

Friday, 2 October 2020

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning. I see we have a witness on the screen ready, Ms Rattray, is that right?

MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The first witness this morning is Margaret Adrian-Vallance.

LADY SMITH: Margaret, good morning. Can you hear me?

THE WITNESS: Good morning. I can. Can you hear me?

LADY SMITH: Very well, and I can see you very clearly.

Just to explain in case you hadn't guessed already,

I chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, I am

Lady Smith. What I would like to start by doing is have you swear an affirmation.

MS MARGARET ADRIAN-VALLANCE (affirmed) (via video link)

LADY SMITH: Now I will hand over to Ms Rattray in a moment,

but at this stage let me say if you have any problems

with the link or anxieties about whether or not we are

hearing or seeing you properly, or you are hearing or

seeing us, please don't hesitate to let me know. It is

important that you are as comfortable as you possibly

can be giving your evidence. All right?

THE WITNESS: Thank you very much indeed.

LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

Questions from MS RATTRAY

MS RATTRAY: Good morning, Margaret.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. You are Margaret Adrian-Vallance?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What year were you born? I don't need the month or the
5 day, just the year.

6 A. 1946.

7 Q. You have provided a written statement to the Inquiry,
8 and we have given your statement the reference ROL-5,
9 and your statement will appear on the screen in front of
10 you. But if you happen to have a paper copy to hand,
11 and you feel more relaxed working with a paper copy,
12 then please feel free to do so.

13 I would like to start by going to the last page of
14 your statement, which is page 7.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And ask you to confirm you have signed your statement?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you believe that the facts stated in your statement
19 are true?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Margaret, you have helpfully structured your statement
22 with some clear headings so I propose simply following
23 that structure when I am asking you to explain what is
24 in your statement.

25 So if we could return to page 1 of your statement,

1 you start off by explaining who you are and where you
2 work and you tell us that you are the Director of
3 Education Projects for the Royal Over-Seas League, and
4 I think that is often referred to as either the League,
5 or sometimes we see the letters R-O-S-L, and I think
6 I have heard that pronounced "ROSL", is that correct?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. You have worked with ROSL since 1993 and you were
9 previously Director of PR and Development, is that
10 right?

11 A. That is right, yes.

12 Q. You also say that you are based in the London clubhouse,
13 but in fact there used to be another clubhouse in
14 Edinburgh?

15 A. Yes, at 100 Princes Street.

16 Q. Is that clubhouse still there?

17 A. No, it was sold in 2019 and went on the market the year
18 before.

19 Q. Right. At your statement at this stage you actually
20 provide a description of some of the layout of both
21 clubhouses in London and Edinburgh. Can you explain to
22 us why you have done that?

23 A. I think I tried to give a history of what exactly the
24 Royal Over-Seas League is and was, which is a clubhouse
25 for members that -- during its history it has had

1 a number of properties and is now down to having only
2 one property, and because it was a clubhouse rather than
3 a record centre for child migration, it seemed wise to
4 give a very brief outline of what was actually in the
5 clubhouse when I joined, which were 84 bedrooms and
6 conference rooms and so on.

7 Q. I think we will come to that later on in your statement.

8 Under the heading "What I propose to say in this
9 statement", you highlight the issues your statement is
10 intended to address. Can you explain to us what you are
11 saying here?

12 A. I am saying here what I propose to say in this
13 statement. And before outlining that, I should first
14 like to say how sad and utterly overwhelming it was to
15 learn about child migration in the first place. And,
16 more recently, to hear witness statements about the
17 simply appalling treatment that many received in the
18 country to which they were sent.

19 As Diana Owen will tell you, ROSL deeply regrets its
20 involvement which was, as we have learned from expert
21 witnesses, far more proactive than previously thought,
22 and:

23 "Having spent some 25 years trying to understand the
24 whole situation of child migration, and more recently
25 taking the lead trying to find out what happened to

1 ROSL's missing child migration records, I propose to say
2 how it came about that I was asked to write the first
3 draft for ROSL's reply to SCAI questions; some of the
4 challenges of research along the way, and to give
5 a brief overview of ROSL's approach to record keeping
6 now and in the past."

7 And it was just highlighting the difficulty of
8 finding records when ROSL had very few of its own. So
9 the research involved a lot of peripheral research,
10 trying to find out what may have happened to these
11 records, and whether the League had had storage at any
12 point, and when properties were sold which could have
13 meant these records were then disposed of or passed to
14 other organisations and that sort of thing.

15 Q. How did it come about that you came to be involved in
16 responding to questions about child migration?

17 A. "I was asked to research and prepare ROSL's answers to
18 questions from SCAI in 2018 as I had previously assisted
19 the former Director-General, Major General Roddy Porter,
20 with research into ROSL's involvement with child
21 migration for his witness statements to IICSA, and
22 although I had not attended any of the IICSA hearings -
23 except for that given by General Porter in June 2017 -
24 when he retired that same month, I was delegated by the
25 ROSL central council to be the main point of contact in

1 child migration matters until the arrival of a new
2 Director General in December 2017.

3 "Following a letter from SCAI in September 2018, the
4 present Director-General Dr Diana Owen asked me to
5 continue this research - which involved different dates
6 and questions from those of IICSA."

7 Q. Over the page at page 2 of your statement, you provide
8 some information about what documents you were able to
9 find and use. Can you tell us, firstly, what documents
10 you were able to find?

11 A. What I managed to find was minutes and -- sorry, I am
12 looking at the wrong paragraph. Mainly annual reports,
13 overseas magazines, some very brief notes in what was
14 called the migration file that was held by
15 the Director-General, central council minutes which
16 included some very brief reports under the heading of
17 "Migration Committee", or "Migration", or "Migration
18 Bureau". Then when the Edinburgh clubhouse was closed,
19 I went through a lot of documents that were there,
20 because the actual Edinburgh clubhouse was cleared of
21 furniture and everything before it was put on the
22 market.

23 Q. I think you tell us that ROSL appears to have delegated
24 most of its child migration activities to its Migration
25 Committee established in 1926 and based in London.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were you able to find any documents in connection with
3 the activities of that committee?

4 A. No, no documents at all, and this is what has been
5 a great hamper to discovering exactly what did happen.
6 There are no minutes of the -- what we called the
7 Migration Committee, which was established in 1926 to
8 help adult migration, and then it was later renamed the
9 Migration Bureau, and no minutes exist. Also, no files,
10 as it happens, on sailings of young people and children
11 to New Zealand, and since there were 30 sailings in the
12 space of about four years, these files I think would
13 have been fairly extensive, and we did not have those.

14 What we did have were reports in the Over-Seas
15 Magazine and the annual report and a few press cuttings,
16 and the report from the Ministry of Health Parliamentary
17 Inquiry. So there was not very much to go on.

18 Q. I think further down the page, under headed paragraph 5,
19 you tell us about documents which make direct reference
20 to children who were migrated from Scotland.

21 A. Yes. Early in November 2018, a photo album containing
22 over 90 press photos of children attending tea parties
23 at ROSL headquarters between 1949 and 1954, before
24 sailing to New Zealand or Australia, was discovered
25 amongst items sent to the London clubhouse from ROSL's

1 Edinburgh clubhouse after it was cleared prior to
2 putting it on the market.

3 LADY SMITH: Do these look like tea parties that took place
4 in the Princes Street clubhouse?

5 A. No, they took place in the London clubhouse.

6 LADY SMITH: I see.

7 A. Before the children sailed to New Zealand or Australia.

8 LADY SMITH: But the photos had turned up in the Edinburgh
9 clubhouse, you say?

10 A. Yes, but they were in the Edinburgh clubhouse presumably
11 or perhaps having been sent there from the London
12 clubhouse for storage, and they were found along with
13 some hard-backed material like visitors books. So
14 I think somehow, and luckily, they were overlooked when
15 people searched for files about child migration, and in
16 this album there are -- there is a reference and
17 pictures of 30 children from Scotland, and in most of
18 the cases their home towns, name and age is given. In
19 one of the photos they are referred to as the Scottish
20 contingent, so we don't have name, age and where they
21 came from, we have name and age.

22 So this was a big and very helpful find, and
23 especially the captions, because it would say how many
24 children went on each sailing, and the pictures include
25 High Commissioners from New Zealand, perhaps the Speaker

1 of the New Zealand Parliament, he appears in one or two
2 of them, and other dignitaries from New Zealand.

3 MS RATTRAY: You also make mention in your statement of
4 a strip cartoon from the Daily Mirror?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell us about the relevance of that?

7 A. It is very relevant because it shows Cyril Bavin seated
8 at a desk, there is a window in the background; in fact,
9 I tried to find out if that was a room he might have had
10 at the Royal Over-Seas League. And the strip cartoon,
11 in summary, encourages or highlights the benefits of
12 child migration to New Zealand and his encouraging
13 views, in effect I think making it -- or his aim was to
14 tell readers that there were a lot of benefits of this
15 child migration. It was obviously a rather unsettling
16 discovery. I had seen the cartoon way back in the
17 1990s, IICSA had a copy, and we have often been asked to
18 comment on it.

19 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that that
20 particular edition of the Daily Mirror was between
21 [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] in 1952?

22 A. That is correct, yes.

23 Q. Just at that stage, could you explain who Cyril Bavin
24 is?

25 A. Cyril Bavin was a League -- a ROSL member. He seems to

1 have started the ROSL child -- the ROSL Migration
2 Committee, and at that point he was not a staff member,
3 he was a member of our central council. After the war,
4 the Second World War, he became a staff member and his
5 background was that he was an Australian who was -- who
6 I think grew up in New Zealand, he had a long connection
7 with the YMCA and other organisations, and it appears
8 that the Royal Over-Seas League rather delegated to him
9 child migration matters. And as the expert witnesses
10 have pointed out, I think it is possible that he may
11 have been -- well, he was obviously very, very
12 enthusiastic and may possibly have been aware of some of
13 the difficulties that child migrants faced in Australia
14 and New Zealand as time went on.

15 Q. I think, for completeness, you tell us that in
16 mid-November 2018 further boxes of archives in the
17 Edinburgh clubhouse were searched, but nothing further
18 was found that had a bearing on child migration?

19 A. That's correct. I went up to Edinburgh and went through
20 these boxes with the chairman of our Edinburgh branch,
21 and we found most of the boxes contained receipts for
22 clubhouse stays, and there wasn't anything of relevance
23 to child migration or this Inquiry, sadly. I thought
24 perhaps we might be able to find something but we
25 didn't.

1 Q. I understand that you were involved in the preparation
2 of the response to questions from this Inquiry, and
3 there was an initial response but then there was
4 a second amended statement provided?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Can you explain why it was that ROSL chose to provide
7 a second amended statement?

8 A. I think the main reason was because we were learning
9 more and more about what had actually happened from the
10 expert witnesses, and when I did the original one, I had
11 not -- SCAI hadn't happened, as it were. So it was
12 probably my lack of including or knowing everything that
13 I did not, in the beginning, include some of the facts
14 that the expert witnesses had found out about, which was
15 very helpful to us. So we then re-did the second draft
16 and included all the aspects that the expert witnesses
17 had found out.

18 Q. Is there anything from that exercise, and perhaps in
19 hearing the evidence from this Inquiry, that you take
20 issue with, with regard to the evidence given by those
21 experts?

22 A. No. It was very, very helpful to have discovered it.
23 It also showed that the Migration Bureau, or Mr Bavin,
24 probably was aware of difficulties and sadnesses and
25 some of the awful things that were happening to child

1 migrants, but it would also appear from ROSL's side of
2 things that this information may have not got down the
3 line to ROSL members. And in those days there wasn't --
4 in the 1930s and 1940s, and so on, there wasn't
5 television, television was hardly in everyone's homes
6 then, investigative reporting wasn't in the situation it
7 is now, and there was no Panorama or Newsnight
8 programmes with the reporter reporting to the general
9 public that there were difficulties and awfulness going
10 on in some of the institutions to which the children
11 went.

12 So there is perhaps possibly a slight difference
13 between -- or a considerable difference between the
14 awareness of what perhaps Mr Bavin had learned and what
15 ROSL members, living in the country in England or
16 overseas or wherever they came from, that they may not
17 have been as aware.

18 Q. Margaret -- sorry, carry on if there is something you
19 would like to add?

20 A. No, I was just going to say that the expert witnesses
21 did fill in gaps that we ourselves hadn't got, and
22 the League before then has seldom been in a position
23 either corroborate or expand on the detailed research of
24 others who have access to material held by other
25 organisations.

1 So finally, to answer your question, no, ROSL
2 doesn't, I don't think, have issue with the findings of
3 the expert witnesses. There is inaccuracy actually,
4 I think, in some of these findings. There were more
5 than 40 children that were sent to New Zealand and
6 Australia during the sailings that we have just
7 discussed.

8 And just finally, at one or two points when we read
9 expert witnesses' remarks and conclusions, it was
10 dispiriting, I think is perhaps the word, to find out
11 that there was a reference to the League's "apparent"
12 lack of records, and we felt there was nothing apparent
13 about it, but we have said many times we just don't have
14 these extensive records. So that was a bit
15 disheartening, I suppose.

16 I was also a bit surprised that somewhere along the
17 line it was said that ROSL "surprisingly" sent forward
18 this cartoon referring to Cyril Bavin's enthusiasm for
19 child migration. I'm not quite sure why it was thought
20 to be surprising.

21 So perhaps we have been a bit oversensitive, and
22 Diana and I have certainly tried to show that -- or
23 confirm that we just do not have these extensive records
24 and we're very sad that we don't. But the expert
25 witnesses have filled in many gaps which we ourselves at

1 the Royal Over-Seas League were unable to do.

