

1 Wednesday, 23 October 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. I see we start again with  
4 a video link that looks as though it's all in order;  
5 is that right, Mr MacAulay?

6 MR MacAULAY: That's right, my Lady, I think so. The next  
7 witness, who wants to retain his anonymity, is ready to  
8 go and he wants to use the name "Peter" in giving  
9 evidence.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 Peter, good morning.

12 THE WITNESS: Good morning.

13 LADY SMITH: Can you hear me and see me all right?

14 THE WITNESS: I can see you, yes, and hear you, but I am  
15 deaf, but I've got a couple of hearing aids in, which  
16 are working.

17 LADY SMITH: Let me introduce myself: I'm Lady Smith and  
18 I chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry that is sitting  
19 here in Edinburgh, as I think has been explained to you.  
20 Can I begin by thanking you very much for agreeing to  
21 connect with us today by video link so that we can take  
22 your evidence. That's very helpful.

23 I would like to begin by asking you to take an oath,  
24 so if you could raise your right hand, please.

25

1 "PETER" (sworn) (via video link)

2 LADY SMITH: If you have any problems with the video link at  
3 any stage, please will you let me know, whether it's  
4 sound or sight or if it just seems that you've got to  
5 the stage that you want a break, there's no problem  
6 about that. Otherwise, if you're ready, I'll hand over  
7 to Mr MacAulay and he will explain what happens next.

8 MR MacAULAY: Just to point out, my Lady, this is a witness  
9 who probably requires to be warned.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

11 Just before Mr MacAulay takes over, Peter, could  
12 I just say one or two things about the position in  
13 a public inquiry. Although it is a public inquiry and  
14 not a court for any sort of process, whether a criminal  
15 process or a civil process, you have exactly the same  
16 rights here that you do not require to incriminate  
17 yourself that you would have in a court. So that means  
18 in our context that if you say anything that indicates  
19 you were involved in the abuse of children and then  
20 you're asked questions about the abuse of children, you  
21 don't require to answer those questions because you are  
22 entitled not to incriminate yourself. It is your  
23 choice.

24 But you need to understand that because all our  
25 evidence is being recorded, and a transcript will be

1           made of it, any answers, indeed any answers to any  
2           questions that you give, will be available at any future  
3           date.

4           So the short message, Peter, is your right not to  
5           incriminate yourself is as intact here in a public  
6           inquiry as it would be in a courtroom, and any questions  
7           about whether or not you were involved in the abuse of  
8           children are questions you do not require to answer. Do  
9           you understand that?

10          A. I understand, yes. Thank you.

11          LADY SMITH: If you have any further questions about that at  
12           any time or you're in any doubt, please do ask.

13          A. (Inaudible: distorted) seems to go exactly with the fact  
14           that I said I would tell the whole truth.

15          LADY SMITH: The fact that you said the whole truth does not  
16           mean that you have lost the right not to incriminate  
17           yourself. Can I put it that way? That's how we deal  
18           with it by reassuring people that they are entitled to  
19           say, "I am not going to answer that question." All  
20           right?

21           If you're ready, Peter, I'll hand over to  
22           Mr MacAulay.

23                           Questions from MR MacAULAY

24          MR MacAULAY: Good morning again, Peter.

25          A. Good morning.

1 Q. You will have in front of you a statement that has been  
2 prepared in conjunction with yourself. I'll give the  
3 reference of that for the purposes of the transcript:  
4 WIT.001.002.8820.

5 I would like you to turn to the final page,  
6 page 8855, and confirm that you have signed the  
7 document. Could I ask you to do that?

8 A. I can do that, yes, by simply saying, yes, I do confirm  
9 that I signed the document.

10 Q. Do you say in the document that you have no objection to  
11 the witness statement being published as part of the  
12 evidence to the inquiry? Is that correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Do you also say that you do believe the facts stated  
15 in the statement are true?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. I described the witness statement to you in the way that  
18 I did in that I'm conscious of the fact that you  
19 produced a very comprehensive document yourself to the  
20 inquiry and that formed the basis of what was thereafter  
21 constructed as your witness statement; is that the way  
22 it happened?

23 A. Yes, it is.

24 Q. Indeed, as we shall discuss, not only have you produced  
25 a comprehensive document of your own, you've also made



1           available to the inquiry your [REDACTED], in particular  
2           focussing on your time in [REDACTED]; is that right?

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. Thank you for supplying that to us. I have looked at it  
5           and it's very interesting.

6                     Can I then confirm with you, first of all, not the  
7           date of your birth, because you want to remain  
8           anonymous, but simply, so I can get a time frame, the  
9           year of your birth. Can you confirm you were born in  
10          1934?

11          A. Correct, yes.

12          Q. So you're now in your mid-80s; is that right?

13          A. 85.

14          Q. You begin by telling us in the statement that, as  
15          a young boy of 12, in 1946, you went to Hetland House in  
16          Dumfries because you had an inclination to be  
17          a missionary; is that correct?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. I think you tell us that you spent four years there as  
20          a student.

21          A. Correct, yes.

22          Q. And after that, did you go to Athlone in Ireland?

23          A. Correct, yes.

24          Q. And after your time in Athlone, where I think you were  
25          a postulate, did you go to Kinharvie, as you put it,

1 in the wilds of Dumfries?

2 A. Yes, two years in Athlone. One was as a postulant and  
3 the second year was as a novice. The novice was with  
4 the soutane, with the habit, and I was formally inducted  
5 into the Institute of the Marist Brothers, the second  
6 year in Athlone. I then went to Kinharvie in Dumfries.

7 Q. When you went to Kinharvie, I think you tell us it was  
8 in 1952, did you then go there as a novice  
9 Marist Brother?

10 A. As a scholastic. I'd been a novice for that final year  
11 in Athlone and then I was -- we made our first vows at  
12 the end of that year, temporary vows for one year,  
13 simple vows, and then went back to Scotland and  
14 Kinharvie as a scholastic because we were studying for  
15 the preparation for Glasgow University.

16 Q. But before you went to Glasgow University did you in  
17 fact get posted to St Columba's College in Largs?

18 A. Correct, yes, that's right, for one year.

19 Q. That was in 1953 and I'll come back to that. That was  
20 in 1953?

21 A. 1953, yes.

22 Q. And you were there for a year?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. After St Columba's then, did you go to  
25 Glasgow University to continue with your education?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. After university -- and I think you graduated in 1957 --

3 did you go back to St Columba's?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And I think you spent the next three years in

6 St Columba's?

7 A. How many years did you say?

8 Q. Three years, from 1957 to 1960.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Just to complete the picture, after St Columba's, did

11 you go to [REDACTED]?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. You cover part of that experience in your [REDACTED];

14 is that right?

15 A. Very much, yes.

16 Q. But after your time in [REDACTED], and in [REDACTED] in

17 particular, did you then come back to Scotland and did

18 you go to St Joseph's in Dumfries in 1970?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you were there for five years, until about 1975?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Does that give us a sort of thumbnail sketch of your

23 period as a boy until you went to St Joseph's?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can I then, Peter, look, first of all, at your first

1 period at St Columba's in 1953. The first thing I want  
2 to ask you is what age were you when you went to  
3 St Columba's?

4 A. I was 18 when I went there in 19 ... the first time,  
5 I must have had a birthday, I was 19. One of the boys  
6 came and said, "Is it true what matron said that you're  
7 only 19?" And I said -- sorry, he said 18 and I said,  
8 "No, 19", so I was (inaudible: distorted).

9 Q. And what was your role when you went there for that  
10 year?

11 A. I think for simplicity I would call myself  
12 a housemaster. We were actually called prefects because  
13 there was a very strong French influence, so a préfet  
14 was equivalent to a housemaster, so I was responsible  
15 for the children outside of the class and in effect a  
16 housemaster.

17 Q. Would that then mean that your responsibility would  
18 include dormitory duties?

19 A. To a certain extent, yes, for the older ones. For the  
20 younger ones, there was a matron. The older ones, who  
21 were from 12 to -- sorry, from 4, actually, the youngest  
22 one was 4, wee [REDACTED], and the oldest one was  
23 12. So I was (inaudible: distorted) halfway through  
24 that -- 5 to 7, matron, then myself.

25 Q. Were you the only brother who had that responsibility

1 during that period?

2 A. Apart from people who could come and cover, brothers who  
3 would come and give you a rest occasionally, so they  
4 would take over. Yes, you could say that I was  
5 principally involved in that.

6 Q. And did you have a room then in the main building in the  
7 dormitory area of the premises?

8 A. Ah, yes.

9 Q. The matron -- was the matron someone who was resident or  
10 not?

11 A. No, she left at 9 o'clock promptly and went back to the  
12 town where she had lodgings.

13 Q. So who cared for the younger ones once the matron had  
14 left?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. Who cared for the younger children?

17 A. Technically I did in the sense that I was the only one  
18 in authority. It didn't involve very much. The  
19 children would be put to bed and they were asleep and  
20 one thing and another.

21 I do mention [REDACTED] that -- in the statement  
22 that on one occasion, during a vile thunderstorm, I went  
23 around with wee [REDACTED]. He says, "Can I go and  
24 sleep in [REDACTED] bed?" because he was so  
25 frightened.

1 Q. Was that another boy?

2 A. He was a 4-year-old. He was actually a 4-year-old when  
3 I met him. He was a baby.

4 Q. That brings me to this question for you, Peter: did you  
5 have any training of any kind to prepare you for this  
6 sort of care of children?

7 A. When you say of any kind, I would say no. In the second  
8 time I was there, yes, one of the brothers took it upon  
9 himself to give me fairly regular advice and I was very  
10 experienced by then, but nothing official.

11 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement at  
12 paragraph 18 is that, when you went on the first  
13 occasion, there was a Brother Wilbur who spoke to you  
14 and handed you a belt; do you remember that?

15 A. I do indeed. His name was Wilfred, not Wilbur.

16 Q. Wilfred, yes.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What did he say to you?

19 A. What?

20 Q. What advice did he give you when he gave you the belt?

21 A. I think I quoted it, didn't I: "When you use this, you  
22 use it as hard as you can" -- I must say that  
23 Brother Wilfred had been sent away -- it was one of the  
24 reasons I was there -- and I don't know what his history  
25 was there, but he was generally acknowledged as being

1           slightly unusual, to put it mildly.

2           Q. In what way? Are you able to elaborate upon that?

3           A. Yes, indeed. Imagine talking to a young lad --

4           I remember quite distinctly -- I'd just arrived in the

5           place and I was sat in the kitchen having a cup of tea

6           and he produced this tawse, as they call it, the belt,

7           and he said, "When you use that, use it as hard as you

8           can." And he gave me a whistle and he said, "Use that

9           as hard as you can", which was extremely indiscreet of

10          him, the worst possible advice, which quite frankly

11          I didn't use. I didn't follow it, naturally.

12          Q. Did you have teaching duties as well during this

13          one-year period that you were at St Columba's?

14          A. Kitchen duties?

15          Q. Teaching duties. Did you teach?

16          A. Oh, teaching. No. Occasionally, once or twice, I do

17          remember somebody asking me to take over, but it was

18          very, very temporary. I think I could quote my teaching

19          experience in that sense as from 1953, but it was

20          extremely skimpy.

21          Q. Okay.

22          A. No, I wouldn't say I was really experienced.

23          Occasionally I was asked to take a class when somebody

24          was doing something else.

25          Q. Have you any recollection as to how many boys were being

1 accommodated at St Columba's during this period of one  
2 year?

3 A. Yes. During the period, I would say, including day  
4 boys, there were 50. I'd say about 42 boarders.

5 Q. Do I take it then, from what you've said, that in the  
6 evenings in the dormitories, particularly after matron  
7 had left, you really would be in charge of these  
8 boarders?

9 A. Correct, yes.

10 Q. Can you help me with this: during that period how many  
11 other brothers were at St Columba's?

12 A. Three.

13 Q. Can you remember who they were?

14 A. Yes. There was Brother Cyprian, who was what they  
15 called the director, the headmaster in a sense. He was  
16 a retired headmaster himself from Glasgow, where he  
17 spent most of his life. He was also the Provincial  
18 Superior before he went to Largs. He was more or less  
19 retired to Largs.

20 There was a Brother MID who was very efficient  
21 and he's the one that helped me a lot in -- for example,  
22 I was still studying for Glasgow University prelims  
23 in that respect and he would give me occasional words of  
24 advice.

25 There was a Brother McCarten, who was more or less



1 my age, or older, he was Irish, a very, very fine lad.  
2 He's in retirement now, but an admirable young man.  
3 That was all.

4 Q. And the other brothers you've just mentioned then were  
5 they -- did they bear the brunt of the teaching duties?

6 A. Yes, indeed. I missed out the most important one,  
7 Brother Antoninus. I actually mention [REDACTED]  
8 he was probably the least qualified teacher you could  
9 have, there was the old-fashioned Irish system of pupil  
10 teachers. I would say he was, without a shadow of  
11 a doubt, the best, most efficient teacher I'd ever met,  
12 Brother Antoninus.

13 He had the top class. Brother [REDACTED] MID had the  
14 middle class. Brother McCarten had the baby class.

15 Q. In the statement where you discuss aspects of the  
16 routine at St Columba's, one point you make, and this is  
17 at paragraph 46, is that you were visited and inspected  
18 by the religious examiner for the diocese.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can I just understand what you mean by that? Who was  
21 this person who inspected and visited?

22 A. He would have been a priest who was deputed by the  
23 bishop to have a look at the Catholic schools in the  
24 diocese and make sure that they were up to par. Yes,  
25 that was it. I wouldn't say it was informal. They were

1           very positive because the teaching of religious  
2           education -- they were all Catholics to begin with, it  
3           was very simple and straightforward and very  
4           fundamental, so he had no complaints at all. On the  
5           contrary, he was very impressed.

6       Q.   Was his focus then on the teaching of religious  
7           education?

8       A.   Yes.

9       Q.   In relation to discipline, you've told us the story  
10          about being handed the belt. Were you given any  
11          instructions as to how discipline was to be managed with  
12          the children?

13      A.   I wouldn't say I was, no. Not formally. When you say  
14          discipline, of course, you're talking about the belt,  
15          aren't you?

16      Q.   So did you on occasion require to use the belt?

17      A.   I think that I actually mentioned that in the statement.

18      Q.   You do.

19      A.   I do, yes. It was -- there the particular ... when one  
20          of them almost had a fatal accident. The boys, because  
21          of the familiarity, I got on very well with the boys,  
22          especially the older ones, and there was a degree of  
23          familiarity built up and carelessness, and particularly  
24          in the crossing of the Greenock Road, which is a very,  
25          very busy road, which cut through the property. The

1           youngsters were just ambling across, whereas the first  
2           time when I took over from whomsoever had been prefect  
3           before me, they had been very strictly organised and in  
4           a democratic fashion, the young lads went out, stopped  
5           the traffic, two of them, beckoned the rest of the  
6           others to cross and they crossed quickly.

7           Then that developed into a shambles and one young  
8           lad, a 5-year-old, I was standing there, I heard the  
9           screech of brakes, turned around, and the car had just  
10          managed to stop in time. And the familiarity and the  
11          friendliness to a certain extent wasn't as strong after  
12          that, to put it mildly.

13          The only time I remember actually using the belt --

14       LADY SMITH: Peter, I can hear that your natural way of  
15          speaking is to speak quite fast. Over the video link,  
16          it's sometimes becoming difficult for us to pick up  
17          every word. Can I ask you to try to slow down a little?

18       A. I'll do so.

19       LADY SMITH: Could you do that? That would be really  
20          helpful. Thank you.

21       A. Thank you for that. I do tend to speak very quickly, as  
22          my wife keeps telling me.

23       LADY SMITH: I want to hear every word you say; that's why  
24          I'm asking. Thanks.

25       MR MacAULAY: I think what you're telling us, Peter, is that

1           you did require to discipline the children, particularly  
2           when they were crossing the road, so that accidents  
3           would not happen. Is that the essence of it?

4       A. Correct, yes.

5       Q. But you do tell us in your statement that really you  
6           used the belt very rarely during that period at  
7           St Columba's.

8       A. Yes. It could be -- to be quite open about it I only  
9           remember -- and we're going back 60, 70 years almost,  
10          but I do remember on one occasion using the belt and  
11          Brother MID coming along -- and I mentioned that  
12          he was in a sense my guru -- and he said, "That's not  
13          necessary." He said, "Also, you talk too much and you  
14          raise your voice too much," which was very useful  
15          advice. When you asked did you get any training, I was  
16          trained on the job, and the only time, quite honestly,  
17          that I can remember using the belt was in connection  
18          with the crossing of the road --

19      Q. Okay.

20      A. -- because that was a very traumatic moment in my life,  
21          almost losing one of the boys.

22      Q. Let's take you to when you left St Columba's in 1954.  
23          You then went to Glasgow University, where you ended up  
24          taking a master of arts degree; is that right?

25      A. Correct, yes.

1 Q. And it was after that that you returned to St Columba's  
2 in 1957 where you remained from 1957 to 1960; is that  
3 right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. What role then did you have on your return to  
6 St Columba's?

7 A. Teaching. I took Brother Antoninus' place in the top  
8 class; that would be with 12-year-olds.

9 Q. At this time when you went back, do I take it from that  
10 that you did not have any responsibilities in relation  
11 to housemaster duties?

12 A. Officially not, no. Occasionally, I'd give a little  
13 hand if somebody wanted a break, yes, but that would be  
14 very informal and I had enough to do with the teaching,  
15 so I simply got on with that.

16 Q. Can you tell me who was the housemaster, who had these  
17 duties during this period?

18 A. When I took over, I honestly can't remember that.  
19 I have done my best. I do remember a couple of faces,  
20 but who exactly took my place ... I think it might have  
21 been Brother Germanus. It might have been. There was  
22 another young fella that I can't remember whose -- whose  
23 name I can't remember.

24 The only one that springs to mind is  
25 Brother Germanus. The reason why I remember him was

1           because I was asked to give a thumbnail sketch of  
2           Brother Germanus and, yes, I think he was the one that  
3           officially took my place as prefect.

4       Q.   Then on your return to St Columba's in 1957, do  
5           I understand from what you're saying that you did not  
6           then have sleeping accommodation in the main house,  
7           in the main building?

8       A.   No, I was in the annex, the converted stables.

9       Q.   I think it's fair to say that you have just graduated  
10          with your degree and you've gone to teach, that you had  
11          not as yet obtained a teaching qualification; is that  
12          right?

13      A.   No, in Scotland you're allowed to teach secondary school  
14          even without teacher training. The girls went to  
15          Jordanhill and we got away with it.

16                When I came back from -- I think it was from  
17      [REDACTED] -- years later, I had to go to training because  
18          they had stipulated that all males had to have training.  
19          When I went back, I wasn't trained officially and they  
20          needed me to go to Jordanhill.

21      Q.   You do tell us in your statement -- this is at  
22          paragraph 63, Peter -- that there was what you described  
23          as "a rigorous examination" by the council of the  
24          establishment. Can you just tell me what is your  
25          recollection as to what sort of inspection or

1 examination was carried out during your time?

2 A. I did mention the fact that we had changed from the  
3 Glasgow qualifying exam to the Ayrshire exam because  
4 Glasgow had dropped the qualy, as they called it. So we  
5 took up that and we had -- I think I mentioned this --  
6 a fairly regular inspector who visited us, just to make  
7 sure that the transition from Glasgow to Ayrshire  
8 Education Authority was done efficiently and smoothly.  
9 I do think that he was very pleased with what he saw  
10 because we became quite good friends. He was very  
11 useful in the sense that he was quite happy to share his  
12 experience and his knowledge with me and, yes, that was  
13 it --

14 Q. You tell us in your statement that this person would be  
15 checking not only on the educational standard of the  
16 school but also the mental health of the children.

17 A. I'm not so sure about that. I did happen to mention the  
18 fact that he had a degree in psychology and I think it  
19 was (inaudible: distorted) that he was there for that  
20 particular purpose. But obviously I got to know him  
21 well and he was very interested in the school. I think  
22 he was half-thinking of sending his youngster there.  
23 And obviously, he would ask questions which indicated  
24 that he was interested in the mental welfare of the  
25 youngsters --

1 Q. I think when you returned to the school, you tell us  
2 that the SNR [REDACTED] now was Brother MJD [REDACTED] is that right?

3 A. Correct, yes.

4 Q. It was, I think, Peter, that when you were at  
5 St Columba's in 1960 you got the news that really you'd  
6 been waiting for and that is that you were appointed to  
7 carry out [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]; is that right?

8 A. Yes, schoolwork, yes.

9 Q. You tell us that indeed, thereafter, you went to [REDACTED]  
10 and you were there during the [REDACTED] Civil War.

11 A. That's what it developed into. I went there in 1960 and  
12 the civil war, the [REDACTED], started in 1967 and went  
13 on to 1970, so that was it.

14 Q. You tell us that you did return home in the late 1960s  
15 and in particular in 1968 you worked in a school in  
16 Glasgow called St Mark's.

17 A. That's right, yes.

18 Q. I think you thought that was quite an interesting  
19 experience.

20 A. Interesting? You could put it that way, yes.

21 A broadening experience.

22 Q. At that time, so far as your state of mind was  
23 concerned, were you reluctant to be back in Scotland?

24 A. Desperately. I did explain the situation. Nobody was  
25 taking any notice whatsoever of the massacres that were



1           going on in [REDACTED]. I protested very strongly  
2           that the whole situation, as far as the television and  
3           the newspapers were concerned, was being ignored and  
4           somebody -- well, the principal, at the time  
5           Brother Harry, he said: you go and tell them if you feel  
6           so strongly about it. So I went to London, got caught  
7           up with a -- I volunteered with [REDACTED] and they were  
8           extremely efficient in using me. I was speaking here,  
9           speaking there, speaking in [REDACTED]  
10          [REDACTED], and I felt I was doing a real amount  
11          of good.

12                 I was suddenly given the instruction to drop all  
13           things to do with [REDACTED], report to St Mark's,  
14          [REDACTED], and to take up a teaching position which  
15           had been created because of the raising of the school  
16           leaving age. The scenario could not possibly have been  
17           worse.

18          Q. In any event, Peter, you were allowed to go back to  
19          [REDACTED] in 1969; is that right?

20          A. I was allowed, yes (inaudible: distorted).

21          Q. I think it was quite an exciting time for you because  
22          you ended up being [REDACTED]

23          [REDACTED]  
24          is that right?

25          A. That's correct.

1 Q.

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3 A.

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7 Q.

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10 A.

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13 Q. Was it after that experience, after having been  
14 deported, you came to St Joseph's in Dumfries in 1970?

15 A. It was [REDACTED] -- oh that's right yes. When I was  
16 [REDACTED] I came back to headquarters in  
17 Dumfries and the Provincial Superior said, "I suppose  
18 you'd be looking for a job", and I said, "I wouldn't  
19 mind a bit of a break." So I had a little bit of  
20 a break, went up to see the Western Highlands, that  
21 area, and came back again, and then I was given my  
22 position as housemaster, yet again, to what they called  
23 the middle-rec.

24 Q. And how many children would that involve?

25 A. Seventy 15 and 16-year-olds.

1 Q. As housemaster was that a position you shared with  
2 somebody else or were you the sole housemaster for that  
3 group of boys?

4 A. There were two others, but I saw very little of them.  
5 They kept to their rooms very much, they had rooms  
6 in the annex or wherever it was. So in effect I was the  
7 main character there.

8 Q. Was that for that particular group of boys, that's the  
9 age group of 15 and 16-year-olds?

10 A. Plus day boys, a big number of day boys.

11 Q. As housemaster, what would your role be in connection  
12 with the day boys?

13 A. General supervision, I suppose, during the lunch break,  
14 dining room. It was fairly difficult to pinpoint  
15 exactly my responsibility regarding day boys was because  
16 we had quite a big number of lay staff and they helped  
17 at that particular point.

18 When the day boys left at the end of school,  
19 5 o'clock, I was in charge of the boarders only. But  
20 technically I was responsible for day boys as well,  
21 yes -- when I say I, three of us really, but I seemed to  
22 be the one who picked up the jobs.

23 Q. Who were the other two brothers that at least in theory  
24 had some responsibility?

25 A. Do you want to know their names?

1 Q. Yes, please.

2 A. Brother MFT and Brother MFI.

3 Q. At this time when you arrived at St Joseph's, was the  
4 SNR Brother MYZ?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. In paragraph 81 you express a view there, Peter, that it  
7 was your opinion that the Marist involvement in the  
8 school should have ceased in the 1920s. Why do you say  
9 that?

