted me to do. I sort of remember he put his  
13       hand down -- and I don't honestly know if he put his  
14       hand on my genitals or the inside of my leg or where his  
15       hand went, but it was sort of -- the hand was on me.

16               Again, I don't know if it was over the sheet or  
17       under the sheets or where he did it (inaudible:  
18       distorted) me. He was getting quite aggressive this  
19       time because obviously I wasn't doing things to his kind  
20       of standard or what he wanted me to do. So I don't know  
21       how long I was there for, I just remember I wanted to  
22       get out.

23               The thing that stuck with me -- and it has stuck  
24       with me for all these years -- is I remember him saying  
25       to me there and then, "When you're touching (inaudible:

1 distorted), what do you think of? Do you think it's  
2 your mum touching you or do you think it's your gran  
3 touching you?" And that's always stayed with me. What  
4 a very strange thing to say because that's the last  
5 thing I'd think of is my grandparents or my mother  
6 touching me in that kind of way.

7 So that stuck with me. I remember him being quite  
8 aggressive and angry and then he told me to put my  
9 pyjamas on and get back to my dormitory, so obviously  
10 I got dressed quickly and got out and went back to the  
11 dormitory.

12 Q. And did this kind of thing happen on a number of  
13 occasions, David?

14 A. Yes, I can remember this happened on quite a few  
15 occasions.

16 On the other occasions I can remember it happening  
17 where he'd call you into his room and again you'd get  
18 naked and he'd lie on the bed. He'd be sort of lay with  
19 you, but a lot more calmer and not as aggressive as  
20 he was the first time I was there, and he just  
21 instructed you to sort of play with your genitals.

22 I can't remember ever him being naked or anything or  
23 seeing him naked, so he think he'd just lie next to you  
24 while you'd be playing with yourself and trying to get  
25 yourself aroused at that age, but not being able to do

1           it very well, I don't think. I don't think I ever got  
2           roused at 8 or 9 years old, so ...

3           Q. How many times do you think this happened?

4           A. I can remember it must have happened at least -- as far  
5           as I remember at least three or four times at least  
6           I was called to the room.

7           Q. And was this initiated in the same way with him coming  
8           into the dormitory and asking you to come to his room?

9           A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.

10                   And I've been thinking a lot about this recently,  
11           over the last few months, thinking about it, because  
12           I always thought I was the only one this ever happened  
13           to, so I thought -- I used to think -- whenever he used  
14           to come into the room I used to hide under the covers  
15           and pray that you were going to be all right tonight,  
16           thinking don't pick me, don't let me go into that room  
17           tonight, let me just stay in my own bed, because you  
18           knew you'd be safe there.

19                   I remember he used to always come in and check you  
20           were asleep and every time he would come out, he would  
21           come through the dormitory at night to make sure  
22           everyone was all right. You'd know he was coming and  
23           that sense of fear would be -- would escalate because  
24           you'd know he was coming and you'd be thinking, please,  
25           don't let me get picked to go into his room tonight.

1 Q. Did you ever see him approach other boys' beds?

2 A. No, I didn't. I don't know if that's me kind of  
3 blocking things out. I remember whenever he approached  
4 the dormitory I'd hide under the covers and you'd just  
5 hid and pray you wouldn't -- he'd leave you alone  
6 tonight and let you just sleep.

7 So whether he went -- I don't know if he did go to  
8 other boys' beds and get them out, I can't remember. He  
9 could have done and then I was thinking, "At least it's  
10 not me tonight", but I can't honestly remember if he did  
11 do that to other boys. I just remember it being me.

12 Because at the time I thought it was only me that he  
13 did it to, that I was the only one that was getting  
14 selected, I always thought I was bad because it made you  
15 feel I was the bad one, this is my punishment for doing  
16 whatever I did during the day, this is God's way of  
17 punishing me, making me go to his room and do these  
18 things.

19 Q. You've told me about the first time it happened and how  
20 that came to an end. On the other occasions I think you  
21 mentioned -- is it in some of these or was it all of  
22 these that he would lie on the bed with you?