2 Q. Moving on in your statement, I think on pages 3 and 4
3 you give us an overview of ROSL's approach to
4 record-keeping in the past, and I think, if we look at
5 that at a fairly high level, would it be fair to say
6 that there was no clear system of keeping records in the
7 past and, when it came to storage, you were trying to
8 store what you can in a fairly old and complex building
9 or buildings?

10 A. That is quite correct. Records, as defined by ROSL when
11 I joined, were those relating to ROSL members, and these
12 were kept in card index boxes, I understand, in the
13 1980s. That was before computerisation. And as
14 I mentioned, records and minutes were all -- were in
15 a variety of places. So finding even some of the
16 resource material about the history of child migration
17 and ROSL was difficult to find. They were stored in
18 cupboards, on a balcony in one of the rooms at ROSL at
19 the time, so they were all over the place, I suppose.

20 Q. Margaret, moving to page 4 of your statement, and under
21 the heading -- about halfway down is a heading that says
22 "File on Child Migration", and you tell us about what
23 happened when you first learned about child migration in
24 1995. Can you help us with the circumstances in which
25 you became aware of ROSL's involvement in child

1 migration?

2 A. Yes. I remember it vividly. I was contacted by
3 somebody who asked if I could fill them in about ROSL's
4 role in child migration, and since I didn't know
5 anything about this, I asked the Director-General what
6 was meant and to let me know, and he did that.

7 One letter I wrote to this particular person is
8 dated March 1995, so the query came in some time before,
9 and so I presumed it was probably in early 1995. It
10 could have been before that, but I think I am correct in
11 saying it was 1995.

12 I learned that my predecessor and the editor of
13 Over-Seas Magazine had helped the Director-General with
14 photocopying relevant articles and photos in back
15 editions of Over-Seas as and when required,
16 and I therefore inherited this role after joining ROSL.
17 I also learned that the London clubhouse had been
18 searched from top to bottom for additional material
19 relating to ROSL's involvement in child migration and
20 that the Edinburgh clubhouse and ROSL branches also did
21 not have any additional material."

22 It was obviously very difficult to get one's head
23 around the whole situation, especially after seeing
24 films like 'Oranges and Sunshine' and 'The Leaving of
25 Liverpool'.

1 "The then Director-General had a similar difficulty,
2 especially when we look at photos in Over-Seas of very
3 young children leaving for Australia or New Zealand.
4 The DG's mother had told him that poverty was so extreme
5 in the 1920s/30s that her generation could perhaps more
6 easily understand how very poor families thought
7 a better future could be found overseas for their
8 children."

9 It was very much a continual learning curve about
10 child migration from the Director-General and one or two
11 people, older League members, who told me that over
12 a long period of time, very poor families would write to
13 the Royal Over-Seas League and ask them to fund one of
14 their children who they thought would be getting
15 a better life in New Zealand or Australia, and so the
16 learning curve, just as now, has been a very continual
17 progress.

18 The whole topic of child migration sometimes came up
19 with members from Australia at the DG Robert Newell's
20 Tuesday evening receptions for those staying in the
21 clubhouse at which I was usually required to attend.

22 On one occasion when we were talking about child
23 migration, one of the people there from Australia said
24 he thought we would probably have a lot of difficulty in
25 talking to people about this time because they just

1 didn't really want to talk about it, or some people did
2 not want to talk about it, even people who had been very
3 successful. And at the time I thought this might be
4 because they were upset that they had been offered -- or
5 their parents had been comfortable with sending them to
6 New Zealand or Australia, or indeed Canada in some
7 cases.

8 Q. You tell us further in your statement about more efforts
9 to try and find files and the challenges of space and
10 storage. Moving to page 6 of your statement, Margaret,
11 under the heading "Summary", in the second paragraph in
12 that summary you tell us:

13 "In 2005 [you] made a request ..."

14 In respect of archiving. Can you tell us about the
15 request you made?

16 A. I made this request to help child migrants find out
17 about their family and what had happened to them and
18 view pictures, and it was turned down mainly because of
19 the cost. I think also at the time people did not
20 really understand what searchable digital archiving was,
21 ie you could key in a name and that name would come up
22 instantly. I have seen a trial run of this and it would
23 have been very, very helpful. I then discovered that
24 for a small amount of money, the company who was helping
25 us with this was willing to do this over several years.

1 So at a cost of, say, £2,000 or £3,000 each year, by now
2 we would have had searchable digital archiving of our
3 Over-Seas Magazine and our annual reports and everything
4 that was relevant.

5 So I think possibly what happens to organisations
6 when such a request is made is they see this high figure
7 of, say, £30,000, and don't really realise that you
8 could start all of this at a much lower amount. We
9 didn't have an archivist or librarian so was digital
10 archiving made a lot of sense. There was no register
11 where items were stored, some items were subjected to
12 a leak that we had once from an air-conditioning unit.
13 So it was very disappointing indeed that this archiving
14 wasn't started or completed.

15 Q. Where is ROSL now, moving to the future, in relation to
16 archiving and record-keeping?

17 A. Diana Owen, who you will hear from later, was I'd say
18 the first Director-General to put a priority and
19 an importance on archiving and, as I am sure she will
20 tell you, we looked at -- we got in quotations from
21 a number of companies to do this. To do it totally and
22 comprehensively, it came to a much larger sum, but I am
23 still hoping and asking that a start could be made on
24 copies of the Over-Seas Magazine and our annual reports
25 in which there are references to child migration.

1 Apart from that, it is an interesting record of the
2 changeover say from Empire to Commonwealth since
3 the League started in 1910. The first Over-Seas
4 Magazine was in 1916, so this progression I think would
5 be of great interest to historians as well as
6 researching a whole lot of matters. There were some
7 very interesting articles, or there are, in all of these
8 editions.

9 "In 2019, ROSL welcomed a documents intern from
10 University College London to help with rounding up
11 archive material prior to digitalisation and she will be
12 returning in June this year ..."

13 When I wrote this some months ago. And of course
14 since then COVID happened, and the League closed in --
15 we had a temporary closure between March of this year
16 and ROSL re-opened I think it was on 4 August this year,
17 so this has been put on hold really for a while:

18 "A second intern was also going to start this
19 summer."

20 "But of course, with the clubhouse closed, this was
21 not possible but a member of our central council at the
22 moment who is a qualified archivist is acting in
23 an advisory capacity on the best way to handle and
24 discover archive materials."

25 So in summary, there has been a big change from

1 a rather incoherent, uncoordinated approach to archiving
2 to a much more -- priority given in a much greater way
3 to archiving which I think will be helpful all round.

4 Q. Margaret, you tell us you have some conjecture about
5 what might have happened to the missing records, that
6 they may have been destroyed, they might have been sent
7 to other club locations or they might be sent into
8 external storage, but so far you have been unable to
9 trace any further records, is that correct?

10 A. That is correct, yes. I did also go through some
11 extraneous files about storage. I also tried to see if
12 there were articles written by the chaperones or the
13 escorts. There were usually two ladies who accompanied
14 child migrants on voyages to New Zealand, I thought one
15 of them might have written articles in our Over-Seas
16 Magazine about what this was like at the time and so on,
17 but I couldn't find that either. But if we had
18 searchable archiving we could just key in something like
19 "chaperones", and we would probably get lots of helpful
20 information one way or another.

21 Q. Going to the final paragraph of your statement,
22 Margaret, you reflect what you have just told us about
23 an ongoing commitment to improve and create a searchable
24 archive for child migrants. What is it you say in the
25 final sentence of your statement?

1 A. Do you mean:

2 "There is now an ongoing commitment to further
3 research ..."

4 Q. Yes, you have explained that. I'm looking at the final
5 sentence in the second last line.

6 A. "We are very grateful [we are extremely grateful] for
7 the impetus and new information that has come from the
8 IICSA and SCAI Inquiries and especially for the bravery
9 of child migrants who have shared their experiences."

10 And I did hear some of these when I came up to
11 Edinburgh when your Inquiry was sitting and it was -- it
12 was quite devastating. But another very good point
13 about the SCAI Inquiry is that it has shed an awful lot
14 of light on what one might call the minutiae of child
15 migration as well as the overview. I had often wondered
16 what had happened when children outgrew their shoes,
17 for example, and I learned a lot from one of the witness
18 statements when I was up in Edinburgh and how awful it
19 was that their shoes weren't renewed, and all that sort
20 of thing. I learned more about their clothes and food
21 and all of this.

22 So as well as a helpful overview I have learned from
23 SCAI, I have also learned from the Inquiries and the
24 witness statements a lot of detail, and the detail was
25 very moving and good to have heard, however awful it

1 was.

2 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, Margaret.

3 I have no further questions and I'm not aware of any
4 further questions being put to this witness, my Lady.

5 LADY SMITH: Margaret, can I just check one thing in
6 relation to the time when Cyril Bavin was first
7 appointed. I think his title was something like
8 Honourary Migration Secretary, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: That would be about 1926?

11 A. I think the first meeting in 1926, where there were
12 representatives from the services mainly, I think at
13 that point, that first meeting, he may have been down as
14 just secretary or convener.

15 LADY SMITH: At that point he was a member of the club. He
16 wasn't employed by the club?

17 A. Yes, he was a member.

18 LADY SMITH: And he carried on leading on this support of
19 child migration on that basis right up until after the
20 war when he did become an employee, is that the picture?

21 A. Yes. He died in 1955, and at that time he was
22 an employee of the Royal Over-Seas League and I presume
23 he kept on his membership.

24 LADY SMITH: So am I right in thinking that what we have
25 here is a members' club with one particular member keen,

1 very keen, on an initiative who manages to drive it and
2 engage the interests of other members?

3 A. I think that is correct. The Migration Committee, the
4 first meeting was all about adult migration, so -- and
5 then in 1927/28 it moved on to young people's migration
6 through the "Back to the Land" scheme and sending lads
7 and young men, as the records show, to Canada, and then
8 thereafter there were child migrants who were helped and
9 funded to go to New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere.

10 LADY SMITH: Was it the nature of the club in the 1920s that
11 its membership in this country would attract people
12 whose origins were outwith the UK even if they were
13 living in the UK?

14 A. Yes, the League has always had its membership coming
15 from many nationalities and countries, and at one point
16 I think there were a huge number of branches in Baghdad,
17 Cairo, Italy, France, Paris, all these places, so it was
18 very international at the time and had properties
19 overseas.

20 LADY SMITH: I suppose on a typical day in the 1920s/30s, in
21 the London club, one would come across people from
22 a wide range of different nations then? Would that be
23 right?

24 A. Yes. I think they were mostly from the UK, and travel
25 was not as easy then as it is now, but as you rightly

1 say, there were Australians and New Zealanders. If you
2 go to the Second World War, when the League hosted a lot
3 of events for soldiers and officers, this was very, very
4 multinational.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes. I suppose the club would be a natural
6 home for, say, a Canadian or an Australian who found
7 themselves living in London?

8 A. Yes, absolutely. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Let me just check. There are no outstanding
10 applications for questions that anyone is aware of, are
11 there? (Pause).

12 Margaret, that does complete your evidence today.
13 I am very grateful to you for joining us over the link.
14 Can I just say I know it has taken a little while to get
15 the technology sorted out. Thank you for bearing with
16 us and being determined to be able to give your
17 evidence, which seems to have gone very successfully
18 from the point of view of the technology, and from my
19 perspective I have been really grateful to hear what you
20 have been able to add to our evidence. I didn't realise
21 you had been here earlier. Thank you for coming and
22 showing that interest as well. I am now able to finish
23 with your evidence and let you get on with the rest of
24 your day, thank you.

25 A. Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, perhaps a short break while we change
3 the link for the next witness.

4 LADY SMITH: Indeed. Let's do that.

5 (10.45 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (10.54 am)

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, I understand the next witness link is
9 ready, is that right?

10 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The next witness is
11 Dr Diana Owen.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Good morning.

13 THE WITNESS: Good morning.

14 LADY SMITH: Can I check, Dr Owen, whether you can hear and
15 see me clearly?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can. Thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: Welcome to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and
18 thank you for agreeing to join us over the link.

19 Could I start, please, by having you swear to tell
20 the truth, and that means I want you to raise your right
21 hand and repeat after me ...

22 DR DIANA OWEN (affirmed) (via video link)

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Is it all right if I call you
24 Diana?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, of course.

1 LADY SMITH: Diana, everything seems to be working fine with
2 the link at the moment. Don't hesitate to let us know
3 if you have any worries about it, because it is
4 important you are able to give your evidence as
5 comfortably as you can.

6 If you are ready, I will hand over to Ms Rattray and
7 she will take matters from there, is that all right?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, that is fine. Can I just say thank you
9 for allowing us to use the video link, it is very
10 helpful in the current circumstances.

11 LADY SMITH: Indeed. I am just glad it is working all
12 right.

13 Ms Rattray.

14 Questions from MS RATTRAY

15 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, Diana.

16 A. Good morning.

17 Q. You are Dr Diana Owen. Could you confirm the year of
18 your birth? I don't need the month or the day, only the
19 year.

20 A. 1957.

21 Q. You have provided a statement to the Inquiry, to which
22 we have given the reference ROL-4, and I am going to be
23 asking you some questions based on your statement but
24 also based on the response that ROSL has provided in
25 relation to questions put by the Inquiry, and the

1 reference we have given to that document is
2 ROL.001.001.0123.

3 Diana, you may have those documents in paper form in
4 front of you and if that is easier for you to use, that
5 is fine, but copies of whatever page I am looking at
6 should come up on the screen in front of you as well.

7 Diana, I understand your present role is the
8 Director-General of the Royal Over-Seas League --

9 A. Sorry to interrupt. I actually left ROSL in July this
10 year, and there is a new Director General who has asked
11 me to continue to represent the Royal Over-Seas League
12 at this Inquiry.

