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Wednesday, 10 January 2024

(8.00 am)
LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to our evidence in the second day of this chapter of the case study that's looking into the provision of residential care for children in establishments. At the moment we're looking at Approved Schools, but as you know we looked at Scottish Prison Service establishments before Christmas and we'll be going to other similar establishments later.

This morning we have a link. I'm told that everything is working and the witness is ready, is that right, Ms MacLeod?

MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. That is right.

The first witness this morning will give evidence using the name 'James'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'James', good morning.

JAMES: I apologise getting you people out of your beds on this cold winter morning, I really do.

LADY SMITH: Oh, 'James', we're Scottish, we're always up early. No need to apologise. 'James', thank you for joining us over the link.

Could we begin by you taking the oath, please.

1 'James' (sworn)

2 (Via videolink)

3 LADY SMITH: 'James', the first thing is that if you have
4 any problems with the link please don't hesitate to let
5 us know. It's working beautifully at the moment and
6 long may that continue.

7 A. I thank your technician [REDACTED] I think he's done a very
8 good job.

9 LADY SMITH: I'll pass on the compliments.

10 Otherwise, 'James', if you have any questions at any
11 time please don't hesitate to let us know. If you want
12 a break, tell me. Don't feel under any pressure just
13 because we are using a link over the video. We can
14 accommodate that, because what is important is that you
15 are as comfortable as you can be giving your evidence.
16 That is what matters to me. Is that all right?

17 A. I think that's fine, yes. I've had a little bit of
18 practice of this over the last year or so.

19 LADY SMITH: I'm sure you have, with the challenges we have
20 all met since 2020.

21 If you are ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and
22 she'll take it from there. All right?

23 A. I'm ready, yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 Ms MacLeod.

1 Questions from Ms MacLeod

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

3 Good morning or good evening, 'James'.

4 A. Good evening.

5 Q. I don't need you to tell me your whole date of birth,
6 but could you confirm that you were born in 1944?

7 A. I was.

8 Q. Are you now aged 79?

9 A. I am that.

10 Q. You have provided a statement for the Inquiry and
11 I'm just going to give the reference for the transcript.
12 It's WIT-1-000001125. 'James', did you sign the final
13 page of the statement?

14 A. I did, yes.

15 Q. Are you content for the statement to be published as
16 part of the evidence to the Inquiry?

17 A. I'm happy for that to happen, or I wouldn't be here.

18 Q. I would like to begin by asking you a little about your
19 life before you went into care.

20 You tell us in your statement that you were born in
21 Dundee; is that right?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. And that you were part of a large family with 11
24 siblings?

25 A. Well, at that time I think there was about eight of us.

1 And there was others came after that, yeah.

2 Q. Did there come a time when your family moved from Dundee
3 to Glasgow?

4 A. They did. I don't recall when that was. I really don't
5 recall at all. But I think I must have been maybe five
6 or six or something like that.

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

8 A. I did, St Mungo's.

9 Q. Was that a local primary school?

10 A. It was local, it wasn't too far away from where I lived.

11 Q. In terms of your home life at that time, with your
12 family, I think you tell us that it wasn't
13 a particularly happy time?

14 A. It wasn't, but I think if you knew Glasgow at that time,
15 as I say it was often described as the worst slums in
16 Europe, so it wasn't the most pleasant place to live.

17 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that there was no
18 support at that time from the authorities for your
19 family?

20 A. None at all, no.

21 Q. And that the people from authority that you interacted
22 with were the police?

23 A. Later on, yes.

24 Q. Did there come a time when you were caught by the police
25 doing something?

1 A. There did come a time, but, as I said, sometimes, as
2 I say, you did steal things but you stole things because
3 you wanted food.

4 Q. Was there a particular incident that happened that led
5 to you being placed in care?

6 A. Look, I'm not 100 per cent sure, but I think there was
7 a time that I had -- I'm sure it was breaking into
8 someone's car.

9 Q. As a result of that, were you placed in a cell
10 overnight?

11 A. No, I think it was actually prior to that. I can't
12 remember what that was all -- I can't actually put the
13 two of them together, but I was placed in a cell and it
14 was the one down in Duke Street in Glasgow, and the cell
15 was actually full of adults.

16 Q. You were a child at the time?

17 A. About probably nine-years old.

18 Q. Having spent the night in the cell, were you then taken
19 home to your parents?

20 A. After that -- well, I think what must have happened is
21 that there was someone actually who opened the cell in
22 the morning and I think they must have caused a bit of
23 a rumpus, so he dragged me out the cell and sat us in
24 his office and gave us a tongue lashing, which I won't
25 repeat what he said.

1 Q. You tell us that you ended up in a room that looked
2 a little like a court?

3 A. Yes. It was a very small room and in that there was:
4 a judge, old fella with a wig; there was
5 a Salvation Army lady, in a Salvation Army uniform; and
6 some other bloke in a suit.

7 Q. Were any members of your family with you?

8 A. I think my father may have been with us and it's
9 possible my uncle, but I don't recall because they were
10 actually behind me and they didn't actually address me.
11 They were basically speaking over my head.

12 Q. The three people you have mentioned there, the lady from
13 the Salvation Army, the judge and the man in the suit
14 they were talking among themselves, were they?

15 A. Not among themselves, talking to people behind me.

16 Q. Do you know how old you were, roughly, at that time,
17 'James'?

18 A. I think probably nine or ten years old.

19 Q. Did anybody provide you with any support or explain to
20 you what was happening at that time?

21 A. Not that I recall.

22 Q. You mention in your statement that your uncle, who lived
23 in Dundee, may have offered that he could take you to
24 live with him?

25 A. He did, but that didn't happen.

1 Q. What was decided then in that setting that you have
2 described as a court?

3 A. I recall that I -- as I say, because it's a long time
4 ago, but I recall I was taken to some place in
5 St Vincent's Street. It was like -- I don't think it
6 was run by the police, because it seemed to me it was
7 run by civilians, but at that time I think I was being
8 sent off to St Mungo's in Mauchline.


9 Q. The place you mention there, in St Vincent's Street, was
10 that something like a remand centre?

11 A. It was a remand centre, yes.

12 Q. Did you spend a night there?

13 A. I spent a night there, I recall it was only one night.

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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1 Q. Was it the next day, having spent the night there, that
2 you were taken to St Mungo's?

3 A. I gather -- I can honestly say to you, Ceit, I can't
4 remember the journey there at all. I have no
5 recollection of it.

6 Q. St Mungo's then, could you just start by telling me
7 a little bit about St Mungo's. Where is St Mungo's and
8 what is your recollection of arriving there at the time?

9 A. It was -- St Mungo's is a place near Mauchline in
10 Ayrshire. It was an old, old mansion. Beautiful old
11 building, I believe it belonged to some bloke who may
12 have been a member of Parliament, but he had actually
13 lived in a house close to it, a big white house, you
14 used to come along a big avenue and across an old
15 sandstone bridge and there was a river, I can't remember
16 what the river was underneath it, but the place was
17 a lovely old building.

18 You walked in the front door and there were stairs
19 going up. There was a big foyer there, but round to the
20 right of the place, if you walked right around there was
21 a playground there, a courtyard, I would say, a big arch
22 in the courtyard and I think that's where all the kids
23 used to play around there. That is where they used to
24 go for their breaks.

25 At that place there was also the -- I think it was

1 the dining room or the tea room.

2 Q. Was it around 1954 that you arrived at St Mungo's?

3 A. I would have to say it would be approximately that time
4 but I couldn't say for certain. I would imagine that
5 they would have that in their records.

6 Q. Is your recollection that you were around ten?

7 A. I was around ten, yeah.

8 Q. How long did you stay at St Mungo's for?

9 A. Again, I stayed there -- it could have been a year or
10 something like that, but I may be mistaken with that,
11 but I believe that they decided they were going to close
12 it down and a lot of the kids that were there, they were
13 actually discharged, sent home, but I think there was
14 myself and another four or five were taken to
15 St Joseph's.

16 Q. Staying with St Mungo's for the moment, can you tell me
17 about the people in St Mungo's? Who was in charge there
18 and who ran the place?

19 A. It was run by the De La Salle Brothers and I think --
20 I don't -- it's one of these things that -- I would like
21 to say that there was probably a lot of good people
22 there and one hopes they don't get tarnished by these
23 reports.

24 I can only remember the ones that were bad.

25 Q. And that is a point you do make in your statement,

1 'James'. I'll take you on to that. Thanks for that.

2 Can you remember who the headmaster was?

3 A. I don't recall who he was, no.

4 Q. Were most of the adults there, were they from the

5 De La Salle Order?

6 A. They were -- most -- the majority of them were from the
7 De La Salle Order. Back then, I can't even -- there was
8 a classroom there and I think there was a lay teacher in
9 that classroom. I remember that. But I think most of
10 the teachings were done by the De La Salle Brothers.

11 There were night watchmen there and there was
12 a matron.

13 Q. The person in charge of the school, was that

14 a De La Salle brother?

15 A. It was a De La Salle brother, I recall. I don't know
16 who he was, but -- and I'm referring back to not just
17 St Joseph's, it was a De La Salle brother who was in
18 charge of that. I knew his name but I don't recall the
19 one at St Mungo's.