23 A. Yes. Always I remember him lying down next to you and  
24 talk to you and instruct you what to do.

25 I remember a few times thinking that -- I'm not sure



1           if I've fallen asleep in that bed. Because obviously  
2           I'm a little boy and I'm obviously very tired and it's  
3           probably getting late now and I think I've fallen asleep  
4           and I remember a few times just waking up and just  
5           creeping out and putting my pyjamas on and going back to  
6           my dormitory, where he'd be sleeping next to you in the  
7           bed, he'd obviously fallen asleep as well.

8           I remember just sneaking out thinking, I need to get  
9           out of here. So there were a few times I think I fell  
10          asleep in his bed obviously because I'm tired.

11         Q. And on these occasions where he was lying in the bed  
12          next to you, did he make physical contact with you?

13         A. I can't remember, if I'm honest. I can't remember.  
14          I just know he'd lie next to you and instruct you --  
15          he'd instruct you what to do, to touch yourself and play  
16          with yourself. I can't remember if there was any  
17          contact. I can't remember.

18          The first occasion, I can remember his hands coming  
19          over and helping me with it. After that, I don't know  
20          if he did or not; I just remember him lying next to me  
21          instructing me, telling me to do things.

22         Q. Okay.

23          Do you remember what he would be wearing when these  
24          things were happening? Was it --

25         A. I'm not sure. I think he just had -- I'm not sure if

1 he had pyjamas on -- he had a robe on for sure, but  
2 I don't know if there was pyjamas underneath.

3 I'm sure he had some sort of dressing gown, not  
4 a robe, more like a dressing gown rather than being  
5 dressed.

6 Q. You mentioned a particular film that Brother AKU put  
7 on for the boys. Did he put on films for the boys on  
8 other occasions that you recall?

9 A. Yes. We were the lucky ones because we had a VHS video  
10 player. This was obviously like 1979 and I think  
11 we were one of the first ones to get one. So every  
12 weekend, if we stayed at the house at the weekend, he'd  
13 hire -- get films and he'd always sit on the sofa and  
14 he'd be sat on the sofa and he'd have all the boys  
15 around him.

16 I always felt like he had his favourites next to  
17 him. Like, I was never one of the favourites, I was out  
18 on the outskirts, but we'd all sit on the sofa.

19 As you go into Largs -- during the day -- this is on  
20 a Saturday. You'd go into Largs in the morning with  
21 your pocket money. You'd get your pocket money from his  
22 little office room and the you'd go into Largs and you'd  
23 buy your sweets in the supermarket and then go back and  
24 you'd watch a video at night.

25 Q. The boys that were sitting close to him, where would

1           they be sitting in relation to him?

2           A. I remember there being like a big sofa and he'd sit  
3           right in the middle of the sofa with the TV and he'd  
4           have like a boy on each arm, he'd be hugging two boys in  
5           close and we'd all be -- it was like a -- what's the  
6           word -- I was on the outskirts. I wasn't one of the  
7           close boys. I was always one left on the outskirts.

8           Q. Did you ever see boys sitting on his lap?

9           A. I can't remember. He was quite tactile with the boys.  
10          I remember him being really tactile -- you see, I always  
11          felt he didn't like me, I was always made to feel like  
12          the bad boy, even though I wasn't a bad boy, but he  
13          always made me feel that way.

14                 He seemed to be quite tactile with people like --  
15          I can say **MGR** name, can't I? With **MGR**, he was  
16          very overfriendly and treated him like one of his best  
17          friends, like a son kind of thing. Does that make  
18          sense? (Inaudible: distorted) to him and a few others.

19                 With me, he was never tactile with me during the  
20          day. It was at night-time that I felt bad I was getting  
21          called to his room to do these things, so I always felt  
22          like a bad boy there all the time.

23          Q. Did you ever tell anybody within the school what

24          Brother **AKU** was doing to you?

25          A. No. No, I were too scared to tell anybody. He

1 instilled fear, I think. I was too scared of him all  
2 the time. Petrified of him.