10 A. Possibly before that. Oh, yes, I do, I maintain that  
11 very, very strongly.

12 Q. Why is that? Why is that your view?

13 A. Religious -- active religious as opposed to contemporary  
14 religious are pioneers. They go -- this is my personal  
15 viewpoint, which I was at pains to express fairly  
16 regularly. They give up the possibility of marriage, of  
17 family, or their own home, and you ask yourself why.  
18 Because they do work which nobody else would do.  
19 That is to go into places -- this is my opinion -- where  
20 nobody else would go, or at least were unwilling to go,  
21 as happened with me, for example. That's why I was  
22 desperate to get out to [REDACTED], because I could see  
23 that there was a mission there that had to be fulfilled  
24 and I was very happy to fulfil that mission.

25 When I came back to Britain, to Scotland, I was

1 given this job as housemaster, which any layperson could  
2 have done as efficiently or possibly much more  
3 efficiently than I did, and I resented that very much.

4 That was the case with the brothers in general.  
5 This is my personal point of view. That having  
6 established themselves and having produced a very fine  
7 crop of past pupils, they were in a position -- and you  
8 could have moved up to other frontiers, where their  
9 expertise and their willingness to serve was needed, and  
10 allow the laypeople, the ordinary staff, to take over  
11 the school as administration and as teachers.

12 Q. Did you express those views at the time?

13 A. Pardon?

14 Q. Did you express those views at the time?

15 A. Strongly. Everybody knew how I felt, partly because of  
16 my resentment at being sent to St Joseph's College,  
17 which I realised I was completely and utterly incapable  
18 of doing.

19 A housemaster is mostly the sports master. And as  
20 I said in [REDACTED], I'm probably the only referee that  
21 was ever sent off the field. I was just incapable of  
22 taking -- making a decision because I'm a very slow  
23 thinker and something would happen, and it'd take me 2  
24 or 3 seconds to recognise what happened, and the two  
25 captains got together and very politely asked me if

1 I wouldn't mind being substituted, so they brought on a  
2 new referee. I had no qualms about that. I knew that  
3 I was incapable. Cricket was even worse. We didn't do  
4 rugby -- at least I didn't get involved because I just  
5 couldn't understand the rules at all. As a sports  
6 master, I was extremely weak and incapable.

7 Q. But insofar as looking after the boys in the  
8 dormitory -- and you have mentioned there were 70 boys  
9 in the middle-rec when you went there -- do you think  
10 that you had the training and the capability to carry  
11 out that sort of role?

12 A. It was mainly supervision. And the fact that I was  
13 there imposed a certain degree of supervision.

14 I know that if you looked at the statement by  
15 Mr Behan, the other care, the other state(?) is  
16 described. It's my personal recollection and opinion  
17 that the boys were extremely well-behaved because I make  
18 the statement -- when I first went there, we had an  
19 outing and they were singing their little songs which  
20 they sing and one of the songs they sung was, "We all  
21 live in a Marist prison camp, a Marist prison camp", and  
22 I felt very angry, really angry.

23 Q. I think the song was, "We all live in a Marist prison  
24 camp, a Marist prison camp", and I think you very kindly  
25 sung it for us and I think the tune was that of the

1 Beatles song "Yellow Submarine"; is that correct?

2 A. It could be, it could have been. I don't know where it  
3 came from. Is that true? That was it, because the  
4 Yellow Submarine was on the go at the time -- and excuse  
5 me for speaking quickly, you'll have to stop me and say  
6 slow down. Yes, Yellow Submarine, it would have been  
7 that.

8 Q. What was your reaction then to this sort of song being  
9 sung, I think you say, on the bus by the children?

10 A. We'd been on a outing, yes, and on the way back --

11 Q. What was your reaction to the words of this particular  
12 song?

13 A. Whose reaction?

14 Q. Your reaction.

15 A. Oh, angry. I was very angry.

16 Q. Why?

17 A. I mean, if they were in a prison camp, then I was the  
18 camp commandant. What -- I was going to say something  
19 strong. What was I doing there? I was babysitting  
20 70 kids and they were resenting this very, very much and  
21 I didn't blame them for resenting it. They had been  
22 sent there by their parents.

23 One boy -- Stephen Behan, actually -- said he was  
24 dumped by his parents, didn't speak to his mother for  
25 six years. He was very angry. I was very angry. I was

1 looking after these kids that should have been looked  
2 after by their own parents. I know there are cases  
3 where it's necessary, you can't very well send them to  
4 an orphanage, so they send them to a boarding school.  
5 That was very rare.

6 There were a couple I mentioned, they were from  
7 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] because of the situation up there, so they  
8 sent their two children back home and that was  
9 acceptable. But generally speaking they were there for  
10 various reasons and one of the reasons was that the  
11 parents were too busy to look after them and therefore  
12 I had to pick up the pieces. Hence when they were  
13 singing that song, "We all live in a Marist prison  
14 camp", I felt very angry, understandably.

15 Q. What inference did you draw from the words of this song  
16 as to what the children's -- how the children felt  
17 about --

18 A. I do mention, after the anger subsided, I agreed with  
19 them that they were there -- I'm quoting the only one  
20 I really know and that's Stephen Behan because he  
21 actually wrote his own testament -- and it was quite  
22 obvious that they were very much there against their  
23 will.

24 Why were they there at all? Because their parents,  
25 he said, had dumped them. And those who were singing



1           that -- and it wasn't all of them by any means -- they  
2           had that feeling and it was directed towards me.  
3           Talking about adding insult to injury. You couldn't get  
4           a more clear expression.

5       Q.   In paragraph 93 of your statement, that's at page 8838,  
6           you tell us about an incident when you were woken up by  
7           Brother MYZ, who was asking you where the boys were.

8       A.   Yes.

9       Q.   Can you help me with that? What had happened there?

10      A.   The boys went to bed, I said prayers, said goodnight,  
11           they went to bed. It is more than likely I popped down  
12           to the common room and had a pint -- well, definitely  
13           because I was asleep when Brother MYZ knocked on  
14           my door, came in, and said, "Where are the boys?" and I  
15           said, "They're in bed." He said, "No, they're not." So  
16           we went out and all the beds were empty. I said,  
17           "I know where they are", so we trundled down to the  
18           recreation room, which had a television set and chairs,  
19           and all the boys, 70 of them, were sitting there,  
20           watching Match of the Day.

21      Q.   I take it that they were in their dressing gowns and  
22           pyjamas?

23      A.   And dressing gown, yes.

24      Q.   So do I take it from what you've said that you were the  
25           brother in charge in the dormitory, you'd fallen asleep,

1           and thereafter the boys had sneaked out, basically;  
2           is that what happened?

3       A. That's right. We went down and there they were.

4       Q. And were you the only brother looking after the  
5       dormitory at that time?

6       A. I must have been, yes. If Brother MFT had been in  
7       his -- because his room was opposite mine, he would have  
8       probably seen what was happening or realised. He was  
9       probably down in the common room watching Match of the  
10      Day himself. I don't know. He wasn't there. I was the  
11      one responsible.

12           Brother MYZ must have been making his rounds,  
13      as SNR and noticed that the beds were all empty.  
14      He called on me and he said, "Where are the boys?" and  
15      I said, "They're in bed", and he said, "No, they're  
16      not", so we followed down to the recreation room and  
17      there they were sitting watching Match of the Day.

18           He actually told me to single out the leaders, who  
19      actually took the responsibility and admitted that they  
20      had organised the whole thing, and he ordered me to give  
21      them the belt and I said, no, I refused. I could see  
22      the funny side of it and also I admired the youngsters  
23      having organised that and doing it. Seventy boys,  
24      actually getting them out of bed, tiptoeing down the  
25      fire escape into the recreation room, and, yes, as

1 I said, I admired them. I had no intention of beating  
2 them for it. That was it. They went back to bed and  
3 everybody was happy -- except the boys who didn't see  
4 the final score.

5 Q. You've already mentioned, I think in passing, at least,  
6 that when Brother MFT was with you that often  
7 he wasn't in fact, as it were, on the job; is that  
8 right?

9 A. Well, to give you a particular example, yes, he couldn't  
10 have been there, because he would have been -- I can't  
11 imagine both of us sound asleep. By inference I would  
12 suggest (a) he wasn't there -- he might have been asleep  
13 in his room, I don't know.

14 Q. Were there times when he wasn't there when he should  
15 have been there?

16 A. Oh yes, definitely.

17 Q. You tell us also in your statement at paragraph 94 about  
18 a meeting you had with the SNR, MYZ, telling  
19 him that you could not cope with what was happening.

20 A. That's right. On a Sunday we were invited in to have  
21 a little chat with Brother MYZ and I put it to him  
22 very, very strongly and simply that I wasn't coping and  
23 the job was too much for me. And not only that, the job  
24 was 24/7 and I just couldn't manage it.

25 Q. Looking to the time I think you talk about, nearly

1           100 boys, was that a lot of boys to be responsible for?  
2       A. 15 and 16-year-old boys. It stands to reason, doesn't  
3           it? I don't need to exemplify it. I was in charge of  
4           70-plus 15 and 16-year-old boys. I was untrained,  
5           incompetent -- I make no bones about it -- and if there  
6           was such a thing as abuse, it was abuse in the sense  
7           that the boys weren't catered for.

8           They were all bursting with energy, they needed  
9           a good sports master to look after them -- they did have  
10          one, Paddy Craig, who was mentioned, but he was a lay  
11          master and therefore he wasn't there when the actual  
12          youngsters were -- when the boarders were there. So  
13          he wasn't involved in the boarding side at all.

14          So I was left more or less by myself. It was  
15          a grave injustice towards the boys. 15 and 16-year-old  
16          boys, you know what they're like.

17       Q. What about the other housemasters? Did you get any  
18          understanding from the other housemasters, who were  
19          looking after other age ranges of boys, what their  
20          attitudes were?

21       A. Not in my view because there were three, if not four.  
22          There was the wee-rec, they were the youngsters, and  
23          there was a Brother MFU in charge of them, an  
24          Irishman, Northern Ireland, actually. He was rather  
25          strict. I don't know anything at all about his physical

1 use of discipline, but I know from the sound of his  
2 voice, the children were afraid of him. I didn't know  
3 very much about it because I was in another world as far  
4 as that was concerned.

5 Upstairs there was a Brother MLX who was  
6 a favourite of mine. He had taught me -- taught me  
7 [REDACTED], actually. We were in [REDACTED] together in  
8 [REDACTED], a lovely man. He was in charge of the inters.  
9 I was in charge of the mids; that was the 15-year-olds.  
10 And then Brother MZI was in charge of the seniors.

11 I was in the most difficult position because of  
12 that. Seniors are one less. I wouldn't say that they  
13 were (inaudible: distorted) but they were (inaudible:  
14 distorted) they'd get more liberty. There wasn't that  
15 same tension as there was with the mids.

16 Q. Did you get any feedback from Brother MLX for example,  
17 as to how he was getting on with the inters, the group  
18 of boys --

19 A. He got on very well, yes. He had a lovely temperament.  
20 He's dead now, but I would say he was -- among the  
21 brothers, we were the closest, very, very close indeed.  
22 So anything I said about Brother MLX would be very  
23 positive.

24 Q. You go in your statement to tell us about aspects of the  
25 routine at St Joseph's. If I can pick up one or two



1 little points.

2 You make a point at paragraph 97 about the food at  
3 St Joseph's.

4 A. The food?

5 Q. The food. Indeed, you say you complained bitterly to  
6 the SNR, MYZ, about the quantity of the  
7 food. You go on to say that:

8 "In [your] opinion, the kitchen staff were not fit  
9 for purpose."

10 Why do you say that?

11 A. Because they weren't. Because the girl who was in  
12 charge, the lady who was in charge, wasn't interested.  
13 To be specific, the dinner, for example, consisted of  
14 a stew, potatoes with a vegetable. I don't know whether  
15 they had soup as well, but it was completely unvaried  
16 and I thought it was inadequate.

17 What really sparked it off was we'd been to the  
18 chapel and we were making our way across to the main  
19 building -- to the dormitories, actually, as I think  
20 we'd had night prayer in the chapel. There were two  
21 boys in front of me, they'd have been 15, probably  
22 16 years old, and without realising I was immediately  
23 behind them, one of them turned to the other and said,  
24 "I'm starving", and I think that brought memories of  
25 what I'd been through in .

1           I dealt with starving babies out there, but I didn't  
2           expect to see hungry starving boys, 15 and 16-year-old  
3           boys in Dumfries, Scotland. That's when I went to the  
4           SNR and complained bitterly. What happened was  
5           there was an improvement, but it wasn't maintained.

6       Q. You pick up --

7       A. The food was inadequate.

8       Q. You pick up evidence that has been given to the inquiry  
9           about the delivery of kegs of beer.

10      A. Oh, yes. If I wanted to establish the witness who made  
11          allegations against me, I could use that example. It  
12          was a lie. We were allowed -- go on, sorry.

13      Q. Just to put it to you so we're on the same wavelength.  
14          Stephen Behan, who you have mentioned already, said that  
15          about 20 kegs of beer would be delivered to, I think,  
16          the Little Mount property at Dumfries, and I think  
17          you're challenging that, Peter, I think.

18      A. I didn't need to, of course, because it's obviously a  
19          fantasy, a figment of his imagination. There were about  
20          ten of us who liked an occasional pint. A keg of beer  
21          contains 88 pints. Now, how many pints would you get --  
22          if you're going to tell a lie, tell a good one. How  
23          many pints would you get in 20 kegs of beer? To say  
24          nothing, because he added this, of endless trays of  
25          spirits.

1           First of all, Brother MYZ didn't like bottles  
2           around, so he was the one that organised the kegs, and  
3           every Wednesday -- he said it was Wednesday, I don't  
4           remember -- but occasionally the dray would drive up and  
5           two kegs of beer were offloaded. This is important  
6           in the sense that it's fact.

7           They were put down in the cellar, linked up, and  
8           occasionally, for example, at the end of the day,  
9           I would wander down, meet a few of the others, have  
10          a wee chat and have a pint, and maybe two pints a day,  
11          possibly at the most. That was it. And how we would  
12          have disposed of 20 kegs of beer is beyond imagination.

13          We didn't have spirits at all. Occasionally, very,  
14          very occasionally, we'd have what was called a parlour  
15          during holiday time when we'd get together as a group,  
16          all of the brothers, and we actually would get a wee tot  
17          of whisky, which was a big thing, and beer was  
18          available.

19          So what happened or where these spirits came from,  
20          I don't know. It was a downright lie. Sometimes they  
21          are exaggerations, but in that case the exaggeration was  
22          so incredible, it was a lie. That was it.

23        Q. Can I then move on, Peter, and look at discipline and  
24          the management of discipline at St Joseph's. Was the  
25          belt used at St Joseph's?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you yourself use the belt on occasions?

3 A. Yes, occasionally.

4 Q. And in what sort of circumstances or don't you remember?

5 A. I do remember using the belt because very often the  
6 youngsters pulled their hands away -- not youngsters,  
7 the 15 or 16-year-olds. They'd pull their hand away and  
8 I'd hit myself. I never bothered about asking them to  
9 do -- if they showed that they weren't going to take it  
10 because ...

11 I have a little story of how that punishment was  
12 administered in [REDACTED] and the idea of somebody who was  
13 obviously in the wrong, because they would have been as  
14 far as I was concerned, being asked to put out his hand  
15 to receive the tawse and then pulling it away so I would  
16 hit myself and I would say, "If you can't take it, I  
17 can't be bothered with you", and I left it at that.  
18 I wouldn't say I was a strong user of the belt but I do  
19 admit that I used it on occasions, yes.

20 Q. And other brothers, do you know what the practice of  
21 other brothers was in relation to corporal punishment?

22 A. Nobody stands out. I doubt very much if Brother MLX  
23 used it more than was necessary. Don't forget that  
24 we're talking now about the 1970s --

25 Q. Yes.

1       A. -- and it's not historic, it's prehistoric as far as  
2       that's concerned because there wouldn't be any  
3       suggestion nowadays of using the belt. But it was  
4       a different mindset in those days. Although  
5       I disapprove of it and I am ashamed and I find it very  
6       difficult to believe that I actually used the belt,  
7       it is a fact, I did it.

8               I wouldn't make judgement of any of the others  
9       unless I had actual visual evidence to back up my  
10      statement. So Brother MFU , Brother MLX , certainly  
11      Brother MZI , no suggestion in his case. The others,  
12      I wouldn't say anything, I don't know.

13      Q. Very well.

14              In paragraph 113 you say that near the end of  
15      a two-year period as housemaster, you were completely  
16      physically and mentally tired out. Was that your  
17      position?

18      A. Yes. Oh definitely, yes. I was a rag.

19      Q. I think you tell us about an incident when you needed  
20      a break and you joined the other brothers in the  
21      television room and Brother MYZ came and told you  
22      that you should be in the dormitory.

23      A. Yes, I've got it here, yes. That's correct. He said  
24      I should be in the dormitory and I said, "No, I'm not  
25      going." I was on strike. I went on strike.

1 Q. Why?

2 A. What?

3 Q. Why did you go on strike?

4 A. Because I was tired and worn out and nobody would help  
5 me. I was alone and I said to him -- I said -- and  
6 I pushed it to the point where he had to get somebody,  
7 then there would have been somebody to take my place, at  
8 least to help me.

9 What happened, of course, is he got the fright  
10 because he saw there was nobody in the dormitory, went  
11 down, found me in the television room watching telly, he  
12 said, "You're supposed to be upstairs" -- I did go  
13 because in practical terms it had to be done, but I made  
14 my point. I was simply making a very strong point.

15 Brother MYZ -- I'll say this much, although  
16 it sounds very disloyal -- was not fit for purpose. He  
17 shouldn't have had the job. He was a past pupil of the  
18 school himself. I don't think he had any experience  
19 apart from St Joseph's College. He did two years'  
20 novitiate on the continent -- I think he was in Italy  
21 for those two years, but that was within a strict  
22 brotherhood. I don't think that his experience went  
23 beyond St Joseph's College.

24 It was a little bit awkward, in a sense, having  
25 a SNR or a SNR who wasn't doing -- he's

1 a lovely person, very kind and all of rest of it, but  
2 he was incapable of efficiently doing the job. That  
3 sounds very judgemental but it's the way that I feel.

4 Q. You are aware, Peter, that some allegations have been  
5 made against you, in particular by Stephen Behan, and  
6 I think you were told about these when you were seen in  
7 connection with your statement; is that right?

8 A. Oh yes, definitely.

9 Q. One of the points that he made is that you were someone,  
10 as he put it, that you wouldn't go into a room alone  
11 with. Do you remember that --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- being put? What do you have to say to that?

14 A. It's a lie. If it was the case -- I mean, I'm equating  
15 for example the fact that the -- the thing about the  
16 kegs of beer, so I assume he was capable of telling  
17 outrageous lies.

18 I'll interject something personal here:  
19 Stephen Behan is the only one that I remember  
20 personally.

21 Q. So you do remember the boy?

22 A. Oh yes, indeed. Two reasons. He was the nephew of

23 [REDACTED] say no more. His father, [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

I knew the family. And Stephen, who came to the school at the same time as I -- here's a little bit of circumstantial evidence to indicate that his allegations were false. He gives us to understand that I was a predator at that time. I'd just arrived in the place. I had a reputation and there was a certain amount of resentment against me, to put it mildly, which would have given rise to that feeling. But that's a little point.

As far as he was concerned, he was very interested in horses and horse riding and I was [REDACTED] the horse riding club, and that was one of the reasons I got to know him. I had to write to his father for permission for Stephen to join the club for insurance purposes and his father wrote back to me on the back of a pub menu and said he gave permission.

And I was very, very surprised. I would have considered that our relationship was friendly, Stephen, that -- there are three charges in that statement, in Stephen's statement, three different charges, indicating that I was a predator, sexually, presumably.

Q. And I think the other charge that he makes against you is that he witnessed you hitting a boy with your

1 crucifix.

2 A. Yes, that's not true.

3 Q. I'm just putting -- I have to put to you what he says.

4 A. But he's speaking in general terms. He was talking  
5 about the brothers' habit. And the habit was the  
6 soutane, a cord -- which was very, very difficult to  
7 undo -- and a crucifix, which he said was sometimes used  
8 as a weapon. He didn't say that I used it as a weapon.

9 I don't see how you could. It was attached to the  
10 breast, to the chest, and you'd have to undo it. It was  
11 only a small crucifix, about that size (indicating),  
12 undo it, take it off and clobber somebody on the head  
13 with it (inaudible: distorted) --

14 Q. Did you ever hear then of anyone doing that?

15 A. No, not at all. It was one of his exaggerations. Using  
16 a crucifix as a weapon? It's unbelievable. We're  
17 dealing with somebody who I think myself needed -- he's  
18 62 now, he needs a bit of help, I think.

19 Q. One of the things you say in your statement, and this is  
20 at paragraph 119, is that:

21 "I have very few pleasant memories of my time at  
22 St Joseph's."

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. So far, is that correct? You go on to say that one of  
25 them did involve Stephen Behan and in particular the

1 involvement you had with him in connection with horse  
2 riding.

3 A. Yes. I must be honest, when I left [REDACTED], I was in  
4 a very -- not physically, but mentally in a very, very  
5 bad way. And the idea of my going to -- being appointed  
6 to a position of housemaster in a boarding school --  
7 housemaster is the lowest form of servitude known to  
8 man. That's well and truly established and I was part  
9 of that system. In every possible way, psychologically  
10 and in every other way, it was a complete mistake and  
11 one bad period in my life.

12 I've had a few bad periods, not many. The darkest  
13 I think was dealing with the situation in [REDACTED].

14 I put this down in writing and I really mean it.

15 I said:

16 "Not in the depths of hell would I fear to see such  
17 a sight of human degradation. Little two-year-old  
18 children lying in a pool of their own vomit, effluent,  
19 urine."

20 That's my last memory of -- I was [REDACTED] just  
21 after that.

22 And going from a scene like that, a situation like  
23 that, to Dumfries, to the college, was outrageous, the  
24 fact that I should have been subjected to that.

25 Q. Who do you hold responsible for that?

1 A. The provincial.

2 Q. And who was the provincial at the time?

3 A. Brother Arthur.

4 Q. One thing you also tell us in your statement, and this  
5 is at paragraph 125, Peter, is that there was a campaign  
6 of some sort by the boys in the middle-rec against you.  
7 Do you see what you have set out in that paragraph?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you help me with that?

10 A. They were scribbling on the walls. There was a general  
11 feeling, without actually anything being necessarily  
12 said, but I felt it, it doesn't take a genius to  
13 recognise the fact that there is resentment against you,  
14 and I knew the cause of the resentment.

15 One, for example, was I had this pernicious habit of  
16 switching off the telly at 10 o'clock. And at 10.30,  
17 for example, you got Match of the Day. We had among  
18 other individuals, [REDACTED] son there.  
19 [REDACTED] at the time was possibly in line for the  
20 [REDACTED] of Scotland. He was, by the way, a past  
21 pupil of St Mark's, [REDACTED] That was when it was  
22 a really good school before they tried to kill the  
23 teachers, for example.

24 His son, [REDACTED], was there, and football, soccer, to  
25 the group of which he was one -- he was a nice lad,



1 I got on well with [REDACTED] very well. I could well  
2 understand their resentment, not only that, but I took  
3 their transistor radios from them because I could hear  
4 these radios going on at midnight -- even though they  
5 were under their pillows, I could still hear them, so  
6 I took them off them. That meant of course that they  
7 missed out on all of the pop music and the football and  
8 therefore understandably, I wouldn't say justifiably,  
9 but understandably there was great resentment against  
10 me. I'd be resentful and I was the embodiment of  
11 discipline -- not discipline, but governance in the  
12 school.

13 Q. And then this incident that you are telling us about in  
14 paragraph 125, can you help me with that? What happened  
15 on this particular occasion?

16 A. That was the visitation of the boys to my room?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Is that the one?

19 Q. That's the one, yes.

20 A. Oh yes, that's the boy with the spots. That is part of  
21 my -- what is it called when you have the addition to  
22 the statement?

23 Q. The supplementary part.

24 A. Supplement, yes. I made a very strong point about that  
25 because I realised that when I read that, or rather

1 thought about it, I was completely unjustified in making  
2 that allegation myself, or rather the virtual aspect of  
3 it. I was insinuating, which was extremely unjust, that  
4 they'd done that.