20 Q. That's fine.

21 Were there brothers involved in looking after the
22 boys, for example, getting you to bed and getting you up
23 in the morning, was that brothers who were involved in
24 that?

25 A. That was brothers, yes.

1 Q. How many boys do you think were at St Mungo's when you
2 were there?

3 A. Let me think. There used to be four houses. There were
4 four houses, there was St Mungo's, St Patrick's,
5 St Andrew's and St Joseph's I recall. I was in a house
6 called St Patrick, so we all used to line up in the
7 houses and I would say there used to be two rows, so
8 there would be probably about, I would say, maybe 15/20
9 in each house. I may be wrong with them numbers.

10 Q. Around 60 to 80 boys roughly maybe at the time?

11 A. I'm saying that, yes, yes. Approximately that.

12 The reason I'm saying that is the dormitories, they
13 had a great big dormitory there with rows and rows of
14 beds, you know lots and lots of steel beds. That was
15 the dormitory. So you would always remember that sort
16 of thing, you know.

17 Q. Can I ask, were the dormitories arranged by age or by
18 house or some other way?

19 A. No, they weren't arranged by anything, but I think most
20 of the kids there, there was no adults there. No adult.
21 They were all just probably from my age from 9, 10, 12,
22 13.

23 Q. You have already mentioned some lay staff, the matron
24 I think you said?

25 A. Matron, yes.

1 Q. And a night watchman?

2 A. A night watchman, yeah.

3 Q. Were they involved in any way in coming into the
4 dormitories at night?

5 A. No, no.

6 Q. Can I ask you then about the education, the schooling,
7 at St Mungo's.

8 Could you describe that for me?

9 A. I would like to tell you all about it, but I actually
10 can't remember it. I really -- what I do remember is,
11 you know, the gardens and all that were very well kept
12 outside the front of this great big mansion. There was
13 a long sort of like a hut and that was one of the
14 classrooms I used to go to all the time and I think that
15 was a lay teacher. I'm pretty sure it was a lay
16 teacher. When you came out the front entrance, if
17 I recall, it was across to your -- on the right-hand
18 side.

19 Do I recall classrooms in the building itself?

20 I just -- I can't remember classes being there, but
21 I'm sure there was.

22 Q. The teaching staff, were they brothers exclusively or
23 were there some lay teachers?

24 A. No, I recall it was just the brothers, plus this lay
25 teacher who was in the huts that I used to go to.

1 Q. Just coming back for a moment to the lay staff you
2 mentioned a few moments ago, can I just ask you what the
3 role of the night watchman was?

4 A. I think he was basically the caretaker. He would just
5 wander round the place but I don't ever recall him
6 coming into the dormitories. I don't even recall the
7 chap's name. As I say, the only time -- sometimes you
8 never seen him at all. I had an experience when I did
9 see him and you have probably seen what's written down
10 there.

11 Q. What is that, 'James'? Can you tell me about that?

12 A. Yeah. They used to give you cocoa before you went to
13 bed and I was never a fan of cocoa, so I remember I used
14 to give it to the bloke behind me. He would pass me his
15 empty mug and I'd give him the full one and one of the
16 De La Salle Brothers, I don't know if I'm allowed to
17 mention his name?

18 Q. Yes, you can.

19 A. His name was LAA. Anyway, he had seen me hand this
20 cup and he says to me, did you hand your cup back?
21 I said, no, I didn't. I was telling lies there.
22 Anyway, after the houses broke up, he said, you wait
23 here. So he took me into the kitchen and I don't recall
24 the time. It must have been from about 8 o'clock and it
25 could have been right through to midnight, he decided

1 that he would fill me up with cocoa.

2 Q. Knowing that you didn't like it?

3 A. No. He had seen me throwing up, but it didn't seem to

4 bother him.

5 Q. During those hours, did you continue to, once you had

6 had the cocoa, did you then throw up and that was

7 repeated during those hours?

8 A. Yeah. That was repeated, yeah. He stood in a corner --

9 he basically stood in a corner and just watched me and

10 when the night watchman came on and that, as I say,

11 I remember the night watchman and he says to the night

12 watchman, make sure he finishes that cup and when he

13 left the night watchman said, 'Go off to bed, son'.

14 Q. Did you get any visits while you were at St Mungo's?

15 A. Not really, because -- I probably had one or two at the

16 very most, because I mean they couldn't afford to travel

17 down from Glasgow.

18 Q. That would be visits from family?

19 A. Yeah. It was usually only one. It was either the

20 mother -- probably the mother or the father, but that

21 was very, very rarely.

22 Q. Did you have any visits from social workers or anybody

23 from the Local Authority or probation officers or

24 anything like that?

25 A. None at all, no.

1 Q. Do you recall if there were any inspections of
2 St Mungo's while you were there?

3 A. There may have been, but I don't recall there being any
4 inspections. As I said, if people were talking to you,
5 how are you getting on, you would remember that, but
6 I don't recall any of that at all, in both the schools.

7 Q. Did you run away from St Mungo's at any time?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. Bed wetting is something you mention in your statement
10 and the treatment of bed wetters.

11 A. Some kids were bed wetters and you knew because in the
12 mornings they had to pull their sheets back and then
13 they had to strip their beds. So you always knew. It
14 was fairly intimidating for some kids, because kids can
15 be cruel to one another.

16 Q. Did you wet the bed?

17 A. No, not at all.

18 Q. But you witnessed this happening to other children?

19 A. Oh, I witnessed it happen, yeah.

20 Q. Who, in terms of an adult, was involved in that process?

21 A. Well, again, it was the De La Salle Brothers. I have
22 got to confess, it wasn't them all. There was that few.
23 I don't know what it was with them, but they certainly
24 shouldn't have been in charge of kids.

25 There was an incident there, which I probably wrote

1 about, it's the same individual, and I had a bit of
2 an abscess, near the umbilicus, and I don't know what
3 I was doing wrong, I must have done something, but he
4 pulled me out and he decided he'd -- he used to try to
5 pick you up by the sideburns, off the ground, but this
6 day he punched me --

7 Q. Is this Brother LAA ?

8 A. Yes.

9 And the abscess burst, so I think he must have got
10 a bit of a fright, because I had blood on my shirt. So
11 I went to see the matron and she asked me what had
12 happened and I said Brother LAA had punched me. Well,
13 that was the worst thing you could have said. It was,
14 'How dare you? I'm going to report you to the
15 headmaster'.

16 Q. Did the matron believe what you were telling her?

17 A. No, not at all. Not at all. She didn't believe one
18 thing I was saying about him, but you got to the stage
19 you were probably better just saying nothing.

20 Q. Sticking with Brother LAA then for a little while,
21 he's somebody you tell us about in your statement. You
22 say that he was the only member of staff you can recall
23 by name as being abusive?

24 A. Being abusive, yes, in that school, yeah.

25 Q. You say 'he made our life hell'?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about Brother LAA
3 and what about him made boys' lives hell?

4 A. Well, look, he used to dish out -- I think he used --
5 I got the impression he used to enjoy it. Like it
6 wasn't only me. There were a number of kids there, but
7 he would pull them up the front and he would literally
8 pick them by the sideburns and lift them off the ground
9 like that.

10 Q. Did he do that to --

11 A. Oh, he done that to me a few times. And the teeth, he
12 used to be gritting when he was doing it. He was
13 a fairly thin, skinny fella with grey hair, Irish,
14 I recall, but he seemed to have a pleasure in picking
15 kids up by the sideburns and then once he dropped them,
16 they got a slap across the face.

17 Q. Was there any way of telling when he was going to do
18 this or did something set him off to do this?

19 A. Well, probably something set him off. I don't know what
20 set him off. It could be something simple. Something
21 that you had said or something that maybe you had done
22 around the playground. I don't recall. When we get to
23 St Joseph's I'll explain in better detail of what set
24 him off with me.

25 Q. You say in your statement that he would smack a boy with

1 his open hand?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that at St Mungo's?

4 A. At St Mungo's, yes. That was on all the time, that. It
5 wasn't just isolated incidents.

6 Q. You say that most children were terrified of
7 Brother LAA?

8 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. He was -- look, he was a terrifying
9 little character. You knew if you got on the wrong side
10 of him you were going to come off second best.

11 Q. In relation to discipline at St Mungo's, in general
12 terms, you say that the discipline was fine and that it
13 was a belt across the backside?

14 A. Well, I wouldn't say -- the discipline was -- it depends
15 what you call discipline and how its meted out. A lot
16 of the brothers never meted out discipline that he did.

17 Q. Who did mete out the discipline then in terms of
18 disciplining boys?

19 A. Oh, I don't recall any of the other brothers being so
20 hard as he was. I mean, some kids would get the strap
21 and things like that, but, look, that was normal in them
22 days. You didn't have to be in reform school for that
23 to happen to you.