13 Q. When did you first take up the post of Director-General?

14 A. December 2017.

15 Q. Before that, I understand for a period of ten years you
16 were the Director and Chief Executive of Shakespeare
17 Birthplace Trust?

18 A. That is correct, in Stratford, yes.

19 Q. You also tell us from your biography that in June 2018
20 you were awarded an OBE?

21 A. Yes, that is correct.

22 Q. What was the OBE in respect of?

23 A. It was for services to culture and tourism.

24 Q. Diana, turning to your statement first at ROL-4 on
25 page 1, you tell us the purpose of your statement is to

1 make a few remarks firstly, and then to outline briefly
2 ROSL's involvement in child migration, and to finish by
3 updating the Inquiry on the current response of ROSL?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Firstly, I would take you to paragraphs 5 to 7 at the
6 foot of your statement, and perhaps you would like to
7 explain what your response has been to the evidence that
8 you so far have heard in the Inquiry.

9 A. Yes, thank you. Like Margaret, I attended with Margaret
10 the opening of this section of the Inquiry concerning
11 child migration, and it is really quite shocking to
12 learn about these events in our national history, but it
13 wasn't until I joined the Royal Over-Seas League at the
14 end of 2017 and in January 2018 received a letter from
15 the IICSA Inquiry asking a number of questions, and at
16 that point I was completely unaware of this part of
17 ROSL's history because it doesn't form part of the
18 official history of ROSL.

19 It was a very steep learning curve for me to try and
20 pick up exactly what the situation was, and I did rely
21 very heavily on Margaret's input and knowledge --
22 Margaret, the previous witness -- to try and find out
23 what all this was about, because also my predecessor had
24 left some six months before I joined so I wasn't able to
25 contact him either at that point.

1 I found it very distressing and personally quite
2 traumatic to hear some of these accounts from these
3 former child migrants and I really don't -- I hope
4 no one feels I am here to try to defend in any way
5 ROSL's role in these schemes, which I believe have been
6 very clearly shown to be wrong and harmful and misguided
7 to the many, many thousands of children and young people
8 who were caught up in them. I am not saying that every
9 single one of those people necessarily had a very
10 difficult time, but for all of them it was a significant
11 moment in their lives.

12 I think ROSL has been criticised in the past for not
13 really accepting the reality of its role and also how
14 harmful these schemes were, so I wanted to have the
15 opportunity say today, on behalf of the Royal Over-Seas
16 League, it has taken us a while to move to this
17 position, but we want to now say that we completely
18 accept the reality of the victims who have been brave
19 enough to come forward and to share their stories with
20 us, and in a way the loss of our records is a further
21 sort of blow to those people and their families and
22 their ongoing families, and their subsequent treatment
23 by official and non-official bodies.

24 I think ROSL has always tried to be helpful but it
25 has also tried to keep it under the radar, as it were,

1 rather than be completely open about its role in these
2 schemes.

3 Q. Diana, moving on really to start with -- it might be
4 helpful to hear a brief history of the founding of ROSL
5 and what the purpose of the League was. I know you
6 touch upon that on page 2 of your statement at
7 paragraph 14. Can you help fill in the background
8 there, please?

9 A. Yes. ROSL was founded in 1910 by a man called
10 Evelyn Wrench, later Sir Evelyn Wrench, and it was meant
11 to be, and still is, a non-profit members organisation
12 dedicated to championing international friendship and
13 understanding. And Evelyn Wrench's aim, he talked about
14 giving the nations of the Commonwealth a helping hand
15 along the way to the path of freedom and independence,
16 and he saw the British Empire as a good thing, and that
17 he wanted to try and maintain the bonds of the
18 British Empire even though there might not be the same
19 constitutional arrangements. So he saw it as a sort of
20 brotherhood of people around the world who would keep in
21 touch and share common values.

22 Those were later incorporated into the royal charter
23 which was to set up an organisation that was pledged to
24 the support of the Commonwealth and what he called
25 a multiracial fellowship. Those objectives still

1 underpin the work of ROSL today. So they cover:

2 "... fostering interest in the Commonwealth,
3 maintaining social centres in London and elsewhere,
4 encouraging the arts within the Commonwealth, sponsoring
5 projects designed to assist those who are in need,
6 publishing journals, holding events and lectures and
7 co-operating with other societies working for the
8 welfare of the Commonwealth."

9 That is quite a good description of what the Royal
10 Over-Seas League does and has always had a very
11 strong -- as Margaret was saying, a very strong
12 international focus.

13 And very unusually, from the moment it was founded
14 in 1910, women were able to be members of the Royal
15 Over-Seas League even before we had the vote. He set it
16 up as a non-sectarian, non-party and non-jingoistic, as
17 he saw it, organisation, so it was meant to be a place
18 where people could come together and celebrate the sort
19 of values, as he saw it, of the British Empire, later
20 the Commonwealth of course.

21 Q. Diana, what can you tell us about the membership in
22 terms of numbers and the types and origins of people who
23 were members and indeed are members today?

24 A. Yes. Before the Second World War, the Royal Over-Seas
25 League had a very much larger membership of over 50,000

1 members worldwide, and originally there were no fees to
2 be members. Those numbers declined after the Second
3 World War and we now have around 13,000 members. About
4 a year ago we thought it was 16,000 but a new membership
5 database has come in and we now think it is actually
6 about 13,000 members who pay an annual subscription, it
7 is a very low subscription rate by comparison with other
8 similar clubs in St James. And of those members, about
9 50% are based overseas, and of the ones based overseas
10 about half of those, so about 25% of the overall
11 membership, are based in Australia and New Zealand. But
12 we also have members in many parts of Africa, in
13 Nigerian, in Kenya, also in India, places like
14 Solomon Islands, all over the world, particularly the
15 former countries in the Commonwealth. But it is not
16 exclusively the Commonwealth anymore, and actually the
17 fastest growing area of membership now is the
18 United States of America.

19 So it's a very international organisation, and when
20 you are at the clubhouse you will see people from all
21 over the world coming together there, and in the two and
22 a half years that I was there I did meet people from
23 every corner of the world coming for various events and
24 lectures and so on. So it is a very multinational
25 organisation.

1 Q. Diana, moving to page 3 of your statement, paragraph 16,
2 first of all you make clear that the Royal Over-Seas
3 League was previously called the Over-Seas League, is
4 that correct?

5 A. Yes, the royal title came in 1960 when it was awarded as
6 part of its jubilee celebrations in that year, so before
7 that it was just the Over-Seas League.

8 Q. You identify the different locations and schemes which
9 ROSL was involved with in respect of child migration.
10 Can you give us just a very high level overview of the
11 different locations and schemes?

12 A. Yes. They were principally New Zealand and Australia
13 and earlier on some in Canada. I don't believe ...
14 actually I am just thinking there might have been
15 Rhodesia as well but I am thinking I might be wrong on
16 that. I think it is principally New Zealand and
17 Australia.

18 Q. At paragraph 18 you tell us about Mr Cyril Bavin --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- in 1926 and the beginnings, it would appear, of
21 ROSL's involvement in child migration. Who was
22 Mr Cyril Bavin and what was his role?

23 A. Yes, he was an Australian who was born in New Zealand,
24 I believe, according to his Wikipedia entry, and he was
25 a missionary at one point in the Fiji Islands, and then

1 he became involved with the YMCA and was in the UK, and
2 as Margaret said, he was a member of the Royal Over-Seas
3 League and he seems -- his role is very puzzling to me
4 because he seems to have been a very strong advocate of
5 migration and almost, from reading the records, seems to
6 have been a one-man band in promoting this within
7 the League, and was obviously very well connected with
8 lots of other societies and organisations also promoting
9 migration.

10 He started particularly with adult migration, and
11 then this programme to sponsor child migrants to be sent
12 to the Fairbridge Farm Schools in Australia began, and
13 this idea of having godparents or sponsors for the
14 children. You can see that the ROSL branches in
15 Scotland were also involved in this fundraising for
16 these schemes and I think it sort of seemed to grow from
17 there. And particularly Cyril Bavin was very involved
18 with CORB, the Children's Overseas Reception Board and
19 the evacuation of children from Britain, he was on that
20 committee and was very involved with all of that during
21 the war, so somehow he seemed to have links into all
22 these other bodies and organisations.

23 Actually, from reading around this subject more
24 since I have had more time to be able to do that, he
25 does strike me as being very much the driving force

1 behind all of ROSL's involvement in these schemes, and
2 I think one of my -- one of the questions I keep asking
3 myself is why the central council of the Royal Over-Seas
4 League don't seem to have exercised better governance
5 over these -- over the activity of the
6 Migration Committee, or Bureau as it later became. It
7 seems very puzzling that such scant reports were made to
8 the central committee and that -- well, I suppose it is
9 easy to look back with hindsight, because all of the
10 accounts in the Over-Seas Magazine are quite celebratory
11 of these schemes, which of course we know now were not
12 quite as beneficial to the children as they were
13 projected as being.

14 I think after the war Bavin goes on to continue to
15 promote schemes, even though he must have known, because
16 of his involvement in the various committees and the
17 council of -- I can't remember the name -- CVOC, the
18 Council of Voluntary Organisations involved in
19 migration, which was looking at the proposed new
20 standards and regulations for the migration of children,
21 he must have known about the other reports that were
22 coming in, showing that these institutions to which many
23 of the children were being sent were not satisfactory,
24 particularly in Australia. So I think -- I believe that
25 he must have known about this, about these shortcomings.

1 He must have seen these reports.

2 So it is puzzling as to why he continues on with
3 these schemes, and to setting up this scheme with the
4 New Zealand authorities particularly, to send children
5 to be fostered in New Zealand despite these reports.

6 Q. If we turn now to the first involvement in child
7 migration. You have mentioned that there was something
8 called a godparent scheme, you say from 1927 or 1929,
9 whereby children were sent to the Fairbridge Farm
10 Schools in Australia?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It might be helpful at this point to look at the
13 response, the amended response, that has been prepared
14 which is at ROL.001.001.0123 and page 4 of that document
15 which should come on the screen in front of you. If we
16 scroll down, you refer to the annual report of 1927 and
17 that there is now reference to a godparent scheme?

18 A. Yes. I think --

19 Q. Sorry?

20 A. I think my statement should have said "1927 to 1929",
21 rather than "or 1929".

22 Q. Right, okay. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Just before you tell us about the godparent
24 scheme, can you help me with this, Diana: is that
25 the same as what you referred to as sponsoring child

1 migrants or was it something different?

2 A. I think the 1920s godparenting scheme was -- I get the
3 impression that it was a kind of financial contribution
4 that you could make to sponsor a child. So, yes, I am
5 not sure what the difference is, to be honest, between
6 sponsoring and being a godparent. Maybe being
7 a godparent sounds ...

8 LADY SMITH: It suggests it's trying to build some human
9 link as well as just paying cash, I suppose.

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: But the indication from what you can see is
12 that it is all part of the same scheme, is that right?

13 A. Yes. I think so.

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, sorry I diverted you. Carry on.

15 MS RATTRAY: Diana, you were telling us on page 4 of the
16 response, towards halfway down, referring to an annual
17 report which makes records of the godparent scheme of
18 the Child Emigration Society. What can you tell us
19 generally about that scheme?

20 A. I don't know anything more than is written on the page
21 there because that is taken from our annual report, so
22 that is the only information that I have. Unless there
23 is more information in the expert report, I don't think
24 there was. But I can only assume that it was some way
25 of funding these children to be sent overseas.

1 Q. Is anything known about how children were selected to be
2 sent overseas in the context of that scheme?

3 A. No, we have no other record than that simple sentence.

4 Q. So it's not even clear whether the League had any input
5 into that as opposed to simply providing funds for a
6 child, for example?

7 A. No, I don't know the answer to that.

8 Q. If we then move on, you say that after the Second World
9 War -- after the Second World War you talk about
10 the fostering scheme to New Zealand.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell us the background of the fostering scheme
13 to New Zealand?

14 A. The scheme -- I am just trying to find my notes, sorry.
15 The scheme was very much a ROSL and New Zealand
16 Government project to send children to New Zealand to be
17 fostered and the idea was that:

18 "In conjunction with New Zealand House in London and
19 after obtaining reports from the child's Local Authority
20 Area, a selection committee of representatives from
21 ROSL, New Zealand House and other bodies would select
22 the children for migration and fostering."

23 Although I believe again there are no records of
24 that selection committee or how the children were
25 selected. Then there was a formal hearing before the

1 Bow Street Magistrates' Court, which would include
2 asking the children involved to confirm their consent,
3 before guardianship could be transferred to the Child
4 Welfare Department in New Zealand.

5 Q. If we look at page 6 of the response, that is at
6 ROL.001.001.0123 at page 6, I think you tell us in the
7 report more background in relation to New Zealand, and
8 you provide a quote from the ROSL annual report for 1949
9 which makes a record of an agreement?

10 A. Yes:

11 "The idea was that the children would be recorded as
12 members of the family in New Zealand but the Over-Seas
13 League should be the sole recruiting agency in the UK to
14 recruit children from the ages of 5 to 17 whose parents
15 were willing to allow them to emigrate to New Zealand
16 where they would have a better chance of a fuller,
17 happier and healthy life."

18 And 3, that:

19 "After a trial period of six month, the friends who
20 took charge of these children, if the arrangement proved
21 satisfactory on both sides, should be given legal
22 guardianship of the child until he or she attained the
23 age of 21 years. The parent's consent to this is given
24 in a sworn declaration before a magistrate."

25 Q. You go on to tell us in the report, on page 6 of the

1 report, that between 1949 and 1953, it appears to be
2 League policy to host a reception or a farewell party at
3 the London clubhouse?