5 In the supplement, I said that they'd -- why did  
6 they come to me, a boy in his pyjamas and vest?  
7 I thought they were trying to get me into trouble.  
8 There were rumours going around that I was a predator,  
9 but they didn't have any -- no more than Stephen Behan,  
10 no evidence.

11 At the time, they came and said, I forget his name  
12 now -- funny little fellow, he was -- one of them pulled  
13 up his vest and showed me that they had -- or he  
14 attempted to show me that he had spots, and what was  
15 I going to do about it. They were rather hoping that  
16 I would take him into my room and give him something for  
17 the spots or even apply the ointment myself. Possibly  
18 that was their intention.

19 But on reflection they might have brought him to me  
20 because (a) they were concerned about these spots and  
21 (b) they realised that he was too frightened to go to  
22 matron himself, who was a very bad-tempered person --  
23 she was an ex-nurse, retired nurse -- and that he was --  
24 something had to be done about it and therefore they  
25 appealed to me --

1 Q. So are you saying, perhaps contrary to what's in your  
2 statement, that it might have been totally innocent on  
3 their part and indeed sparked off by the fact that this  
4 boy did not want to go to the matron, who was not  
5 particularly approachable? Is that --

6 A. In my supplementary statement I contradicted  
7 paragraph 125, quite definitely. I felt that I'd done  
8 them a grave injustice, I don't know. But because I was  
9 working on surmise, I surmised that they wanted to get  
10 me into trouble and I said possibly, to myself, on  
11 reflection, the reason why they came was simply out of  
12 concern for the boy, who was afraid to go to matron, and  
13 it might have been serious, it might have been  
14 chickenpox or whatever, therefore they came to me.

15 Q. How many boys came to your room?

16 A. We're talking about 1974 or something. I know one.

17 Q. I don't need names, just --

18 A. Let's say four of them. Four altogether.

19 Q. Another point you make is that some boys that didn't  
20 like you would write things on the walls.

21 A. Yes, they would do scribblings on the walls.

22 Q. And not only about you, but I think also you say about

23 Brother <sup>MYZ</sup> What sort of messages were

24 scribbled on the walls? Can you remember?

25 A. On my occasion, the allegation was that I was having an

1           affair with the secretary. The secretary happened to be  
2           a married woman, and she was in the drama group -- the  
3           drama was very, very important, despite what  
4           Stephen Behan said, that the liberal arts were not  
5           attended to. We had a Gilbert & Sullivan every year and  
6           she was part of it.

7           Completely gratuitously somebody pencilled or  
8           chalked or painted on the wall that I was having an  
9           affair with the secretary -- I would have been so lucky,  
10          but that was beside the point completely. It was  
11          a complete and downright lie.

12          What I did was I went to the person in charge,  
13          probably the bursar, and asked -- the wall was in a  
14          practice room in which the instrumentalists could go and  
15          play their fiddle or whatever, so it was fairly private,  
16          but somebody, a group possibly, had got together and  
17          chalked up my -- the allegation against me, and I went  
18          to the bursar and asked him to paint the wall --

19        Q. In relation to Brother MYZ [REDACTED], I think you yourself  
20        covered, with a spray can, the message.

21        A. Sorry?

22        Q. In relation to Brother MYZ [REDACTED], I think you tell us  
23        there were also messages about him on the wall.

24        A. Yes.

25        Q. And certainly on one occasion you sprayed one of the

1 messages.

2 A. I did, yes.

3 Q. What sort of messages were being left about him?

4 A. I can't remember. All I can remember is they were  
5 extremely offensive. The details -- I remember the  
6 details about me because it was so outrageous, with the  
7 secretary. Because in a sense, this didn't ... But  
8 I did recognise, when I glanced at it, that this  
9 allegation, the scribbling on the wall, was about  
10 MYZ [REDACTED] was very, very offensive, and I took a spray  
11 can and I obliterated the message and then had the walls  
12 repainted. What exactly that message was, I don't  
13 remember, but I can state it was extremely offensive and  
14 very unjustified.

15 Q. There came a time, Peter, when you had a visit from the  
16 provincial, that was Brother Arthur, who you mentioned  
17 before, and he told you that you were to be posted to  
18 [REDACTED] is that correct?

19 A. Yes, because I'd been begging them ever since I left to  
20 be allowed back again. It was pointed out that I was  
21 deported from [REDACTED], but I could go back --  
22 I maintained I could go back to [REDACTED], which is next  
23 door.

24 Q. Did a family matter intervene with that particular  
25 posting at that time?

1 A. I think we might be jumping here.

2 Q. I'm just looking at paragraphs 133 and 134 of the  
3 statement, you say:

4 "A family issue arose and eventually [you] left the  
5 brothers."

6 A. "My father was needing to be looked after."

7 Correct. Then I said to the provincial, "I've got  
8 a problem", and what happened was he came to me because  
9 he knew I was desperate to get back to [REDACTED] -- I'm not  
10 the only one, Prince Harry has the bug as well, in his  
11 interview he made it very plain, [REDACTED] got that  
12 attraction -- I wanted to get back, he realised that,  
13 but he said (a) there is no opening and (b) they need  
14 you where you are just now in St Joseph's.

15 Then eventually, he came to me and he said, "I've  
16 got the ideal job for you: the Generalate in Rome have  
17 opened up a place in [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] and they're working in a seminary. They've  
19 got a Spaniard, a Frenchman and an Italian", and they  
20 wanted [REDACTED] teacher out there in the [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED], which was a hell house, but  
22 nevertheless.

23 He said, "What do you feel?" and I said, "I love it,  
24 I'd love the idea." Then I got the message -- my sister  
25 phoned me up and said that my father had contracted --

1 I don't know whether it was ME or SE, one of these  
2 things -- and it was pretty grim. So I went to see  
3 the -- Brother Arthur, the provincial. He said, "I'll  
4 give you the night to think about it." At the time  
5 I said, "I don't need it, I'll accept it now, I'll go to  
6 the [REDACTED] tomorrow morning."

7 But when I got this message from my sister, she  
8 couldn't have looked after him, she had a house full of  
9 kids, although half of them had grown up. The other one  
10 couldn't look after him either. I said to the  
11 provincial, I said, "My father is in a very bad way."  
12 I was desperate to get back to [REDACTED] and get this job,  
13 a really challenging job, [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] "But what is my Christian obligation?" and he  
15 said, "Go home and look after your father."

16 Q. That's what you did?

17 A. Yes, I got a job in St Joseph's, funnily enough,  
18 Comprehensive School in Hebburn on Tyne. I was there as  
19 a brother and the very first day that I was there --  
20 this is a bit of an illustration, tell me if I'm wasting  
21 time -- but when I got my register, it was "Mr MNV [REDACTED]  
22 class [such-and-such]", and I went to see the -- it was  
23 a very big school, there was a head and the deputy head  
24 in charge of the lower school where I was, and I said,  
25 "Excuse me, my name is not MNV [REDACTED] or Mr MNV [REDACTED] it's

1 Brother MNV or Brother MNV." He said,  
2 "Fair enough." They didn't want any brothers, but  
3 anyway he had it changed.

4 LADY SMITH: Peter, let me interject for a moment to remind  
5 everybody here that you've chosen anonymity for this  
6 process and although in the course of your evidence you  
7 have disclosed those names, they can't be repeated  
8 outside the inquiry room. I hope that reassures you.  
9 It's not a criticism of you; I just want to remind  
10 everybody here about your anonymity.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: You can only be known as "Peter" outside this  
13 room. All right?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Don't worry.

16 A. I made a bit of a strong point about it and the problem  
17 was that within three months MNV and I decided to get  
18 married. That's another story.

19 MR MacAULAY: And MNV was --

20 A. And I had to go to this character and say, "Sorry, my  
21 name isn't Brother MNV, it's Mr Blah-blah, MNV  
22 MNV, which was -- I was rather confused at the time.

23 Q. But the short point is, Peter, that you left the  
24 brothers and you got married?

25 A. Yes. And lived happily ever after.



1 Q. I'm delighted to hear it.

2 Can I now just ask you one or two questions about  
3 a number of different brothers that you mention in your  
4 statement.

5 A brother you mentioned earlier, Brother Germanus,  
6 you thought that he may have taken over from you as --

7 A. (Inaudible: distorted) with me, yes, when I was  
8 teaching.

9 Q. Did you have much to do with Brother Germanus when you  
10 were at St Columba's?

11 A. We were in different areas. He was prefect, as they  
12 called it, or housemaster, and I was teaching.

13 Q. Another brother you mention -- this is in  
14 paragraph 140 -- is a Brother MFT I think you've  
15 already mentioned him. I think what you tell us is that  
16 there was some mutual dislike there. Is that right, you  
17 didn't get on with him?

18 A. Yes. Could I just interject? Is this part of the  
19 statement in the sense it's personal? It's gossip, but  
20 that is a fact, yes.

21 Q. Thank you.

22 A. I can't see how it's relevant, actually.

23 Q. It may be relevant just to develop some sort of  
24 understanding as to what the personalities of the  
25 brothers were.

1           For example, let's take Brother MFU, who you've  
2           already mentioned. You told us already that the boys  
3           were afraid of him. So you have someone in charge of  
4           boys and they're afraid of him; is that the impression  
5           you formed from your dealings with him?

6       A. I'm told -- yes, Stephen Behan actually tells us they  
7           were afraid of him. I'm not surprised. He was very  
8           loud and I think he was a little bit over the top with  
9           the boys. If that was the case, I would say I'm not  
10          surprised. If somebody said, "Brother MFU, the  
11          boys were afraid of him", I would say, "I'm not  
12          surprised."

13       Q. And the other brother you mention at paragraph 143 is  
14          Brother MFI. What you say there is:

15               "Very often Brother MFI did not complete his  
16               duties within the school looking after the middle-rec  
17               boys with me."

18               So he was a brother who was supposed to be looking  
19               after boys with you and left you to do it yourself;  
20               is that right?

21       A. Correct.

22       Q. Indeed, you tell us in paragraph 146 that in your view,  
23               really because he was such an alcoholic, your view is he  
24               should not have been allowed anywhere near children?

25       A. Absolutely. I do remember one occasion, Brother MFY,

1           who became SNR [REDACTED], after MYZ [REDACTED] left, I just  
2           happened to be passing at the time and Brother MFI [REDACTED]  
3           was going, after the lunch break, in the class and  
4           MFY [REDACTED] whom I knew well because he'd been in [REDACTED]  
5           with me, stopped him and said, "I'll take your class,  
6           you go back to your room", and that should have been the  
7           case, so he should have been -- because he was an  
8           alcoholic and a very serious one. He went to America in  
9           an attempt to dry out and it didn't succeed, he went  
10          back into his old ways.

11                 Yes, he was -- I very rarely saw him. Funnily  
12           enough, on one occasion, we were talking about the  
13           middle-rec being a zoo, and I could tell you a few  
14           stories to the contrary. For example, there are 70 boys  
15           there in what looked like an old-fashioned hospital  
16           ward, very long, until I actually spent a summer holiday  
17           building wardrobes and giving a bit of privacy, until  
18           that happened.

19                 I could call on those boys to silence round about  
20           quarter to ten, say a night prayer, and have a very  
21           reverent response from them. Hardly what you'd call  
22           a zoo.

23                 On one occasion, I was actually saying the night  
24           prayer and I fainted. I suffered from amoebic dysentery  
25           and a few problems after [REDACTED] and I wasn't in the

1 best of physical health, apart from feeling mentally  
2 like a vagabond. I was completely out and when I came  
3 to it was Brother MFI who was looking after me, to my  
4 great surprise. I think what happened was  
5 Brother MFI went into his room, which was off the  
6 middle, closed the door, and that was him. But when  
7 probably one of the boys ran and got help and MFI  
8 came immediately, looked after me, got me to my feet,  
9 and sent somebody for the doctor, telephoned the doctor,  
10 and looked after me.

11 And he seemed to appear from nowhere, so I surmise  
12 that although I say he wasn't on duty, he was there  
13 behind closed doors, Brother MFI.

14 Q. Another brother you mention from paragraphs 155 onwards  
15 is Brother AKV At paragraph 157 what you  
16 tell us about him is:

17 "Although I did not see any abuse by him, if  
18 children made any allegations about him, then I would  
19 not be surprised."

20 And you go on to say:

21 "I knew he went out drinking with one of the  
22 seniors. I don't recall his name."

23 And you go on to say:

24 "The next morning, I understand the senior woke up  
25 in AKV bed."

1           That's what's in the statement. Do you have  
2           a recollection of that event happening?

3       A. I wasn't even there at the time. I think this is what  
4       I heard afterwards.

5       Q. I see.

6       A. Possibly I would have been in [REDACTED] when that  
7       happened. In the supplementary, I made it very, very  
8       clear that I had indulged in gossip.

9       Q. And I think you do say in your supplementary these are  
10      things you were told afterwards.

11      A. Yes. The very fact that I mentioned his drinking habit  
12      and his selfishness, that's pub gossip. When I realised  
13      and saw it in print, I was desperately ashamed of  
14      myself. It was like kicking somebody when he's down.

15           I was told he was [REDACTED]  
16      If the poor fellow chap hadn't [REDACTED] there,  
17      (inaudible: distorted), I didn't know him well enough,  
18      I didn't like him particularly, he was a bit of a fop.  
19      That's again gossip. That was my personal opinion.

20           As I said, on both occasions, with those boys, and  
21      with [REDACTED] AKV, I asked that to be resubmitted and, as  
22      I said, I feel -- and still feel -- deeply ashamed of  
23      myself for having made that allegation with boys and  
24      made that insinuation with poor old [REDACTED] AKV

25      Q. Well, finally, then, Peter, can I take you to that

1 section in your statement that's headed "Lessons to be  
2 Learned". We're looking at paragraph 168 of your  
3 statement.

4 Really, you take a pretty absolute approach.  
5 I think what you say is that you think the best way to  
6 prevent abuse in this type of environment is to close  
7 all boarding schools. That's your opinion.

8 A. Oh yes, definitely. The boarding school system. As  
9 I said, the message -- the boarding school is one degree  
10 above an orphanage, two degrees above prison. I taught  
11 in boarding schools, I was a boarder myself in Hetland  
12 and various other places, so I know what I'm talking  
13 about, but I'm not talking about myself personally, I'm  
14 talking in general terms.

15 They are in some cases an evil necessity and they  
16 are -- the ideal is a good family and the child being  
17 brought up in a family. But that's my personal opinion.

18 With regard to the brothers, they were more or less  
19 advised, if not directed, by the hierarchy, the bishop,  
20 to open up St Joseph's College. In the last century the  
21 Catholics weren't allowed to run their own schools  
22 before the test(?) act was rescinded.

23 The result was that the boarding schools were on the  
24 continent. So Catholic youngsters went to the continent  
25 for their education, which they couldn't get in England

1           and maintain their Catholic faith.

2           Then the hierarchy directed the brothers towards  
3           opening up a boarding school in Britain, in Scotland,  
4           actually, and the parish priest was very much behind  
5           them. He'd known the brothers in Dundee and he was  
6           pushing them for this.

7           There was a certain necessity, but it was middle  
8           class. Poor old Stephen Behan, who hadn't got an idea  
9           in his head about the reality of the situation, he  
10          maintains strongly that the brothers had a predilection  
11          for the middle class and nothing could be further from  
12          the truth. Most of them hated the idea of going into a  
13          middle class boarding school. Most of these kids were  
14          middle class.

15          But to be clear, I quote this -- it is worth quoting  
16          because it puts Behan very much in his place. In his  
17          history of the province, he describes a school in London  
18          which was opened for the benefit of the Irish immigrants  
19          pouring in after the Irish famine in 1852 and the  
20          brothers came from France to serve the Irish immigrants.

21          This particular school, they were in such dreadful  
22          conditions. You talk about middle class, it was in  
23          a tenement in London, and the kids were crowded in this  
24          particular room and they were being taught by  
25          a Frenchman, presumably who was doing his best.

1           And above them, in the attic, there was a crowd  
2           of -- let's call them refugees, Irish refugees, and they  
3           were waiting -- one of the members, who died of  
4           starvation, and in the middle of this the floor gave way  
5           and the corpse came flying through amongst the children  
6           and, of course, the consternation was beyond belief.

7           I said to myself that was the conditions --  
8           I wouldn't say that they were used to, from which they  
9           came, and in ... I can't think of the name. There were  
10          six schools in Glasgow and the brother in charge,  
11          Brother Cyprian, actually, we were out for a little  
12          walk, he told me of the conditions there and in order to  
13          pay the teachers he had to go to the parish house and  
14          get a little bag of pennies, which the parishioners had  
15          donated, in order to pay his teachers. Invariably, of  
16          course, he was told by the housekeeper that father  
17          wasn't at home and he would just wait there, stand  
18          there, the headmaster of the Marist school, waiting for  
19          the priest eventually to come and to give him this  
20          bundle of pennies to pay his teachers.

21          Stephen Behan accuses us, accuses the brothers of  
22          philandering to the middle class.

23          MR MacAULAY: Well, Peter, thank you for that insight into  
24          Marist history and thank you for answering my questions  
25          and for engaging with the inquiry.



1           My Lady, I can confirm that no questions have been  
2           submitted to be put to Peter.

3       LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding  
4           applications for questions? No.

5           Peter, it simply remains for me to thank you very  
6           much for engaging with us as you have done, both by  
7           providing your statement, going to the trouble of  
8           writing a supplementary statement, which I have, and  
9           then the longer document that is your statement that  
10          covers so many aspects of your life that are very  
11          illustrative and helpful in giving me an understanding  
12          of what the nature of your involvement with the two  
13          schools that I'm looking at was and where it fitted into  
14          everything else that has happened to you.

15          Thank you for talking to us today. It's been  
16          really, really helpful to have your oral evidence  
17          in addition to your written evidence. I'm very grateful  
18          to you for doing that and I'm now able to let you switch  
19          off the connection and go back to your daily life.  
20          Thank you.

21       A. Thank you very much indeed.

22          Can I just say that I am extremely impressed with  
23          the kindness which I've met from all of the staff from  
24          the very beginning until the present and the way that  
25          [REDACTED] has looked after me, as my Irish wife would say,

1           like a sick chicken. You've all been so very, very  
2           attentive and sympathetic.

3           And the exultation(?), don't worry, it seemed to be  
4           to be very grievous, but thank you for your words of  
5           encouragement.

6   LADY SMITH: It's very good of you to articulate that. We  
7           do appreciate how difficult it is to come forward and  
8           give evidence and go through the whole process of the  
9           written statements and then talk here at the inquiry and  
10          it's very nice to hear that being understood.

11         Thank you.

12   A. Thank you very much, Lady Smith.

13                         (The video link was terminated)

14   LADY SMITH: That's 11.30, Mr MacAulay.

15   MR MacAULAY: Good timing, my Lady.

16   LADY SMITH: We'll stop now for the morning break.

17                         (11.32 am)

18                                 (A short break)

19                         (11.55 am)

20   LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms MacLeod. I think the next witness is  
21           ready; is that right?

22   MS MACLEOD: My Lady, he is. The next witness is  
23           Brother Douglas Welsh.

24   LADY SMITH: Does this witness require to be warned?

25   MS MACLEOD: He doesn't, my Lady, no.

1                   BROTHER DOUGLAS WELSH (sworn)

2       LADY SMITH: Please do sit down and make yourself  
3           comfortable.

4           First of all, importantly, how would you like me to  
5           address you?

6       A. Brother Douglas or Douglas, I'm quite happy.

7       LADY SMITH: Very well, that's very helpful. Thank you,  
8           Brother Douglas.

9           You've got a microphone there. The light is on.  
10          That will help us hear you if you can stay in a good  
11          position for it, please. We'll let you know if you  
12          drift away, but it is important that we hear you through  
13          the sound system.

14          The other thing to say is that if you need a break  
15          at any time, please let me know and I can do that. It's  
16          important that you're comfortable and you feel able to  
17          give your evidence as best you can. So please do  
18          remember that. It's not a nuisance if you need any help  
19          of that sort.

20       A. Thank you.

21       LADY SMITH: Otherwise if you're ready, I'll hand over to  
22           Ms MacLeod; is that all right?

23       A. Yes, thank you.

24                   Questions from MS MacLEOD

25       MS MACLEOD: Good morning, Brother Douglas.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. You've provided a statement to the inquiry and you will  
3 find a copy of that in the folder in front of you on the  
4 desk. I'll just give the reference of that for the  
5 transcript: WIT.001.002.7057.

6 If I could ask you, please, to turn to the very last  
7 page of the statement in the folder; have you signed the  
8 statement?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In the final paragraph do you say:

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

13 Is that right?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. Do you go on to say:

16 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
17 statement are true"?

18 A. Absolutely, yes.

19 Q. Is your full name Robert Joseph Welsh?

20 A. Robert Joseph Welsh is my birth name, yes.

21 Q. I think you tell us that your religious name is  
22 Douglas Welsh and you're known within the order as  
23 Brother Douglas?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were you born on [REDACTED] 1941?

1 A. I was indeed, yes.

2 Q. And are you now 78?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You give us a little bit of background to your life.

5 I think you tell us that you were born in Glasgow --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and you tell us that, sadly, your father passed away  
8 when you were quite young.

9 A. Yes, I was 1.

10 Q. And that your mother then was left to bring up quite  
11 a number of children, I think six children, you tell us.

12 A. Six, yes, that's correct.

13 Q. Did you go to primary school in Glasgow?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it while you were at primary school that you first  
16 had involvement with the Marist Brothers?

17 A. Yes.

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

19 A. It was a very elderly brother came to visit us and he  
20 painted this lovely picture of a place called Hetland  
21 and would we like to go down there and spend a bit of  
22 time. I asked my mother and she wasn't very well off,  
23 so she wasn't very happy about having to do that, but  
24 Brother Vincent, his name was, he followed it up and  
25 then I went down and that was it, really. There was no

1           sort of Damascus thing. There was nothing exciting or  
2           special about it, it just -- we decided to go down.

3       Q. Did you then board at Hetland House?

4       A. At Hetland House, yes.

5       Q. Did you spend a number of years there?

6       A. Yes.

7       Q. From there, I think you tell us that you went to  
8           Spain --

9       A. That's correct.

10      Q. -- in 1957?

11      A. Yes. 1957, yes, that's correct.

12      Q. Was that as a novice?

13      A. I went there and the system was you spent one year as  
14           a postulant, which was the time to prepare you for  
15           taking the first vows, so that's how it worked out.  
16           We were also educated at the time as well.

17      LADY SMITH: So you were about 16 years old at that time,  
18           1957?

19      A. 1957, yes.

20      MS MACLEOD: When did you take your final vows?

21      A. The final vows were six years later. I can't remember  
22           the exact date. I was trying to find it, but I couldn't  
23           find it anywhere.

24      Q. Were you still in Spain at that time?

25      A. No, the final vows were taken in St Joseph's College.

1 Q. So you spent a number of years in Spain and then  
2 returned to Scotland?

3 A. Yes, to Glasgow.

4 Q. In 1961 -- I think you tell us that it was at that time  
5 that you went to St Columba's College in Largs.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. We'll come to look at that shortly, but I think you  
8 spent two years there from 1961 to 1963.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. From there, did you go to Edinburgh University?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. And did you get your degree there?

13 A. I took my degree in Edinburgh, yes.

14 Q. Then I think you tell us that you spent some time  
15 working in Rome --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- before then returning to Scotland and teaching pupils  
18 at Hetland House.

19 A. At Hetland, then, yes.

20 Q. While you were at Hetland House you mention that the  
21 provincial asked you if you were interested in taking on  
22 a particular role.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What was that role?

25 A. Well, my provincial came to me and asked me could I work

1           a projector and did I drive, and I said yes, so he gave  
2           me the job of director of vocations because I could go  
3           round the schools.

4       Q.   Was that in 1971?

5       A.   Yes.  I'm sure those dates are ... yes.

6       Q.   What was involved?  You've touched on it I think in your  
7           previous answer, but what was involved in the role of  
8           director of vocations for the order?

9       A.   That was going round schools and telling them about  
10          religious life and any person who showed an interest in  
11          it, I would go and visit the family and discuss it with  
12          them.  It just moved on from there.  If someone was  
13          interested, they would go to Hetland and follow what  
14          I had done as a child, actually.