24 Q. If you were given the strap at St Mungo's, where on your
25 body were you hit with the strap?

1 A. Usually on the hands.

2 Q. Where in the school would that happen, 'James'? Would
3 that be in the classroom, in an office?

4 A. It would be in the classroom or they would take you
5 aside somewhere. They would take you into a room.

6 Q. You do mention being hit by a belt across your bare
7 backside. Is that something that happened to you?

8 A. We'll leave that until we get to St Joseph's. That was
9 actually at St Joseph's, it wasn't at St Mungo's.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Something else you mention in your statement,
12 'James', and you say that you can't quite recall if it
13 happened at St Mungo's or St Joseph's or both, is --

14 A. The showers.

15 Q. -- the showers. Could you tell me about that?

16 A. Yeah. I can't recall if it was St Mungo's. I tend to
17 think it was St Joseph's, but it was communal showers,
18 so when I say communal showers, there was a row down one
19 side with showers and a row down -- there is no shower
20 screens or no cubicles, so all the kids used to come in,
21 put their towels on the desk and they would go in and
22 wash themselves.

23 Most kids, because of modesty, they would face the
24 wall and do that, but one particular character, I don't
25 recall who he was, it could have been LAA it could

1 have been someone else, I can't say for sure, but they
2 used to come in and tell all the boys to turn around.

3 Q. By turning around were the rows of boys then facing one
4 another?

5 A. Facing one another and he would walk up and down, walk
6 up and down and just glance. We all knew what he was on
7 about. He was just glancing at kids' genitalia.

8 Q. You have told us, 'James', about when you reported to
9 the matron what Brother LAA did to you, when he
10 punched you in the stomach.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Other than that, 'James', did you report anything else
13 that happened at St Mungo's to anyone?

14 A. There was no one to report to. You couldn't report to
15 the De La Salle Brothers that some other bloke had just
16 bashed you. You couldn't do that, because, they just
17 didn't believe you.

18 Q. At a certain point in time -- you have told us this
19 already -- did St Mungo's appear to be closing down?

20 A. It appeared to be closing down. Look, I have to say
21 St Mungo's, I didn't mind St Mungo's to a certain
22 extent, because it was in the country and they would
23 take you for long walks in a big sort of football ground
24 that you used to go down to from time to time. It was
25 a pleasant place, if there were certain individuals not

1 there.

2 Q. When St Mungo's closed down, was it decided that you and
3 some of the other boys would move to St Joseph's?

4 A. St Joseph's. I recall we got news of this, that it was
5 closing down, because there were a lot of kids getting
6 sent home, but you never knew if you were getting sent
7 home or what was happening, but as it so happens I --
8 I was told I was going to St Joseph's.

9 And my thought at the time was, well, that's great,
10 because this other Brother LAA, I was going to say
11 something else, but I won't say it -- he wouldn't be
12 coming with us, but he did.

13 Q. Indeed you tell us in the statement that you remember
14 feeling fearful about that?

15 A. Oh, yeah, definitely. I actually thought that when we
16 got to St Mungo's and -- when we got to St Joseph's and
17 he had come with us, that he may look on us in
18 a different light, but that was just nonsense.

19 Q. Did you arrive in St Joseph's then in around 1956?

20 A. I could have been. Again, I can't give you the exact
21 dates and that. But I do remember I think we were in
22 some sort of a combi van, you know one of the -- there
23 is about six of us in it and this was the first time
24 I've every seen this Brother LAA out of his robes. He
25 seemed to be dressed as just an ordinary bloke on the

1 streets.

2 Unfortunately, the journey from Mauchline to
3 Tranent, where St Joseph's was, I wasn't a great
4 traveller, so I used to get travel sickness.

5 LADY SMITH: That would have been quite a long journey then,
6 I suppose, 'James', too?

7 A. It would have been, Lady Smith. It certainly would have
8 been. But I think I recall arriving in Edinburgh and
9 I said 'I'm going to be sick', so I had to get out on
10 the street. And I tend to think now I look back it was
11 somewhere near Leith Walk, because I know that we were
12 still a long way from Tranent mind you.

13 MS MACLEOD: When you arrived at St Joseph's, can you tell
14 me a little bit about your memory of that and your first
15 impression of the building?

16 A. St Joseph's wasn't unlike -- it wasn't unlike
17 St Mungo's. It wasn't far from the village of Tranent
18 and I think Meadowbank was down to the south of it, but
19 again I remember the dormitories were up on the top
20 floor. It was a big sort of a C-shaped building, but
21 when you came in the front you go actually downstairs to
22 get into the big courtyard. It was much the same as
23 they had at St Mungo's, a big courtyard there and beyond
24 the courtyard there was a big playing field. I think
25 some of the brothers used to keep birds, like pheasants

1 and canaries and I think one of them had a hobby doing
2 that for some reason.

3 I don't know why -- I don't know where I got them
4 from -- but I was allowed to keep a rabbit.

5 Q. Can you remember how many boys roughly were at
6 St Joseph's when you got there?

7 A. I think it was probably the same amount, probably about
8 60. These figures might be inaccurate, but I'm just
9 looking at them all running around the playground.

10 Q. That's fine. It's just your recollection that
11 I'm interested in.

12 What about the age range of the boys at St Joseph's?

13 A. Again, they are much the same as -- none of them would
14 be any older than 15, because at 15 they were either
15 sent off to borstal or they were sent home.

16 Q. What was the involvement of the De La Salle Brothers at
17 St Joseph's?

18 A. The De La Salle Brothers, they were the teachers and
19 I don't recall any lay teachers there. I can recall
20 Brother LAA was there. I don't ever recall him
21 actually teaching us, but there was another one called
22 Brother GRE and another one called Brother MJJ.
23 They were teachers. SNR there was
24 a Brother GEC.

25 Q. What about looking after the boys in the dormitories and

1 making sure boys got up in the morning, went to bed at
2 night, who dealt with that kind of thing?

3 A. The De La Salle Brothers did.

4 Q. So the De La Salle Brothers were looking after the boys
5 and doing the teaching as well?

6 A. And teaching as well.

7 Q. Were there any lay staff at St Joseph's?

8 A. Look, there may have been. There actually was. There
9 was one chap, he was -- we had what we call a metal shop
10 where you go and work and doing riveting and metal
11 things like that. I was never very good at it, but they
12 used to have this lay teacher there, who was a decent
13 sort of a fella.

14 Q. What about the education and schooling. What are your
15 memories of that specifically?

16 A. We got an education, whether it was a great education,
17 I don't recall because I wasn't the brightest kid in the
18 class there. I ended up being a bit of a phonetic
19 speller and I remember one time I just could not spell
20 'attention'. I kept bringing that 'S' into it because
21 that's the way I pronounced it, so I think this was this
22 Brother **GRE**, so he decided that every time I spelt
23 it wrong he put the rulers -- smacking the rules on my
24 calves, and that went on for a long period of time.

25 When the kids -- it was a bit humiliating, because

1 when the kids all left to go out on their break he got
2 me to write it on the board and I tried everything, but
3 I still had that 'S' in attention.

4 Q. Did he ever tell you how to spell it correctly?

5 A. No, no. He seemed to take a lot of pleasure in me
6 writing it down and him whacking us across the calves
7 with the ruler, which was quite painful. God knows how
8 many times he done that, but doing it in front of the
9 whole class too.

10 I certainly know how to spell it now.

11 Q. Do you recall receiving any visits at St Joseph's?

12 A. I did from time to time I think it was probably my
13 mother who used to come through, but that was probably
14 maybe once every six months or something.

15 Q. What about anybody from the authorities? Did anybody
16 check on your welfare, how you were getting on?

17 A. None at all, and I'm certain of that. There was --
18 I got to confess I suppose the Christian Brothers, so
19 I'm not very religious any more, but they sort of used
20 to bring a priest in and they would do what they call
21 a week's retreat. A week's retreat consisted of -- it
22 was usually a young priest, and he would be quite
23 unusual because he was very talkative and very friendly
24 and so he used to sort of obviously preach to you, but
25 there were other things that you used to do during that

1 week's retreat, but I think after the week's retreat you
2 felt as if you came out holier than anything, because
3 I tend to think it was a form of brainwashing.

4 I remember them taking us all -- it might have been
5 in Musselburgh or it might even have been in Edinburgh,
6 but we all got on a bus one day and I think they took us
7 to see 'The Ten Commandments' on the film, which was
8 a big thing. I remember going to see that. Again, that
9 was just a form of how they wanted us to -- I'm not
10 quite sure how to describe that.

11 Q. In relation to not receiving any visits from anybody
12 from the authorities or looking after your welfare,
13 something you say in your statement is:

14 'It was as if the brothers were trusted to do their
15 job and that was fine by society.'

16 A. It was. Look, I've said time and time again, I probably
17 addressed Lady Smith on this, we came from the richest
18 country in the world, but it certainly didn't filter
19 down to the kids in the street.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes. I was just thinking back to you
21 mentioning your mother visiting you, maybe once every
22 six months. Was she still living in Glasgow then?

23 A. Still living in Glasgow, yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: How many siblings did you have?

25 A. Well, we had eight, but there -- when I left there was

1 another three sort of were produced, so we had -- there
2 were about 12 of us all together.

3 LADY SMITH: She still had a big family to look after?

4 A. She certainly did.

5 LADY SMITH: It can't have been easy or indeed cheap for her
6 to get from Glasgow to St Joseph's?

7 A. No, that's right. There wasn't a lot of income.
8 I mean, there wasn't a lot of work around and sometimes
9 you go to St Vincent de Paul's and what they would do
10 down there is that they would look at your boots, that
11 were probably tied up with a bit of string and things
12 like that, and they may have decided to give you another
13 pair of boots, but we used to call them tackety boots,
14 because they were heavy, heavy boots. Or they would
15 give you a pair of wellingtons.