4 A. Yes, that is correct. And that is what the photograph
5 album shows, these children attending these farewell
6 parties, attended sometimes by their parents and the
7 female escorts who were going to go with them on the
8 journey to New Zealand, and also various officials from
9 the New Zealand High Commission, like the
10 High Commissioner, the New Zealand Speaker and several
11 government ministers.

12 Some of these children did come from Scotland.
13 I was re-looking at these photographs the other day
14 and I did notice that [REDACTED], who has been
15 mentioned in this Inquiry, is shown in a photograph with
16 his family about to leave for Dhurringile Farm in
17 Victoria in [REDACTED] 1954, where of course he did later
18 experience some very sustained and serious physical and
19 sexual abuse.

20 So I think there is a bit more work to be done on
21 that photograph album in terms of cross-referencing the
22 names of the children that are shown in it so that again
23 we can get a better picture, or more of a picture, of
24 the children that were sent to New Zealand and
25 Australia.

1 LADY SMITH: Diana, I'm sorry to take you back a moment,
2 there's just something I want to clarify from one of
3 your earlier answers.

4 You explained that there was a formal hearing before
5 the Bow Street Magistrates' Court, which I think is when
6 the objective was to have them witness a declaration,
7 notarise a declaration or whatever. But you went on to
8 say that the children were involved and they were asked
9 to confirm their consent before guardianship could be
10 transferred to the Child Welfare Department in
11 New Zealand.

12 What I am not clear about is whether what you are
13 telling us is the child's consent to transfer of
14 guardianship would be taken then, or that was the
15 child -- the intention being to take the child's consent
16 at the end of the trial period to have guardianship
17 transferred. Do you see what I mean?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 LADY SMITH: Otherwise the guardianship has gone and there
20 is no control retained.

21 A. I am afraid again I don't know the answer, because this
22 is actually a verbatim extract from the annual report of
23 1949, it is not my words, and I understand from the
24 expert reports of course that there was little follow-up
25 to see how these arrangements worked. Obviously there

1 was some -- there was a report to show that often,
2 sometimes anyway, the families to whom these children
3 went, the arrangements didn't prove satisfactory on
4 either side. So I am not -- I don't know the answer to
5 that question.

6 LADY SMITH: So you don't have any record that would tell me
7 whether the child got another chance, if you like, to
8 say yes or no at the end of the trial period?

9 A. No, I don't, I am sorry.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Ms Rattray.

12 MS RATTRAY: My Lady.

13 You tell us towards the foot of page 6 of the report
14 and turning over to page 7 that records indicate that of
15 the children who were sent to foster placements in
16 New Zealand, 196 children had more than one placement
17 with a foster family?

18 A. Yes. I am not quite sure ... Hold on, I am not quite
19 sure where that has come from. It must have come from
20 other evidence that we gave at ...

21 "... having more than one foster placement", that
22 does sound as if they were moved. That must be a record
23 of the New Zealand Superintendent of Child Welfare, it
24 is not something that the League has records of. But it
25 does rather suggest that some foster placements were

1 unsuccessful and the children had to be moved.

2 LADY SMITH: That is 196 children moving their foster
3 placements according to your records, yes?

4 A. They are not our records, they must be the New Zealand
5 Superintendent of Child Welfare's records.

6 LADY SMITH: Sorry, of course, yes.

7 A. Yes. I believe there were over 500 children migrated in
8 total, about 530 under this scheme, so that is nearly
9 200 having more than one foster placement by 1953, so
10 yes, that is quite a significant rate of change.

11 MS RATTRAY: Diana, at the top of page 5 of your response
12 but page 7 on the copy online, in the next paragraph you
13 address, you refer to:

14 "Evidence which was received by IICSA concerning
15 a 1953 report written about the League's scheme by the
16 New Zealand Superintendent of Child Welfare which
17 identified significant shortcomings in the scheme,
18 including problems arising from foster parents who were
19 initially enthusiastic about participating but failed to
20 maintain their responsibilities to children."

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. At this stage there is a contrast with the apparent
23 message in that report and with certain claims made by
24 Cyril Bavin. Can you tell us about that?

25 A. Yes. Much of this information is taken from

1 Professor Lynch's work, and I think it is striking that
2 Bavin is still claiming that the child emigration
3 schemes are 100% satisfactory and he seems surprised
4 when the New Zealand Government withdraws its support
5 for this scheme, although he must have known, I believe,
6 that it wasn't working as well as everyone had hoped it
7 would, so I can't really -- it is hard to ...

8 I suppose it was his life's work, all these
9 emigration schemes, and maybe he just couldn't accept
10 that there was enough --

11 LADY SMITH: Yes, Diana, I did wonder about that. You have
12 a man who is Australian, was brought up in New Zealand,
13 finds himself living in London, becomes a member of the
14 club, and as a member not that long after the club's
15 foundation is able to encourage an initiative within the
16 club that takes off in relation to child migration in
17 about 1926. That carries on until war time. During the
18 war he is involved in evacuating children, and after the
19 war, lo and behold, he actually is employed by the club
20 to do this work.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: It was very much obviously what he was.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: And it is not difficult to see how hard it
25 would have been for him to face up to the fact that all

1 was not well according to what was coming out of
2 certainly the news from New Zealand at that time.

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: And some from Australia too.

5 A. Yes, he seems to be completely unable to accept that
6 there were any problems with these schemes or to take
7 on board the standards that were being mooted and talked
8 about. And I think I heard Professor Constantine this
9 week saying he actually bent the rules on some
10 occasions, and Professor Lynch refers to this as well.
11 Professor Constantine talked about Bavin "smuggling",
12 I think was the word he used, children back to Australia
13 and New Zealand through the CORB returning evacuees
14 scheme. He was including non-CORB children, and it
15 seems extraordinary (a) that he was able to do that, but
16 that he continued to do all of this seemingly without
17 any controls over him.

18 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

19 Ms Rattray, it is 11.30 am.

20 Diana, I normally take a break at this time so
21 I will do that now for about 15 minutes and we will
22 return to your evidence after that. Thank you.

23 (11.29 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (11.49 am)

1 LADY SMITH: Diana, welcome back. Is it all right if we
2 carry on now?

3 A. Of course.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS RATTRAY: Diana, I think when we left off we were making
6 reference to a 1953 report written about the League's
7 scheme in New Zealand, and the Superintendent of Child
8 Welfare identifying significant shortcomings, which
9 rather:

10 "... contrasted with Bavin's claim in a League
11 publication in December 1951 that its child migration
12 scheme work was 'one of, if not the, most satisfactory
13 Child Emigration schemes in existence' ..."

14 A. Yes, that was clearly Bavin's opinion only, I think, at
15 that time, it would seem.

16 I think we were just talking as well before
17 the break about he seemed to be unable to accept that
18 child emigration schemes were not working well in many
19 instances.

20 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking, Diana, when you say
21 this is a League publication, it is one of the types of
22 publication that would be circulated to all members?

23 A. Yes. Yes, I believe so. I think it would be in the
24 annual report.

25 LADY SMITH: So on the basis of that, you are not really

1 likely to get any members questioning whether the League
2 should carry on their involvement?

3 A. No, I have no evidence either way of whether they did or
4 they didn't, but in view of the picture that was painted
5 by Bavin, most members would think that it was going
6 well.

7 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

8 Ms Rattray.

9 MS RATTRAY: We learn that Bavin reported surprise at the
10 New Zealand Government deciding to withdraw its support
11 for the scheme in autumn of 1953?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. At this stage, if we go back to children who were being
14 migrated to Australia, if I understand the position
15 correctly from the response, the Australian migration
16 was continuing alongside the New Zealand scheme?

17 A. Yes, I believe so. I think this is another example of
18 Bavin acting outside what was the expected behaviour at
19 the time. He seems to have carried on despite it not
20 being approved officially as a sending organisation.

21 Q. If we return to page 5 on the monitor of the report,
22 which is otherwise page 3 of the report itself, I think
23 towards the foot of the page we see that reference has
24 been made to Professor Lynch drawing attention to
25 certain matters and a case involving two boys who do not

1 appear to have had any previous connection with the
2 Children's Overseas Reception Board scheme and whose
3 proposed emigration by the League in spring 1948 was
4 a source of concern to officials?

5 A. Yes, that is correct. I mentioned this earlier,
6 I think. Professor Constantine referred to this, he
7 called it "smuggling" of extra children into these
8 returning CORB evacuee parties.

9 Q. You have also explained that evidence received by IICSA
10 indicates that the League formally proposed its
11 migration scheme to Australia to the Australian
12 Commonwealth Government and state immigration officials
13 in 1948, but this was apparently refused by
14 the Australian immigration officials. You explain to us
15 the grounds of refusal at the foot of page 5 and top of
16 page 6. Can you explain those grounds to us?

17 A. I am just looking for the right bit. Could we go down
18 a bit?

19 Q. It should be highlighted in front of you.

20 A. It just ends:

21 "... there should be personal ..."

22 Q. Then over the page to the top of the next page.

23 A. "... there should be personal contact between a child
24 and their adopter before any transfer of custody took
25 place; (b) that state governments would require full

1 family and medical histories of child migrants to ensure
2 that proposed placements were unlikely to break down;
3 (c) that adoptions should not take place without
4 a probationary period to ensure the suitability of the
5 placement; and (d) the League did not have the
6 organisational structure to manage any adoption
7 placements that broke down in Australia, meaning that
8 the responsibility for the care of children in these
9 cases would become the responsibility of state Child
10 Welfare Departments. Evidence submitted to IICSA
11 suggested that the League was aware that their proposed
12 scheme had been rejected."

13 Q. I think we have heard in evidence from the experts that
14 after some input from perhaps the Australian
15 authorities, the scheme was allowed to continue, but it
16 may have been the view of the UK authorities that they
17 thought perhaps it wouldn't continue when certain
18 regulations came into being?

19 A. That is correct, and Professor Lynch covers this as
20 well, that there was -- they were hoping that
21 the introduction of the Section 33 regulations would put
22 an end to the League's work, but of course because that
23 didn't happen, they were able to continue.

24 Q. Turning to page 7 of the report, about halfway down,
25 after you tell us indeed about the Home Office's failure

1 to introduce these regulations and that the League still
2 continued its child migration work, but that was until
3 Cyril Bavin died in 1956?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Are you aware whether there was any active involvement
6 in selection or sponsoring of children beyond that time?

7 A. As we have mentioned earlier, it is very frustrating not
8 having more detailed accounts of these activities, but
9 in the 1954 annual report there is a short mention of
10 recruitment to Dhurringile -- I am not sure how to
11 pronounce it -- Dhurringile Farm Training School in
12 Victoria of 20 boys, and actually the photo album also
13 shows this, and further godparenting by UK branches. So
14 it did carry on.

15 Q. Then you tell us towards the foot of page 7 of the
16 report that there was some involvement or at least
17 support for a scheme in Canada?

18 A. Yes, this is the YMCA "British Lads for Canada" Scheme
19 which sought to settle older teenage boys in Canadian
20 farms in conjunction with the United Church of Canada.
21 So even after Bavin's death in 1956, there still seems
22 to be continuing support for some migration although on
23 a reduced scale.

24 Q. Perhaps briefly returning to your statement, on page 5
25 of your statement and paragraph 27, I think you tell us

1 about the "British Lads for Canada" Scheme, but you also
2 summarise further references in annual reports through
3 the 1960s and 1970s of continued financial support for
4 various schemes?

5 A. Yes, particularly the Big Brother Movement in Australia
6 and the Fairbridge Society still seems to have received
7 funding from members of the Royal Over-Seas League --
8 through the Royal Over-Seas League.

9 Q. Diana, moving now to the question of policies. What
10 information were you able to garner from what records
11 you have as to the existence of any policies that
12 the League may have had in relation to child migration?

13 A. As we set out in our response to the Section 21 --

14 Q. It may assist, you will find that at page 9 of the
15 response, ROL.001.001.0123 at page 9.

16 A. As far as we know, there wasn't a particular policy as
17 we would understand it today, but the general aim was to
18 support UK Government policy and organisations like the
19 Fairbridge Society. So it was therefore quite
20 open-ended and quite vague and these policies were
21 generally aimed at things like the "Back to the Land"
22 schemes and godparenting schemes.

23 I don't think there was an official policy as we
24 would understand it today, and ROSL seems to have taken
25 most of its advice or guidance from Cyril Bavin as to

1 which schemes it should be supporting, particularly the
2 New Zealand scheme.

3 Q. I think you tell us that you have very little, in some
4 case nothing at all, in relation to any policies
5 regarding selection of children to migrate or provision
6 of information --

7 A. Yes, we have --

8 Q. -- before and after?

9 A. We have no records relating to that information.

10 Q. I think you are also clear at paragraph 31 of your
11 statement on page 6, you say:

12 "Turning to the IICSA Report published in 2018, ROSL
13 accepts that there was no proper monitoring, reporting
14 and aftercare of children sent by it to New Zealand and
15 Australia ..."

16 A. Yes, that is correct.

17 Q. You also speak in your statement about record-keeping,
18 but we have heard on that matter from your former
19 colleague, so I would like to turn now to the question
20 of knowledge of abuse --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- that those in ROSL may have. You address that at the
23 foot of page 5 of your statement at paragraph 28 and
24 turning over to page 6. Can you tell us what you say
25 there?

1 A. Yes, again this is in discussion with Margaret. It is
2 very clear as far as I can gather, but obviously our
3 records are very scanty on this, we don't believe that
4 a former child migrant has actually contacted ROSL
5 directly with allegations of abuse during their time in
6 Australia or in New Zealand, which is a very precise
7 statement but it is simply a statement of fact. But
8 of course -- and ROSL staff, past ROSL staff have in the
9 past said they haven't had any incidents of abuse
10 reported or alleged to them. However, we do accept that
11 particularly from the 1990s onwards, these accounts,
12 former child migrants' accounts, and reports and
13 investigations into child migration and allegations of
14 abuse, were in the public domain, and so ROSL will have
15 been aware of those, I am sure, and of course through
16 being involved in inquiries like this.