15      Q.   How long were you in that role?

16      A.   I'm not sure.  I've got a notion it was two to  
17          three years.  I'm sorry, I don't have the exact dates.

18      Q.   That's fine.  We don't need to worry too much about  
19          that.

20               From there, did you go on to do your teacher  
21          training?

22      A.   Yes.  That's right, in Dundee.

23      Q.   I think you tell us that while you were doing your  
24          teacher training, Hetland House closed down.

25      A.   Yes, that's right.



1 Q. You give us some information about records in relation  
2 to Hetland House; that's in paragraph 10. Did you have  
3 records when you were working in Hetland House?

4 A. Well, that was left to the director.

5 Q. I think you mention in paragraph 10 that:

6 "At Hetland House we kept a daily record of  
7 everything."

8 A. Yes. When I say that, it was the director kept the  
9 daily records, but I really think most of the things  
10 were lost in the process.

11 Q. The process of closing down?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you ask the order or ask Hetland House about the  
14 records when you heard it was closing down?

15 A. No, I was in -- where was I? I was either in Glasgow or  
16 Dundee, but I just heard it was closing down and  
17 I didn't have any dealings with it at all.

18 Q. What makes you think that the records were lost?

19 A. I don't think they were found when ... I'm not sure  
20 quite how this worked, but all the records and all the  
21 archives were now in Glasgow and our provincial, our  
22 brother provincial at the time, who we've already  
23 mentioned, he made a great effort to have them all  
24 sorted out properly. If there were any about Hetland,  
25 he would know that. But I wouldn't know the ...

1 Q. I see. And I think you do say in your statement that  
2 it is a great pity if there aren't records for  
3 Hetland House.

4 A. Well, I do, because maybe later on I can tell you how  
5 I feel about the abuse of the system or whatever. There  
6 were so many good things done in Hetland over the number  
7 of years I knew it and before me, brothers who spoke to  
8 me about it before that.

9 It's very sad that everything one hears at the  
10 moment is the negative side of the thing, where some  
11 absolutely wonderful work has been done. A great number  
12 of these people went on to become teachers, lawyers, and  
13 to me it's just a pity that that's not highlighted in  
14 any way.

15 Q. Once you had completed your teacher training,  
16 Brother Douglas, did you go back to St Columba's for  
17 a brief period before moving on to St Joseph's College?

18 A. I think I may have been down there for a couple of  
19 months. The college in Largs tended to be a holiday  
20 home as well for brothers. In those days people were  
21 very lucky to be able to go down the coast, so the  
22 brothers would go down and spend their holidays there.  
23 I think that's what happened to me as well.

24 Q. That you may have spent a holiday period at  
25 St Columba's?

1 A. Yes, I really think that's the only time.

2 Q. Then you tell us that you went on to St Joseph's College  
3 in 1976 --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and spent about 10 years working there?

6 A. Yes, absolutely, yes.

7 Q. So we'll focus first of all on the time you spent in  
8 St Columba's in the early 1960s and then we'll come to  
9 look at your time in St Joseph's.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If we can look, first of all, at the period you spent in  
12 St Columba's College from 1961 to 1963. Can you tell me  
13 who was the SNR [REDACTED] at St Columba's during that  
14 period?

15 A. Ah, now ... Sorry, the dates were 1960-something, did  
16 you say?

17 Q. 1961 to 1963, the dates you were there.

18 A. There was a -- Brother MJD [REDACTED] was the SNR [REDACTED], and it  
19 may have been him at that time. It's very difficult to  
20 explain, but you never really saw people who were  
21 SNR [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED], because you were just given  
22 instructions on what to do and you just got on with it,  
23 you know.

24 In fact, until I went down at a later date, that was  
25 the first time I got to really know Brother MJD [REDACTED],

1           because I was then a graduate, but before that, you  
2           weren't really important.

3       Q.   So when you arrived at St Columba's in 1961, you would  
4           have been about 20 years old?

5       A.   Yes, I would be about that, yes.

6       Q.   What role did you have in the school?

7       A.   I was teaching. They were all primary children. It was  
8           a primary school, so I was teaching general subjects to  
9           the primary children.

10      Q.   Were you qualified to teach the children?

11      A.   At that time -- I'm sorry, I'm thinking about dates.

12      LADY SMITH: I think from what you said earlier, your  
13           teaching qualification must have been acquired in the  
14           mid-1970s; would that be right?

15      A.   No, my Lady, it was the 1960s, I think, because I went  
16           to Rome in the 1960s after I graduated. I may have not  
17           made ...

18      LADY SMITH: Your Dundee time I was thinking of because you  
19           specifically did the teaching qualification in Dundee.

20      A.   Oh, the three weeks -- oh yes, sorry.

21      LADY SMITH: We're not talking about you getting your  
22           degree, but actually getting your teaching  
23           qualification.

24      A.   Yes. I didn't have the teaching qualification, I hadn't  
25           been to Dundee at that time, yes, sorry.

1 LADY SMITH: And you certainly hadn't been there during your  
2 stint at St Columba's that we're talking about at the  
3 moment in the early 1960s?

4 A. No, that's correct.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS MACLEOD: We've heard some evidence about the building  
7 set-up at St Columba's, that there was a main building,  
8 I think, Landour House; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And was there a second building to the left of that, as  
11 you looked at it?

12 A. Yes. As you looked at it, yes. That was acquired --  
13 I can't remember. It wasn't there when I ... We didn't  
14 own it when I was down there.

15 Q. So when you were at St Columba's, where was your  
16 accommodation?

17 A. It was dreadful, really. It was an annex. I know my  
18 room was an old -- you'll not know, you're too young,  
19 but there used to be these iron bedsteads and one of  
20 these dreadful springs. That and a chair was all we had  
21 in our rooms and there was a common part with three  
22 sinks where we could wash.

23 Q. Was that an annex that was separate to the main  
24 building, Landour House?

25 A. Yes, you had to go out of the main building and go into

1           it, yes. It was more -- people thought it was a stable  
2           at one time.

3       Q. You've told me that your role was a teaching role. Were  
4       you involved in the dormitories and looking after the  
5       dormitories at all?

6       A. No.

7       Q. Was there a brother who had accommodation in the main  
8       building, in Landour House, during your time?

9       A. Yes. The brother prefect and brother director both had  
10      rooms in -- we were on different floors.

11      Q. What were their names?

12      A. That was -- Brother Nilus was the director and  
13      Brother Germanus was the prefect. His job was to --  
14      virtually he was with the children all day. He looked  
15      after them at lunchtime and all that kind of thing.

16      Q. In terms of records at St Columba's, you were asked  
17      about this, I think, and you give some information in  
18      paragraph 41 of your statement. Do you recall if there  
19      was a punishment book at St Columba's?

20      A. No, I don't recollect a punishment book.

21      Q. You mention a book that you do recall called a daybook.

22      A. Mm. That was the -- it was a heavily bound book, which  
23      was filled in every day.

24      Q. Do you know who filled it in?

25      A. The director, yes. Sorry, the director and headmaster

1           were ... That was -- the one person was headmaster and  
2           director.

3       Q.   Were you given any training at St Columba's about how  
4           you should teach the children?

5       A.   No. No, when I arrived, I had got off the bus at the  
6           wrong place and it was summertime and I had two big  
7           cases and I had to walk 3 miles to find the place.

8           I walked in the gate and Brother MJD, the SNR,  
9           he said, "Oh, it's about time", and took me and put me  
10          into the class immediately, and that was it, that was my  
11          introduction to the children.

12       Q.   Had you ever taught children before?

13       A.   No. This was the first time I'd ever been in contact  
14          with teaching at all like that.

15       Q.   Were you given any instructions in relation to  
16          disciplining the children or --

17       A.   No.

18       Q.   -- how to treat the children in any way?

19       A.   No. I don't know why, but as I say, it was just you  
20          were sort of thrown in at the deep end, as it were. But  
21          that was normal -- sorry, not normal, that was the norm.  
22          People didn't -- there could be -- another brother could  
23          have come along and taken over and all that kind of  
24          thing.

25       LADY SMITH: Had you been given any information beforehand

1           about the age group, the subjects you'd be teaching, the  
2           numbers of children in your class, anything of that  
3           sort?

4       A. No, my Lady. I was just told by the provincial, "You're  
5           going down to Largs for a while", and that was it,  
6           really.

7       LADY SMITH: And no information about the children or their  
8           individual backgrounds?

9       A. No, not at the time. You know, you acquired that  
10          yourself.

11       LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

12       MS MACLEOD: I think you touch on this, Brother Douglas, in  
13          paragraph 43 of your statement, where you say that you  
14          think things were done on a need-to-know basis at that  
15          time.

16       A. I think so. I don't think they were sort of consciously  
17          done on a need-to-know; it was just something that had  
18          evolved over the years because the brothers were  
19          teaching in Glasgow, they were teaching in Dundee, they  
20          were teaching in London, and St Joseph's, of course. As  
21          I say, everyone just seemed to be ... I don't know,  
22          I don't think there was any preparation, really.  
23          Certainly I didn't have any preparation. Fortunately,  
24          the children were very easy to deal with.

25       Q. You go to make the point that:



1 "I could have been teaching a child with all sorts  
2 of problems but wouldn't have known."

3       A. That's it. Again, the way things were in those days,  
4       you didn't know. I mean, if a child had learning  
5       difficulties, you didn't have any provision for them in  
6       those days; you just had to accept it and do what you  
7       could with them, you know.

8 Q. Did you require to discipline or punish the children  
9 while you were at St Columba's?

10           A. I never had occasion to use the belt or anything in  
11           those days. My big thing was I'd shout at someone who  
12           was misbehaving, I'd shout at them in a big loud voice,  
13           which nowadays would be considered as not appropriate,  
14           but that was the only way at the time.

15 Q. Were you aware if any other brothers used the belt at  
16 St Columba's during your time?

17           A. I'm just going through in my head the brothers that  
18           might have been there.

19 (Pause)

20                   No. I think, but this is only supposition --  
21                   I would imagine that the brother prefect had a kind of  
22                   job to do anything like that if it were needed. But  
23                   that's only supposition. I never saw it myself.

24 Q. Was that Brother Germanus?

25 A. That was Gerry -- yes, Brother Germanus, yes. Yes,

1 I touch on that in 44 about that.

2 Q. Was there any occasion when a child came to speak to you  
3 about any concerns or problems that they were having  
4 at the school?

5 A. No. I've thought about that quite seriously, but no.

6 Q. How approachable do you think you and other brothers  
7 were to the boys if they had something they wanted to  
8 tell you?

9 A. Well, I found I had a very good relationship with them.  
10 I never had any problem of discipline. But equally,  
11 I didn't have any approaches about anything untoward,  
12 no.

13 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 45 that you didn't see  
14 or hear of anything inappropriate at the school while  
15 you were there.

16 A. Yes. If I were to have heard anything like that,  
17 I would have passed it on to the headmaster. I'm sure  
18 I would, yes.

19 Q. But you don't recall anything like that?

20 A. No, I really don't. I did point out there in 45 that  
21 I'm a bit simple minded. I didn't mean simple minded;  
22 I meant naive at that time. I was only a young man and  
23 quite inexperienced. That was the first time I'd ever  
24 been in a classroom. I certainly don't remember hearing  
25 of anything at all.

1 Q. In that regard I think you say that if you had heard  
2 something, as you've said, you would have passed it on?

3 A. Yes, I think so, yes. I certainly personally would have  
4 done. I wouldn't have been instructed to do that.

5 LADY SMITH: What do you think would have happened,  
6 Brother Douglas, if you had passed on a concern about  
7 what you refer to as inappropriate behaviour?

8 A. Well, I think, again, it would go to the headteacher.

9 LADY SMITH: What do you think he'd have done with it?

10 A. I can't remember him ever having to ... I wouldn't know  
11 of any dealings he had with anyone, so it could be that  
12 that might have been it. He would just have shelved it.  
13 As I say, I wouldn't know. He might have brought the  
14 parents in, he might have gone to see -- I really don't  
15 know.

16 LADY SMITH: Do I take it from that that there was no  
17 question of the head, for example, telling you to let  
18 him know if you had any concerns and outlining what he  
19 would then do in relation to different types of  
20 concerns?

21 A. Nothing like that ever came up, my Lady. As I say, it  
22 was a different era, really. There were no safeguards  
23 built in at all. I don't think there were, anyway.

24 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

25 MS MACLEOD: Did the brothers speak amongst themselves about

1 the boys?

2 A. Not really. I can't say that we ever really did. We  
3 may have done, but I don't remember sort of any kind  
4 of ... I mean, later on, when I was in St Joe's, it was  
5 totally different. This wasn't ... I suppose in a way  
6 it wasn't a good introduction to teaching for me, but  
7 I think it did help me in other ways.

8 Q. I think you were asked when you provided your statement  
9 if you remembered any staff meetings or anything of that  
10 sort taking place.

11 A. No. The only time I ever had any connection like, say,  
12 the superior and the children and myself, was -- telling  
13 this, it sounds a bit silly, but I was teaching them  
14 music and we were doing the Tchaikovsky -- what do you  
15 call it? It's gone out of my mind, but the one with all  
16 the thumping and banging in it.

17 LADY SMITH: The 1812 Overture?

18 A. The 1812, thank you, my Lady. The 1812, yes.

19 I was explaining to them what it was all about, the  
20 Russians and this and that. I brought that piece in and  
21 in those days, it was very difficult to find the exact  
22 score, you just hoped you'd find it, but we did find it.  
23 I said, "Listen, what we'll do is when it reaches the  
24 very last bit, we'll all put our desks up", it was the  
25 old-fashioned desks, "and as soon as it comes, we'll all

1 bang it together and we'll all be part of Tchaikovsky  
2 and part of the 1812 symphony." My goodness, the  
3 director came flying down because his room was right  
4 above the classroom. And oh, he didn't say anything, he  
5 didn't swear, but oh my goodness, I was certainly given  
6 a real row over that. That's about the limit of talking  
7 among ourselves at all.

8 MS MACLEOD: I think you mention in your statement, in  
9 paragraph 47, that:

10 "The nearest thing to a meeting some of the other  
11 brothers had was Brothers MJD Germanus, and MFN  
12 having a drink together on a Saturday night in the  
13 common room."

14 A. Yes. Excuse me just stopping, I'm trying to think,  
15 because MFN ... who were the others, if you  
16 don't mind?

17 Q. Brothers MJD and Germanus, you said in your statement.

18 A. Yes, that's right. His name was Brother MFN  
19 MFN, that's what kind of threw me.

20 They would get together for a drink, but myself or  
21 say any of the other young brothers, we were never  
22 invited in. You weren't really part of anything at that  
23 time.

24 Q. So you weren't part of those --

25 A. No, I certainly ...

1 Q. You go on to tell us, Brother Douglas, about when the  
2 school closed, when St Columba's closed. I understand  
3 that of course you weren't there at that time. You tell  
4 us that the brothers moved to a bed and breakfast in  
5 Largs.

6 A. In Largs, yes.

7 Q. You say that you think anything important went with  
8 them.

9 A. Yes. What happened was they had the whole bottom floor,  
10 the whole ground floor, and when I visited them --  
11 I wasn't resident then, but when I dropped in to see  
12 them, you couldn't move for all the bits of furniture  
13 they brought and this and that. There could well have  
14 been records or -- if they were lost, that's how they  
15 would have been lost, because they were all ...

16 Once things kind of settled, they were all moved to  
17 different places. Brother Arthur, who was in charge  
18 at the time, he would have supervised getting all the  
19 furniture thrown out or whatever and it might well be  
20 that anything important went with it. Although again,  
21 I'm saying that, I don't know if any of the records were  
22 kept or found and they were kept in our archives in  
23 Glasgow, which are now in Edinburgh, I believe.

24 Q. In paragraph 48 you say of Brother Arthur:

25 "He decided to take everything with him and destroy

1           it."

2       A. Yes, I doubt ... that was a misstatement almost.

3           Because what I was thinking of, he was ... lots of  
4           furniture and all that was just being taken to a skip or  
5           whatever and ...

6       Q. You mention another document here in relation to records  
7           and you recall here a document called "the annals".

8       A. The annals, yes.

9       Q. Is that a separate document to the daybook that you've  
10          told me about already?

11       A. Yes.

12       Q. What were the annals?

13       A. Partly, it would be the accounts -- they'd all be kept  
14          in this large book again. There were the accounts.  
15          What else? (Pause). Sorry, there were also obviously  
16          records of each boy, where he came from, when he  
17          arrived, the fees, whatever fees was paying. That was  
18          all in the annals and that was very, very -- pardon the  
19          pun -- religiously kept because each director was given  
20          that responsibility.

21                It's a pity you haven't got it because it's so  
22          interesting. It went back to the beginning when the  
23          school was opened and when you had the beautiful  
24          copperplate handwriting of some brothers and the big  
25          brush of other brothers and things like that. That's

1           really what the annals were.

2       Q.   And do you recall seeing them at St Columba's when you  
3           were there in the early 1960s?

4       A.   Yes, I saw them, yes.

5       Q.   And did you see them after that?

6       A.   No, once I left Largs, I didn't go back, really.

7       Q.   Do you know what happened to the annals when the school  
8           closed?

9       A.   No, I really don't. That's what I say. When I'm  
10       talking about that, it's pretty all conjecture. If they  
11       weren't among the material in Glasgow, they won't be  
12       available anywhere. And again, I don't know, they may  
13       well be ... The ones that were stored in Glasgow, if  
14       there were any, that's where they'd be. But as I say,  
15       again, I don't have any dealings with the historical  
16       documents at all.

17      Q.   We've touched already on Brother Germanus and you give  
18       us some more information about him in paragraph 50 of  
19       your statement. You mention that he was somebody who  
20       was very good to you.

21      A.   Yes.

22      Q.   I think you go on to say that he would point things out  
23       to learn and ways to speak to the children.

24      A.   Yes.

25      Q.   Can you remember what kind of things you learnt from



1 Brother Germanus?

2 A. The very first one I learnt was he said, "Douglas, a wee  
3 word: do not shout at the children." That was the first  
4 thing he told me. The other things were, "You may be  
5 tempted sometimes to hit a child if a situation arises:  
6 be very, very careful about that kind of thing."

7 He also was very helpful with me about how I should  
8 prepare my classes and how I should deliver them,  
9 because although he was prefect -- can I digress  
10 a moment? Is that okay?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. He was actually a very intelligent man, but he had  
13 a stammer, so he wasn't allowed to go to university.  
14 But he still had a lot of very good knowledge and he was  
15 a great help to me, like how to deal with them, be  
16 standing at the door to welcome the children in, don't  
17 let the children ever go in before you, because then  
18 they possess the class, you know, that sort of thing.  
19 It was very, very good. That kind of information is  
20 actually still being given to the best of my knowledge.

21 Q. I see. Did he teach children himself at the school?

22 A. No. When he's called prefect, that meant he had a lot  
23 of dealings with them outside of the class.

24 Q. In the dormitory area?

25 A. Yes. He would start the morning, once they got up and

1           that, and they were all together, he had them and they  
2           would say a morning prayer, and then prepare them for  
3           class, make sure they were all on time and all that.

4       Q. Did you see Brother Germanus interact with children?

5       A. Yes.

6       Q. How would you describe his manner with them?

7       A. It was a wee bit peculiar because of the stammer. When  
8           he was speaking to someone, he would be stammering, and  
9           I just remember, now that you say that, the children  
10          accepted that very well, you know, the stammer.

11                But he was strict. He was very strict with them.  
12           He wouldn't allow them to misbehave, and quite often  
13           he had to take them down -- just as an example, he would  
14           take them, say, to Sunday Mass, when he had to walk down  
15           maybe a quarter of a mile, something like that. So the  
16           crocodile -- the children went down in a crocodile, two  
17           by two.

18                You could see when you were going past them that  
19           they weren't going to misbehave because he was there,  
20           he was always -- that was kind of a good part of his job  
21           to do that. But any other interaction, I really can't  
22           remember anything that comes to mind.

23       Q. Were the children scared of him, do you think?

24       A. No, I don't think so. I wouldn't have seen them as  
25           being scared. They were well-behaved, certainly, but

1 not always, obviously. If he wasn't there, I presume  
2 they took advantage of that.

3 Q. One thing you say is that he tended to give the boys  
4 tongue-lashings.

5 A. That was more what he'd do rather than use physical  
6 punishment. I'm sorry, it sounds silly, but because of  
7 his stammer, it was quite funny to hear. It was amazing  
8 to me all the time how the children never reacted to  
9 that because to me, anyway, it sounded very odd.

10 Q. You tell us that you weren't aware of any allegations  
11 against Brother Germanus while you were at the school --

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. -- and you go on to tell us that you have become aware,  
14 I think, more recently --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- of allegations that have been made. Is that in  
17 recent years?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. Another person you tell us about from your time at Largs  
20 is the matron.

21 A. Oh yes.

22 Q. Could you tell me a little bit about the matron,  
23 what was she like?

24 A. I found her -- even on my first introduction to her, it  
25 was very much, "Why are you here?" She didn't make you

1           feel comfortable at all. Quite often, if you were  
2           passing by, you could hear her shouting at the children.

3           I do know that Brother **MLA** who became  
4           **SNR**, who was  actually, but he  
5           dismissed her. He dismissed her, I think, within the  
6           first or second day that he took over.

7       Q. Do you know why he dismissed her?

8       A. Because of her way. Even on the first day he arrived,  
9           we could hear her shouting and it wasn't ever  
10          appropriate. It wasn't just, "Do this, do that", it  
11          was, "you're such-and-such, you must come from a bad  
12          family." It was very, very -- I even found it very  
13          difficult and I only had snippets of it. But he decided  
14          very quickly that she had to go. So it was a question  
15          in those days: right, go, pack your case and away, and  
16          that was it.

17       Q. That example you gave of saying to someone they must  
18          come from a bad family, is that to boys that these  
19          things were said?

20       A. Yes. It's the boys under her care at that time in the  
21          evenings. That's only one example; I mean there are  
22          lots of them.

23       Q. So did you hear the matron quite often use that kind of  
24          derogatory language towards the boys?

25       A. If I can just say, the stairs went up here (indicating)

1 but you had to pass by to go to various places and it  
2 was almost like a constant everyday thing. Every time  
3 you passed, she was shouting, and after a while, as  
4 I say, I think the brother who had been SNR  
5 before [REDACTED] who was a Brother Kieran -- I don't  
6 think I remembered to put him in. But Brother Kieran  
7 had been brought over from Ireland, but he had very,  
8 very bad kidney trouble, so he spent quite a lot of time  
9 in bed. He was here (indicating) and she was just above  
10 him (indicating) and he recorded all this for MLA for  
11 Brother MLA.

12 Q. Do I take it from what you are saying that he could hear  
13 how she was treating children in the sickbay?

14 A. Yes, because he was lying in bed and the dormitories  
15 were right above him.

16 Q. Were you aware if the matron used physical punishment?

17 A. No, I really can't say. My guess is yes, but I'm  
18 possibly not being very fair on her.

19 Q. Do you know when she was dismissed from the school?

20 A. I don't know the exact date. I don't know if any of the  
21 other things you've had through would be ... Where  
22 would I have been then? I think I was in St Joe's by  
23 that time.

24 Q. So some time after the mid-1970s?

25 A. Yes. Around about then, I would say, uh-huh.

1 LADY SMITH: Was it around the late 1960s that [REDACTED]  
2 became the SNR [REDACTED], as you call it?

3 A. I think so, my Lady, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: So it must have been at some point after that?

5 A. Yes. Yes, after that. It wasn't long. They didn't  
6 take long in dismissing her because they must have had  
7 very good reason to do that.

8 LADY SMITH: So that might even have been before 1970 then?

9 A. Yes, it is possible, my Lady. I just can't think.

10 LADY SMITH: Don't worry. I know it's hard to remember  
11 exact dates.

12 MS MACLEOD: If we can then move on, Brother Douglas, to  
13 look at your time in St Joseph's, which was quite a bit  
14 later in your career.

15 You've told us in your statement that you went to  
16 St Joseph's in 1976 and that you were there for about  
17 10 years to 1986.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who was the SNR [REDACTED] at St Joseph's when you arrived  
20 there?

21 A. There was a Brother MYZ [REDACTED] for some time.  
22 Brother MZH [REDACTED] for some time. And Brother MMK [REDACTED] for  
23 some time. So those were the three SNR [REDACTED] -- sorry, and  
24 a Brother MFY [REDACTED] also. I remember he was the final one,  
25 if you like.