16 The end result with the wellingtons is that
17 obviously it was wet and rainy there, but you had these
18 wellingtons on all the time, you probably had no socks
19 on either, but the wellingtons used to flick, flick,
20 flick, flick, so it ended up you had a scurvy mark
21 around the top of your calf.

22 LADY SMITH: Because you would be wearing shorts and the
23 wellingtons would be against your bare legs?

24 A. That's right, yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: Tough.

1 A. It was then, but some says that what doesn't kill you
2 makes you stronger.

3 LADY SMITH: No, and from your mother's point of view tough
4 for her to try to see you?

5 A. Yeah, but she did live into her 90s.

6 LADY SMITH: Wow.
7 Ms MacLeod.

8 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
9 Do you recall any inspections of the school as
10 a whole?

11 A. None at all, Ceit.

12 Q. Did you ever try to run away from St Joseph's?

13 A. I recall -- I think I done once and I think I may have
14 got as far as Portobello, which is not far from Tranent.
15 I think I was picked up by the brothers then. They were
16 running round in a car, because I think there was two or
17 three of us left at the same time.

18 Q. Can you recall if there was any particular incident that
19 led to you running away at that specific time?

20 A. Well, I just didn't like the place and as I said you
21 were always in fear of this Brother LAA always in
22 fear of him.
23 You are talking about the strap, Ceit. I recall
24 a time we had these summer jerkins on, a jacket with
25 an elastic sort of waistband round them and I remember

1 that the sort of little bits of elastic used to come
2 loose on them so I remember pulling a little bit out of
3 this jacket and I made a little sling with it and you
4 got a little piece of paper -- this was just kids'
5 stuff -- and you would flick a little thing and hit
6 someone on the leg with it and they would jump. You
7 would do it -- they would all be doing that.

8 I remember this particular time, this Brother LAA
9 he has seen me doing it and he pulled me out of the line
10 and he started saying to me, 'If your parents bought
11 this stuff would you think of doing that?' And lectured
12 me about this and that and the other thing, and then he
13 told me to get back in the line.

14 And I thought I got off lightly there, but unbeknown
15 to me, I really didn't know what was coming, because
16 when you all broke up to play around, he said come here
17 you, you with me. He took me into this cloakroom and
18 that was on the ground floor, not far from the play
19 yard. So he got me to take the pants down and then he
20 took his strap out.

21 So I don't know if you have ever had a strap across
22 the buttocks, but what actually happens is you end up
23 with this welt and the welt, it turns out quite a lump
24 and it is sore for days after, you can't sit down with
25 it.

1 Q. 'James', can you just tell me about the strap? Can you
2 describe that for me, what it was like?

3 A. It was probably about a foot long, with two tails on it.
4 In other words, there were two tails that he used to
5 whack you with, but I remember sort of I thought: what's
6 going to happen here? Anyway, I took the pants down,
7 because the pants were round my ankles, and when he
8 struck you with the strap you obviously jumped. I mean,
9 you couldn't do anything but jump.

10 What that done, it made him even more frustrated, so
11 it got to the stage that he -- he -- it didn't -- he hit
12 me with the strap, it made no difference, but then
13 I fell over and he completely lost it. I'm sort of in
14 the corner and he's stamping on my head and trying to
15 kick -- he couldn't kick that hard, because he had the
16 long black gown on, so he decided to stamp on us.

17 Q. Was he wearing shoes, 'James'?

18 A. Oh, yes, yes.

19 Anyway, the only thing that stopped him, I thought
20 he's going to kill me. The only thing that stopped him,
21 I think he was a smoker and he got short of breath.
22 Thank God he was a smoker and got short of breath.

23 So what actually happened after he told me to get
24 dressed and get out, so I did, but as I recall having
25 that interview, probably a day or so after that I went

1 to the toilet and I was pissing blood. Now, I didn't
2 put the two and two together about me pissing blood and
3 him stamping on me.

4 So instead of passing water or urine I had gone into
5 a cubicle and pee into there, and I wasn't going to tell
6 anyone, because I thought I don't know what's wrong
7 here, I'm not going to tell anybody, but eventually it
8 faded away after a couple of days but now I've ended up,
9 believe it or not, later on in life as a urology nurse
10 for 50 years. Now I know what a kidney injury is.

11 Q. Which part of your body was Brother LAA stamping on
12 with his feet?

13 A. Every part of it. I was curled up in a foetal position.
14 And, as I say, he couldn't kick us too hard because of
15 his grown was restricting him, so he just started
16 stamping. He stamped on the head, on the sides, he just
17 wanted to stamp, stamp, stamp and just the fact he got
18 short of breath and decided he had to give it up because
19 he had no more energy.

20 Q. Were you injured? You have told me about the blood when
21 you went to the toilet. Were you injured otherwise?

22 A. Kids are sort of fairly rubbery, as you are probably
23 well aware of, and look, I felt sore, I felt sore all
24 over from his kicking. It's like having a beating, but
25 you thought you'll get over that and I actually didn't

1 put two and two together passing the blood and him
2 stamping on me.

3 Q. Did you report the incident to anybody?

4 A. No, because the reason I didn't -- from past experience
5 there was no one to report it to. You couldn't go to
6 say to the headmaster, 'Look, this bloke's just belted
7 the shit out of me with a strap and then got frustrated
8 and started stamping on us'. They wouldn't believe you.

9 It was best to say nothing, because if you did say
10 something and it got out of hand, well, you wouldn't
11 know what they would do to you.

12 Q. In relation to injury, is what you're telling me that
13 later on in life, with knowledge you now have, that you
14 realise you had a kidney injury as a result of the
15 beating?

16 A. Obviously that's the only thing I could put it down to,
17 because I used to think -- when I was younger I remember
18 eating a lot of beetroot and in the urine it was like
19 I was passing blood, but I remember going to the Glasgow
20 Royal Infirmary and they took a specimen and the doctor
21 came out and said, 'Have you been eating beetroot?' And
22 I said, 'Yeah, I have', and he said, 'That's what it
23 is'.

24 What I was thinking of the time when I was passing
25 the blood was I hadn't been eating any beetroot, but it

1 was actually quite thick blood and that's why I went
2 into the cubicles to pass urine, because if you done it
3 in the urinal the kids standing next to you, 'Oh, what's
4 wrong with you?'

5 LADY SMITH: You described the strap, 'James', as being
6 about a foot long and it had two tails on it?

7 A. Yeah. They kept it in the pocket of their gown. They
8 must have had a fairly deep pocket there, because they
9 kept it in the pocket of their gowns.

10 LADY SMITH: Was it leather?

11 A. Very much so and thick.

12 LADY SMITH: A tawse? Do you know what I mean by a 'tawse'?

13 A. No, I don't know what that means, Lady Smith.

14 LADY SMITH: I'm referring to an instrument that was made in
15 Scotland at that time -- indeed I think you can still
16 get them -- called the Lochgelly tawse that was used
17 quite commonly about the period you're talking about.
18 You hadn't heard of that?

19 A. No, I haven't heard of it. I wouldn't have taken it by
20 that name, no.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: Did other brothers carry a belt?

23 A. Yes. I think they would all have carried one at one
24 stage, but a lot of them -- as I said, they wouldn't
25 take a kid and start belting them in the playground.

1 They would take them away somewhere and do it.

2 Q. Just looking at the picture generally at St Joseph's,
3 were boys belted by brothers on a regular basis?

4 A. Oh, yeah. I think it was on the regular basis, yes.
5 They were certainly beaten on a regular basis.

6 Q. You have spoken about Brother LAA and your own
7 experience, were there other brothers who beat children?

8 A. Yes. I mean, Brother GRE was one of them. He would
9 give the kids a hammering. Look, maybe -- I don't know
10 if you can say it's warranted, I don't think it's
11 warranted, but they just didn't seem to -- they just
12 couldn't restrain themselves at times.

13 Q. Brother GRE did he give you a hammering?

14 A. I don't recall him giving me a hammering. I remember
15 with the spelling and the ruler, but it would seem to be
16 continuous. It wasn't, 'Okay, this is how you spell it,
17 don't forget it'. It was just keep writing it down and
18 writing it down, every time I write it wrong I got the
19 smack across with the ruler. That was his motivation to
20 get me to sort of drop the 'S' out of attention.

21 Q. Did you see Brother GRE beat other children?

22 A. Oh, yeah, definitely, yeah.

23 Q. You used the phrase 'hammering', can you just develop
24 that for me and what did you see Brother GRE do to
25 other boys?

1 A. Hammering, when you say hammering, he would grab them by
2 the scruff and then just start leathering them with
3 their hands, slapping them.

4 Q. Is this something --

5 A. They didn't -- they would actually do that in the school
6 itself, in the playground.

7 Q. You spoke about the practice that Brother LAA used at
8 St Mungo's about grabbing boys by their sideburns. Is
9 that something that continued at St Joseph's?

10 A. Even more so, even more so. I mean, he actually -- he
11 sort of had a couple of steps to stand on, which helped
12 him to pick the kids up. He seemed to enjoy doing it.
13 I don't know why he -- he seemed to enjoy doing it.