17 Q. Diana, turning to ROSL's response to requests for
18 information from former child migrants, turning back to
19 the response at page 9, at the foot of page 9, you
20 explain to us that at least since 1991, it appears that
21 ROSL had a policy of responding as helpfully as possible
22 to the few former child migrants who contacted ROSL
23 direct requesting information, and that included
24 personal responses by the then Director-General,
25 Robert Newell. But you have drawn our attention to the

1 fact that Professor Lynch drew your attention to
2 a different experience which is set out on page 10 of
3 the response which will appear before you.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you give us an overview of the other response and
6 experience that was reported there?

7 A. Yes. This report talks about:

8 "Approaches made to the Royal Over-Seas League
9 headquarters in London were entirely fruitless. It
10 seems the League has no wish to claim its part in the
11 resettlement schemes of which it was such a big player.
12 Indeed its standard response is that it simply now has
13 no records pertaining to those times."

14 However, I think Margaret alluded to the fact that
15 part of her role was to provide information to anyone
16 seeking information who might have come to the
17 clubhouse, but this was in the 1990s. I don't know what
18 happened before that.

19 Q. On page 10 of the report, the next paragraph, you refer
20 to figures which were identified in terms of a survey of
21 42 former child migrants sent to New Zealand under the
22 scheme, and obviously this is UK-based, it isn't
23 specific to Scotland?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Certain numbers are there that indicated that amongst

1 these respondents:

2 "... 12 said their lives had been affected 'very
3 badly' by their involvement in the scheme, 24 raised
4 concerns over loss of identity, 13 complained of abuse
5 and ill-treatment (including exploitation of labour), 9
6 of neglect, 30 as experiencing problems arising from
7 family separation, and 22 experienced sustained problems
8 in forming relations as adults ..."

9 Diana, I am going to turn back to your statement now
10 at page 6 of your statement from paragraph 34 onwards,
11 and there you have very clearly recognised the impact
12 upon some children who were migrated, and explaining
13 attempts, which we have heard from your former colleague
14 about, of setting up an online database or archive that
15 people can consult.

16 You tell us what the current policy is of ROSL at
17 paragraph 35. Can you help us with that?

18 A. Yes. I think we all believe that as well as making the
19 full apology that we have made and acknowledging the
20 role that ROSL played in these schemes, we wanted to try
21 and help in any way that we can in the ongoing
22 rectification of this terrible chapter in our history.
23 So in 2019 we were successful in getting an intern
24 placement from UCL to help us begin to assemble and
25 start to catalogue and properly archive -- I have put

1 "records" here, but that includes all types of
2 documentary evidence and sources, including the annual
3 reports, the central committee minutes, the Over-Seas
4 Magazines, and now of course the photo album.

5 Alongside that we developed a brief for digitising
6 these records so that they could be searched and made
7 available. And alongside that as well, earlier this
8 year in February, I had arranged appointments with the
9 Child Migrants Trust in Nottingham, and also with
10 Professor Gordon Lynch, to try to work out how this
11 information could be best shared and integrated with
12 other sorts of information that are available. Our
13 policy now is to provide all the information that we
14 possibly can, and we were pleased at the end of 2019 to
15 be able to assist a former child migrant who came to us
16 and we were able to find some record of his involvement
17 in these schemes in Over-Seas Magazine, a photograph of
18 him, and this helped to establish his claim for
19 compensation from the UK Government's Department of
20 Health and Social Care.

21 So we are very keen to make as effective use as we
22 possibly can of the limited documentation that we have.
23 And as I was alluding to earlier, I think with some
24 cross-referencing of materials from all these disparate
25 sources it is possible to put together a fuller picture.

1 Q. Diana, at the foot of that page, paragraph 36, turning
2 over to the next page, you mention ROSL's policy now in
3 relation to making an apology?

4 A. Yes. So we were criticised by IICSA for failing to
5 apologise to former child migrants, and our policy now
6 is to make such an apology to any former child migrant
7 who contacts us or indeed their families, as indeed we
8 did in regard to the case I mentioned above. But
9 obviously, because we don't know the names and contact
10 details of all of the migrants that ROSL was involved
11 with, it is difficult for us to do that comprehensively
12 unless people come forward and contact us.

13 But in the context of SCAI, we offer an unreserved
14 apology to all former child migrants whose care
15 originated in Scotland or anywhere in the UK that we
16 were involved with.

17 Q. I think, as perhaps you have acknowledged before, at
18 paragraphs 38 and 39 you indicate there is
19 an acknowledgement on behalf of ROSL as to the extent of
20 its involvement in child migration schemes?

21 A. Yes. I think we can now accept that ROSL, and
22 particularly through the work of Cyril Bavin, was much
23 more heavily involved in promoting child migration than
24 simply supporting official and other schemes that were
25 there. ROSL was quite active in engagement with these

1 schemes. And we also accept that child migration was
2 capable of causing significant and irreversible damage
3 to children who were migrated and that this had lifelong
4 consequences for those involved which, of course, are
5 a matter of deep and sincere regret.

6 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, Diana, I have no further questions
7 for you. I am not aware of any further questions.

8 LADY SMITH: There are no outstanding applications for
9 questions of Diana, are there? Not that I know of.

10 Diana, it just remains for me to thank you very much
11 for providing your evidence today, it is really helpful,
12 as is the detail in the written response to our
13 Section 21 request. I am really grateful to you. I am
14 grateful to you for being prepared to carry on with this
15 responsibility after you have left ROSL's employment,
16 I am sure likewise they are glad that you are able to do
17 that.

18 So I am now able to let you go and hopefully get on
19 with the rest of your day, but please do so knowing how
20 helpful you have been and how much we value your
21 contribution. Thank you for that.

22 A. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, perhaps at this point we can take
25 a short break. The next witness will be in the hearing

1 room in person.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I will do that.

3 (12.12 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (12.26 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is Mrs Vivienne
8 Dickenson.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MRS VIVienne DICKENSON (sworn)

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

12 Is it all right if I call you Vivienne?

13 THE WITNESS: It is.

14 LADY SMITH: Vivienne, in a moment I will hand over to
15 Mr MacAulay and he will explain what he wants you to do
16 with the file we have already provided, but I see you
17 have brought documents with you and if those are going
18 to be helpful to you, don't hesitate to refer to them.
19 Some may be coming up on screen anyway but we can sort
20 that out, I am sure.

21 Any questions or problems during your evidence at
22 all, don't hesitate to let me know. It is important
23 that you are as comfortable as we can make you while you
24 are giving your evidence.

25 Mr MacAulay.

1 Questions from MR MACAULAY

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

3 Just to remind us, you are Vivienne Dickenson?

4 A. That is right.

5 Q. You have given evidence before, of course, and that was
6 on 26 June 2017?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Just to remind us as to what role you are playing in the
9 Inquiry, I will put your CV on the screen again for you,
10 and that is at COS.001.001.0116.

11 Here you tell us essentially, looking to your
12 background, what your background is, and then you go on
13 to tell us you joined CrossReach, and CrossReach is the
14 Church of Scotland social care council, is that right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And you became Chief Executive Officer with effect from
17 1 June 2017?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Is that the position you hold at present?

20 A. It is, yes.

21 Q. In the red folder that was made available to you by the
22 Inquiry you will find the documents that CrossReach
23 submitted in response to the two Section 21 requests,
24 and there is also another document that I may ask you to
25 look at. So feel free to use that material,

1 alternatively it is likely that the references that
2 I will ask you about will come on the screen in front of
3 you, so if you find that easier then work with that.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. As I have just mentioned then, there are two Section 21
6 requests by the Inquiry and there are two Section 21
7 responses. The difference between the two is the first
8 request -- or one of the requests, I can't remember
9 whether it was the first or second, one of the requests
10 covered from the period from 1900 to 1930 and the second
11 request covered the period post-1930, is that right?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. So far as the 1900-1930 request is concerned, if I could
14 look at that first of all, and that is at
15 COS.001.001.0640. It is on the screen but it is also in
16 the folder.

17 By way of overview, during this period, subject to
18 one or two perhaps qualifications, the scheme that you
19 talk about in this response was essentially an adult
20 migration scheme, is that right?

21 A. That is correct, yes.

22 Q. So far as you are aware, what you tell us there is that
23 the Church of Scotland did not operate or take part in
24 child migration as such during that period?

25 A. Yes. We believe that most young people were young men

1 over the age of 19.

2 Q. There are one or two little points you make in the
3 response that I will touch upon in a moment. But you
4 give us some background to that, and looking at this
5 very briefly, can you just tell us what, for example,
6 Cornton Vale's involvement was in this scheme?

7 A. Yes, Cornton Vale was a training farm for young men who
8 wished to emigrate and it was set aside specifically for
9 that purpose, for young men who were destitute or
10 homeless or who felt they might have a better life in
11 an emigration scheme. So they came, they trained on the
12 farm and were supported for an assisted migration at
13 that point.

14 Q. What you tell us is that it began as a farm labour
15 colony in 1907, and if we read on to the following page
16 at COS.001.001.0641, I think you tell us that the scheme
17 officially stopped in 1932?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Sorry, as a matter of interest, was the colony
20 geographically on the same site as the prison now is, or
21 close to there?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: The same site?

24 A. It's the same site.

25 LADY SMITH: I am just thinking the buildings --

1 A. It became a borstal and then the Prison Service acquired
2 it.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

4 MR MACAULAY: In the next section then on
5 page COS.001.001.0641 you do discuss the age of the
6 service users and, as you point out, generally speaking
7 that it should be open for young men aged about 19 to
8 26. That was the plan?

9 A. Yes, that was the plan.

10 Q. If we move on then to the next page, COS.001.001.0642,
11 you draw attention to the fact that on occasions the
12 term "boy" or "boys" is used to describe the residents,
13 but it is not clear what age groups these descriptions
14 referred to, is that the position?

15 A. That's right. There is some conflicting language used
16 throughout, and my understanding is that "boy" was used
17 for young people aged 16 to 19.

18 Q. You draw attention to one instance of a boy -- this is
19 at item (2) -- who seems to have sailed under the
20 scheme, is that right? And was the scheme directed to
21 persons emigrating to Canada or was it to any other
22 country?

23 A. I think mainly Canada at that point.

24 LADY SMITH: When you say Canada, you are referring to this
25 early period, still 1900 to 1930?

1 A. Yes.

2 MR MACAULAY: You draw the conclusion at COS.001.001.0643,
3 towards the top, that from this it appears at least one
4 boy aged 16 emigrated to Canada after training at
5 Cornton Vale, but that really was an exception to what
6 was the practice?

7 A. As far as our records will allow us to deduce, yes.

8 Q. You go on to talk about Craighielinn Training Farm and
9 the association that the Church had with
10 Dr George Cossar. Can you tell me about that?

11 A. Yes, my understanding is, as on the paper there, that he
12 was a member of the Cornton Vale committee, he was
13 involved with the Craighielinn Training Farm, and he
14 asked that there was some link between the two and
15 eventually Church of Scotland took that over, but not
16 until the emigration scheme had stopped.

17 Q. Yes. You tell us the farm was actually gifted to the
18 Church in 1932 but was sold in 1939?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Can I now then turn to the other Section 21 response,
21 and again I will put that on the screen, it's at
22 COS.001.001.0446. Again as an overview, are we looking
23 here at children who were migrated to Australia?

24 A. Yes, we are.

25 Q. We will touch upon the time period more specifically in

1 a moment or two, but you are broadly talking about
2 a period from about 1950 into the early 1960s?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Insofar as the age range is concerned, I think you set
5 out in the response that you thought the age was about
6 from 8 to 14, is that right?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. In that connection I just want to put this document
9 before you. It is at NAA.001.001.0737. It is on the
10 screen in front of you, and as far as that document is
11 concerned, I think we can probably just look at what is
12 on be the screen. You will see it is a letter, copy
13 letter, by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and
14 I think we know they were connected to the Dhurringile
15 Farm. And it is to the Secretary of the Commonwealth
16 Department of Immigration in Melbourne and it's
17 essentially saying that certain boys have reached
18 Dhurringile from the [REDACTED] under the immigration
19 scheme and are due £5 equipment allowance, but what it
20 also goes on to say is:

21 "Herewith please find a list of the boys under 14
22 together with a list of boys who are 14."

23 Although there isn't a typed date, can we see that
24 the date [REDACTED] 1950 has been handwritten on the
25 document?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Had you seen this document before?

3 A. I don't recall seeing this document before.

4 Q. I think it is a document that the Inquiry has recovered
5 from the National Archives of Australia, so perhaps that
6 explains why you haven't seen it. The reason I want to
7 put this document to you is I want to look at the list
8 that is attached it and that is on the following page.

9 The problem with this document now is that, as you
10 can see, for obvious reasons it has been heavily
11 redacted, but there is a copy of that page in your
12 folder, at the very back of your folder, so perhaps you
13 could look at that rather than look at the screen.

14 We have here a list of boys and I think you may
15 recognise some of the names from some of the
16 lists -- names you have provided to us, and I think you
17 can take it that these are boys who were migrated by the
18 Church of Scotland.

19 The reason I want to put this to you at the moment
20 is if you go down the middle column you are given the
21 ages of the boys. And can we see, if you cast your eye
22 down that column, that in fact there were four boys who
23 were aged 7 at the time? Do you see that?

24 A. I see that.

25 Q. And there are also boys who were aged 8, I think three

1 boys who were aged 8, and we have also I think four boys
2 who were aged 9. In the main, the boys that were
3 migrated at that time were under 14 but the 14 year olds
4 are listed at the bottom. Do you see that heading
5 "14 Years", and the boys who were 14.