1 Q. When you left?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. We'll come on to look at some of the brothers in a bit  
4 more detail later on. Could you tell me, first of all,  
5 what was your role at St Joseph's?

6 A. When I arrived, my role was teaching English. Yes,  
7 English to begin with.

8 Q. By this time you were a qualified teacher?

9 A. Yes, properly qualified, yes.

10 Q. And looking at the dates you'd be in your mid-30s or  
11 thereabouts?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So were you assigned initially to the English  
14 department?

15 A. Yes, to begin with, yes.

16 Q. And from there did you get another role?

17 A. Well, after a while, I was given -- for a short time  
18 I was given the job of prefect, but I asked the  
19 SNR after a couple of weeks to take me off of it  
20 because I couldn't really handle it. They were the  
21 secondary pupils. They were all ... What's the word?  
22 I don't know how to put it. But they were all fairly  
23 well-off children from well-off backgrounds, and the way  
24 they spoke to you all the time, I was just about  
25 reaching the stage of screaming.



1           So I went to the SNR [REDACTED] and I said, "Look, at  
2           the moment I just can't", so he took me off that job and  
3           so I was just teaching then.

4   LADY SMITH: Who was the SNR [REDACTED] at that point?

5   A. That was Brother MFY [REDACTED] my Lady.

6   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7   MS MACLEOD: Did you move on from there to become a teacher  
8           of guidance?

9   A. Yes. I became -- I had the job as guidance, but after  
10          a couple of years I was made principal of guidance, so  
11          running the guidance department. At that time we were  
12          all still finding our feet as far as guidance and  
13          working to help children, to understand them better, do  
14          you know? But again as I say, it was all -- I don't  
15          know how to put it. It was quite basic, what we were  
16          doing, until we built it up ourselves.

17   Q. So were you the first guidance teacher appointed at  
18          St Joseph's?

19   A. Two of us together.

20   Q. Who was the other one?

21   A. That was Lorenzo Rinaldi. He's not a brother, but he was  
22          a wonderful teacher.

23   Q. And then, when you became principal teacher of guidance,  
24          how many guidance teachers were in your department?

25   A. We had two and then very shortly after that three.



1 Q. What was your role as a guidance teacher?

2 A. Well, as I say, these were the beginnings, but anyone  
3 who had a problem that they had taken to their teacher,  
4 they would send them along to me and we'd work from  
5 there, listen to them, find out what was ... At that  
6 time it was only boys, my Lady; the girls hadn't turned  
7 up at this point.

8 So they came and we would spend time listening to  
9 what their issues were and, if we could help them with  
10 it, we could do. If it was a real problem that we felt  
11 was beyond us, because we always discussed them as  
12 a group in our office, we just had to then pass that on  
13 to the SNR [REDACTED] for him to deal with, if it was  
14 something really serious.

15 When I say serious, at that time there was no  
16 mention of abuse, of sexual abuse or physical abuse. It  
17 was more maybe the teacher was very hard on them or  
18 maybe they hadn't heard from home for two or three  
19 weeks, the problems children have at that age, secondary  
20 school age.

21 Q. You've mentioned there an example of a problem of  
22 teachers being too hard on children, that that might be  
23 an example.

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. Were there many concerns or discussions brought to you

1           that related to teachers? Did children complain about  
2           their teachers?

3       A. I only had one complaint about the teachers. Again,  
4       I felt that it was beyond my -- not in my remit, as you  
5       would call it nowadays. So I passed it on to the  
6       SNR to call in the parents of the boy because the  
7       teacher had struck him or pushed him, I can't remember  
8       it was one or the other. But it was quite serious,  
9       serious enough to be dealt with.

10           So the SNR MFY he called in the parents,  
11       met with the parents, and they discussed it and MFY  
12       asked them, "Would you like to take it any further?" and  
13       they said, "No, no."

14       Q. I think, Brother Douglas, you in fact tell us about that  
15       occasion in paragraph 95 of your statement.

16       A. Oh, right.

17       Q. You can tell me if it's the same occasion or not. You  
18       say that:

19           "On one occasion, a concern was brought to [you]  
20       in relation to a female teacher [whose name you couldn't  
21       recall] but who taught [REDACTED]"

22           Is that the one you're thinking about?

23       A. I think that's the one -- the teacher -- that was the  
24       two teachers -- no.

25       Q. In paragraph 95, you say --

1 A. Could I refresh my memory, if you don't mind, on that?

2 Q. Of course. It's on the screen for you.

3 A. I have it now, thanks.

4 (Pause)

5 "One of the boys", I presume it is, one of the boys.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. That's my English teaching background. Yes, this was  
8 dealt with in a parental interview again.

9 Q. So was this an occasion where a child had reported that  
10 a teacher had slapped him across the face?

11 A. That's it. That's right, yes. So obviously the child  
12 was referred to me by another pupil. So when I spoke to  
13 the child about it and the child was saying, "Oh yes,  
14 well, I was, I was ..." I don't think the expression  
15 "wind her up" existed then, but the equivalent of that.  
16 He had been annoying her a wee bit and she'd slapped  
17 him, but he still felt that that was too severe  
18 a retaliation, if you like.

19 But again, that was dealt with by the parents coming  
20 up and talking to them, and I always said, "Do you want  
21 to take anything any further?" because it was a boys'  
22 school and it was a totally male environment, and the  
23 two or three lady teachers -- it was quite difficult for  
24 them.

25 LADY SMITH: What do you mean by a "totally male

1 environment"? I know literally what you mean, but what  
2 is it you're trying to get me to understand?

3 A. What I'm just thinking is, my Lady, that there was  
4 a kind of ... I would have liked to have gone on to  
5 this later. Boyish things were quite crude and on this  
6 occasion, that was the boy -- as I say, had it been --  
7 had he done that to me, I would have probably answered  
8 him in the same vein where a lady wouldn't. The lady  
9 teachers wouldn't do that. They couldn't really do  
10 anything. That's what really turned out with this  
11 particular case, that -- I've remembered the name now,  
12 but I don't know if you want to ...

13 LADY SMITH: I don't think we don't need the name,  
14 thank you.

15 A. It came to me later on and I thought: I should have put  
16 that in.

17 LADY SMITH: I think I can understand what you're trying to  
18 explain. Thank you very much, Brother Douglas.

19 MS MACLEOD: So that's one example you remember of a child  
20 coming to you with an issue relating to a teacher?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think you provide another example -- sorry, did  
23 you want to say something else?

24 A. I was going to say, the way our office was, I could be  
25 sitting there (indicating), I had my desk there

1 (indicating) and my colleagues were there (indicating),  
2 so we discussed everything.

3 Q. The three of you were in an office together?

4 A. Yes, and we discussed everything, like that one. We'd  
5 have talked that out and brought the parents up and that  
6 was fine.

7 What was the one you were going on to? Sorry.

8 Q. The second one that you recall, can you tell me what  
9 that related to? Did that one relate to a brother?

10 A. Which one was that? Yes, it does. That was the one --  
11 do you mind if I just refresh my memory a second?

12 Q. Of course.

13 A. That's paragraph 96, isn't it?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. (Pause). Yes, that's right. We had discussed it and we  
16 decided --

17 Q. Can you tell me what happened on this occasion? Who  
18 brought the complaint to you?

19 A. It was the boy who had brought the -- the pupil brought  
20 the complaint to me -- no, actually, he brought it to  
21 one of the others in the guidance, but they referred it  
22 on to me.

23 Q. And what was the complaint?

24 A. The complaint was that she had ... I'm sorry, I'm  
25 getting slightly confused here because this is the one

1 about the brother, isn't it?

2 Q. You might wish to look at paragraph 96 in your folder  
3 because it's not redacted, if that assists you.

4 A. Yes, maybe that might help.

5 LADY SMITH: But if you just keep the names to yourself.

6 You'll see it's there in paragraph 96. That's where  
7 you seem to have been talking about an occasion when an  
8 accusation was made against a brother to the effect that  
9 there had been an assault on a child and the police  
10 became involved.

11 A. Yes. Thanks for that, my Lady.

12 Paragraph 96, yes. Thank you. I remember now.

13 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

14 MS MACLEOD: Once the complaint was made, what steps did you  
15 and your colleagues take in relation to that?

16 A. Well, we decided -- we all decided that I should go and  
17 speak to the SNR [REDACTED] about it. So I went to see  
18 Brother MFY [REDACTED] and told him that something had to be  
19 done. I was a wee bit surprised because this brother  
20 wasn't the type of person who normally lost his temper,  
21 really, but that's beside the point.

22 I went to see the SNR [REDACTED] I suggested to him,  
23 could he bring in the police, because it was a brother  
24 and the boy ... I think the boy was in fifth year at  
25 that stage, he certainly wasn't in fourth year. You

1 know that stage, he was in five or six, when you tended  
2 to teach them as young men rather than as children.

3 Anyway, so the police came up and interviewed him,  
4 but at that point, once I'd told Brother MFY that was  
5 my remit, if you like, finished.

6 Q. So Brother MFY dealt with it from there on?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did the police speak to the brother involved in the  
9 allegation?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And did they speak to the child?

12 A. And to the child. They were very, very good.

13 Obviously, in a small place like Dumfries, we got on  
14 very well with the police and you could phone and just  
15 say, "Listen, could you come up and deal with things?"  
16 and they were very, very fair and very, very good. But  
17 they felt there was no case and I think, again, it might  
18 have been because the boy had been involved before  
19 with ...

20 LADY SMITH: But I think you've told me you weren't involved  
21 at that stage of the head liaising with the police?

22 A. That's right.

23 LADY SMITH: So you don't actually know why they decided not  
24 to take it any further?

25 A. Exactly, my Lady, yes. At that point you just cut off,

1 or we just cut off.

2 LADY SMITH: Brother Douglas, what you've just said may  
3 explain this, but tell me: when in your statement at  
4 that paragraph you talk about you, the college, having  
5 had a very sympathetic police presence in Dumfries, what  
6 do you mean?

7 A. It was that -- if you ever needed them, they would come  
8 up immediately. I hate to say this because I loved  
9 St Joseph's so much, but the seniors had a habit of  
10 managing to get out at night. They'd go down to the --  
11 it was really quite harmless in a way. It was just to  
12 the local café or they might go further afield, and the  
13 police were very, very good. MFY would phone them and  
14 say, "Could you deal with it?" It didn't happen every  
15 night, I hope, but they dealt with anything like that as  
16 well.

17 LADY SMITH: As you said, you were friendly with the police?

18 A. Yes, they were very, very good, yes.

19 Later on, when -- well, I think we'll be dealing  
20 with it later on, one of the brothers who was in  
21 St Joseph's -- what happened there ... but the police  
22 were very, very good. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] --

24 LADY SMITH: Okay.

25 A. -- and they were two people that I knew, two policemen



1           that I knew, so it wasn't too bad because -- I won't  
2           bore you with it all.

3       LADY SMITH: Don't worry, I don't think we need to go to  
4           that at the moment.

5       A. It's a long story.

6       LADY SMITH: I'll hand back to Ms MacLeod.

7       MS MACLEOD: You've told us there about two occasions you  
8           recall from your days as a guidance teacher at  
9           St Joseph's when a child brought a complaint in relation  
10          to physical abuse allegations, I think you call them.  
11          Those two examples, are there more or are those the only  
12          two you can remember?

13      A. There would have been more examples, but I just don't  
14          remember them offhand.

15      Q. Did you receive any complaints of anything to do with  
16          behaviour that was sexually inappropriate while you were  
17          a guidance teacher?

18      A. No, definitely not. The others that I know, we've  
19          spoken about that a few years ago, we spoke about it  
20          all, and they were the same: they never had heard  
21          anything of any -- well, I think at that time if they  
22          had done, we would have discussed that.

23      Q. I think you tell us that you were in the role of  
24          guidance teacher for two years.

25      A. At least two years, yes.

1 MS MACLEOD: I see, my Lady, it's almost 1 o'clock and I'm  
2 moving on to a slightly different topic.

3 LADY SMITH: I think we'll stop now for the lunch break.

4 Timing for this afternoon? Are we going to start at  
5 2 o'clock or slightly before that? Maybe if we start at  
6 1.50, if that's okay with you, Brother Douglas.

7 (1.00 pm)

8 (The lunch adjournment)

9

1

2

1  
2

3 (1.50 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Brother Douglas, are you ready for us to carry  
5 on?

6 A. Yes, thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

8 MS MACLEOD: Douglas, in paragraph 84 of your statement, you  
9 tell us there came a time when the local authority took  
10 over responsibility for the school; is that right?

11 A. I'm sorry, number 84?

12 Q. Yes. It's on the screen if that's easier for you.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think you tell us at that time more girls came  
15 into the school.

16 A. Yes. They all came from the Benedictine convent, which  
17 was the other side of Dumfries, and they found it very,  
18 very difficult, the thought of coming to this boys'  
19 school. So I was guidance at the time and Loreno and  
20 myself, we went over several -- a good number of times,  
21 to try and reassure them and explain how things were.

22 It's the best thing that ever happened to Dumfries  
23 because the girls just had a wonderful influence. I'm  
24 just saying that because one of my past pupils is

25 SNR [REDACTED] now in St Joseph's.

1           But that was the time when they came over and  
2           we were under the local council then, yes.

3       Q. Did yourself and some of the other brothers stay on  
4           at the school once it was taken over by the local  
5           authority?

6       A. Yes -- well, we all lived there. There was a building  
7           behind St Joseph's College building and behind that  
8           there was another building called The Mount; that's  
9           where the bulk of the brothers were. There wasn't room  
10          for us all, so three of us lived in another small house.

11      Q. Is that the Wee Mount?

12      A. The Wee Mount, that's right.

13      Q. From your own point of view, did you notice a difference  
14          in the school once the local authority had taken over?

15      A. There were quite a lot of teething problems. One  
16          brother, I don't need to name anyone, I presume, but one  
17          brother who had been the music teacher, asked very  
18          quickly to be moved to another school because he  
19          couldn't cope with the boys who came from -- there was  
20          an area called Lochside, it was a disadvantaged area,  
21          and all the teachers were not used to that kind of  
22          thing.

23                You know, they were only used to children of people  
24                with means, if you like. Then these boys were coming  
25                over and playing pitch and toss during their lesson and

1        disrupting things and all that.  So that took a long  
2        time to settle down.

3 Q. Something you tell us about in your statement,  
4 Brother Douglas, is about discipline and punishment  
5 at the school. This is from paragraph 88 onwards, which  
6 will come on the screen for you.

7 I think you tell us that there was a time when you  
8 were made master of discipline; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. When was that?

11           A. That was the year after the girls came. I don't know  
12           the -- do you know the date for that yourself?

13 Q. In your statement I think you suggest it was the late  
14 1970s.

15           A. Yes, it would be. I think I had been there for a few  
16           years before.

17 Q. And in your role as master of discipline, what were you  
18 expected to do?

19 A. Well, what was happening was they were beginning ...

20 (Pause)

21       LADY SMITH:   There is water for you if that would help.

22 (Pause)

23 A. I'm sorry, what was the question?

24 MS MACLEOD: In your role as master of discipline, what did  
25 you have to do?

1       A. At that time the headmaster and the brothers in general,  
2       they were trying to phase out discipline using the belt  
3       because it was only a short time before -- do you  
4       remember the lady? I can't remember the lady's name who  
5       had the belt withdrawn from schools. We were working  
6       along those lines, so as a kind of a joke, I was made  
7       master of discipline, which meant, "If anybody needed  
8       the belt, send them to Douglas."

9       Q. So other teachers, for example, would send pupils to  
10      you?

11     A. Yes, they would send them along to me and I would just  
12     be teaching and somebody would come along and say, "I've  
13     to get the belt", and I'd go (indicating) and just  
14     continue the lesson and the boy would go away again. It  
15     lasted for a bit of time, but after that we stopped  
16     using the belt at all in the school.

17     Q. You mention, I think, that a Mr Paddy Craig was made the  
18     master of discipline after yourself.

19     A. Yes, that's right, Paddy was the deputy director also.

20     Q. We've touched on records in relation to St Columba's;  
21     was there a punishment book at St Joseph's?

22     A. Again, I'm sorry, I'm not aware of there being  
23     a punishment book. I certainly never put my name in any  
24     kind of a book. I think it was done and dusted, if you  
25     like, you know; a punishment was given and that was it.

1 Q. Do you recall seeing any records while you were at  
2 St Joseph's? Were you aware of record-keeping?

3 A. Oh, there was record-keeping, but I wasn't involved in  
4 it. That would be work for the headmaster in the school  
5 and the director of the community. So between them,  
6 they dealt with everything, everything financial, for  
7 example. I certainly never heard them talking about  
8 a punishment book.

9 Q. When you provided your statement to the inquiry, you  
10 were asked about a number of brothers who may have been  
11 at St Joseph's at the same time as yourself, and you've  
12 provided some information. I just want to ask you  
13 a little bit about that. You deal with that from  
14 paragraph 101 onwards.

15 We've already spoken about Brother Germanus. Was he  
16 also at St Joseph's or was he just at St Columba's?

17 A. If I could quickly give you the background to that.  
18 Brother Germanus, because of his stammer, which  
19 I mentioned, and he wasn't allowed to go to university,  
20 he ended up in the community still in Dumfries, but he  
21 was the tailor and he mended shoes. In those days,  
22 shoes had to last for years, you know, so he mended all  
23 the boys' shoes and all that kind of thing. So that  
24 became his job.

25 Q. Brother MFI is somebody else you were asked about.



1 Was he at St Joseph's at the same time as yourself?

2 A. I was only there a short time when he was there. He was  
3 very much involved in [REDACTED].

4 Q. Was he a [REDACTED] teacher?

5 A. He was [REDACTED] as well, yes, to the best of my knowledge.

6 Q. Did you see or hear of anything in connection with  
7 Brother MFI [REDACTED] that caused you concern?

8 A. No. He was very, very well liked. I've met a good  
9 number of former pupils and MFI [REDACTED] name always came up.  
10 They thought the world of him.

11 Q. Brother MFU [REDACTED] is someone else I think you were asked  
12 about. Was he at the school at the same time as you?

13 A. Yes. He was in charge of the top dorm, as it was  
14 called. So he looked after the children up there.

15 Q. Is that the younger boys?

16 A. The younger ones, yes.

17 Q. Were you aware of anything in relation to him that  
18 caused you concern?

19 A. No, not at all. I never even remember him losing his  
20 temper. I'm sure he did, but I never heard him. But  
21 again, it was the same as Largs. There was somebody in  
22 charge of the dormitories and you didn't go there, you  
23 know. I couldn't even tell you what the dormitories  
24 looked like.

25 Q. In paragraph 113 of your statement you mention that

1           there was a child, whose name you tell us you can't  
2           remember, who came to you once and told you that  
3           a Brother **DDL** was speaking to him in an inappropriate  
4           way.

5                     Can you place Brother **DDL** ? What was his full name?

6           A. His name, I think, was **zDDL** . **zDDL** ,  
7           I think. I remember speaking to him about it and  
8           nothing came of it, which is probably my fault.  
9           I should have chased it up.

10          Q. What did the child say to you in relation to  
11          Brother **DDL** ?

12          A. He was talking about the possibility of -- could he  
13          share a bed, that type of thing.

14          Q. Is this what you understood Brother **DDL** had said to the  
15          boy?

16          A. Yes, that's what I understood him to have said, that  
17          type of thing, you know. I can't really think of  
18          exactly the same things. Unfortunately, I certainly  
19          didn't really follow that up at all.

20          Q. Were you told about this in your capacity as a guidance  
21          teacher?

22          A. No, it was just mentioned. I mean, the children -- when  
23          you're going down to the football or cricket or  
24          something like that, they'd just be talking, and he  
25          happened just to mention. He didn't sort of come to me

1           and say ... we were walking along and he just told me  
2           about it.

3           Q. Did you ask Brother DDL about what the boy had said?

4           A. I did do, but I do not think that I actually followed  
5           that up, which I should have done.

6           Q. So did you speak to Brother DDL about it?

7           A. Sorry, yes.

8           Q. What did Brother DDL -- what was his response?

9           A. He didn't seem particularly surprised or anything like  
10          that. He didn't deny anything or he didn't say, "Oh  
11          yeah, I was doing that for a reason", or give me some  
12          excuse, he just ...

13          Q. What were your own thoughts at the time about what you  
14          had been told and Brother DDL response?

15          A. I was very, very shocked because that was before we all  
16          became conscious of child abuse. It wasn't part of  
17          our ... It wasn't part of our thinking. In those days  
18          no one had ever mentioned child abuse in any context,  
19          but that would have been child abuse.

20          Q. Do you remember how old the boy was?

21          A. He was maybe -- just let me think. I would say about  
22          12-ish, round about that.

23          Q. Can you remember roughly during your ten-year period at  
24          St Joseph's when this was?

25          A. It's funny, I can actually picture standing talking to

1 him outside the Wee Mount, but I couldn't tell you what  
2 year. The 10 years I was in Dumfries, they just passed  
3 like in a flash. They were just wonderful years for me,  
4 but I just can't remember much about --

5 Q. Did the SNR [REDACTED] become involved in this?

6 A. No, not to my knowledge. I don't think the child moved  
7 it on himself. I think he just mentioned it in an  
8 offhand way. It wasn't like, could I do something about  
9 it. I know now I should have done something about it,  
10 but I didn't, you know.

11 Q. In paragraph 113 you say:

12 "We had to speak to the SNR [REDACTED] and the police."

13 A. I can't remember quite which one is which, to tell you  
14 the truth now. I don't remember going to the  
15 SNR [REDACTED] but I could well have done because MFY [REDACTED] was  
16 very, very sympathetic. He was the person you would go  
17 to about anything like that, but I don't remember doing  
18 it.

19 Q. Do you remember if the police became involved?

20 A. I cannot really remember whether the police became --  
21 I can't remember if anyone became involved.

22 I mean, I can't picture and I can't remember  
23 speaking to Brother MFY [REDACTED] about it. I remember the boy  
24 telling me and I remember saying to DDL [REDACTED] that the boy  
25 had told me this, but I really can't remember.

1 Q. You go on to say that Brother **DDL** left the Marist order  
2 shortly after that.

3 A. Yes. I think you could be putting two and two together  
4 there, really, you know, that possibly someone -- maybe  
5 the boy had spoken to someone else, who had passed it on  
6 to the **SNR** But he moved -- he disappeared very,  
7 very kind of quickly. One day he was there and then  
8 he'd gone, and we found out that he had left the order.

9 Q. Brother Damien is someone else you tell us about. Were  
10 you aware of allegations being made in relation to him  
11 while you were at the school?

12 A. No, sorry, I heard about those afterwards.

13 Q. Are you able to tell me roughly when you heard these  
14 things?

15 A. I'm very bad at this sort of thing. What happened was  
16 the first time there was a mention of child abuse with  
17 regard to any of the brothers was a brother I'm sure  
18 we'll be coming on later to talk about. But that was  
19 the first time and everyone was sort of in shock that  
20 this could have happened in St Joe's. So we were  
21 talking about it and it might have been that I was in --  
22 maybe I'd have been in Glasgow by then or Dumfries --  
23 not Dumfries, Dundee.

24 Q. Is this some years after you'd left St Joseph's?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And what did you hear about Brother Damien?

2 A. I heard that the police had been to visit him because he  
3 had exposed himself in front of a class. I don't  
4 know ... I really don't know what else was done.  
5 I just know that was one that was spoken about.

6 Q. And do you know where you heard that information?

7 A. Yes, interestingly I was living in Dundee -- excuse me,  
8 I've been in so many places. I was teaching in Dundee,  
9 in Lawside Academy at the time, and I had to move to  
10 another house because the one I was in was just too big  
11 just for myself. Damien came up and stayed because he'd  
12 had an operation which meant he couldn't eat anything,  
13 he just could take liquids and whatnot. So he'd come up  
14 there to get a rest because I was about during the day  
15 and he would have a bit of company at night-time.

16 But at that time, there was nothing mentioned then,  
17 but there must have been some point where I was saying  
18 that Damien was staying with me or whatever and somebody  
19 would have said, "Did you know Damien had an accusation  
20 made against him?" But I do know that again he wasn't  
21 prosecuted because he was too ill.

22 Q. I think you've said that when you were at the school  
23 you weren't aware of anything inappropriate in relation  
24 to him; is that right?

25 A. Absolutely not, yes.

1 Q. You tell us in your statement that you know that  
2 Brother Damien was charged with offences in relation to  
3 St Joseph's.