14 Q. Was that something that happened daily, weekly? How
15 often did you see this happen?

16 A. I could say it happened -- sometimes it happened daily.
17 You would see him, he would just pick one out. Some kid
18 had done something wrong and he would call them out the
19 line and start picking them up. He always knew because
20 he was a skinny sort of a character, and he was always
21 gritting his teeth when he was doing it.

22 Q. I'd like to ask you now about Brother MJI 'James'.

23 A. Yes, Brother MJI he wasn't a bloke that would dish
24 out sort of hammerings. He was quite lenient with the
25 kids, I'd have to admit that. But I do recall this

1 time, and I was reading a book and it was called 'The
2 Young Chevalier' and it was about Prince Charles in
3 France and the word 'adultery' came up and of course
4 I hadn't a clue what adultery meant, so I thought to
5 myself I will ask the question, 'What does "adultery"
6 mean?' So he had a bit of a hard time explaining it to
7 me over the class.

8 So when the class was going out, he pulled me aside
9 and he sat down, I'm standing at the desk and he's
10 sitting down on my left-hand side on a chair, so he's
11 got these little books out, which he probably -- about
12 man and woman, and this and other things, the sight of
13 God and all the stuff here, but then his hand is up my
14 pants. He's actually touching my testicles. Of course
15 I just froze, completely froze and I thought to myself,
16 you feel -- you are taking part in something here, you
17 have got this guilt complex. You are standing, 'Oh, my
18 God, what's happening here?'

19 So after that, he stopped and the classes were
20 coming back in again. So he said you go down, because
21 you would -- opposite his classroom there was a chapel.
22 You go down two or three stairs and there was a toilet.
23 He said:

24 'Go into the toilet and when the rest of them come
25 up you follow up with them. Don't speak to anyone about

1 what we've been doing here.'

2 Q. Did that ever happen again, 'James'?

3 A. No, it didn't. But I always remember with my desk
4 I would make a quick getaway to one side to sort of --
5 how would you describe it, herd protection. You would
6 go among the rest of the boys so he couldn't grab you
7 out and down the stairs we went. So it never happened
8 again. That was the only time.

9 But, Ceit, I did notice from time to time in the
10 dormitories, there was a dormitory, it was on the top
11 floor, and I can't remember, there may be about 60 beds
12 in it or something like that, maybe less, but you would
13 find that it used to have a chair and a locker by your
14 bed, it was a single bed.

15 Some of these brothers, they used to do evening
16 visits and the pretence was they'd sit next to you and
17 sleeping and hearing that and the other thing, it never
18 happened to me, but you could see it happen time and
19 again. They would sit on the chair and next their hand
20 would be under the blankets. That was quite common.

21 Q. In the dormitory you would see a brother sitting on
22 a chair beside a boy's bed with the brother having his
23 hands under the covers?

24 A. Under the covers, yeah. Most of them knew about it.
25 They all just would say, 'I hope he doesn't come near

1 me'. That used to happen. Did I know the brothers that
2 did it? Well, not really because all it was, there was
3 a night light on, it was fairly dim in the dormitory.

4 Q. Did any of the boys that you saw this happen to ever
5 speak about?

6 A. No. You wouldn't speak about it. You wouldn't speak
7 about it. You would never dream of telling someone else
8 that he just ... Most kids knew it was happening,
9 because they used to talk among one another.

10 Q. When you would see a brother doing this at a boy's
11 bedside, how would that come to an end?

12 A. Well, I'm not sure how it come to an end, but they'd get
13 up and just leave.

14 Q. Are you able to give me any sense of how often you saw
15 this?

16 A. Well, look, you would see it from time to time, but when
17 you got into your bunk in the dormitory usually you fell
18 asleep. It's just when you were awake and you see
19 someone all in black coming down in between the beds and
20 they'd be checking up to see what's going on here and
21 then they would go and sit down at a bed and that would
22 proceed. Maybe they're sitting down and saying a prayer
23 or something, it's hardly unlikely they were saying
24 a prayer at 10 o'clock at night.

25 Q. To go back to something we spoke about earlier and the

1 showering process, I think you said that you would pick
2 that up again when we were looking at St Joseph's. Can
3 you just tell me about your memory of the showering at
4 St Joseph's and if anything in particular happened
5 there?

6 A. Well, as I say, the kids all would go into the showers
7 and it wasn't as if there was cubicles. There wasn't.
8 It was just big, open showers and as I said the kids
9 used to go and start washing themselves.

10 They would all face the wall, they would all face
11 the wall when they were doing it. As I said, there was
12 a particular brother -- I don't recall exactly who it
13 was, but all the kids knew about him, but he would get
14 us all to just turn around and face one another and he
15 would proceed to walk up and down just looking at the
16 boys' genitalia.

17 Look, we all -- we're all aware. The kids were all
18 aware what he was up to with that. I mean, because
19 after the showers the kids would all be talking among
20 one another about it, you know.

21 Q. What would the boys be saying to one another about it?

22 A. He's a pervert. He's a bit of a pervert. We all knew
23 that.

24 Q. What are your memories of leaving St Joseph's and how
25 that came about?

1 A. Okay. I think there was a conversation that went on
2 that what would happen is that I was turning 15 and when
3 you reached 15 you had to go. You had to go somewhere
4 else. You couldn't stay at that school, because there
5 were no kids over 15 there.

6 So if I recall, the conversation was with me that
7 they weren't going to send us back to Glasgow, they were
8 actually going to send me to a borstal and I thought at
9 the time, oh, my God, but then my uncle, he stepped in
10 again and he -- I don't know who he had a chat to, he
11 had a chat to someone, anyway they agreed that he would
12 take me back to Dundee.

13 What I actually done when I got back to Dundee
14 I never stayed with him. I went to stay with my
15 grandmother.

16 Q. After some time, did you join the Merchant Navy from
17 there?

18 A. I had a couple of little jobs in Dundee. I think I was
19 a delivery boy with one of the co-ops there and then
20 I worked at this place called the [REDACTED] it was
21 a bit of a zombie job, because you were making all these
22 pins for the jute mills there and that. I think for
23 five-and-a-half days a week you got about two quid, so
24 that was your reward for that, about eight or nine hours
25 a day.

1 Q. Then you went to join the Merchant Navy?

2 A. I actually wrote away to join the Merchant Navy, and I
3 think the first letter I wrote I got knocked back. And
4 then I persisted and I wrote again to them and
5 eventually I got in. So I was sent to -- from Dundee
6 down to a place in Gloucester, to a ship called -- it
7 was an old German sailing ship, it was a ship called the
8 [REDACTED].

9 So I had done training in there, lifeboats and knots
10 and everything like that, that you need as a seaman, and
11 then I came back to Dundee and after that, I joined
12 a ship called the [REDACTED], and so actually you
13 wouldn't believe it, because being -- I don't think
14 I was 17 yet, but being that, I had done a little
15 circumnavigation of the globe, which for a kid of that
16 age was just something to behold.

17 Q. Did there come a time when you moved to Melbourne?

18 A. Yes. As I say, I spent ten years at sea and I went deck
19 boy, junior ordinary seaman, senior ordinary seaman,
20 able seaman, so I spent ten years and I thought I've had
21 enough of it. It's a fairly tough life. It's
22 an exciting life, but it's fairly tough.

23 So I came out to Australia and I remember landing in
24 Melbourne and it was probably about this time of the
25 year and it's frozen across there. Well, out here it

1 was about 36 degrees and I thought, oh, my God.

2 I had a little bit of money, not a lot. But I got
3 a job in the Royal Melbourne Hospital. I think the
4 reason I got the job was the lady that was interviewing,
5 the personnel officer, she was from Tayport, which is
6 just across the river from Dundee, so we had more time
7 talking about Dundee than actually talking about the
8 hospital or the job. I did get the job and eventually
9 I sort of -- I could see I could do nursing training
10 here, so I got sent to what they called [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED].

12 So I went there to do my training and I didn't have
13 a great experience there, because they actually give us
14 kids to look after, and as WC Fields once said, do you
15 like kids? And he said, 'Well, it depends which way
16 they're cooked'.

17 So I wasn't too keen on the kids. I couldn't quite
18 handle them. You would think I'd be okay with all the
19 kids in our family.

20 Q. I think you say that you became a nurse specialist and
21 went on to spend 30 years working with a consultant?

22 A. Well, close to 50 years. I actually -- when I finished
23 my training, they asked me where I wanted to go. I used
24 to work as an orderly in emergency and so I used to work
25 in what they called the male observation room.

1 I thought I'll go back as a nurse into emergency, but
2 there wasn't a position, 'So we will send you to
3 urology', so I went to urology but I remember walking
4 into the urology ward and I think I was probably about
5 26 at the time or something like that and all I could
6 see was all these old boys all sitting there, it just
7 reminded me of sort of Waldorf and Statler from 'The
8 Muppets', from the balcony there, because they all
9 looked like that to me, but the funny thing about it,
10 I stuck there and I stayed there and so I worked with
11 a number of consultants and I came out a urology nurse
12 specialist.

13 Q. You tell us that you were 75 when you ultimately
14 retired?

15 A. I retired at 75, yeah.

16 Q. You say you are enjoying your retirement?

17 A. Love it. I've got a big garden here down the back, that
18 I was just showing it to [REDACTED] earlier on, and the sun
19 is actually still shining here and it's been 28 degrees
20 here and 30 tomorrow.