6 So it appears from that document that in fact the
7 age range was likely to have been between the age of 7
8 and the age of 14?

9 A. I can see that from this document.

10 Q. I fully appreciate you didn't have that information
11 before.

12 A. I recognise the names from the passenger list but
13 I didn't have the ages.

14 Q. Indeed. You yourself have provided the Inquiry with
15 a table of boys that you are able to ascertain from your
16 own records and other records who may have been migrated
17 on behalf of the Church of Scotland, and if I can put
18 that document on the screen for you. It is at
19 COS.001.001.0652. It's part of the ... (Pause). Again
20 we have redacted the names and full dates of birth but
21 you will recognise the document as one that was put
22 together by CrossReach and submitted to the Inquiry.

23 Can we see, the way the document is set out, that
24 you set out date of birth, where from, for example the
25 first reference is to Dunfermline, the establishment

1 which the boy was leaving from, and here do we see it is
2 Levenhall that has been identified?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. And all the references in three-page document indicate
5 that the boys mentioned have been migrated to
6 Dhurringile?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And we are then given the date of migration, do you see
9 that?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. Do we see, for example, this particular boy, he seemed
12 to have been migrated in 1950, so he would have been on
13 the list that we have just looked at, I think?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And the second boy mentioned there towards the bottom,
16 I think you see also he was migrated in 1950. So that
17 information you have managed to obtain from your own
18 records?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But we see from the list, of course, that there were
21 many more boys than that migrated in 1950?

22 A. Yes. Yes, that is because of the role that we held at
23 the time.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. Rather than all the children coming from our direct

1 care.

2 Q. Yes. So the only information you have in your records
3 insofar as the 1950 sailing is concerned is in
4 connection with these two boys?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. But as we have the document in front of us, can we see,
7 for example, for the first two entries, that it has been
8 noted that the boy, the first boy, did have siblings but
9 that they were not in care, is that correct?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Then for the second boy who was migrated later,
12 according to this in 1957, again it is indicated that he
13 had siblings and also they were not in care?

14 A. I think the sister was in care, the second child, the
15 Stirling child.

16 Q. You mean the third --

17 A. Sorry, the third one down.

18 Q. Yes, I think you say that. I am looking at the second
19 one on the list. And that tells us really at a glance
20 that when these two children, for example, were
21 migrated, they were separated by a long distance from
22 their siblings.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 LADY SMITH: Just for the transcript, Mr MacAulay, I think
25 we can note that the list attached to the letter that

1 you referred us to shows 22 children in total under the
2 age of 14 went on that sailing.

3 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

4 As we look at this particular page, we can see that
5 the three boys mentioned there had all been at Levenhall
6 before they were migrated. Remind me, was Levenhall
7 a Church of Scotland home?

8 A. Yes, it was.

9 Q. And if we move on to the second page, COS.001.001.0653,
10 towards the top we have a reference to a boy that was
11 migrated in 1952, and can we see again that he too had
12 been in Levenhall before he was migrated?

13 A. (Witness nods).

14 Q. Insofar as the 1950 contingent would be concerned, and
15 we have looked at the list, we know that one boy was
16 from Levenhall, do you have any idea where the other
17 boys had been taken from?

18 A. On the whole list?

19 Q. On the whole list.

20 A. I think from other different voluntary organisations.

21 Q. Yes. Not necessarily Church of Scotland voluntary
22 organisations?

23 A. I think almost entirely not, other than the two
24 mentioned.

25 Q. Then if we look on the second page, you have also

1 provided the Inquiry with a list from records that you
2 obtained from the National Records of Scotland, and that
3 is from I think a Scottish Education Department file, is
4 that right?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Do we see here, if you look at that page and on to
7 page COS.001.001.0654, that all these boys had been at
8 Quarriers before migration?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Against that background, can I go back to the Section 21
11 response, and that is at COS.001.001.0446. You begin by
12 telling us how it came to be that in particular the
13 Committee on Social Service of the Church of Scotland
14 became involved in child migration at this particular
15 time, just before 1950. Can you just fill us in on
16 that? How did that happen?

17 A. Yes. So in 1948 the Church were approached I think on
18 a number of child migration schemes and decided not to
19 go forward with them from within the Church of Scotland
20 homes. So they did a scan of homes at the time and said
21 "There are no children suitable for this, but we will
22 send out a letter to ministers, if there are any
23 children in parishes who are suitable for migration, and
24 then perhaps the ministers can get in touch with the
25 Immigration Office".

1 It seems that in 1950 there was a change of heart,
2 and that seems to coincide with a Reverend Boag coming
3 over from Australia, specifically from the Presbytery of
4 Victoria, to open the home at Dhurringile and to take
5 back 50 children with him, and that seems to be the
6 mission that he was on. My understanding of the
7 Reverend Boag is that he had taken part in assisted
8 migration himself as a young man, that is referred to in
9 one of the Home Office documents, and he had initially
10 proposed to use one of the homes already run by the
11 Presbytery of Victoria as the kind of sending
12 organisation.

13 When the Home Office looked at that, they said it
14 wasn't appropriate and that he would need a Scottish
15 organisation specifically, an organisation lodged in
16 this country, to facilitate migration of children across
17 to Dhurringile. At that point I believe the Church of
18 Scotland Social Services Committee was approached and
19 has clearly agreed to take on that function.

20 Q. Can I just go back a little bit? You said that in 1948
21 the committee was approached, you say by several
22 organisations that were involved in the migration
23 schemes. Are you able to tell me who these
24 organisations were?

25 A. Yes, we are able to provide that evidence to you, but

1 there were schemes in Canada and I think Rhodesia at
2 that time, and another scheme in Australia, so a whole
3 lot of different Commonwealth countries approaching to
4 ask the Church of Scotland to get involved in migration
5 at that time, but I can certainly send that document --

6 Q. Can you do that?

7 A. I can, yes.

8 Q. That would be helpful.

9 I also want to understand why the committee at that
10 time decided that the schemes that were being presented
11 to them were not suitable for children in any of the
12 homes run by the Church.

13 A. The main reason put forward was that the children all
14 had relatives or people that they were emotionally
15 attached to in this country. That was the main reason
16 that it was discounted at that point.

17 Q. Did that change in 1950 when the church became involved?

18 A. It does appear to have changed in 1950.

19 Q. But the letter you say that was sent to Church of
20 Scotland ministers about the schemes and inviting them
21 to send names of any suitable children, was that
22 directed to ministers to explore in connection with
23 children who were or were not living with families or in
24 homes? What was the ...?

25 A. I think it was any child they thought would benefit,

1 because of their home circumstances, from a migration
2 scheme.

3 Q. What you tell us in response is that twelve children
4 were in fact put in touch with the Australian Church?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. But nothing came of that?

7 A. We don't know.

8 Q. You don't know?

9 A. Our records don't tell us whether any of these children
10 were migrated.

11 Q. But if they were, it wasn't through the Church of
12 Scotland?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. You then went on to mention the Reverend Boag, and
15 clearly he had a meeting with the committee and was able
16 to persuade the committee to become involved in the
17 migration project?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. The committee then I think -- was it then that
20 the committee was in fact formed? Is that what I take
21 from this? Or, rather, a committee was formed?

22 A. Yes, a committee was formed at that point, and the three
23 people on that committee were Reverend Lewis Cameron,
24 Andrew Buchan -- Reverend Lewis Cameron was the director
25 of Social Services at that time, Reverend Andrew Buchan

1 was the deputy and Mari Cumming was the field officer.

2 Q. And I think you tell us, if we move on to the next page,
3 that those three members of the committee acted in
4 a personal capacity until they received the approval of
5 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to act on
6 behalf of the Committee on Social Service?

7 A. That is right.

8 Q. Indeed you tell us that that committee, the Committee on
9 Social Service, in 1951 came a member of the Council of
10 Voluntary Organisations for Child Emigration?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Known as CVOCE?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Do I take from this chronology that when the 1950
15 migration took place, it was not strictly the Committee
16 on Social Service that organised that but the three
17 members of the committee, in that the committee as
18 a committee had not received the approval by then of
19 the General Assembly?

20 A. Yes, that would be correct. It looked like they had
21 informed the Committee of Social Service of their
22 intentions but that hadn't yet been ratified by the
23 General Assembly.

24 LADY SMITH: When did the General Assembly provide that
25 ratification?

1 A. 1951.

2 LADY SMITH: So the committee had started working at a time
3 they didn't immediate to provide a report to the
4 General Assembly, would that be right?

5 A. They would have needed to provide a report, but it could
6 be that what has happened is they have been approached
7 between General Assemblies and have taken on -- because
8 it looked like this boat was going in [REDACTED], didn't
9 it, I think? This 1950s boat?

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 A. And I think a General Assembly is usually in May every
12 year, so actually they clearly felt they had ability to
13 migrate these children and then have the position
14 ratified by the General Assembly the following year.

15 LADY SMITH: I think there has been a real pressure to help
16 Reverend Boag recruit children at that point, and that
17 would have put quite some pressure on the
18 General Assembly, wouldn't it, because the children had
19 gone?

20 A. (Witness nods).

21 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

22 MR MACAULAY: As you tell us, this committee, the Committee
23 on Social Service, at least from 1951, it became the
24 facilitator, if you like, if I can call it that, for
25 sending children to Australia as migrants.

1 A. Purely to Dhurringile.

2 Q. Yes, indeed. Just to be clear, in this post-1950
3 period, it was purely to Dhurringile that children were
4 sent by this committee?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. But you say then on that page that you are not aware of
7 any records which show any specific policies and
8 procedures relating to child migration?

9 A. Yes. So we have nothing written down in terms of
10 policies and procedures, but what we've tried to do over
11 the last few months is to build up a real picture of
12 whether any policies and procedures were at least
13 inferred in the records that we were looking at.

14 Q. What have you discovered then?

15 A. So what we have discovered is that there is particular
16 reference to Lewis Cameron in one report to the
17 General Assembly talking about the Council of Voluntary
18 Organisations for Child Emigration and saying that our
19 place on this has already been justified because we are
20 introducing policies to that committee. It doesn't go
21 into detail of what the policies are, but broadly we
22 think they were round about getting consent from the
23 child, getting consent from parent or guardian, ensuring
24 that the interviews were carried out, that the paperwork
25 was all in place, that type of broad policy that allowed

1 the emigration to happen.

2 Q. Were there any written policies that would reflect this
3 approach?

4 A. I haven't been able to find any policies and neither has
5 the archivist on the search.

6 Q. If there had been such written policies, would you have
7 expected that a record of these policies would have been
8 kept?

9 A. I would have expected these records to be kept.

10 Q. You have mentioned Lewis Cameron before. I think was he
11 essentially the chairman of the committee?

12 A. That is right.

13 Q. You tell us in a footnote, footnote 6 on this page, that
14 he in fact published a book with the title "The
15 Challenge of Need: a history of social service by the
16 Church of Scotland, 1869-1969", is that right? And you
17 have relied on that piece of work to some extent at
18 least in constructing the Section 21 response?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Just in relation to that piece of work, is the way that
21 Mr Cameron describes child migration in the book
22 presented in a -- is it presented in a positive way?

23 A. Yes, it is. It was seen as an opportunity.

24 Q. You also draw attention on that page,
25 page COS.001.001.0447, to the 1952 annual report of the

1 Committee on Social Service to the General Assembly,
2 where there is a comment:

3 "The boy's own wish to emigrate is the starting off
4 point and that desire must be later confirmed in the
5 course of an interview with a welfare officer acting on
6 behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland."

7 I will come and look at the role of the
8 Secretary of State for Scotland later, but when it is
9 said "The boy's own wish to emigrate is the starting off
10 point ..." I just wonder, how does that fit in with the
11 migration of a boy of 7, for example, that we saw had
12 been the case in 1950?

13 A. I believe that the children were asked, but whether they
14 really were giving informed consent I think is the
15 matter of debate here.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. And personally I would not believe that a child of 7
18 would be able to give that informed consent.

19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, that is just about 1 o'clock.

20 LADY SMITH: Is that a good place to break? We will break
21 now for lunch, Vivienne, and I will sit again at
22 2 o'clock. Thank you.

23 (1.00 pm)

24 (The short adjournment)

25 (2.00 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, Vivienne. I hope you have had
2 a relaxing lunchtime and are ready to get back to the
3 questioning, is that all right?

4 A. I'm as ready as I will ever be.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

8 Before lunch we were looking at the post-1930
9 response. Can I go back to that and take you to page
10 COS.001.001.0048, that should again come on the screen.

11 There is a question there which is seeking to
12 ascertain whether there was a particular aim or policy
13 in connection with child migration, and you set out
14 there what you believe to have been the aim of child
15 migration. Will you tell us what you understand the aim
16 to have been?

17 A. My understanding of the aim was that it was seen as
18 a fantastic opportunity -- and I think some sort of
19 quote around about this -- for children who did not have
20 a reasonable chance of success in the UK, or in Scotland
21 in this case. It was really put forward as something
22 hugely advantageous, where they would get a really good
23 education, and they would be equipped for work later on.

24 So the aim behind it I think was philanthropic.
25 Whether that justifies the means is a different

1 question.

2 Q. You have actually quoted at length from the
3 Reverend Boag's letter describing the opportunity at
4 Dhurringile as a "splendid" opportunity?

5 A. That is right. We have here from other reports:

6 "... conditions are most attractive ...

7 "A few boys have emigrated to Australia under the
8 auspices of the Presbyterian Church ..."

9 This is reports of the council.

10 "... no relatives to care for them and a prospect of
11 settling supported by a church group giving opportunity
12 beyond what was possible in this country."

13 And:

14 "Only boys who have no roots and whose family
15 histories made it desirable that they should emigrate
16 have been encouraged to do so."