4 A. Certainly I think it must have been one of them was the  
5 incident I've quoted. He certainly was being prosecuted  
6 for that.

7 Q. In paragraph 115 you tell the inquiry about some  
8 involvement that you yourself had in the process, the  
9 legal process, if I can call it that, in relation to  
10 Brother Damien and that was in relation to a letter.

11 Did Brother Damien write a letter in relation to  
12 these matters?

13 A. What had happened was I was looking after things while  
14 the provincial was at some meetings. It transpired that  
15 Damien had written a letter which he was going to send;  
16 I'm not sure if it was to the police or whatever.

17 Q. Did you see the letter?

18 A. No, I didn't see it, but I told them to go over and see  
19 Mr Smyth, who was our lawyer at the time.

20 Q. Who was the provincial at that time?

21 A. Let me think.

22 (Pause)

23 I'm really not sure. I could say one name and  
24 it would be wrong, I'm sure, unfortunately.

25 Q. Okay.



1 A. Because there was Brother ...

2 Q. If you can't remember, that's fine.

3 A. I'm sorry.

4 Q. You tell us in your statement that you were instructed  
5 by the provincial to investigate a letter that  
6 Brother Damien intended to send to the court.

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Were you given any information about what the letter was  
9 about?

10 A. No. What I was being told was just to make sure that  
11 Mr Smyth -- everything went through Mr Smyth concerning  
12 Damien. So presumably it would have been inappropriate  
13 for Damien to send something to the court by himself.

14 Q. In paragraph 115, the second sentence, you say:

15 "Mr Smyth, the lawyer, advised that he should not  
16 send the letter, which was an apology to the pupil  
17 involved, and an explanation of what he was doing, which  
18 he stated was scratching his groin area."

19 A. Mm-hm, yes. That sounds very familiar, I'm sure.  
20 That's what is said.

21 Q. Is that something that you were told the letter related  
22 to?

23 A. Mr Smyth told me that, yes. Again, once I had given  
24 that or got Damien to speak to Mr Smyth, I didn't hear  
25 any more and that was -- I presume it was worked out



1           between the two of them, whether he sent it or not.

2       Q.   You say that you were sent to try and dissuade him from  
3           sending the letter?

4       A.   Yes, against legal advice.

5       Q.   Who sent you to dissuade Brother Damien from sending the  
6           letter?

7       A.   That would have been ... I can't remember which  
8           provincial it was at that time. I'm sorry.

9       LADY SMITH: It doesn't matter if you can't remember the  
10           name. You are thinking it was the provincial that asked  
11           you to do that?

12      A.   I'm sure it would have been the provincial, my Lady,  
13           yes.

14      LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15      MS MACLEOD: And I think, if I understood you correctly,  
16           you are not sure whether indeed he did send the letter  
17           or not?

18      A.   Yes, I really don't know. I just know that Mr Smyth  
19           dealt with everything and asked the court to reconsider  
20           anything because of the state of Damien's health,  
21           because he died very shortly afterwards.

22      Q.   In paragraph 124 you mention [REDACTED] Brother [REDACTED] DDL

23           [REDACTED] DDL

24           [REDACTED]

25           [REDACTED] In paragraph 124 you say that:

1            "[You] often wondered about John Fitzpatrick because  
2            [you] didn't feel comfortable around him."

3            A. Yes.

4            Q. Could you elaborate on that?

5            A. That was a very strong feeling I had because he ... How  
6            could you explain it? It wasn't snide remarks he was  
7            making, they were always just off-centre remarks,  
8            off-colour remarks.

9            Q. What did the remarks relate to?

10          A. Well, sort of sexual remarks and all that, but not about  
11          anyone specific or anything like that -- sorry, it  
12          sounds pompous, but it wasn't to me the behaviour of  
13          a Marist Brother. I think that became clear and he was  
14          obviously advised to leave or whatever.

15          Q. Brother <sup>AKV</sup> is another brother that you provide  
16          information about in your statement. I think he was at  
17          St Joseph's at the same time as yourself. I think you  
18          say that indeed Brother <sup>AKV</sup> was a personal friend of  
19          yours for a time; is that right?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. What was his role at St Joseph's?

22          A. At St Joseph's, he was a teacher and prefect for the  
23          senior boys. That Big Mount I mentioned, that's where  
24          the senior boys' dormitories were, up the top.

25          Q. Did he have a room in that area?

1 A. Yes, he had a room there.

2 Q. You say that he was very involved in all the children's  
3 activities in the school; is that right?

4 A. Yes. He was actually -- he was an excellent teacher.  
5 It wasn't just on the face -- he was a very, very good  
6 teacher, but he, again -- all of the things which  
7 transpired, they just came as a complete shock to us  
8 all, do you know? Because all of that must be run on  
9 trust to a certain extent, obviously, and it didn't in  
10 his case.

11 Q. During your time at St Joseph's, did you have any  
12 concerns about Brother AKV behaviour or  
13 interactions with the boys?

14 A. I can't say I really did, but he was a very flamboyant  
15 character and he spent, I think it was a year, maybe two  
16 years, in [REDACTED]. He was living a very, very kind of  
17 wealthy lifestyle there. And that was the thing that  
18 always struck me, that he always seemed to have the  
19 latest gadgets and all this kind of thing, which he  
20 certainly didn't get from the brothers, he must have  
21 been getting it from someone else. I don't know. Later  
22 on I could tell you the whole story about him after  
23 he was [REDACTED] you know.

24 Q. And we might look at some of that.

25 You say in your statement at paragraph 129 that:

1 "In hindsight, [you] question his motives."

2 I think that's in relation to his involvement in the  
3 activities. And:

4 "[You] suspect that he was doing that for his own  
5 purposes."

6 A. Yes. I've written that because certainly at the time  
7 there was nothing untoward that I knew of happening. It  
8 was only later I heard about what he did do.

9 Q. Did there come a time when he left St Joseph's for  
10 a period while you were there?

11 A. Yes, he left St Joseph's. He disappeared from  
12 St Joseph's. The last we heard was he was in [REDACTED] and  
13 I was asked to go out to [REDACTED] and get him to sign  
14 what's called a dispensation -- because there's always  
15 a worry when a brother leaves. He has taken three vows,  
16 similar to marriage, and they can't just go off and  
17 marry someone, so I was sent out to get him to sign  
18 that.

19 Q. So when he disappeared then, was that in around the  
20 mid-1980s? I think you say 1986 or 1987 or thereabouts.

21 A. It would be about then because I was teaching in Lawside  
22 by then.

23 Q. And you say he didn't leave a note or anything. Was it  
24 your understanding that nobody knew why he had left?

25 A. That was my understanding because he and I were very

1 close, we were good friends, not family friends, but  
2 good friends for many years, and we worked together in  
3 St Joe's, particularly with things like cricket.  
4 We were both keen on games and all that sort of thing.

5 Q. Who asked you to go to [REDACTED] to see him?

6 A. That was our Superior General in Rome. He sent me  
7 a letter with the form and said could I get it signed  
8 for him. He didn't know who else could do it.

9 Q. Were these forms which would allow him to leave the  
10 order?

11 A. Yes. These would make it legal so that he was legally  
12 no longer a Marist Brother, yes.

13 Q. When you went to Cyprus, did you ask him why he'd left  
14 St Joseph's?

15 A. No, he met me [REDACTED] and he had a car and drove  
16 us to a flat that he was staying in. We just talked  
17 about everything, you know, how things were in Glasgow,  
18 Dundee -- his parents were from Dundee -- all this kind  
19 of thing. But I never asked him why he was leaving,  
20 because it could have been anything, it could have  
21 been -- there have been occasions when a brother perhaps  
22 has fallen in love with someone and he asks for the  
23 dispensation. There were different things.

24 So it was a kind of private -- he didn't want to  
25 sign it at the beginning. It took me a while to get him

1 to sign it. I don't know why. You'd have thought he  
2 would have been happy just to sign it and get rid of me.  
3 I just don't know.

4 Q. So did you have to persuade him to sign the forms?

5 A. Yes. At the beginning, when I said to him, AKV ,  
6 just sign this and get it away, I'll take it with me",  
7 and he said, "Leave it with me", and in a couple of days  
8 I had to go back to him and say, "I'm going away today  
9 and I'm not going without the form."

10 Q. During those days did you get any indication from him as  
11 to why he had left St Joseph's?

12 A. No, none at all. He was just asking about everything  
13 and everyone, but he never mentioned why he had left.

14 Excuse me, can I just say at this point -- possibly  
15 you might mention it later on about the people that he  
16 knew [REDACTED].

17 Q. I'll come on to look at that in a few minutes.

18 I think there came a time, a few years after that,  
19 when you were teaching at Lawside Academy when the  
20 [REDACTED] came to see you; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that to speak to you in connection with  
23 Brother AKV ?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was that in the 1990s this happened?

1 A. That would have been in the 1990s, I'm sure, yes.

2 Q. And you tell us in your statement that was the first  
3 time you had heard about allegations of abuse involving  
4 Brother AKV ?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Is that something that shocked you at the time?

7 A. Oh absolutely, yes. It shocked everyone because that  
8 was the first time a lot of brothers certainly had even  
9 heard of sexual abuse, never mind that it would be one  
10 of the brothers.

11 Q. I think you're aware that Brother AKV was [REDACTED],  
12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED].

14 A. Yes, that's right. [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]

16 Q. You tell us that there came a time when [REDACTED]  
17 came to see you again in relation to Brother AKV ;  
18 is that right?

19 A. Yes. This is quite convoluted; is it worthwhile or will  
20 I just --

21 Q. Was it in relation to him [REDACTED] ?

22 A. Yes. That was what I was going to say, yes.

23 Q. So had Brother AKV been in [REDACTED] ?

24 A. Yes, he'd been [REDACTED] and I visited him  
25 very often, and by mistake -- at that time in Lawside

1 I was doing the charities and one of them was to send  
2 clothes to Romania, and I sent his clothes and his  
3 passport to Romania by mistake, because I had them  
4 in the garage. So all these clothes and his passport  
5 were all sent to Romania. I don't know what happened to  
6 them.

7 Q. Sorry, could you just -- why were they sent to Romania?

8 A. Sorry, it's just because --

9 LADY SMITH: This was in the course of the collections that  
10 were made for clothing and suchlike for children in  
11 Romania and adults in Romania?

12 A. That's it.

13 LADY SMITH: And you were doing a collection of such  
14 property?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: And you also were looking after some of  
17 AKV property, including his passport. Was  
18 it in a pocket or something?

19 A. Yes, he must have had it in one of them, yes, so that  
20 was it and they were all sent away. I'm sorry, I don't  
21 know why I mentioned that.

22 MS MACLEOD: So his passport was lost then in that process?

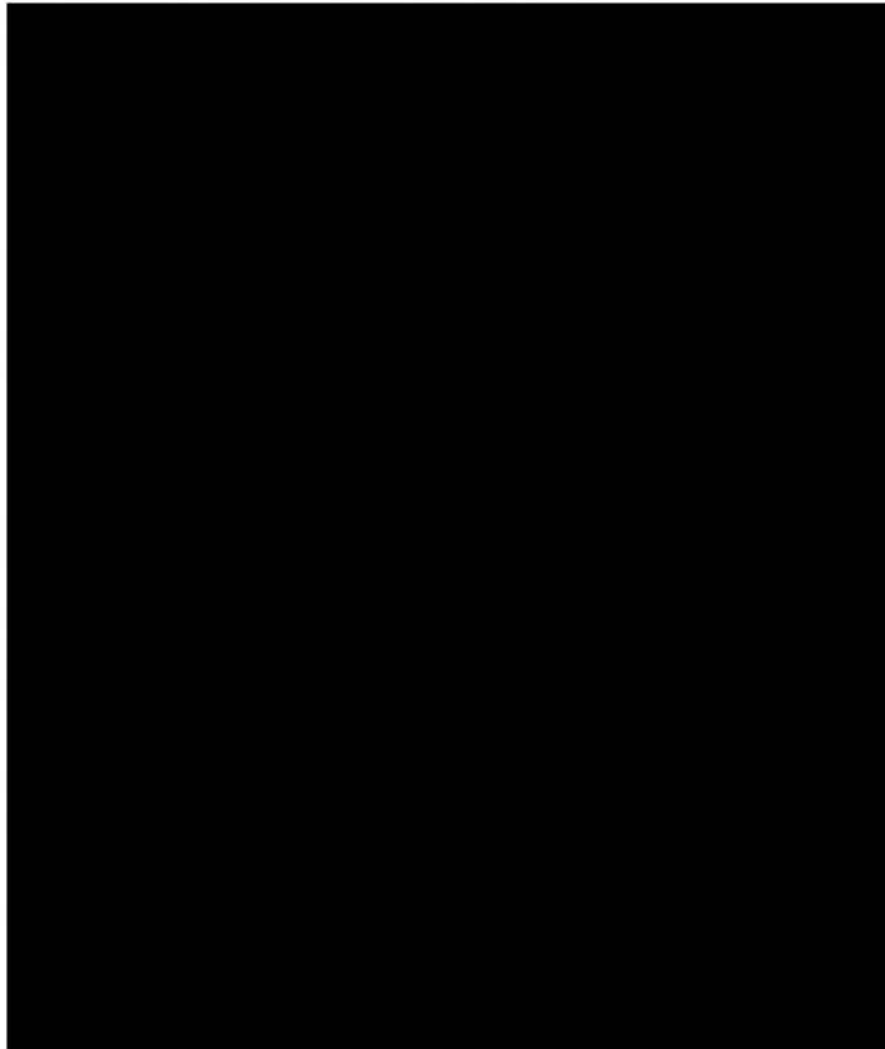
23 A. Yes.

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20 A. Yes. And of course, [REDACTED] came to see me, asking  
21 me had I seen him -- say it was a Wednesday -- and  
22 I said, "No, I haven't seen him", and I went round just  
23 to check and he had gone.  
24 MS MACLEOD: I think you do tell us in your statement in  
25 fact that he'd [REDACTED] from a different hostel in

1 Dundee when he'd been [REDACTED] in  
2 Perth.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Did you then go to the place he'd been staying in in  
5 Dundee to see if he was there?

6 A. Yes, sorry, that was the one I went to, to see if he was  
7 around still, because I expected him to be somewhere  
8 about because (a) he had no money and he had some  
9 clothes that he had had when he was [REDACTED] and  
10 basically that was it.

11 Q. Have you seen him since?

12 A. Have I seen him since? No. That sounds -- that's why  
13 I'm saying it's a bit convoluted because it appears that  
14 two of his friends [REDACTED] got him a new  
15 passport somehow or another, and took him out of the  
16 country as their gardener, their so-called gardener.

17 It caused -- there's no use going into this because  
18 it'll take hours, but there were so many people that  
19 were shocked and annoyed. They had all tried to help  
20 him, and he just disappeared and never came back to  
21 them.

22 Q. What's the source of that information you've just told  
23 me about the people [REDACTED] giving him the  
24 passport?

25 A. They gave him the passport. This is where I say it gets

1 a bit strange because there were quite a number of  
2 people involved. I found out later because the lady --  
3 they were both professors in the [REDACTED] University in  
4 [REDACTED] But she phoned me from [REDACTED] asking me  
5 would the brothers defray the expenses of him being in  
6 hospital and that he had died. But from there, it all  
7 just became hearsay or whatever.

8 And then -- sorry, I just heard, somebody told me  
9 last week or the week before [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED] My firm impression was that he had  
11 died in hospital.

12 Q. Who did you hear it from that people [REDACTED] had  
13 provided him with a passport? Who told you that?

14 A. Oh, right, who told me that? I think ... no, it's not  
15 him. Do you know what, I really don't know who told me.  
16 I can't think who told me. Because when I heard that,  
17 I told other people, other people, concerned people  
18 about it.

19 Q. The lady [REDACTED] who phoned you, when did you  
20 receive that phone call?

21 A. I was still in Lawside at the time, so it must have been  
22 in the 1990s, some time in the 1990s, and she was  
23 looking ... I just say to her, "Look, the brothers" --

24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] of money, which is something which  
2 the brothers just don't have now because there are so  
3 few of us and none of us are really teaching now, so  
4 we're sort of not sitting on piles of gold, you know.

5 If that comes back to me, I'll tell you as we're  
6 talking, the person.

7 Q. The lady who phoned you, did you understand there to be  
8 any connection between her and the people who'd provided  
9 the passport?

10 A. Well, I would imagine -- again, I'm just imagining  
11 it would have been herself and her husband. They were  
12 the two, they took him over. From what I've heard, they  
13 took him over, sort of looked after him, but then he  
14 fell ill and of course the hospital expenses, they were  
15 looking for the brothers to pay those.

16 Q. So when this person phoned you, you assumed she was one  
17 of those people?

18 A. Yes. Well -- sorry, yes, I certainly did think. I'm  
19 still convinced it was those two that would have done  
20 that. But it was very -- for him just to go away like  
21 that, that was all planned, obviously, and all well  
22 thought out. We never expected that at all.

23 Q. Did you try to contact him [REDACTED] ?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Why not?

1 A. Actually, just because I was so fed up with the fact  
2 that he had just disappeared and not even left a note or  
3 phoned, even just to say, "Look" -- even to say thanks  
4 to all the people that had helped him. You know, people  
5 had gone up to visit him, which is a long distance up to

6

7 Q. And you've told me you haven't seen him since he was in  
8 Dundee; have you heard from him?

9 A. No, not at all.

10

11

12

13 Q. So the lady who phoned you and said that he had died,  
14 did she say what had happened to him?

15 A. No, she just -- it sounds bad, but she did say that  
16 he had died, that he had contracted and  
17 died. We just then presumed that that was it, that  
18 he was dead.

19

20

21 Q. So are you then the source of him being dead? Are you  
22 the link between and people, people  
23 ?

24 A. "Link" is a bit strong. The only thing is that lady  
25 phoned me after he'd presumably left the country.

1 LADY SMITH: So this is a woman who told you she was phoning  
2 from [REDACTED]?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: She told you he was dead?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: You've mentioned that to other people?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Nobody else has told you that AKV [REDACTED] is  
9 dead?

10 A. No.

11 LADY SMITH: I think that's what we were trying to check.

12 Thank you.

13 I'm sorry if that sounds a little mathematical, but  
14 that does help.

15 A. Does that make sense?

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MS MACLEOD: You tell us, Brother Douglas, in your statement  
18 that you've been deeply saddened at the revelations  
19 in the press and media about abuse by Marist Brothers  
20 and other organisations; this is in paragraph 133 of  
21 your statement. It's something that has impacted  
22 seriously on you; is that right?

23 A. Yes. Absolutely, yes.

24 Q. You go on to say that it's affected you in relation to  
25 your own family.

1 A. Yes. It was very, very difficult for me for a long time  
2 to even pick up my nephews or my nieces when they were  
3 young. When they would crawl on my knee, I would sort  
4 of stiffen and just ... That went on -- it's still the  
5 same, actually.

6 Q. And I think you tell us that that's because of warnings  
7 that have come through from your safeguarding officers.

8 A. Yes. I had read everything when it was being put  
9 together. I just find it difficult to explain that, but  
10 it has had an impact on myself.

11 Q. You tell us that it's a terrible thing to feel that.

12 A. Oh absolutely, yes.

13 Q. You provide some information about the steps that  
14 Brother Ronnie McEwan and Brother Brendan Geary have  
15 taken within the order in relation to investigating  
16 allegations of abuse.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you say that Brother Ronnie McEwan was initially  
19 tasked with investigating the abuse and that he  
20 immediately wanted to sort things --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and meet with victims.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: I see you say:

25 "He told [you] that [you'd] send people for

1 counselling or treatment, but not give them any money";  
2 is that right?

3 A. I am saying that, but I am hoping that Brother Ronnie  
4 will explain --

5 LADY SMITH: I perfectly appreciate that. This is just what  
6 you remember him telling you; is that correct?

7 A. Yes, but that is the way I felt that he explained it to  
8 me.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 A. When he was talking about -- he himself does counselling  
11 in Glasgow, so that would have been ... It's been used  
12 several times, victims have used the opportunity to go  
13 for counselling there.

14 MS MACLEOD: Towards the end of your statement you tell us  
15 that you yourself have also been involved in  
16 contributing to the Marist safeguarding process --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and that you feel the order has done its best in that  
19 regard.

20 A. Absolutely. I seriously don't think they have ignored  
21 any problem that can be looked at. I think the openness  
22 is very good and that's why I find it -- the media have  
23 misrepresented it quite often.

24 Q. In terms of final thoughts you leave with the inquiry,  
25 you say that you're very proud of your order --



1 A. Yes, absolutely, yes.

2 Q. -- and that:

3 "[You] hope that survivors of abuse get the best  
4 possible outcome from the authorities and organisations  
5 responsible for their care."

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. In relation to records, finally, you tell us that the  
8 brothers are going to put all the Marist Brother records  
9 into the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh.

10 A. Yes, I think they may be in there already now, yes.

11 Q. At the very end of your statement, you say that you're  
12 happy to be given the opportunity to do this and you  
13 want to try and help the inquiry.

14 A. Oh yes.

15 Q. Finally, Brother Douglas, I'm sorry to go back to this,  
16 but I just want to ask you, in relation to the people  
17 you were in contact with [REDACTED], do you know the  
18 names of the lady who contacted you [REDACTED]?

19 A. I've looked through all my diaries and everything and  
20 I can't find any name at all. If the police were able  
21 to just check up the records of who was in the [REDACTED]  
22 University, they were both professors. I think the  
23 police could probably find it fairly easily.

24 LADY SMITH: Do you know what their subject was, what they  
25 were professors of?

1 A. No, they were just "the professors". As I say, I don't  
2 really know. That's really all I know. I am sorry, I'm  
3 being very vague. That's the best I know about it. I'm  
4 sure if they looked back, they could find it: a married  
5 couple who were professors in the [REDACTED] University.

6 MS MACLEOD: Was it on your landline that you got the call?

7 A. Yes, [REDACTED]. I don't live there anymore, but  
8 that's the phone number.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, Brother Douglas, for engaging with  
11 the inquiry and for answering my questions today.

12 My Lady, I'm not aware of any other questions to be  
13 put to Douglas.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding  
15 applications for questions? No.

16 Brother Douglas, that does complete all the  
17 questions we have for you. We're very grateful to you  
18 for having provided not just your written statement but  
19 the evidence that you've given us today, which has made  
20 that come to life and has elaborated on some of the  
21 things you've said there. It's all of great assistance  
22 to me in building the picture of what was happening in  
23 these Marist schools during the period you were there.

24 I'm sure it has been a tiring experience for you and  
25 I hope that you're able to go away and rest now and do

1           so knowing that we're very grateful for the good job  
2           you've done here. Thank you.

3           A. I'm very grateful to yourselves. It's been a less  
4           daunting experience than I expected.

5           LADY SMITH: I'm very pleased to hear that. Thank you.

6           A. Thanks very much.

7                               (The witness withdrew)

8           LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms MacLeod.

9           MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is ready, but it may  
10          be suitable to take a short break.

11          LADY SMITH: And we can re-organise the room, very well,  
12          I'll do that.

13          (2.45 pm)

14                               (A short break)

15          (2.55 pm)

16          LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

17          MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is to be anonymous  
18          and he wants to use the name "Robert" in giving  
19          evidence.

20                               "ROBERT" (sworn)

21          LADY SMITH: Robert, please sit down and make yourself  
22          comfortable.

23                  Before I hand over to Mr MacAulay, Robert, could  
24          I just say something to you that's important. Although  
25          this is a public inquiry and not a court case, whether

1           it's a Criminal Court case or a Civil Court case,  
2           you have every right not to incriminate yourself here in  
3           the same way as you would have a right not to  
4           incriminate yourself in court.

5           That, of course, means that if you're asked any  
6           questions about child abuse, that being our subject  
7           matter here, you are not obliged to answer any that are  
8           about whether or not you engaged in such abuse. Does  
9           that make sense to you?

10          A. Yes.

11          LADY SMITH: If you have any doubts about that at any time,  
12                please do ask, because it's important that you  
13                understand the proceedings are being recorded and  
14                transcripts are made of every witness's evidence, so  
15                there would be available, if required, a record of  
16                everything you said today.

17               A small practical point is you'll see the red light  
18               on the microphone. Try and stay in a good position for  
19               that, please. Otherwise, if you're ready and  
20               comfortable, I'll pass over to Mr MacAulay.