21 LADY SMITH: Well, it's nearly daylight here!

22 A. I apologise for getting you people all out of your bed
23 to listen to me waffling on about what happened to me as
24 a child.

25 LADY SMITH: It's barely three degrees outside.

1 A. Oh, dear.

2 MS MACLEOD: 'James', I'll now move on to the part of your
3 statement where you talk about the impact your
4 experiences have had on your life.

5 One thing you tell us is that you think your
6 experiences in care have made you stronger and more
7 confident?

8 A. I think it has. I think it has, because I often wonder
9 as I think I said to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s been
10 absolutely fantastic for the journey we have made
11 through in getting to this, she's been so professional,
12 she really has been, and very caring.

13 As I said to her, I often wonder if they'd sent me
14 back to Glasgow what would have happened and I also said
15 to her, I wonder if there's any of the kids that
16 actually are still alive who were at these schools at
17 that time, because I would imagine a lot of them, they
18 would have left that place, maybe gone back to Glasgow
19 or some other place and would end up drugs or alcohol or
20 lung cancer or liver cancer or just dropping dead in the
21 street somewhere.

22 Because I really don't think it was a great
23 experience for the kids. You got a basic education.
24 That's all you basically got. But you certainly were
25 given a few hammerings and different things, you were.

1 Q. You say that you regularly think about your time in
2 care?

3 A. Well, not so much now. There was a time -- I'm sitting
4 talking to you, Ceit, I would never have dreamed of
5 talking to anyone about that. Never dreamed of it. You
6 asked me -- you probably asked me the question, how did
7 I get in touch with -- I'm sitting talking to you
8 tonight and I think, well, I know it's not a courtroom
9 but I'm thinking here's me, the last time I was in
10 a courtroom was with the Salvation Army lady, she never
11 spoke a word. I don't know what she was there for, for
12 the life of me, and the judge and the other bloke in the
13 suit.

14 I said that was the last time I was in a courtroom
15 and here's me back not so much a courtroom but
16 I'm talking to you what actually happened to me after
17 that courtroom.

18 Q. Can I ask you then, 'James', how did it come about that
19 you came to speak to the Inquiry in the first place?

20 A. Okay. I'm not sure. You may well know an artist there
21 by the name of [REDACTED]?

22 LADY SMITH: 'James', I'm very familiar with her work, yes.

23 A. Lady Smith, I'll speak to you if you like. I'll address
24 you.

25 When I was a kid in Glasgow, [REDACTED]

1 I remember her well, she used to come round the streets
2 and she had a pram with her easels. You can look it up,
3 she had done a lot of paintings [REDACTED].

4 LADY SMITH: 'James', I've seen quite a number of them in
5 the exhibitions here in Edinburgh.

6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 There was some person who bought this painting, [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED], and he sent it to a McLaughlin, who was
12 an art restorer in Glasgow and in the process of
13 separating it to restore the painting, clean it all up,
14 [REDACTED] that was worth
15 twice or three times as much. [REDACTED]

16 LADY SMITH: Wow.

17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1

2

3 LADY SMITH: That is fascinating and really interested to
4 hear that.

5 And of course you have far survived [REDACTED]

6 who sadly died in her early 40s.

7 A. She was a lovely lady and she used to have a studio in
8 [REDACTED] in Glasgow and she was a lovely lady.
9 Very gentle. Her gear, she always wore a big sort of
10 corduroy pants and a big corduroy-type jersey and she
11 was -- she used to take us to the studios and we used to
12 go there.

13 The reason we used to go there, Lady Smith, was that
14 firstly the place was warm, it was heated up and she
15 would give you a sandwich, a piece of jam or something
16 like that. That was a bonus. [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] he got painted quite a lot, [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] and he said she used to give him tuppence,
19 well. She never used to give me tuppence, I was a bit
20 disappointed in that.

21 LADY SMITH: She painted a girl, a little girl, with her

22 [REDACTED] it's called [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]

24 A. It probably was, but the two that was -- there was [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, there were quite a few of those, [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]

3 A. Actually two -- the two girls, they were [REDACTED]
4 they're still alive, they are still around the place,
5 I speak to them regular.

6 LADY SMITH: Wow. That's tremendous. Thank you for that
7 insight. It means a lot.

8 A. She was a lovely lady, she was.

9 MS MACLEOD: Mr McLaughlin, who you mentioned there,
10 'James', was it through him that you found out about the
11 Inquiry?

12 A. No, it wasn't Mr McLaughlin, it was -- I can't remember
13 his name now. He's the curator of the Gallery of Modern
14 Art in Edinburgh. I don't recall his name, I've got it
15 in my emails somewhere.

16 Anyway, I think there was some paintings that came
17 up that were for sale and I think maybe it was this one
18 that [REDACTED]. So I think my brother
19 gave me the -- give him my phone number and I remember
20 I was in a place in Richmond in the centre of Melbourne,
21 and he gave me a ring, it was about 6 o'clock at night
22 or something.

23 So I went and had a long talk to him and he was
24 asking me how I eventually arrived in Australia and
25 I told him just what I'm telling you, not in detail.

1 I was telling him about St Mungo's and St Joseph's and
2 what happened there with the De La Salle Brothers, and
3 he says to me:

4 'Do you know there's an inquiry going on about that
5 at the moment? You should have a chat to them.'

6 I thought, well, it would be nice to debrief and
7 I remember going through to Edinburgh and met [REDACTED]
8 and two gentlemen and it was a bit hard at times, trying
9 to talk to them about what actually happened, but
10 getting it off your chest was good and people need to
11 know exactly what happened.

12 One of the issues I had is I don't -- there's
13 probably a lot of good people in these schools. As
14 I said at the start, you would have to hope that they
15 don't get trashed with the few that were bad but I tend
16 to blame, not that school, but the society that we were
17 in at that time. It was shocking. As I say, you could
18 never ever dream what the tenement buildings looked
19 like, you really couldn't. There were gas mantels.
20 There were no electric lights. It was gas mantels.

21 There used -- on the stairwell, the stairway down,
22 there used to be a toilet there you would use, but most
23 of the time that toilet was full up with bricks and
24 overflowing, one of the kids used to do it, that I don't
25 know. So that was the type of living and we didn't have

1 any blankets. We had army coats. That was what covered
2 you up, army coats.

3 Even things like you would keep kids off school so
4 you used to get school dinners, so you would go up to
5 the school and say, 'So and so is off school, I need to
6 pick up the lunch', but that would feed the whole crowd
7 that were at home, the babies, the younger ones. So it
8 was a bit like that and you think in this day and age
9 that some kids think they've got it hard, you don't know
10 what it's all about.

11 LADY SMITH: Of course, going back to [REDACTED]'s work,
12 she captured the atmosphere of the tenements and life in
13 the streets of Glasgow, Townhead area, at the time,
14 didn't she?

15 A. She certainly did, Lady Smith, she certainly did. She
16 has captured that and it's all -- in a lot of the books
17 now you'll see, I think you have probably seen it
18 [REDACTED].

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 A. If you go through the [REDACTED], you will see
21 there's a picture of [REDACTED] there, in
22 it. And you'll see how they're all dressed up as they
23 were back then.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MACLEOD: Having spoken to the Inquiry, 'James', did you

1 also provide a statement to the police?

2 A. I did. When I -- I think I just sent a message over
3 email. I was rung up by one of the police and he was
4 chatting to me about what happened and I mentioned
5 Brother LAA to him and I said to him, I used to have
6 this ambition that when I grew up I was going to come
7 back and I was going to kill him.

8 The police said, 'Listen, you don't have to worry
9 about that now, because he's dead, but we have heard
10 a lot about this particular person'.

11 Then I had an interview with a young lady. She was
12 a police constable, so I think I was on the phone to her
13 for about an hour taking a statement about all that went
14 on.

15 Q. Towards the end of your statement, 'James', you set out
16 some lessons which you hope might be learned and I just
17 want to pick up on a couple of things you say there.

18 One thing is you say you need to get to the root of
19 the problem, if a child --

20 A. Yeah. Exactly. The root of the problem is poverty,
21 deprivation. Look, with all due respect, it's still
22 happening in Glasgow to this day and that's where you
23 get the drugs from. It's the feel of the hopelessness.

24 I mean, I go back to Glasgow now and again, but you
25 walk round the streets and there's some sad cases, some

1 very sad cases. I mean sometimes it's like the land of
2 the walking dead. I think that's all from deprivation
3 and poverty.

4 In a country like Scotland that is very wealthy,
5 I cannot see how that is happening.

6 Q. You say that placing children into the kind of
7 institution that you were in should be a last resort?

8 A. It should be a last resort. Because I don't think it
9 matters how you place it, Ceit, these people will still
10 get into these schools or get in among kids.

11 We have here in Australia, believe it or not,
12 they're very good with the kids. There are all sorts of
13 things they can get involved in and you look back there.
14 Even when they're playing Australian rules football
15 here, at half time all the kids from the different
16 schools come on and play football on the ground. You
17 wouldn't see that at Parkhead or Tyneside or something
18 like that where they used to bring a little team of kids
19 on. The kids would love that, it would be so
20 stimulating for them, playing in front of a big crowd in
21 (indistinguishable).