17 So it was clearly in a number of reports reported on
18 as a good opportunity and something that would give
19 people hope and a future I think at that point.

20 LADY SMITH: When you say "the council", can you confirm
21 which council you are talking about?

22 A. Sorry, that would be the Committee of Social Service.

23 MR MACAULAY: Yes. I tend to refer to that as "the
24 committee", so when I say "the committee" that is what
25 I mean.

1 But the Reverend Boag's letter that you have quoted
2 from, I just want to understand who the recipients of
3 that letter would have been. Clearly the committee
4 would have received such a letter. Was it circulated to
5 other places?

6 A. Yes, my understanding is that that was circulated again
7 to all ministers and to all voluntary organisations.

8 Q. We have already touched upon what information a child
9 might be given. If you turn to page COS.001.001.0449,
10 there is a section there dealing with the provision of
11 information to the child and/or his parents before
12 migration. Again, you tell us you are not aware of any
13 policies or procedures in your collection in this
14 connection, is that correct?

15 A. That is correct, yes.

16 Q. You go on to say here that in the 1953 Annual Report:

17 "In 1952 the Reverend Alexander Bell of the
18 Presbyterian Church of Victoria visited Levenhall Home
19 where he showed a filmstrip of the work of [Dhurringile]
20 school and that particular interest was shown when there
21 flashed on screen a happy photograph of one of the boys
22 formerly resident at Levenhall."

23 So there is some evidence here that information in
24 the form of a film show was provided at least in 1952?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. In relation to the checking of the suitability of where
2 the children, who were being migrated through the
3 committee, were to go, is there any record that
4 the committee carried out any form of inspection,
5 survey, whatever, of Dhurringile?

6 A. No. My understanding is that they didn't go over and
7 inspect the premises at all. There was quite a lot of
8 information going back and forward at the time that
9 Dhurringile was approved as an immigration site between
10 the Home Office and Reverend Boag on a number of
11 conditions. So my sense is that that having been done,
12 the Church of Scotland then took -- didn't take any
13 steps to double-check any of that, or that the
14 information being sent over to them about the conditions
15 there were correct.

16 Q. Do I take it that what was set out in the
17 Reverend Boag's letter that we just touched upon was
18 really taken on trust by the committee?

19 A. Yes, I believe so.

20 Q. Just reverting back to the notion of obtaining consent
21 of the child, you touch upon that towards the bottom of
22 the page, what you say there is that:

23 "Annual reports indicate that children had to apply
24 to the scheme."

25 You go on to quote from "The Challenge of Need":

1 "The interests of the boys were safeguarded by the
2 arrangements that the boy's own wish to emigrate was the
3 starting off point."

4 Also if I can jump ahead a little bit to -- just in
5 the same context -- page COS.001.001.0453, there is
6 another section dealing with a child's consent.

7 What you have set out there is:

8 "Anecdotal evidence from several sources indicates
9 that children had to opt in to the scheme."

10 So in one hand you talk about "had to apply to the
11 scheme", and here it is "opt in to the scheme", and
12 again there is reference to the quote from "The
13 Challenge of Need".

14 There we see that, reading on from the quote:

15 "The boy's own wish to emigrate was the starting off
16 point ... and his desire was later confirmed in the
17 course of an interview with the welfare officer acting
18 on behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland,
19 usually the Chief Inspector the Scottish Home
20 Department."

21 Looking to the language you have used in the report,
22 "had to apply to the scheme" or "opt in to the scheme",
23 are you really using that language to try to reflect
24 what has been set out in "The Challenge of Need"?

25 A. Yes, I think what we have is some evidence of forms

1 being filled in that children have actually signed to
2 say that they are keen to take up the opportunity to
3 emigrate, so we have some records that show there was
4 some attempt I think to engage with children around the
5 prospects of emigration. But the opt in or choice,
6 I think -- we are trying to reflect I think in this
7 evidence what happened within Church of Scotland homes.
8 We also had that responsibility of being an overseeing
9 organisation for migrating other children and I think
10 that is probably where some of our language begins to
11 differ.

12 So I can talk to you pretty well comprehensively
13 about my belief about what happened in Church of
14 Scotland homes. As for other children who were being
15 emigrated under our auspices, I am much less clear about
16 whether there was opting in or permission sought,
17 although that was also supposed to be covered off in the
18 checking process.

19 Q. But even in the Church of Scotland homes, would it be
20 necessary first of all for someone in authority in the
21 Church of Scotland home to identify in some way those
22 children who might be suitable for emigration?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then perhaps the child would be -- there would be
25 some engagement with the child and the matter would be

1 taken forward?

2 A. (Witness nods).

3 Q. That perhaps brings me to the issue of selection in
4 itself. Can I just take you to I think one of the
5 documents that you are aware of, and that is
6 the Scottish Education Department file on Dhurringile.
7 The file is at SGV.001.003.7681 and the page I want to
8 go to is page 7870. Sorry, I have taken you to the
9 wrong page. It's 7879.

10 While we are waiting for the page, I think we will
11 come to look at some evidence in relation to the fact
12 that the Secretary of State was not involved in certain
13 aspects of migration when he perhaps ought to have been.

14 But looking to this letter, this is a letter dated
15 [REDACTED] 1959 and it relates to the party of 11 boys
16 that were migrated in 1959/1960 from Quarriers. Can
17 we just read in the second paragraph that:

18 "Gratitude is expressed to Cottage Parents who
19 nominated likely boys for the venture."

20 That tells us it was the cottage parent who, as it
21 were, starting the process running. Do you see that?

22 A. Yes, I see that.

23 Q. Then we read:

24 "Many factors contributed to the final
25 selection: age: medical history: educational

1 aptitude: family ties, etc. Consequently the first leet
2 of 32 boys was reduced to 11."

3 And we have the list of 11 set out, albeit redacted.

4 Do I take from this that the selection process
5 really is a process that is carried out by the
6 institution rather than the Church of Scotland
7 committee?

8 A. Yes. So the initial selection would be done by the
9 voluntary organisation who wished to send at that point,
10 and then the administrative support would be done by the
11 Church of Scotland after that process.

12 Q. But once it is in the hands of Church of Scotland
13 committee, by then the children have been selected?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And it is a question, as you say, of sorting out the
16 administrative forms and so on?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. Here we are looking at Quarriers, which is not a Church
19 of Scotland home, but was the same process followed in
20 Church of Scotland homes, namely, they did the selection
21 and then the Church of Scotland took over?

22 A. In the Church of Scotland homes, it was mainly I believe
23 Levenhall, and my understanding is that children were
24 advised of the scheme when it was thought it would be
25 appropriate for them, and discussion then went forward

1 with the child and with any parent or guardian who was
2 available to talk with at that time.

3 Q. Do you understand that the factors that fed into the
4 selection process would be the sort of factors that are
5 set out here in this letter?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If you turn to page COS.001.001.0450 then of the report,
8 and looking at the issue of obtaining the consent of
9 parents that you address on that particular page,
10 page 0450, you tell us that records and anecdotal
11 evidence "The Challenge of Need" suggests that:

12 "Where children did have living relatives/parents
13 who were not in contact with them or were unable to
14 provide a home for them their permission [was] sought."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is there evidence in the records to that effect?

17 A. Yes, there is. So in two of the records there is
18 correspondence with the guardian of the Local Authority
19 Area in which the child was placed giving consent.

20 Q. I think you do say something about the Local Authority
21 being contacted. But if we focus on parents first of
22 all, do you have records to show that if a child was
23 being lined up to be migrated that the parent would --
24 consent would be sought?

25 A. Yes, and we do have evidence of that.

1 Q. If a parent could not be contacted for whatever reason,
2 are you saying that a Local Authority would have a role
3 to play?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What would the Local Authority's role be?

6 A. They would have some sort of guardianship for the child.
7 So the Committee of Social Service wrote to the
8 children's officers in the relevant authorities saying
9 that the child had been put forward for emigration, or
10 was keen to pursue the opportunity of emigration, and
11 what was the view of the Local Authority at that time,
12 or the children's welfare officer at that time? And
13 there is correspondence back and forward between the
14 two.

15 Q. Would that involvement of the Local Authority only be in
16 connection with children who had been placed in
17 Quarriers by the Local Authority?

18 A. Church of Scotland.

19 Q. Sorry, you are right.

20 A. Yes. It was only correspondence about the Church of
21 Scotland boys that we have in our files.

22 Q. Yes. What I am asking you is if a child were placed in
23 Quarriers by a Local Authority, that would be
24 a situation, if you couldn't find the parent, that you
25 would write to the Local Authority on the question of

1 migration?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If a child had not been placed in Quarriers by a Local
4 Authority, and we know for example that children could
5 be placed there by families, what was the position
6 there? Would a Local Authority still be involved in the
7 migration process or not?

8 A. I am sorry, I am slightly confused by the question
9 because you referred to Quarriers again.

10 LADY SMITH: Are we talking about Quarriers or Levenhall?

11 MR MACAULAY: It could be either, actually.

12 LADY SMITH: I don't think Vivienne minds as long as she
13 knows which one. She might know more about Levenhall
14 than Quarriers.

15 MR MACAULAY: Can I use Quarriers as an example?

16 A. So we are talking about Church of Scotland here being
17 the agent --

18 Q. Correct.

19 A. -- the administrative office, and us supporting
20 an application for Quarriers to send over a number of
21 children? Okay, so we are at the Quarriers end.

22 Q. Yes. I just want to know, within the context of
23 consent, what the role of a Local Authority would be
24 having regard to your records, and I fully understand if
25 a child has been placed in Quarriers by a Local

1 Authority and you could not find the parent that you may
2 want to -- or contact may want to be made with the Local
3 Authority to let them know that migration was
4 a prospect. But if there were children who were not
5 placed in Quarriers by a Local Authority, can you tell
6 me what the position was then?

7 A. My understanding from the Council of Voluntary
8 Organisations scheme, the administrative thing is that
9 the Church of Scotland were asked to check that,
10 wherever possible, consent was granted from either
11 a parent or a guardian. So that would be our checking
12 process that came in that. I have no evidence to
13 suggest that for every child, parental or Local
14 Authority consent was in place.

15 Q. No.

16 A. I have no evidence to suggest the other.

17 LADY SMITH: Does it seem then that if, where the Church of
18 Scotland was Quarriers' agent in relation to a
19 particular application, Quarriers' information was they
20 had tried to find the parents, couldn't do so, and
21 therefore couldn't confirm parental consent, that would
22 be that?

23 A. That would be that, yes. We would do that
24 administrative function. We would probably then say
25 that efforts had been made, no contact possible and,

1 therefore, the application probably still went ahead in
2 these circumstances.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, because there would also be a box to fill
4 in about whether the child had expressed a view, or
5 consent rather. Yes.

6 MR MACAULAY: We have seen consent forms, for example, that
7 might be signed by the superintendent at Quarriers
8 because a parent could not be found.

9 If we go back to the letter we looked at in the
10 file, SGV.001.003.7879 that we looked at earlier, the
11 Australian party for 1959, and we have the list of the
12 11 boys who were involved in that party, I will come
13 back to that in a moment. But it seems to be the case,
14 having regard to what is set out in this file, that none
15 of these boys were placed in Quarriers by a Local
16 Authority. Do you follow me?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Just to be clear, are you able to say that
19 notwithstanding that, that there would be some
20 correspondence with a Local Authority on the issue of
21 migration?

22 A. If they weren't placed by a Local Authority?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I don't think that that would necessarily be the case.
25 I think it would only be parental consent in these

1 circumstances.

2 Q. And if the parent couldn't be found, then that might be
3 an example where the superintendent at Quarriers may
4 sign the consent form?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Just on that issue, do you have consent forms in your
7 records for children that were migrated through the
8 committee?

9 A. Not for all children who were migrated through the
10 committee. We have one I believe for a child who was
11 migrated through the committee who was a Church of
12 Scotland child.

13 Q. So you have just the one consent form?

14 A. Yes, that I have seen.

15 Q. Was that submitted -- has that consent form been
16 submitted to the Inquiry?

17 A. I don't know but I can check.

18 Q. If you could.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That then takes me to the issue of the consent of the
21 Secretary of State that you address also on
22 page COS.001.001.0450. If I could just read what you
23 have set out there. You say:

24 "The Home Office had an arrangement with us whereby
25 our work would be subject to review on an informal

1 voluntary basis. This was written into the outfits and
2 maintenance agreements made with the Commonwealth
3 Relations Office."

4 We heard some evidence about that from the experts.

5 "This agreement states that 'The organisation shall,
6 on request from time to time provide the
7 Secretary of State with information on (a) the methods
8 and criteria for selecting children for migration, (b)
9 the care and preparation of the children until their
10 departure, (c) arrangements for the journey to
11 Australia, and (d) transmission of information to
12 Australia about the children and their background and
13 shall give the Secretary of State access to records
14 which may relate to the information specified in the
15 clause."

16 That was a condition that was built into the
17 agreement, but am I right in saying that that condition
18 was there in connection with children who had not been
19 placed in an institution by a Local Authority?

20 A. Yes. My understanding is that children placed in
21 an institution by a Local Authority needed -- it was
22 a legal requirement that consent was sought from the
23 Secretary of State. But for those placed in voluntary
24 homes by parents, it became custom and practice I think
25 but it was not legally required.

1 Q. The background to this, and we have heard evidence, is
2 there was an expectation there would be regulations and
3 that the expectation was not fulfilled?

4 A. That is correct. In fact I think it wasn't fulfilled
5 until the Outfits and Maintenance agreement of 1962, and
6 at that point emigration had pretty well stopped.

7 Q. Can I then just look at the party of 11 then that was
8 migrated in 1959/1960. If we can go back to the
9 Scottish Education Department file and look at page
10 SGV.001.003.7870. We now have it on screen.