21                       Questions from MR MacAULAY

22          MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Robert.

23               In the red folder in fact you'll find your principal  
24               statement and also a supplementary statement that you  
25               provided to the inquiry. Let's look, first of all, at

1 the principal statement. The reference for that for the  
2 transcript is WIT.001.002.6883.

3 Can you turn to the final page of the statement?  
4 You'll find that at 6898. Can you confirm you have  
5 signed it?

6 A. Yes, I have.

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

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

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And also you go on to say you believe the facts stated  
12 in the statement are true?

13 A. Yes, I do.

14 Q. The supplementary statement should also be there. The  
15 reference for that -- it should be after the main  
16 statement. The reference for that is WIT.001.002.9441.

17 It's just a two-page statement, but again can you  
18 turn to the last page and confirm you have signed it?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. Again, do you make the same comments that you have no  
21 objection to the statement being published and the facts  
22 stated in it are true?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. I don't require to ask you for your date of birth  
25 because you want to retain your anonymity. To get

1 a time frame, can you confirm for me that you were born  
2 in 1947?

3 A. Yes, I was.

4 Q. In your statement, you provide some background and, in  
5 particular, how you came to be inspired to join the  
6 Marist order.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think we've already heard from other witnesses that  
9 a Brother Vincent seemed to have particularly persuasive  
10 abilities because it was a Brother Vincent that I think  
11 inspired you to consider joining the Marist order.

12 A. Yes, he came to the school and gave us a talk on the  
13 Marist Brothers.

14 Q. Following upon that, did you go to the juniorate school  
15 at Hetland House near Dumfries?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. And you tell us that was in [REDACTED] 1959; is that  
18 right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Thereafter, you I think spent time in Spain and also at  
21 Kinharvie House, and again that's in Dumfriesshire, for  
22 about a year or so; is that right?

23 A. I spent four years in Hetland House, two years doing my  
24 novitiate in Spain, and a further year, when I returned,  
25 in Kinharvie.

1 Q. When you were at Kinharvie, did you, as a pupil, attend  
2 St Joseph's College in Dumfries?

3 A. I attended St Joseph's for some classes, yes.

4 Q. Was to do your Highers, effectively?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Thereafter, did you or were you sent, rather, to  
7 St Columba's School in Largs?

8 A. I was sent there, yes, in [REDACTED] 1966.

9 Q. And according to my calculations, you would be about 19  
10 at the time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. At that time were you a novice within the order?

13 A. No, I was a brother with temporary vows.

14 Q. But just looking to your age and your track record by  
15 then, clearly you had no training or experience so far  
16 as caring for children was concerned; is that right?

17 A. No, none.

18 Q. Do you know why you were sent at such a young age?

19 A. I think the idea was to, first of all, give you the  
20 opportunity to experience community life. Up until  
21 then, all my time had been spent with children, with  
22 people of my own age in the novitiate and studying in  
23 Kinharvie, and perhaps it was to introduce me to being  
24 in a community, a mixed community where there were  
25 different ages of brothers, and also perhaps to

1 introduce me very gently into the world of teaching.

2 Q. Was that your role when you went to St Columba's, was it  
3 as a teacher that you went there?

4 A. It was as a classroom teacher, yes.

5 Q. So just looking at the set-up with regard to  
6 accommodation, does that mean that you were housed in  
7 a building separate from where the dormitory areas were?

8 A. The classrooms were on the ground floor of the building.  
9 I think there were three classrooms and I was in one of  
10 them. But my accommodation was in a separate -- kind of  
11 an outbuilding.

12 Q. Was that known as the annex?

13 A. I can't remember what it was called, but it was an  
14 outbuilding to the side of the main building.

15 Q. Then when you went there, and it is the case, and we'll  
16 look at it very shortly, you were only there for about  
17 nine months or so; is that right?

18 A. Yes, until [REDACTED] 1967.

19 Q. When you went there then, who were the other brothers  
20 that were there when you went there?

21 A. From what I can remember, Brother MJD was the SNR  
22 of the house, Brother MLA was there,  
23 Brother Germanus, and a retired brother,  
24 Brother MFN, and myself. So as far as I can  
25 remember, that was the community.



1 Q. So there's three, as it were, working brothers, one  
2 retired brother, and yourself?

3 A. Yes, five.

4 Q. Brother Germanus who you mentioned, did he have any  
5 teaching responsibilities?

6 A. Not as far as I remember.

7 Q. What did you understand his position to be?

8 A. His position was, I thought, to look after the children  
9 outwith the classrooms, at lunchtime, break time,  
10 perhaps in the evening, looking after and putting  
11 children to bed, getting them up, areas other than  
12 school.

13 Q. So far as the children were concerned, what was the age  
14 range during your time, 1966 to 1967?

15 A. It was primary school, so up to 12, and there were very  
16 young children, maybe 6, aged 6 or 7, up to 12.

17 Q. So quite an age range over the piece?

18 A. A normal primary school range.

19 Q. And do I take it then from what you have said, really it  
20 was Brother MJD, who was the SNR,  
21 Brother MLA and yourself who bore the brunt of the  
22 teaching?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Outside the classroom then, Robert, did you have much  
25 contact with the children?

1       A. I could spend some of the evening time and I perhaps  
2       spent some of their spare time -- if they were over  
3       in the playing field across the road, then if I had  
4       nothing else to do I would go over and join the brother  
5       who was there with them and watch what they were doing,  
6       maybe join in the activities, if possible. So I'd have  
7       spent some free time or leisure time, maybe, with the  
8       children, but not in charge of them, simply joining  
9       them.

10      Q. And so far as the dormitories areas were concerned, did  
11      you have any cause to go into that part of the building?

12      A. Not that I remember, no.

13      Q. You do provide us in your statement with some  
14      information about the routine and life at St Columba's,  
15      beginning at paragraph 34, and I'll just pick up on  
16      a number of points.

17             At paragraph 56, I think it is, you tell us that you  
18      don't recall any official inspections of the school;  
19      is that correct?

20      A. That's correct.

21      Q. You go on to talk about discipline. Can I just ask you  
22      about that? First of all, what instructions, if any,  
23      were you given when you went there, first of all,  
24      in relation to how discipline was to be managed?

25      A. I was told that if I had any concerns or any problems

1 with discipline, I was to speak to Brother MLA, who  
2 was the teacher next door to me. That was the  
3 instruction I was given.

4 Q. Then do I take it from that that you yourself were not  
5 involved in any way in, for example, any corporal  
6 punishment of the children?

7 A. I don't remember any corporal punishment in the school  
8 and I certainly didn't give any corporal punishment when  
9 I was there.

10 Q. So far as the children themselves were concerned, you've  
11 told us about the age range, but were you provided with  
12 any other information about the background of the  
13 children and where they may have come from?

14 A. No, the only child I was given background information on  
15 was one who joined us, who was ill, and he joined my  
16 class perhaps a few months after I was there. But  
17 he was a very ill boy and I was given some background as  
18 to his illness. Other than that, no.

19 Q. I think what happened was that you wanted to go to  
20 Glasgow University after you'd spent your year at  
21 St Columba's; is that correct?

22 A. I expected to go to university after I'd got my Highers  
23 from Kinharvie, so I was quite surprised to be sent to  
24 Largs in the first place, and I had assumed that  
25 it would just be for a year and then I would then be

1           able to go to university and teacher training college.

2       Q. But what happened when you had done your year at  
3       St Columba's?

4       A. In an interview with the provincial, he suggested that  
5       he might like me to do another year at St Columba's.

6       Q. And what was your reaction to that?

7       A. I had expected to be going to university and during my  
8       year in Largs I'd been -- it was suggested to me that  
9       I take a correspondence course and do some studying to  
10      keep that routine of study going. I couldn't do that,  
11      I couldn't study on my own, I wanted to be in a place  
12      where studying was what most people were doing and  
13      therefore I would be motivated and continue doing it.  
14      So after a long discussion, I decided to leave and apply  
15      for university.

16      Q. And when you say leave, you mean leave the order?

17      A. Yes.

18      Q. And by then, what would you be, perhaps, 19, 20, that  
19      sort of age?

20      A. I was 19.

21      Q. Can I just ask you about one or two brothers, perhaps in  
22      particular Brother Germanus. Did you spend any time at  
23      all working with Brother Germanus?

24      A. I would perhaps have spent some of the boys' free time  
25      at night. If there were activities out in the field,

1           and he was there, I would be there with him, but  
2           I didn't work specifically with him in any particular  
3           tasks.

4       Q.   To any extent that you were exposed to him interacting  
5           with the children, how did you see that interaction?

6       A.   I had no concerns at all about the way he interacted  
7           with them. Any time I saw him, there were no concerns  
8           on my part.

9       Q.   You tell us in your statement:

10                "There was never at any point in time any alarm  
11           bells ringing in relation to anything being wrong from  
12           the point of view of abuse and so on."

13       A.   No.

14       Q.   Was it after you left, and indeed much more recently,  
15           that you learned that there were the allegations of  
16           abuse being made?

17       A.   It was when I read the evidence of Brother Brendan,  
18           I think it was 2017, in the summer of 2017, when he made  
19           the statement and in the statement he said that there  
20           had been six -- I think it was six -- allegations of  
21           abuse of some kind at St Columba's. That was the first  
22           I'd heard of any hint that there had been anything of  
23           that nature going on at St Columba's.

24       Q.   What was your reaction to that?

25       A.   I was very, very surprised and shocked because, as

1 I say, when I was there, there was no evidence of  
2 anything.

3 Q. I think you are aware, Robert, that indeed one of the  
4 principal reasons that you have been called upon to give  
5 evidence, in fairness to yourself, is that an allegation  
6 has been made against you during your time at  
7 St Columba's. You've been made aware of that?

8 A. I have been made aware of that on 26 September this  
9 year.

10 Q. And it was that particular issue that you have addressed  
11 in your supplementary statement?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Before I look at the allegation, if I could ask you to  
14 turn to the very front of the folder. You'll find there  
15 a document that sets out the name of a person and also  
16 a pseudonym that he has been given because we don't want  
17 to disclose the name.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I think the pseudonym that has been given is  
20 "Francis"; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you recognise the name itself?

23 A. No, I do not recognise it.

24 Q. There doesn't appear to be any doubt that this  
25 particular boy, Francis, was a pupil at St Columba's

1 from 1966 to 1967, although I fully accept you don't  
2 remember the name.

3 You have set out in your supplementary statement, at  
4 paragraph 4, the allegation that this boy has made.  
5 Just to look at that, what he said was in his statement:

6 "I was sexually abused one night by [you] ..."

7 We'll say "Robert" for a moment:

8 "... when I was in a bigger dormitory."

9 And he goes on to provide some sort of description.

10 Then he said that, moving on to the next page, that:

11 "[You] stood by my bed, I was lying on my stomach,  
12 and he lay on top of my back with his face close to my  
13 face, then he put his hand down my pants, on to my penis  
14 and fondled it. I cannot recall precisely how long it  
15 lasted but it was not for very long. He then said,  
16 'I'll be back and he left.' Luckily for me, for  
17 whatever reason, that was the extent of it and he never  
18 came back."

19 That's the allegation. What is your response to  
20 that?

21 A. That it didn't happen and I did not sexually assault any  
22 pupil in my time at St Columba's.

23 Q. At the time, would you have been the youngest brother  
24 at the school?

25 A. Yes, I was.

1 Q. By much? Was there much of a difference between  
2 yourself and the next older?

3 A. Yes, there would be a fair difference. They were all  
4 perpetually professed, so they had been in the order  
5 much longer than me.

6 Q. You've already told us what your reaction was when you  
7 heard about the allegation. I think you said it was one  
8 of shock and surprise. You were surprised --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- at the allegation?

11 Just looking to your own life after St Columba's,  
12 I think I'm right in saying that you spent a long career  
13 in teaching; is that correct?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. And that involved and has involved safeguarding as well?

16 A. Yes. I've been a guidance teacher since 1976 until  
17 I retired in 2007.

18 Q. So you're now retired?

19 A. I'm now retired, yes.

20 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Robert. These are all the  
21 questions I have for you today. Thank you for coming  
22 along and answering these questions and engaging with  
23 the inquiry.

24 My Lady, I haven't received any other questions to  
25 put to Robert.



1 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
2 questions? No.

3 Robert, that does complete all the questions we have  
4 for you. Thank you very much for helping us in the way  
5 you have done with your statements and also coming along  
6 here today. I know it has been a short period of  
7 evidence, but it's still of great value to us to have  
8 heard from you in person, so thank you very much for  
9 that. I'm now able to let you go.

10 (The witness withdrew)

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we do have time to have a read-in.

13 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. Whenever Ms MacLeod's ready.

14 Witness statement of "JAMES" (read)

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a witness statement of an  
16 applicant who will remain anonymous and the name "James"  
17 will be used in reading out the statement. The  
18 statement can be found at WIT.001.001.9439:

19 "My name is James. I was born in 1967. My contact  
20 details are known to the inquiry.

21 "My family home was in Renfrew. I had a [REDACTED] sister  
22 and a brother who was four years older than me.

23 "My father had an affair and my mum had a nervous  
24 breakdown. She was incapacitated and she couldn't look  
25 after us. She was in hospital for three months. She

1 had to be sedated for three days as well. I think she  
2 was just in shock.

3 "I remember travelling to school in the car with my  
4 brother and sister. We were going to a normal school,  
5 but then we found out the bad news. My mum was in  
6 hospital and my dad was driving the car. My dad told us  
7 that this would be the last day that we attended our  
8 primary school.

9 "I think my dad had a picture in his mind that he  
10 wanted to send us to boarding school to get the best  
11 education. My sister was a great singer. My dad wanted  
12 my sister to go into music and my brother and me to  
13 become airline pilots. My dad took all three of us  
14 down to the school in Girvan and dropped us off there.  
15 I was about 5 and a half years old. From there,  
16 everything just started to spiral downhill."

17 My Lady, between paragraphs 8 and 44 of the  
18 statement, James speaks about his time at St Joseph's  
19 Convent School in Girvan, a school run by the Sisters of  
20 Cluny. The witness says he was there from about the age  
21 of about five and a half to 8 years old. [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]

24 I will move on to paragraph 45 where I'll pick up  
25 the statement again:

1            "We found out that the school was shutting down  
2            after we'd been there for two and a half years. The  
3            nuns told my parents it was closing because it was too  
4            expensive to run. My parents had a discussion with the  
5            nuns about where we should go next. They followed the  
6            nuns' advice.

7            "My brother was a bit older than me. He was sent to  
8            St Joseph's in Dumfries. My sister was sent to another  
9            school. I was sent to St Columba's in Largs.

10           "I don't think any of the pupils from St Joseph's  
11           went to St Columba's. I think it was closed at the end  
12           of the term, maybe around Easter time.

13           "St Columba's was run by the Marist Brothers. They  
14           wore white collars over a habit. It was a school for  
15           boys just outside Largs as you headed towards  
16           Wemyss Bay.

17           "There was a building where boarders stayed called  
18           the Landour and a second building called the north  
19           building where we got our education. There was a pitch  
20           across the road from the school where we played  
21           football. The pitch was all rocky. It had goalposts at  
22           either end. Just further on from there was the seaside.

23           "There were day pupils as well as boarders. I think  
24           about 60% to 65% of the pupils at St Columba's were from  
25           Italian families. I think it went up to Primary Seven

1 and then pupils were prepared to go to St Joseph's in  
2 Dumfries where my brother went.

3 "Brother David Germanus was one of the brothers who  
4 taught in the school. He was in charge of my dormitory  
5 and a number of the other rooms. I'm pretty sure he  
6 said he was the same age as my mum, which was about 40  
7 at the time.

8 "After Brother [REDACTED], Brother AKU  
9 was SNR [REDACTED]. At different points Brother [REDACTED],  
10 Brother MJZ [REDACTED] and Brother MNQ [REDACTED] were also SNR  
11 SNR [REDACTED]. It's hard to remember the ages of the brothers  
12 because I was so young at the time. Brother MJZ [REDACTED] was  
13 quite young. AKU [REDACTED] was one of the youngest  
14 brothers apart from a [REDACTED] teacher called  
15 Brother MFU [REDACTED].

16 "My first day at school was spent getting organised  
17 and getting all my stuff together. I was shown my bed  
18 and introduced to some of the brothers. I was  
19 introduced to Brother MFW [REDACTED], Brother Nilus,  
20 Brother MLA [REDACTED] and Brother Germanus."

21 In paragraphs 52 to 54 the witness gives evidence  
22 in relation to mornings and bedtimes, and also  
23 mealtimes. I'll read on from paragraph 55:

24 "We did a general wash at night. We washed our face  
25 and brushed our teeth before we went to bed. Sometimes

1 we had a shower in the morning but more often in the  
2 evening. Brother Germanus and a couple of other  
3 brothers were always waiting ready to dry us with  
4 a towel. We could dry ourselves. It wasn't a thing we  
5 wanted.

6 "I had plimsolls that were too small for me. I'd  
7 had them since primary school. Everybody was looking at  
8 me because everybody else had shoes that fitted them."

9 Moving on now to paragraph 59:

10 "When I was at school, I was taught by the [REDACTED]  
11 brother, Brother MFU [REDACTED]. He taught us italic writing.  
12 I remember he taught us a sentence that used all the  
13 letters of the alphabet: the quick brown fox jumped over  
14 the lazy dog. We had to write it in italics. I enjoyed  
15 doing that but I didn't enjoy him hitting us over the  
16 knuckles with a ruler when we got something wrong."

17 Moving on to paragraph 61:

18 "Brother Germanus started to abuse me not long after  
19 I arrived at the school. He used to come round to my  
20 bed at night-time. Because of his abuse, my schoolwork  
21 started to deteriorate. I found it really hard to focus  
22 in the way that I should have been. My reading started  
23 to go downhill.

24 "Usually we had the evenings to ourselves. I had  
25 a friend from outside of the school who used to give me

1 Commando comics. There was always a picture of  
2 a military figure on the front. I really liked all  
3 these comics, but Brother Germanus took them off me.

4 "I was good at football. My brother told my mum.  
5 Before I knew it I had Celtic Boys' Club and  
6 Greenock Morton coming to scout me. I played on the  
7 rocky pitch with plimsolls half the size of my feet.  
8 I was scoring goals from the halfway line.

9 "The brothers got to know about it and one day there  
10 was a chap at the door and two guys from Largs Waverley  
11 Football Club asked me to come and play for their team.  
12 The whole school came too watch me play at the Largs  
13 Waverley ground, which was near the swimming pool. It  
14 was a big deal, but I didn't play very well on the night  
15 because I was getting abused.

16 "We used to go out on walks. We would walk along  
17 the pier at Largs. I remember that Brother Germanus  
18 would nip over to Oddbins or Haddows and he would come  
19 back over with a brown paper bag in his pocket. He must  
20 have been away getting a bottle.

21 "Brother MFY [REDACTED] used to take us to the  
22 swimming pool."

23 Moving on to paragraph 66:

24 "There were younger boys in the dormitories next to  
25 mine. Coming from a school where I had been abused,

1 I preferred to play with the younger boys. I was very  
2 vulnerable and I didn't want to play with older boys.

3 "I played with two boys who were about a year  
4 younger than me. At the time there was a programme on  
5 television called 'The Professionals: CI5'. I used to  
6 love it."

7 Moving on to paragraph 69:

8 "We went to Dumfries for Brother Nilus' funeral. We  
9 thought it was amazing because we were getting a day  
10 out. We were going to a funeral so we were told to be  
11 serious.

12 "The other trip was when I went to Dunoon for  
13 Aldo Moroni's funeral. I remember Aldo's mum and sister  
14 being there. I'm pretty sure MFZ was at the  
15 funeral."

16 Moving on to paragraph 73:

17 "My parents were unable to come and visit on my  
18 birthday one year, so they gave my present to  
19 Brother MJZ to carry on the bus. I was wondering  
20 what it was because it was quite a large box and it was  
21 oval in the middle. It was a machine gun, helmet and  
22 a strap with grenades and a pistol. The present was  
23 wrapped in brown paper and given to me in the kitchen.  
24 It was one of the happiest days of my life getting that.

25 "My dad used to tell me stories about the war and



1           what happened to him when he was a wee boy. I used to  
2           relate to some of the sad moments and tell the boys at  
3           school about me. Brother Germanus took the machine gun  
4           off me."

5           Moving on to paragraph 80:

6           "My parents didn't visit very often. I think my dad  
7           came up with his [REDACTED] and gave out [REDACTED] on  
8           one occasion. Brother Germanus wasn't happy about that.  
9           He didn't like Italians. He used to say to me, 'You're  
10          nothing but an Italian bastard'.

11          "Mostly, I spent the term time at St Columba's and  
12          only went home in the holidays. However, Brother [REDACTED] MJZ  
13          used to take me home for breaks at weekends when he  
14          found out what was happening to me. Every year I cried  
15          and said I didn't want to go back to school at the end  
16          of the holidays.

17          "I don't remember any formal inspections of the  
18          school. Things did start to change a bit when  
19          Brother Arthur arrived in school. Brother Germanus was  
20          frightened of Brother Arthur. I think he became  
21          housemaster and headmaster."

22          Moving on to paragraph 85:

23          "Brother [REDACTED] MFU would come round the class with  
24          a metal ruler. If we made a mistake, he would hit us  
25          over the knuckles with the ruler. It was really, really



1 sore and we would burst into tears.

2 "Brother MJZ was quite physically abusive as  
3 well. He was all right, but when he gave you a doing,  
4 he really gave you a doing. He would use his hands.  
5 We would get beaten up if we didn't make our beds  
6 properly.

7 "Brother Germanus was the most horrible man I've  
8 ever met in my life. He used to call me an Italian  
9 bastard. He battered everybody. He would often take us  
10 to punishment rooms and beat us after we woke up in the  
11 morning. There would be no reason for it. It might  
12 have been because he was hungover or because he felt  
13 guilty about what he had done the night before.

14 "Everybody walked around with bleeding noses. We  
15 just thought that was normal. It was the way life was  
16 and we got used to it.

17 "Brother Germanus would punch us. He was supposed  
18 to have been a boxer when he was younger. He used to do  
19 all these funny boxing moves and then all of a sudden  
20 hit one of us on the nose. He would take us into rooms  
21 and batter us. He would really punch the living  
22 daylights out of us. He loved the cane. He would hit  
23 us for no reason at all. So could Brother AKU.

24 "On one occasion, Celtic were playing Rangers. We  
25 were all asked to pick a player out of a hat. I got a

1           player called Tom Forsyth, who was a Rangers defender.  
2           I had always supported Celtic, but I was supporting  
3           Tom Forsyth that day because I wanted to win the prize.  
4           I knew he was a defender, so he was never going to  
5           score. Another boy started fighting with me because  
6           I was supporting Rangers; we were pulling each other's  
7           hair.

8                 "Brother Germanus heard about the fight, he came in  
9           and dragged me out of the room. He pulled me down on to  
10          the floor. He was trying to choke me. I grabbed his  
11          collar. It must have had a staple inside it and I cut  
12          my hand. A boy came round me and pulled Germanus off  
13          me. Germanus started fighting with the boy.

14                "From then on people looked up to me in the school.  
15          Before that happened they used to tell me to stick up  
16          for myself.

17                "My dad used to severely discipline us for missing  
18          behaving. It never did me any harm. I could take it  
19          from my dad but I didn't want to take it from these  
20          people.

21                "There was a boy who stayed in the same room as me.  
22          I remember he was called in to Brother Germanus' room,  
23          which was on the first floor of the boarding school.  
24          The boy came running back in. He wouldn't tell anybody  
25          what happened to him. Eventually he told us that

1 Brother Germanus took his dressing gown off and he was  
2 naked. He put his penis in between the boy's legs.

3 "Brother Germanus would always come in when I was  
4 having a shower. He'd be waiting ready to dry me. He  
5 used to do something to me that he called 'his little  
6 secret'. He used to put his hands over my face to  
7 distract me from what he was doing to my genitals. He  
8 would try and masturbate me. He also tried to have  
9 intercourse with me and he raped me.

10 "I remember Brother Germanus wanted us all to do  
11 breathing exercises naked. There was a window at the  
12 front of the dormitory. He would pull all the beds  
13 together and try and get all of us into the bed naked.  
14 I think other brothers were there as well.

15 Brother [AKU] was there. I wouldn't get into the bed.  
16 I remember one particular boy being in the bed and I am  
17 pretty sure another boy was in the bed as well along  
18 with some other boys.