3 Q. Did Brother AKU say anything to you about --

4 A. What, the things that had gone on?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. No, no, just I remember he would say that's your  
7 punishment for being a bad boy, for being -- this is  
8 like God's way. It was always -- the Catholic thing was  
9 always brought up, so you were always made to feel that  
10 you were the guilty one, this is you doing wrong. Hence  
11 why this is -- I've never, ever -- even growing up as an  
12 adult I always thought that it was me that was in the  
13 wrong and it's such a funny thing to carry with you for  
14 all these years. You think that it was -- like, one of  
15 the only ones.

16 Even growing up, I thought -- even though I knew it  
17 was wrong, I thought did I deserve to sort of be in that  
18 situation? So he made you feel like as if -- that you'd  
19 done wrong and this is your punishment for what you did,  
20 even though I can't remember the kind of things I did,  
21 probably minor things.

22 Q. And when or in what situation would he say that you were  
23 being punished?

24 A. It'd be whenever you were in his room on your own and  
25 you were being punished. So for every -- lying naked,

1 or things like that, he would say this is God's way,  
2 this is God's punishment for what you've done. The  
3 Catholic thing was always brought in, the Catholic  
4 guilt. He'd always make you feel guilty for -- you  
5 always thought he was right then, you always believed  
6 him.

7 Q. Did you tell your mother at the time what was happening?

8 A. No. Never, never, never, never.

9 Q. You mention in your statement that other things may have  
10 happened to you, but you can't recall them and you may  
11 have shut them out.

12 A. Yes. To this day, and I've said this, I think I've said  
13 this for my whole life, I still think more things went  
14 on there that I don't care to think about. I really do  
15 believe that. I think to remember such things --  
16 I mean, I speak to my friends and my friends can't  
17 remember being 8 or 9 years old. But I've got these  
18 things in my mind, these things that have affected me in  
19 such a way. I mean, it's not affected -- I've done well  
20 for myself in life, but I think the things that stick  
21 with you, they never go away, and I always think there's  
22 more than I care to think about, and I've always thought  
23 that for some reason, and I'm trying to think because  
24 obviously this is now becoming more -- over the last few  
25 months I don't think I've told anybody. I mean, the

1 first time I told this story to anyone was the police,  
2 which was only maybe eight weeks ago, and that's the  
3 first time I ever spoke about it to anybody in my life.

4 So the more and more now I'm starting to sit down  
5 and think about things and thinking, did more things  
6 happen? Because I do honestly think that more things  
7 happened, not just to me, but to other people, but I do  
8 think -- I think you kind of shut things out and you get  
9 a mental block of what went on.

10 Q. Do you recall there being a boy by the name of  
11 Aldo Moroni at the school?

12 A. The police mentioned it to me last week. The police  
13 came to see me last Wednesday. I remember there was --  
14 [REDACTED] Aldo  
15 that the police -- I mean, he was obviously there when  
16 I was there, but I think he was younger than me and  
17 I don't really remember much about him, so, no, I don't,  
18 no.

19 Q. You've told us already that you left St Columba's in  
20 1981 when you were about 10 years old.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And did you then go and join your mother in Blackpool?

23 A. I did, yes, and lost my Scottish accent, I'm afraid.

24 Q. Did you then go to school in, I think, initially  
25 a primary school and then a high school in that area?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. And what you tell us is that you continued a normal life  
3 at that time of your life.

4 A. Yes, and I really do believe -- I think my thing was  
5 when I left St Columba's, I think if I'd stayed in  
6 Scotland even, or if I'd gone back to Johnstone, or if  
7 I'd stayed in Scotland, it might have been a different  
8 situation for me. But I think having that distance --  
9 because going from St Columba's to England was  
10 a thousand miles as far as I was concerned and to leave  
11 that behind was a huge enormity to me.