11 This is a memo in this particular file, and I think
12 you may have seen this before, but can we see just
13 below -- heading down the page a little bit, about
14 one-third of the way down or thereabouts, there is
15 a memo dated I think 11 or 12 January, and it begins by
16 saying:

17 "You will wish to see the enclosed extract from the
18 'Sunday Post' of [REDACTED] 1960] and the 'Evening
19 Citizen' of [REDACTED] 1960]. The Superintendent of
20 Quarrier's Homes is to supply further details."

21 And then we read on:

22 "The children are not in the care of a local
23 authority and accordingly section 17 of the
24 Children Act, 1948, does not apply. We are, however,
25 under duty to keep an eye on the emigration of children

1 who are left in the charge of voluntary organisations
2 and I am not at all confident that Quarrier's Homes can
3 safely send away children whose parents have for the
4 moment disappeared."

5 That relates to the party of 11 I think that we saw
6 listed in the previous letter. Does it appear to have
7 been the case that Quarriers identified these 11
8 children, the committee then took that on board, and the
9 children were migrated without the Secretary of State
10 being informed?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. I think there was some correspondence as to why that may
13 have happened, in particular that Mr Cameron, who was
14 the chair of the committee, was not around at the time
15 this happened?

16 A. Yes. My understanding is that there had been very
17 little action since 1957, so when this application came
18 through in 1960, the person, Mrs Cummings I think in
19 that circumstance, who approved the application didn't
20 fall back on some correspondence previously in place,
21 which has suggested that it was good practice to inform
22 the Secretary of State.

23 Q. That happened in about 1959, but it happened again,
24 I think?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. I think five children were subsequently migrated again
2 in the same way, having been identified by Quarriers and
3 migrated through the committee. And I think it happened
4 again as well, did it? I don't think you cover this in
5 your report, but we have evidence there were two groups
6 of five subsequent to this. Do you have evidence of
7 that?

8 A. Yes. So since we submitted this, we have now
9 information that a group of children I think went in
10 1963 as well as 1961.

11 Q. But was that on the same basis -- was it again without
12 involving the Secretary of State?

13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. You don't know?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. Leave that one aside. But the five that were migrated
17 after the 11, the Secretary of State was not involved in
18 that process as well, is that your understanding?

19 A. Yes. My understanding is these two certainly, the
20 Secretary of State had no involvement.

21 Q. Just looking broadly at the numbers from 1959 or 1960
22 onwards, there was the 11 that we have looked at, there
23 was another five in 1961 as I think you identify in your
24 report, and there was another five in 1963, so we have
25 21 altogether migrated over that period?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. Can I take you back to the issue of consent of parents
3 because you quote from a letter I think that I want to
4 look at on page 0453, COS.001.001.0453. We have that on
5 screen. There is another section here dealing with
6 obtaining consent of parents. You quote from this
7 letter by the Reverend John Chalinor, who was described
8 as the Convener of the Immigration Committee of the
9 Presbyterian Church of Australia. This is a letter you
10 have in your records?

11 A. That is right.

12 Q. I will read that to you:

13 "I was told that whenever they were informed of
14 a boy who would benefit by being sent to Australia they
15 thoroughly investigated the case, but when they proposed
16 that the boy should be sent to Australia, the guardians
17 invariably refused to give consent, and so nothing
18 further could be done."

19 The "they" he is talking about there, who are the
20 "they"?

21 A. That is the Committee of Social Service.

22 Q. So was that the committee's experience then?

23 For example, if parents were contacted then invariably
24 the parent refused to consent?

25 A. Yes, I think the consent was not readily given in a lot

1 of cases. So this is a letter where there is a bit of
2 a tetchy conversation, saying that Scotland weren't
3 doing well enough in getting children out, and the
4 Committee of Social Service is saying, well, we are
5 doing what we can, but we're not prepared to send out
6 without consent.

7 Q. Yes, so the point there in favour of the committee's
8 approach is that, if the parent did not consent,
9 the child would not be sent?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The Reverend Chalinor goes on to say:

12 "To this I replied that the Fairbridge people and
13 the RC Church were able to get consent and children
14 [sic] and it was stated that the RCs used something more
15 than persuasion and less than compulsion methods foreign
16 to our tradition and which could not be employed by us."

17 Is there a distinction being drawn there, at least
18 in this letter, between the approach taken by
19 the Catholic Church and the committee in relation to how
20 much persuasion was to be used in this process?

21 A. That is the distinction being drawn here.

22 LADY SMITH: So the message is to the committee they really
23 need to try harder, because other people are managing to
24 do it, is that it?

25 A. Yes. And then following that we were told -- well, the

1 committee were told that they were going to approach the
2 Over-Seas League, because the committee weren't doing
3 well enough in migrating children, so they were going to
4 go to the Over-Seas League to further opportunity within
5 the UK, and I think it says the committee were relieved
6 at this suggestion.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes. In mentioning Fairbridge and the
8 Catholic Church, I suppose there is an inference of
9 bringing pressure to bear because these are two entities
10 which -- well, one obviously is not a Protestant
11 organisation, and what we have heard about Fairbridge is
12 it was open to all faiths. A "Don't you want to keep
13 your end up?" message.

14 A. Yes, I think it was quite a pressured letter.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR MACAULAY: If we move on then to the following page,
17 COS.001.001.0454, you are there giving an example or
18 examples of the involvement of the Secretary of State in
19 agreeing to migration. If I can just pick up a few
20 lines from the top where I can read:

21 "One of the children's files that we hold, along
22 with the documents from public archives, seemed to
23 confirm that the permission would have been sought from
24 the Office of the Secretary of State. For example, in
25 this instance a child was left in the care of the

1 Committee on Social Service by his mother, who later
2 seems to have cut off contact with him, and at some
3 point in 1956 he was nominated to migrate. Papers of
4 the Office of the Secretary of State obtained from the
5 National Records of Scotland highlight this case as it
6 came to them after the Ross Report had been submitted."

7 The effect of that, I think we have seen from other
8 evidence, was that the Ross Report stalled migration
9 pending a decision on whether the schemes should be
10 allowed to continue.

11 So this is an example where the Secretary of State
12 has essentially said "You should not migrate this child
13 until we examine this a bit further"?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. The Ross Report was a critical report on Dhurringile?

16 A. It was.

17 Q. Are you able to say whether the confidential report on
18 Dhurringile found its way into the committee's hands at
19 the time?

20 A. My understanding is that it wasn't shared with the
21 committee at the time, so our correspondence is that
22 Lewis Cameron was to be called into a meeting to talk
23 about the substance of the full report but that the
24 confidential memorandum was not to be shared with him.

25 Q. So he wasn't aware then of the criticisms that were

1 contained in that document?

2 A. My understanding from the correspondence is that that
3 was not shared.

4 Q. In any event, after some further investigation, and
5 I think a more positive report from a Mr Wheeler, the
6 green light was given for this particular child to
7 migrate?

8 A. That is correct.

9 LADY SMITH: Just going back to what you said, Vivienne,
10 about Lewis Cameron being called into a meeting to talk
11 about Ross, who was that meeting with, do you know?

12 A. I think it was the Secretary of State for Scotland.

13 LADY SMITH: That would figure.

14 A. But I have the correspondence, so again we could
15 double-check that and I could get it through to you if
16 that is helpful.

17 LADY SMITH: I would be quite interested to know.

18 Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: I think the migration of this boy would have
20 been possibly in 1957, is that right?

21 A. That is right, yes.

22 Q. If we look to your list at COS.001.001.0652, this is the
23 list that you provided, and we do note there that there
24 was a boy who was migrated in about [REDACTED] -- sorry, he was
25 born in 1947 and he was migrated in 1957?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. So this is likely to have been the boy whose migration
3 was stalled to some extent?

4 A. That is correct. In fact, I think we have quite a full
5 record of all of that happening.

6 Q. Again, if you have that, it would be very useful if you
7 could make that available to the Inquiry.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Just perhaps staying with the numbers for a moment or
10 two, I want to put on the screen for you, Vivienne,
11 a table that has been put together by the experts, and
12 that that can be found at INQ-42 at page 88, the Nuix
13 page 88. So we are looking at page 88, or 80 of the
14 report if that is easier?

15 It's page 80 of the report then that you want to
16 look at?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. We now have the table on the screen. Can I ask you,
19 Vivienne, before coming to give your evidence have you
20 had the opportunity of looking at the reports prepared
21 for the Inquiry by the experts?

22 A. Yes, I have.

23 Q. This is a table that they have put together based on
24 a number of sources, and you see the key to who the
25 organisations are at the bottom, and the third column

1 from the right, "CS", that is the Church of Scotland
2 committee?

3 A. That is right.

4 Q. This essentially is setting out what they understand the
5 numbers to be. In some instances there is a degree of
6 poetic licence. But if we look at 1950, for example, we
7 see the 28 that I think you tell us in your report were
8 migrated?

9 A. That is right.

10 Q. And then as we move down, for example, we come to 1952,
11 you have identified one person I think in your table
12 that was migrated in 1952, but does it appear from this
13 that in fact there could have been seven migrated?
14 Do I take it you just don't have the records for the
15 other six?

16 A. Yes. So my understanding, what is happening here is
17 what we have given you are the records of the children
18 who were migrated from the Church of Scotland, so my
19 record tells me that in 1952 a child was migrated from
20 Levenhall. My understanding of this table is that
21 the other six would be from other organisations and we
22 don't have records of all of that.

23 Q. But notwithstanding that, although these were from other
24 organisations, it was the committee who facilitated the
25 migration?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. That then explains perhaps some of the other numbers.

3 But coming to 1953, I just wondered, you have one
4 child being migrated. It just looks a bit odd. He is
5 travelling, no doubt not alone, but he is the only child
6 that has been selected for that particular year.

7 A. That is right. And I have no evidence that that was
8 a Church of Scotland child, so I am assuming from this
9 table that that would be a child that was put forward
10 from another organisation.

11 Q. We see that the numbers are quite small, we have another
12 two in 1958, and then we have the 11 that we have talked
13 about. I suppose they may have left in 1959 and arrived
14 in 1960, may be the point there. But we have five that
15 have not been included here in 1961, and we understand
16 another five in 1963 and I think you have confirmed
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So rather than a total of 83, we are looking at a total
20 of possibly 93 children migrated through the auspices of
21 the committee?

22 A. That is right.

23 Q. I think in your report at COS.001.001.0455 you suggest
24 that the 1961 contingent consisted of six boys, but
25 I think the evidence we have seen from other sources is

1 that it was five boys.

2 If we look on to page COS.001.001.0456, at (ix)
3 there is a suggestion there that the committee was also
4 involved with the Big Brother Movement?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What evidence do you have about that in your records?

7 A. Very little evidence of that, just some mentions in
8 I think it is the Committee on Social Service's reports,
9 and potentially even to the General Assembly, that
10 the Big Brother Movement was working in collaboration to
11 support older children to emigrate.

12 Q. Do you know if the Church of Scotland committee,
13 for example, facilitated any children to be migrated
14 under that particular scheme?

15 A. Not as far as I know.

16 Q. If we look at funding at page COS.001.001.0457, you
17 discuss funding. What can you tell me about how the
18 Church of Scotland financed its role?

19 A. My understanding is that part of the money was funded
20 from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, part of the
21 money was funded by the state, and that there was some
22 charitable donation.

23 Q. The state funding, would that be under the
24 Empire Settlement Act?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. If we turn to page COS.001.001.0458, you do set out
2 there some information that you have taken from the
3 annual accounts for the Committee on Social Service.
4 Does this relate to the funds received in relation
5 to migration?

6 A. Yes, it does.

7 Q. If we move on to the following page, COS.001.0010459,
8 can we see, for example, that for 1962, the total seems
9 to be in the region of £968?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think in today's money that is in the region
12 of £17,560, or something of that sort, so that gives us
13 an idea as to the level of funding at least at that time
14 that was being received?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. These are all the questions, Vivienne, that I want to
17 put to you, and no questions have been submitted that
18 I should put to you on behalf of others. I understand
19 though there is something you do want to say at the end
20 of your evidence?

21 A. Yes. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of
22 the Church of Scotland to apologise to anybody who was
23 sent out either directly from a Church of Scotland home
24 or under our auspices. I think on reading through the
25 evidence, we had not realised how big our footprint was

1 and we now know more of it, and the apology that we had
2 issued in advance to all children affected in our care
3 I think isn't sufficient to cover this group.

4 So an apology has gone out specifically to any child
5 migrated or touched by our migration policy to really
6 say we are deeply sorry for the harm caused in these
7 circumstances. So that has gone out publicly this
8 afternoon.

9 MR MACAULAY: Very well. Thank you, Vivienne, for coming
10 along and giving your evidence.

11 A. Thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: Can I double-check whether there are any
13 outstanding questions? No.

14 Vivienne, thank you very much for that apology, and
15 you say it has gone out this afternoon in a Church of
16 Scotland press release, has it?

17 A. It has, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you also for that, I am sure it will be
19 much appreciated.

20 Thank you for the time and trouble that has
21 obviously gone into preparing a very detailed response
22 to the questions that we sent to you, that is really
23 very helpful to our work, as it all the assistance you
24 have given to us today so willingly and so openly.
25 Thank you for that. I am now able to let you go.

1 A. Thank you.

2 (The witness withdrew)

3 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, that completes the evidence for this
4 week and we are back again on Tuesday.

5 LADY SMITH: Tuesday at 10 o'clock. Do we start with a link
6 or a live witness? I can't remember. Can you?

7 MR MACAULAY: The witnesses on Tuesday are live witnesses as
8 presently advised.

9 LADY SMITH: Very well. Until Tuesday then. Thank you to
10 everybody.

11 (2.48 pm)

12 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 on Tuesday,

13 6 October 2020)

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