19 "Brother Germanus was touching the boys. I went out  
20 of the room. I didn't know whether it was right or  
21 wrong because I was so used to getting abused myself.

22 "Brother Germanus was abusing me all the time. On  
23 one evening he was abusing me in the bed and  
24 Brother [MJZ] came in and told him to stop. He carried  
25 me downstairs. He was quite a big strong man. He sat

1 me in the kitchen area and said, 'I'll tell your mum and  
2 dad about this, don't worry about this.' Germanus came  
3 down after him. The two of them were having  
4 a full-scale argument by the door. Germanus was smoking  
5 a pipe. Brother MJZ said, 'You know you're not  
6 allowed to smoke your pipe inside the school building,  
7 go outside, you're just drunk, you've been drinking too  
8 much, and leave James alone.'

9 "I remember Brother Germanus saying to me he was  
10 going to Canada. I remember that because my uncle was  
11 going to emigrate to Montreal around that time. I told  
12 him my uncle was emigrating and he said, 'I'm going to  
13 Canada for a holiday.' When he came back, I remember  
14 him talking to the brothers. They asked how he was  
15 feeling and he said, 'I'm feeling a lot, lot better.'  
16 It wasn't a response as if he had had a holiday. He  
17 just wasn't a well man.

18 "Some nights we would be prepared to go over to the  
19 educational building. I think it was an older pupil who  
20 got us organised to go over. We were taken over there  
21 in our dressing gowns. It was very early in the  
22 morning. It was misty and cold and I was chattering.  
23 I was going over there to get abused. Some  
24 Marist Brothers who weren't allowed on our side of  
25 school stayed in rooms in that building. They were all

1 drunk.

2 "There was a lounge area. I can remember going  
3 there on my own once, but usually there were two of us.  
4 I can count on more than one hand the number of times  
5 I was taken over there. It happened to me between the  
6 ages of 8 and 11.

7 "I used to wake up every morning with my pyjamas at  
8 my ankles. I was terrified to bring them back up.  
9 I was in shock because I didn't know what had happened  
10 to me the night before.

11 "I was easily distracted at school because of all  
12 that was going on with Brother Germanus. I wasn't  
13 studying the way I should have been. Brother MFW took  
14 me into a room after my reading started to go downhill.  
15 It was about a year after I started St Columba's.

16 "I'm sure a boy was in the same room along with  
17 a another couple of boys. Brother MFW pulled a seat  
18 right beside me and started touching my genitals.  
19 I tried to take his hand away.

20 "Brother MFU was the youngest brother. He was  
21 very abusive towards us. He used to try and teach us  
22 [REDACTED]. He would bring us to the front of the class  
23 and I remember his hands going down the front and down  
24 the back of us. He would do it with certain boys at  
25 certain times in front of the class. It happened to me.

1           "Brother MFY [REDACTED] used to take us swimming. He  
2 would meet up with the parish priest from [REDACTED] there.  
3 His name was Father APL [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED] He was the parish priest for  
5 St Columba's and he used to meet up with  
6 Brother MFY [REDACTED] Things used to go on in the spectating  
7 area upstairs. I didn't see much because I was down  
8 swimming. When I was ready and my hair was wet, I went  
9 upstairs and they'd be talking to each other. I think  
10 things were done to other pupils.

11           "I remember Brother MFY [REDACTED] and Father APL [REDACTED]  
12 had a Polaroid camera and they would take pictures from  
13 the spectating area of the boys swimming. I think they  
14 might have taken photographs of the boys inside the  
15 changing room as well.

16           "I remember the priest being very verbally abusive  
17 towards boys but I never saw any acts of a sexual  
18 nature.

19           "I remember playing billiards on a snooker table.  
20 Brother AKU [REDACTED] would come into the room and put the  
21 cue right up the back of me. My friend was there once.  
22 A boy was hiding under the table when he had tried to  
23 put the cue into me and my friend and we both managed to  
24 run away.

25           "Brother AKU [REDACTED] would make us watch horror



1 movies, like The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Frankenstein  
2 and Dracula. He would masturbate in front of us in the  
3 same room. Just before ejaculation, he would run out of  
4 the room. He would call us up to his bedroom upstairs.  
5 He would touch us and get us close. The films were to  
6 put fear into us to get us close.

7 "He would also give me wee bottles of juice and  
8 Cadbury's chocolates from a machine. He would have two  
9 or three of us on top of his bed where he would touch  
10 our legs and try to masturbate us.

11 "When Aldo Moroni was dropped off at school by his  
12 stepfather, Brother Germanus and the stepfather told all  
13 the boys that they were allowed to hit him because  
14 he was a bad boy. We were told we were allowed to hit  
15 him but not too hard.

16 "I also remember Aldo's stepfather being in bed with  
17 Brother Germanus and Aldo. I saw Aldo's head popping up  
18 over the covers. I'm also 100% certain that  
19 I recognised Aldo's stepfather and that he was  
20 MFZ. I also saw a lady that I'm sure was  
21 LZS at the school and that she was Aldo's  
22 mother.

23 "I remember the most terrible thing happened. I was  
24 standing on the stairs. Two other boys were further up  
25 the stairs, creeping up as if they had guns on them.

1           The were pretending to be The Professionals, CI5; I was  
2           being the governor.

3           "The other boys told me that Aldo Moroni was in  
4           a room upstairs being battered by Germanus. I didn't  
5           see that happen but I could hear Aldo screaming and  
6           I saw Brother Germanus come out of the same room.

7           "As I stood down the stairs I heard shouting. I'm  
8           sure Brother MJZ had to pull Brother Germanus  
9           off Aldo. I didn't see that happen, I just heard them  
10          bawling and shouting at each other. I remember a doctor  
11          wearing a grey suit and carrying a doctor's bag walking  
12          past me on the stairs. I remember seeing him walk back  
13          down the stairs to leave, shaking his head.

14          "I was curious to know what was going on. I went to  
15          the boys' toilets. They were covered in blood. There  
16          was blood in the toilet and drops all over the floor.  
17          I ran the water and watched the blood disintegrate into  
18          the drain. I never saw Aldo again. He died two days  
19          later. They told us that he did of natural causes.  
20          I went to his funeral in Dunoon.

21          "One night we were all down at the shore. We were  
22          killing crabs. I think we were all angry and upset.  
23          We were putting boulders on the poor little creatures.  
24          To this day, I wish I hadn't done that but I was only a  
25          young boy. I hate to kill anything.



1           "I said to some of the boys that we really needed  
2           some help. We found a bottle. A boy pulled a pen out  
3           of his pocket and I suggested that we write a message.  
4           He asked me what I wanted to write and I said, 'Help  
5           me.' I put it inside the bottle, put the lid back on,  
6           and away it went.

7           "Three or four days later, the police came up to the  
8           school. They said the bottle had been found by an old  
9           couple. They asked if the kids were okay. The police  
10          were concerned at that point.

11          "Once we were all walking from the school to the  
12          amusement arcade in Largs. We bumped into my uncle and  
13          auntie, who were with my mum's close friends. My uncle  
14          spoke to me. I was shocked and I didn't know what to  
15          do. I just stood there for about two minutes. I never  
16          said a word. Germanus was saying, 'Your uncle is trying  
17          to speak to you, are you not going to speak back to  
18          him?' After that, every day for about six weeks,  
19          Brother Germanus would point at me in the prayer room,  
20          intimidating me in front of everybody. He was telling  
21          me not to say anything about what he was doing to me.

22          "My uncle had recognised that there was something  
23          wrong. When I came home one year for the holidays he  
24          said to me, 'What are those monks doing to you? Are  
25          they being aggressive? Is there anybody you don't like

1           there?' You told him I didn't like Brother Germanus and  
2           some of the other brothers. He asked what  
3           Brother Germanus did to me. I told him that he battered  
4           me. I didn't tell him about the sexual abuse. I was  
5           too frightened. Brother Germanus told me that was our  
6           secret and that if I told anybody I wouldn't go to  
7           heaven. I believed God wouldn't take me up to heaven if  
8           I told anybody about what Brother Germanus and other  
9           people had been doing.

10                 "My uncle wanted to kill Germanus. He told my dad  
11           not to send me back to the school because I was crying  
12           every time I had to go back. My uncle was quite  
13           hotheaded. He came down to the school with my dad. All  
14           the boys were in the hall area. My uncle came in with  
15           my dad, took off his leather jacket, rolled up his  
16           sleeves, and put Germanus against the wall. He said  
17           something like, 'If you touch any of these boys ever  
18           again, I'm going to come back and deal with you  
19           severely.' Everybody looked up to him straightaway. My  
20           dad gave me a cuddle. Both of them told me that they  
21           loved me and they drove away. I think I was well  
22           respected after that. Nothing was reported to the  
23           police but I was taken out of the school shortly after.

24                 "I left St Columba's when I was 11 or 12. I went to  
25           do my last few months of Primary Seven at a primary

1 school where I had started my schooling. I then went on  
2 to a high school in Renfrew after that.

3 "I didn't really get a good reception at high  
4 school. I didn't know anybody. Everybody else had  
5 carried on straight from primary school and had gone  
6 straight to secondary school.

7 "After school I went to college to do a catering  
8 course. I then did another college course but I had to  
9 pull out of it as I couldn't study."

10 Moving on to paragraph 117:

11 "I didn't do very well in school because of  
12 everything that had happened to me. Instead of becoming  
13 an airline pilot, I became an [REDACTED]. It makes  
14 me angry.

15 "I am not a Catholic, I don't want to be a Catholic,  
16 I don't want anything to do with Catholics. The minute  
17 anybody mentions the Catholic Church, I associate it  
18 with paedophilia.

19 "I have some interaction with my sister but it's not  
20 great. She is against me coming forward to the inquiry  
21 because she's a Catholic. She follows the Rules of  
22 St Francis.

23 "When I told my dad about the abuse it put a lot of  
24 strain on him. Shortly afterwards, he was diagnosed  
25 with pancreatic cancer and he died as a result of that

1 illness. My mum also died of a broken heart. She'd  
2 lost my dad and she couldn't live with what had happened  
3 to her children.

4 "She asked why I hadn't told her at the time and  
5 I told her we were made to be full of fear. She died  
6 because of what happened to us at school. I lost my mum  
7 and dad because of the abuse.

8 "I have made a claim for criminal injuries  
9 compensation. My lawyer instructed a psychiatrist's  
10 report and I have provided a copy of that report to the  
11 inquiry.

12 "He diagnosed me as suffering from persistent  
13 depressive disorder and complex post-traumatic stress  
14 disorder consistent with a major depressive disorder.  
15 I started to pick up things little by little. I would  
16 remember more of the things that happened to me. I have  
17 been on anti-depressants for 33 years.

18 "I had a cannabis habit for 8 years. I used  
19 cannabis to block out all my problems.

20 "I started seeing a sexual abuse counsellor through  
21 In Care Survivors Service Scotland hosted by Break The  
22 Silence, which later became Wellbeing Scotland.  
23 I needed somebody that knew something about sexual abuse  
24 to counsel me in order that I could get on the path that  
25 I am on now. I'm not there yet. I'm still travelling

1 on this journey.

2 "I started to see a spiritual counsellor. I didn't  
3 know where I was. I didn't know if there was a God  
4 above. The abuse has messed me up so much. I wanted to  
5 see a spiritual counsellor and somebody who was good  
6 with meditation. I found that very useful.

7 "Future Pathways arranged for me to go for eye  
8 movement desensitisation and reprocessing therapy and  
9 psychotherapy at Anchor Medical Centre. I didn't feel  
10 ready to go for that, but Future Pathways kept urging me  
11 to do so.

12 "I feel I have gone backwards since making contact  
13 with Future Pathways and I feel I'm being treated like  
14 a child again.

15 "I wonder how long this is going to last, this  
16 suffering. I just want to get on with my life. I have  
17 never been able to marry because I can't hold down  
18 relationships. I have been engaged twice. I always  
19 wanted to have a nice wife and children but I couldn't  
20 have that either. I wanted to have a nice job and  
21 I couldn't have that. I wanted to have a lot of things  
22 in life and I couldn't have them.

23 "If I don't get any accountability or reparation,  
24 I feel I may have to take the law into my own hands.  
25 There is no way under any circumstances that what

1           happened to me as at St Columba's and St Joseph's was  
2           right. It's destroyed my whole family, it's destroyed  
3           my whole life, it destroyed my sister's life as well.

4           "The biggest impact of the abuse is that every  
5           single day from when I get up in the morning it's there.  
6           When I go to my bed at night it's still there. I don't  
7           sleep every single night. I live in depression every  
8           single day. Everything is black outside. It's not the  
9           way I should have lived my life from childhood. I have  
10          not even grieved my mum and dad yet because it has not  
11          given me the chance.

12          "I am fed up. I am now 50 years old. All my life  
13          I've been unable to work. I have lost businesses,  
14          I have lost cars, I have lost houses, I have lost  
15          everything. The only thing I haven't lost is my dignity  
16          and the strength to carry this forward to fight this  
17          battle until the very end.

18          "I approached the safeguarding people at the  
19          Catholic Church and they sent me to the bishop. The  
20          bishop sent me to the Marist Brothers. The  
21          Marist Brothers sent me back to the bishop. I was  
22          getting thrown around like a ping-pong ball.

23          "I went to speak to the Marist Brothers regarding  
24          redress and accountability. The first time I spoke to  
25          them, Ronnie McEwan was the provincial of the

1 Marist Brothers. I remember him being at St Columba's  
2 as a young man training to be a brother. Ronnie McEwan  
3 told me to come back and see him if I ever wanted to do  
4 anything about it.

5 "Three or four years later I tried to get  
6 an appointment. I phoned a place called the  
7 Kinharvie Institute in Glasgow. A lady called  
8 LZS [REDACTED] answered the phone. I'm sure I saw  
9 here at the school when I was there. She wasn't there  
10 for very long but I think she was there because of  
11 something to do with Aldo Moroni.

12 "The Marist Brothers funded 20 sessions with a  
13 psychologist in 2012. They then withdrew the funding.  
14 I have provided a copy of the report submitted to the  
15 Marist Brothers dated 10 December 2012 to the inquiry.

16 "A member of the Scottish Parliament for the south  
17 of Scotland wrote to the Marist Brothers on my behalf on  
18 4 December 2013. I have provided a copy of that letter  
19 to the inquiry. I never received any response.

20 "I did receive a letter from the Bishop of Galloway  
21 dated 31 December 2013, which I have provided to the  
22 inquiry. He advised me to go back to the  
23 Marist Brothers.

24 "Around that time, Tina Campbell, the safeguarding  
25 officer for the Catholic Church of Scotland, told me

1 over the phone that if I stopped working with my  
2 solicitor, Sean Lynch, there would be a special wee  
3 place in heaven for me.

4 "MFZ [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] at the  
5 Kinharvie Institute. I spoke to him a few times on the  
6 phone. He said he would need to speak to Brendan Geary,  
7 who was the provincial by that time. Brendan Geary has  
8 written four books about paedophilia, but I haven't read  
9 them.

10 "Although money can't fix anything, it would have  
11 helped me. I was struggling and I couldn't get to my  
12 work because of depression. I wanted to move forward  
13 and bring the abuse out into the open. I was still  
14 religious at the time but I didn't want to do it  
15 publicly. I wanted the organisation to address what  
16 happened.

17 "I was working with my counsellor at the time.  
18 Ronnie McEwan told me Brother Brendan Geary was visiting  
19 London and he was going to fly up to see me and speak to  
20 me about what happened at the school. I met  
21 Brendan Geary and I disclosed what had happened to me.  
22 My counsellor was with me and I broke down. It was my  
23 first time talking to the organisation.

24 "LZS [REDACTED] was coming in with the biscuits.  
25 We spoke about Brother Germanus. Brendan Geary said,



1       'James, Germanus is dead.' I said, 'Yes, but your order  
2       is not dead and somebody's got to be held responsible  
3       for this.' He said, 'Yes, but we are sick of paying  
4       people £50,000, £80,000 or £100,000 and then keep coming  
5       back in five or ten years' time saying that it's still  
6       there. What do you want us to give you?' I said, 'How  
7       much is it from your childhood up until now?' He said,  
8       'We couldn't forward that, we would need to start  
9       selling buildings.'

10       "When I went and told my father about the meeting he  
11       said, 'What a shame that they'd have to sell buildings,  
12       look at all the work and effort we have put in for you  
13       to go to that boarding school and look what we got.'

14       "The first report I made to the police was  
15       in relation to another matter. The reason for that was  
16       that I couldn't remember everything that happened to me  
17       at St Columba's at that point. I could only remember  
18       bits of pieces, like Brother Germanus putting his hand  
19       over my face and touching my genitals. I'd buried stuff  
20       so deep in the back of my mind.

21       "Little by little things started to come out and i  
22       started to become clearer about what had happened at the  
23       school. I reported Brother Germanus to the police.  
24       Initially, uniformed police officers came to see men and  
25       then officers from Kilmarnock Child Protection Unit came

1 to see me to take a statement. I was back and forward  
2 after that and I just felt disbelieved every time I went  
3 to the police station.

4 "I would tell them I had remembered something else  
5 and they couldn't comprehend that that was the way  
6 things worked.

7 "Sometimes my supporter came with me. He met a  
8 police officer in the Child Protection Unit.

9 "I then made a report about the Sisters of Cluny.

10

11 "I have been down to see Brother Germanus' grave.  
12 It said he died in 1999. Somebody told me he died in  
13 1992, but I also have a photograph of him with a group  
14 of retired brothers which was taken in 2015. I did try  
15 and tell the police but they told me to let them get on  
16 with their investigation. I was trying to contribute to  
17 their investigation. I felt a bit unwanted by them.  
18 All I was trying to do was help.

19 "I brought to the police's attention a picture of  
20 Ronnie McEwan, <sup>LZS</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>MFZ</sup> [REDACTED].

21 I think they know something about Aldo Moroni's death.  
22 I'm not happy with those people at all. It makes me  
23 very upset and angry. The police officer and his  
24 colleague had to calm me down.

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"I understand other pupils have also come forward to speak about their experiences at the school. [REDACTED]

"For three years, Sean Lynch of McCluskey Browne solicitors in Kilmarnock tried to bring my case to court. I was beaten by the time bar. [REDACTED] AKU [REDACTED] wasn't charged and I am sure looking for redress and accountability. I was going to have to take it to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

"I went to see a lawyer called Stuart Frazer of a Glasgow law practice. Money won't fix anything and it certainly won't fix my life, but they offered me absolutely silly money. The first offer was £3,300. I have been on anti-depressants for 33 years and they wanted to offer me £3,300. £3,300 for being abused. It's no on.

"We appealed against that. My lawyer instructed

1 a psychiatrist who prepared a medical report about me  
2 and gave me a diagnosis. My claim had not previously  
3 been supported by medical evidence."

4 Moving to paragraph 147:

5 "The police questioned dates when I was at school.  
6 I went to the local archive to try and retrieve some  
7 information. When I went to the archives of the  
8 Marist Brothers to request my records, Ronnie McEwan  
9 said they only had a small shoebox with information to  
10 do with St Columba's. I found that to be unusual.  
11 I would have thought that should be against the law.  
12 I know why they only have a shoebox.

13 "I think there should have been regular checks of  
14 the school. I think the police should have looked into  
15 St Columba's a bit more when the bottle was found asking  
16 for help. That bottle should have raised alarm bells  
17 coming from children.

18 "The Pope promised that there would be  
19 a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. I don't think  
20 he's stuck to that agreement. I think that those people  
21 are outright liars.

22 "I really hope I get the opportunity to speak in  
23 front much Lady Smith. I want to speak up on behalf of  
24 the victims of St Columba's. I am here about James and  
25 I'm here about Aldo. I should be taking Aldo for a run

1 in my car; instead here I am talking about what happened  
2 to me as a child and talking about what happened to  
3 Aldo.

4 "I would like to think that the inquiry will make  
5 things better for children in the future. I want to  
6 bring things to a close as far as accountability and  
7 redress are concerned. I hope the inquiry can tell  
8 people what's right and what's wrong. I don't think the  
9 Catholic Church knows what's right and wrong and it goes  
10 on and on.

11 "I am upset with the system and begging for help.  
12 I feel as if I have had to wait all this time just to  
13 get a tiny bit of help, like Future Pathways.

14 "They cashed-up with me and they have given me  
15 £19,000. I don't think that is what a victim wants to  
16 hear. It would have been nice if they'd helped me to  
17 get my business afloat and to keep my car. I don't  
18 think it's an organisation that wants to help people.  
19 I hope things change in Scotland to make it a more  
20 attractive country.

21 "St Columba's was a home for retired brothers before  
22 it became a school. I wonder if they were retired  
23 because they had genuinely finished their ministry and  
24 settling down for the remainder of their lives or  
25 because they were paedophiles. There are a lot of

1 questions that I feel the Catholic Church is not being  
2 honest about.

3 "The building that formed St Columba's has now been  
4 sold by the Marist Brothers and turned into apartments.  
5 The Marist Brothers moved further up and re-opened  
6 a home for retired brothers like it had been at the  
7 beginning. The school shut down at the same time as  
8 St Joseph's in Dumfries in 1982.

9 "Purgatory doesn't exist. It was invented by an  
10 Italian scientist who imagined that it was a place you  
11 went for your sins. I wonder if my abusers are in Hell  
12 now or are they still living inside retirement homes?

13 "When I was 14 or 15 my mum asked me to phone  
14 directory enquiries. I was looking for a number for  
15 her. The person who answered asked if he was speaking  
16 to James and mentioned my surname. I told him he was  
17 and asked who I was speaking to. He said, 'It's  
18 Brother MJZ you can now call me MJZ because I've  
19 left the brotherhood.' My mum couldn't believe it.

20 "Brother Germanus' brother used to come and visit.  
21 He was a well-looking man, not like Brother Germanus.  
22 I have a photo that was taken in Spain in 2015.  
23 Brother Germanus is in it and his brother is holding his  
24 shoulder. According to Catholic canon law, if someone  
25 has abused children, they should never be allowed to

1 work with children ever again. I wonder why  
2 Brother Germanus kept coming back to the school and was  
3 allowed to teach.

4 "My personal belief is that the Marist Brothers have  
5 trained for this time, for the things that have happened  
6 coming to light. Ronnie McEwan and Brendan Geary are  
7 trained in psychology. I think the Kinharvie Institute  
8 is connected to all of this and being put forward as a  
9 business. I think they are employing more laypeople to  
10 defend the empire, which is the Catholic Church. They  
11 can't get away with this. They have been caught out.  
12 The victims are the resistance of them. They can't fool  
13 us. I might have been a child when they abused me, but  
14 I'm an adult now.

15 "Once this is all over, I'm going to run from  
16 Scotland as far as I can. I feel as if I'm being locked  
17 up in this country as a hostage, just as I got locked up  
18 at a child at boarding school. If nothing is done about  
19 it, I am going to take it to the European courts to  
20 fight it. I want to get Italian lawyers involved.  
21 I hope the government will hear our voices. Australia  
22 and America have dealt with it, now New Zealand and  
23 Europe are dealing with abuse by Marist Brothers.

24 "I think the Catholic Church is a cult. They're not  
25 who you think they are. They're people who came and

1           sponged money off people for years. My mum and dad gave  
2           them money for years. These people are absolute  
3           monsters and they've got to be brought to justice.

4           "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
5           published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
6           I believe the facts stated in my witness statement are  
7           true."

8           The witness statement was signed by James on  
9           31 May 2018.

10          My Lady, I would note that there are a number of  
11          names there which are protected by your restriction  
12          order, including that of **LZS**, who has  
13          a specific restriction order protecting her identity.

14       LADY SMITH: Indeed. I'll leave it that if anyone has any  
15          doubts before they repeat any of these names outside the  
16          room, please would they check with -- I think there's a  
17          presence in the inquiry room already or with another  
18          member of staff. It's very important that the  
19          restriction orders are protected.

20          Thank you.

21       MS MACLEOD: That, my Lady, completes the evidence for  
22          today. We have four witnesses lined up to give evidence  
23          tomorrow.

24       LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25          Again, a video link first thing, I think, and the



1 last witness will be a video link, but we need to be  
2 ready for a video link first thing in the morning.

3 Thank you.

4 (3.55 pm)

5 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
6 on Thursday, 24 October 2019)

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# I N D E X

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24 Questions from MR MacAULAY .....3

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