22 But even building places where kids can go and
23 they've got mentors and -- you've got to encourage them.
24 You've got to encourage them and kindness comes into
25 that.

1 Q. I've been asking you a lot of questions, 'James'.

2 I just want to give you the opportunity now to add
3 anything that would you like to.

4 A. Well, as I say, I'm glad I've had the chance to speak to
5 you all and debrief. It gets it off my chest and as
6 I said to you before, I don't blame the schools.
7 I blame the system that was in place at that time.
8 I really do.

9 I think when you've got a kid of ten in a prison
10 cell overnight, concrete floor, with an open toilet,
11 with another dozen adults all moaning and groaning
12 during the night, if that thing happened in this day and
13 age there would be an absolute outcry, but it never was
14 then.

15 Even kids there, they used to play soccer and they'd
16 get on to a piece of what they called the brokies,
17 broken land, it was just like a bare block of land and
18 they would be playing football, but then the coppers
19 would come along and chase them. You weren't allowed to
20 do it. I mean stupid things like that, it was just
21 ridiculous.

22 I know they've got a job to do, but you're dealing
23 with kids. You need to have a little bit of, you know,
24 give here.

25 MS MACLEOD: Thank you for that, 'James' and for giving your

1 evidence today.

2 My Lady, no questions have been submitted for
3 'James'.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 'James', it just remains for me to thank you so much
6 for joining us over the link this evening. Hearing you
7 in person, in addition to your written statement, has
8 made all the difference. It's enriched my understanding
9 of your time in the institutions you've talked about in
10 Glasgow as a child, and you were a child all that time,
11 you weren't a grown-up when you were 15. And the
12 experiences you had were far from ideal, as you say.
13 I can well understand that.

14 Thank you for the fairness with which you've
15 approached it and for your very detailed recall. It's
16 such a help. I'm really grateful to you. I wish you
17 well.

18 A. I'm still fairly sharp.

19 LADY SMITH: You certainly are.

20 I wish you well for the rest of your retirement,
21 long may that continue.

22 A. I just, if I may, I would like to thank [REDACTED] very
23 much once again. She has been absolutely fantastic.

24 LADY SMITH: She is here, she is just in front of me
25 listening and watching you.

1 A. Very professional and, you know, very calm.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that. Thank you.

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: We'll switch off the link now 'James' and you
5 can go and relax.

6 A. Will do.

7 Goodbye.

8 LADY SMITH: Goodbye.

9 Ms MacLeod, thank you. A break now and the next
10 witness will be ready when?

11 MS MACLEOD: The next witness is scheduled to be ready at
12 10 o'clock.

13 LADY SMITH: We'll break until 10.00 am at this point.
14 Thank you.

15 (9.26 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (10.00 am)

18 LADY SMITH: Welcome back.

19 Now to the next witness, who I think is ready, is
20 that right, Mr MacAulay?

21 MR MACAULAY: That's correct, the next witness is here.

22 He is an applicant, he wants to remain anonymous and
23 to use the pseudonym 'Scott' in his evidence.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25

1 'Scott' (sworn).

2 LADY SMITH: 'Scott', you may have spotted that what's in
3 the red folder is your statement and you'll probably be
4 taken to that in a moment. You have that available to
5 you all the time you're giving evidence, but we'll also
6 bring your statement up on the screen in front of you
7 there, if you want to look at it. You don't have to use
8 either, but it might be useful to you to refer to them.

9 Otherwise, please would you be aware that I want to
10 do anything I can to make the whole process of giving
11 evidence comfortable for you, and that's in
12 circumstances where I know what we're going to ask you
13 to talk about isn't easy subject matter at all. Some of
14 it's distressing. I know that some people who think
15 they're all prepared and calm and ready to fire away
16 with the difficult evidence can be taken quite unawares
17 as to how it may affect them.

18 If you need a break at any time, just say. Even if
19 it's just sitting and pausing where you are, or if you
20 want to leave the room and then come back, you must let
21 me know, please.

22 A. Okay, ma'am.

23 LADY SMITH: If you don't understand what we're asking you,
24 that's our fault not yours so do speak up if you have
25 any questions.

1 Otherwise, whatever you want, if it works for you it
2 will work for me if it helps with your evidence. So let
3 me know.

4 I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay now, if that's all
5 right for you, is that okay?

6 A. That's fine. Thanks, ma'am.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 Questions from Mr MacAulay

10 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

11 Good morning, 'Scott'.

12 A. Good morning.

13 Q. The first thing I would like you to do is to go to the
14 final page of your statement in the red folder.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Can you confirm, 'Scott', that you have signed the
17 statement?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you also tell us, in the final paragraph:

20 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
21 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

22 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
23 true.'

24 A. That is correct, yes.

25 Q. For the benefit of the transcript I'll just provide the

1 reference for the witness statement, and that is
2 WIT-1-000000640.

3 'Scott', to protect your anonymity I don't want your
4 date of birth. I just want to put to you that the year
5 of your birth was 1949?

6 A. It was.

7 Q. The first part of your statement, you look at life
8 before you went into care and I think what you tell us,
9 that your family life was a happy one?

10 A. Definitely, yeah.

11 Q. You're from a large family?

12 A. Yes, six of us.

13 Q. With I think five siblings, is that --

14 A. And myself, yeah, five.

15 Q. You also tell us that after the Second World War Glasgow
16 Council came up with this idea of providing families
17 with respite and sending children to residential
18 schools?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Did that happen to you? We don't want the name of the
21 particular residential school, because we're not looking
22 at it --

23 A. Yes, it happened to me and my two sisters. There's only
24 a year between the three of us, so it happened to the
25 three of us.

1 Q. That was essentially to give your family a break?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you remember what age you were when you went in?

4 A. I was probably about maybe six/seven and my sisters was
5 five and four, that type of thing.

6 Q. How long did you spend there?

7 A. Probably just about a season. I can't remember,
8 probably a couple of months, three months probably. We
9 went twice. We went to the same place twice, we did.

10 Q. Can I also just tell you, and I think you're aware of
11 this, that you were in a number of establishments that
12 we have already looked at in this case study and your
13 evidence in connection with these establishments has
14 already been presented to Lady Smith.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. I don't propose to go through that again.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. It's there before Lady Smith.

19 LADY SMITH: Perhaps, 'Scott', I could also confirm that and
20 that I have read and considered your entire statement,
21 which is part of your evidence. So please be reassured
22 those other parts are of value to us, just because we
23 are not talking about them today doesn't mean they're
24 being discarded. Far from it.

25 MR MACAULAY: I think you tell us in relation to being put

1 into these residential care settings that the worst
2 thing for you was the separation from your sisters?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You also tell us in your statement that periodically you
5 got into trouble from about the age of eight or nine?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. What sort of things were you up to?

8 A. We broke into a garage with an ice-cream van in it and
9 stole some bottles of Irn Bru. My mum wasn't very --
10 and we paid for that.

11 Q. Because of that, did you end up in Larchgrove Remand --

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. That evidence has already been looked at. You provide
14 us with your experience at Larchgrove over a number of
15 pages.

16 You tell us that you are in Larchgrove perhaps more
17 than once?

18 A. Yes. Three or four times roughly.

19 Q. When you went into Larchgrove, were you about age nine
20 or so?

21 A. Yeah, nine-year-old.

22 Q. Did you end up going to St Joseph's Approved School in
23 Tranent?

24 A. Yes, [REDACTED] 1961.

25 Q. You would be aged 11 at that time?

1 A. 11, yeah.

2 Q. Do you have a good recollection for dates?

3 A. Yeah, I do actually. Something about when my daughter

4 was born and then [REDACTED] I was released and that was the

5 De La Salle Brothers, it was [REDACTED] day, so

6 I remember things like that right through my life, my

7 younger life.

8 Q. I can note that you were very young to be at

9 St Joseph's.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Were you supposed to be somewhere else?

12 A. Supposed to go to St Ninian's in Stirling, but this

13 happened to me a couple of times during my life. But

14 there was no room, so they sent me, I was the youngest

15 in St Joseph's at the time, the take of pupils -- it was

16 roughly about 12 to 15/16. I was 11 when I went to

17 St Joseph's.

18 Q. Who ran St Joseph's when you were there?

19 A. The De La Salle Brothers.

20 Q. Can you remember the names of --

21 A. Oh, yeah, remember them all.

22 Q. Can you perhaps provide us with some names.

23 A. Brother PAF was SNR [REDACTED], Brother LVD [REDACTED]

24 Brother LUU [REDACTED], Brother HHT [REDACTED] and there was another

25 one. Five or six of them.

1 Q. I'll come back to some of that.

2 You tell us in your statement that there were four
3 houses and you would be allocated to one of these
4 houses?

5 A. I went to St Patrick's house.

6 Q. Are you able to give us any sense of how many boys were
7 at the school altogether?

8 A. There were 30 in each house, there was about 120 in the
9 home.

10 Q. So far as the running of St Joseph's would be concerned,
11 you have mentioned it was run by the
12 De La Salle Brothers. What about civilian staff, were
13 there civilian staff there?

14 A. Yes, there was some civilian staff, one of the teachers,
15 we used to call him '██████', he was a civilian and
16 an Italian caretaker who done the boilers, he was
17 Italian from the Second World War, just stayed here.
18 And then there was the staff, the girls that done the
19 meals. But mostly it was De La Salle Brothers. It was
20 six or seven of them mostly ran it.