12 I felt like I've escaped, I've got to be away.  
13 I will never forget my last day in that boarding school.  
14 I remember being in a room with MGR and another  
15 friend of mine, he was called MGS at the time.  
16 We were saying goodbyes and I still remember the day of  
17 saying goodbye to them and MGR gave me this hologram  
18 picture of Jesus, which I treasured as a little boy  
19 because he was my best friend then. When I think  
20 that I'm leaving them here and even that age, I think --  
21 I remember the three of like hugging each other saying  
22 goodbye but I felt kind of guilty to be leaving them  
23 in that situation at that age and I'm going away, I'm  
24 kind of getting free and I'm going a thousand miles away  
25 to England. I know it's not a thousand miles away, but

1           it might as well have been a thousand miles as far as I  
2           was concerned.

3       Q.    You provide us with some information about your life.  
4            You tell us that you've worked for an airline for over  
5            20 years.

6       A.    Yes.

7       Q.    And that you're married and that you have adopted a son?

8       A.    Yes.

9       Q.    In terms of the impact that you consider your time at  
10            St Columba's has had on your life, you give us some  
11            information about that in your statement.  Are you able  
12            to summarise for me what you consider the impact to have  
13            been?

14      A.    Well, like I said to you, I think moving to England was  
15            a big help in getting away.  I felt a kind of huge  
16            distance between myself and the school.  I always  
17            remember thinking that I'll never let it affect me, I'll  
18            never let it kind of weigh me down.  As much as growing  
19            up -- even from an early age into my 20s and 30s, it  
20            used to pop in once or twice a month, the things that  
21            went on in that school.  But I always swore I'd never  
22            let it affect me or -- because I think there's two paths  
23            I could have gone down because it can destroy you or  
24            else you can think, okay, I'm going to mentally think  
25            I'm not going to let this ruin my life.  And I chose the



1 path -- I thought, right, okay, I'm going to make  
2 something of my life rather than let it ruin me.  
3 Because I do think that them sort of situations -- it  
4 can be a fine balance, I think, when things like that  
5 happen and I mentally knew that, growing up, thinking  
6 I'm not going to let what happened there affect my -- or  
7 ruin my life.

8 Q. And did --

9 A. Also, I didn't want my mum to know what had happened  
10 really, you know, so I thought I'll just lock it away  
11 in the back of my head and it'll stay there, and  
12 I learned to live with it and deal with it and it just  
13 sort of lived there. Again, like I said, I didn't tell  
14 anybody until I told the police. That must be about 12  
15 weeks ago now. And since it's come out, it's like  
16 I think about it all the time now and I think about --  
17 and I'm pleased that I've got this opportunity of  
18 sitting here today because I never thought I'd have this  
19 chance. I honestly didn't think I'd have this chance  
20 because I always presumed growing up -- I always  
21 presumed that Brother AKU was -- when I was 8, 9 years  
22 old I always thought that he'd be a man in his 40s when  
23 I was that age. So as I got older in my 20s and 30s, I  
24 always thought I wonder what happened to him or where  
25 he is and where -- and what happened to him in life.

1 And then, as time's gone on, I'm thinking he's actually  
2 not that much older than me, and that's the really scary  
3 thing as I got older and I found more information out,  
4 and thinking, well ...

5 Q. And did something happen earlier this year, I think,  
6 when you saw a photograph?

7 A. No, what it was, I was -- like I said to you, once or  
8 twice a month, St Columba's used to pop into my head.  
9 Only for a matter of seconds, I'd think about my time  
10 there and then I'd put it to one side. I was in  
11 Florida, in Orlando, and I woke up -- the time  
12 difference. I woke up about 4 or 5 in the morning, I  
13 was wide awake and I was just lying there thinking and  
14 you start thinking about life and things. And then  
15 I thought about St Columba's, it popped into my head,  
16 and for some reason [REDACTED] I put  
17 it on [REDACTED]. It was [REDACTED], funnily enough, it was  
18 [REDACTED]. And there was a [REDACTED] page on St Columba's  
19 and there were people chatting on there that I knew the  
20 names and thought (inaudible).

21 [REDACTED] AKU [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED] all these emotions that came over me, I was  
23 lying in my bed, this would be only four, five months  
24 ago, and I was crying, I was in shock, I was scared,  
25 I was -- like every single emotion you could kind of get

1 in the space of an hour came over me. I'm thinking,  
2 what do I do? Because this is me, [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

I always presumed

6

he'd have passed away. I always thought he'd be a man

7

way into his 80s or 90s, [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

I thought I need to

9

have my name here, I want people to hear me now.

10

Q. I think you tell us that you found out there had been

11

[REDACTED] AKU

is that right?

12

A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.

13

Q. And I think you've mentioned already that it was very

14

recently that you spoke to the police yourself?

15

A. Yes, the first time must have been just 12 weeks ago,

16

three months ago was the first time. It was back

17

in the July, the first time. I approached the inquiry

18

first to see what -- I had no idea where to begin or

19

where to start or what avenue to go down. All I knew

20

was I wanted now to be -- have my name -- because

21

I always thought I've never had my voice heard and this

22

is my chance to say my thing now. So I went to the

23

inquiry first and asked them for some help and advice

24

and the inquiry were great with me from the very

25

beginning.

1           From the very, very beginning, the inquiry were  
2           amazing and they said, "Look, it's up to you. Do you  
3           want us to approach the police?" and I said "Absolutely  
4           100%". Let them approach the police and then, within  
5           an hour, the police were on the phone and I'm kind of  
6           pleased that things have gone the way they have and the  
7           police have been great and the inquiry have been great.  
8           As tough as -- it's been really hard for me at the  
9           minute because all these things are coming out and I'm  
10          talking about it like I've never spoken to anybody about  
11          it, like I said, until only a few months ago.

12          Q. You tell us you provided a statement to the police and  
13          that the police have been very supportive to you --

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. -- keeping you informed of developments?

16          A. Yes, they are. I've had three meetings with the police  
17          now in the last three months.

18          Q. And in terms of lessons to be learned, David, you  
19          provide some information in paragraph 71 of your  
20          statement. What you say is that you would like to see  
21          the recommendation that one man should not be able to  
22          dominate the control of a house full of boys.

23          A. Yes, yes, because nobody's overseeing what he's doing,  
24          so he was literally just this -- he controlled the whole  
25          house and what went on in that house, in the boarding

1 house. So nobody ever came in and saw whatever he was  
2 doing at night or -- it should have been shared  
3 responsibility with somebody else rather than just one  
4 person because obviously he controlled what happened  
5 in the house, hence why he had that power over people  
6 in that house.

7 MS MACLEOD: Well, thank you, David, for coming forward to  
8 the inquiry and for answering my questions today.  
9 I don't have any further questions for you.

10 My Lady, no further questions for David have been  
11 submitted.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Are there any outstanding applications for  
14 questions?

15 David, it simply remains for me to thank you again  
16 for taking the trouble to talk to us through the video  
17 link, but also for coming forward and giving us your  
18 written statement that's got so much detail in it. I'm  
19 really grateful to you, it's been of enormous assistance  
20 in helping the picture that I'm building about what life  
21 was like for children at St Columba's School. So  
22 thank you very much. I'm able to let you go now.

23 A. Thank you for letting me have this chance to get my  
24 story across. Thank you too.

25 LADY SMITH: Good, thank you.

1           I think that completes the witnesses we have for  
2           today; is that right, Ms MacLeod?

3   MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady.

4           We have a witness lined up to give evidence at  
5           10 o'clock tomorrow and we may have time for some  
6           read-ins after that.

7   LADY SMITH: So one oral witness tomorrow and then we'll  
8           take it from there. Just to remind everybody, we won't  
9           be sitting tomorrow afternoon or on Friday. We'll make  
10          such progress as we can tomorrow morning. Thank you.

11         (2.58 pm)

12                 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
13                 on Thursday 17 October 2019)

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I N D E X

"BILLY" (sworn) (via video link) .....1

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....2

"JACK" (sworn) .....90

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....90

"DAVID" (sworn) (via video link) .....114

    Questions from MS MacLEOD .....114

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