21 Q. Can I ask you to look at a photograph? Would you mind
22 looking at a photograph?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It will come on the screen, it's not in the folder, it's
25 WIT-3-000005605. It has come on the screen already, do

1 you recognise that picture?

2 A. Yes, I walked up these stairs on ██████████ 1961.

3 Q. It's quite an imposing looking building?

4 A. It is, and Brother PAF ██████████ office is the first one, the

5 left window.

6 Q. What about the dormitories --

7 A. The dormitories, yes, there were some up at the top but

8 they were at the back of the building.

9 Q. Part of the main building?

10 A. It was a sort of U-shaped and leading on to the football

11 parks.

12 Q. We are talking when you were there about 1961, does this

13 photograph represent the picture as then?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. We hear in later evidence that there may have been

16 cottages build?

17 A. There were some cottages up this side, we weren't

18 allowed, they were out of bounds.

19 Q. What were the cottages for?

20 A. I don't know if it for staff, maybe the dining room

21 staff. I don't know, because we were never allowed to

22 go anywhere near it. The only -- we used to walk in

23 front of that building and the outbuildings on the

24 left-hand side of the picture was the joiners, the

25 tailors and the metalwork.

1 Q. They are for places where boys would go to the trained?

2 A. We had to go there maybe two or three times a week.

3 Q. You tell us on paragraph 51 about the routine at

4 St Joseph's and in particular your first day. Do you

5 remember your first day?

6 A. So much, yeah.

7 Q. Tell us about it?

8 A. First day, I mean Mr Irvine, my probation officer,

9 an Aberdonian man, who drove us through. We got sent --

10 me and a friend of mine were sent to St Joseph's, and we

11 were driven through to Tranent in East Lothian and then

12 we went in, they took us into the office and

13 Brother PAF was there. Everything seemed to be -- it

14 was fine.

15 Then he handed us over to two of the boys to take us

16 round and the boys showed us round the home. So it

17 seemed okay and it was big and I had already been in

18 Larchgrove Remand Home, so I didn't know what was in

19 front of me but it seemed fine.

20 Q. As far as the aspects of the routine is concerned then,

21 at bedtime, I think you tell us you went to bed around

22 8 pm?

23 A. Yes, roughly.

24 Q. Who organised the bedtime?

25 A. It was quite -- very regimental. Any time they wanted

1 your attention they would clap their hands --

2 Q. When you say 'they'?

3 A. The De La Salle Brothers, the ones in charge, they would
4 just clap their hands and you had to be silent and line
5 up. It doesn't matter if you're in the yard, you line
6 up in houses, or in the recreation room, you line up.
7 You would get a shower every night.

8 You went into the shower room, you had to put on
9 swimming trunks, cover yourself with a towel and put
10 swimming trunks on and you weren't allowed to speak at
11 all. So you went in and they say water on, water off --
12 water on, soap, water off and out.

13 Q. Who was in charge of that?

14 A. It would be the same again.

15 Q. The brothers?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. In the morning then, when you're awakened?

18 A. Right, soon as you wakened you make your bed block.
19 I tell a lie, you'll maybe come on to this, but
20 basically you made your bed and sat on your locker
21 silent and then the brother would come in. If you can
22 picture it when you walk in the back of that building,
23 the first dormitory was a big dormitory and then there
24 was a wooden staircase that went up into a small
25 dormitory. And then another small, that was the

1 wet-the-bed dormitory, there was about eight or nine
2 guys in that, and then you went to the far one.

3 What they did, they took the far way dormitory and
4 you walked through and then they came and you gradually
5 all got in so by the time you were at the bottom you
6 were all in a straight line.

7 Q. Would that mean from your description that all the boys
8 would end up walking through the wet-the-bed dormitory?

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. Did you wet the bed?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. Were you put into --

13 A. Yes, it's a ridicule place that you go to, I was 11 and
14 I think I wet the bed about three or four times in the
15 space of whatever and suddenly you're put in there --

16 LADY SMITH: 'Scott', sorry, did you say it was a ridicule
17 place?

18 A. Yes, it was a ridicule, ma'am. What actually happened
19 is because you were the second-last dormitory, so if you
20 wet the bed that night, they came and checked you, they
21 got you up during the night, you had to make your bed
22 block knowing -- so the sheets would be off and the
23 rubber mat would be there. So the last dormitory,
24 I can't remember, about 30 or 40 guys, they would come
25 through and you were getting a bit of 'wet the bed', so

1 it was like a ridicule thing. As they would come down
2 they would pass by you, you would join on the end of the
3 queue

4 MR MACAULAY: I think, as I took to you a moment ago, the
5 arrangement was such that those in the wet-the-bed
6 dormitory would be last to join the queue, and therefore
7 the other boys would see they had wet the bet.

8 A. Yes, on reflection it's probably being meant to take you
9 away first to save you embarrassment, but that's what
10 they used to do, they used to sit you there.

11 Q. Would any of the other boys make any comments?

12 A. Yes, there would be niggly ones, just the usual that
13 boys do.

14 Q. Did you have duties in relation to cleaning the
15 building?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell me about that?

18 A. After breakfast you had your allocation. Everybody
19 cleaned for half an hour/an hour. You had your own
20 section to do and you cleaned the whole building. 120
21 boys, you could spread them out so everything got
22 cleaned.

23 Q. Were there any other cleaning staff to assist?

24 A. No, just the lads.

25 Q. What about the brothers, did they participate?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Then schooling, can you tell me about schooling then?

3 A. Yeah, there was a school. There was a class in there,
4 Mr McGuinness, he was in, he was a civilian, it was
5 a sin, because the boys really took the mickey out of
6 him. He was a humble man and they found -- he had
7 a briefcase and it was his daughter's and on it it said
8 [REDACTED] and that's what they called him. They nicknamed
9 him. I thought it's dead cruel. So that was [REDACTED], so
10 the boys were quite cruel.

11 He held his own, but I think -- I don't think he
12 should have took the job. I wouldn't have.

13 Q. What you do tell us is there were good things about
14 St Joseph's?

15 A. The thing about it is it's only because I'm doing this
16 just now, the concept is absolutely amazing. Whoever
17 set this up has had the right idea, but you weren't
18 allowed to enjoy that for the fear, the abuse. It's
19 only now that I can realise that I learnt to play the
20 bagpipes when I was 11. I could -- when I was 12 I made
21 a pair in the tailors, long trousers, I was -- I was the
22 youngest at 12 that was allowed to wear long trousers,
23 because I made them. To this day I know how to work
24 some woodwork, some metalwork. Yeah, it was really
25 good, but that's not what you felt at the time. You

1 were too busy ducking and bobbing and weaving for the
2 fear.

3 Q. This is something you feel with the benefit of hindsight
4 as a model, it could have worked?

5 A. Yeah, aye. You know my past yourself, but I'm actually
6 using that model type thing, the way that -- to get
7 somebody interested, here's a boy here what do you want
8 to do, come here I'll show you. Show them what to do
9 and try an encourage them.

10 The tailor -- there were three civilians there, the
11 tailor was a civvy and Mr **GVX** was a joiner.
12 I can't remember the name of the metalworker, they were
13 good, they were great and they were always wanting to
14 teach you, so that's where you done your learning before
15 you went back into the hellhole, for want of a better
16 word.

17 Q. And sports?

18 A. I know how to play cricket, I love cricket. My pals
19 think I'm off my head. I love cricket and I got that
20 love for it because what the De La Salle Brothers did,
21 they're English so during the football season closed
22 they had a cricket season, so we were all dressed in our
23 whites and we had a big massive playing field. And the
24 other thing playing football, I played for St Joseph's
25 Approved School and the nets, we used to play in the

1 streets. Suddenly there is grass and you are playing in
2 nets. The concept was amazing, just the wrong people
3 were running it. Seriously wrong people.

4 Q. You tell us a little about visits and inspections. Was
5 your family able to visit you?

6 A. My mum and dad, don't forget by that time there's five
7 of us at that time, my mum and dad come through twice
8 and it was a whole day coming through and having to
9 bring my wee sister through to see me. I got two
10 visits, but you did get leave. The first in [REDACTED]
11 I wasn't allowed to go home in the December, because
12 I was just in. You were allowed -- my first leave was
13 probably about February or something, March, for
14 a weekend.

15 Q. Was it weekend leave?

16 A. Yeah, weekend leave.

17 Q. What about official visits? Have you any recollection
18 of any official visits?

19 A. None that I can remember. No.

20 Q. We understand that St Joseph's might have been managed
21 by a board of managers. Do you have any recollection of
22 any manager coming to the school?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you run away?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Why not, because others did?

2 A. I know they did quite a lot. I don't know. I went to
3 see -- my uncle [REDACTED] came and collected me one morning
4 and took me through to see -- I'm a Celtic supporter, so
5 he took me to see Celtic and St Mirren at Ibrox, it was
6 a cup semifinal. We got beat anyway. So I come back
7 that night and it was really, really late, about
8 12 o'clock at night and tiptoed in. I thought I was
9 going to get killed, but they never noticed I had been
10 away -- they never noticed I had come back.

11 Q. What happened?

12 A. Nothing, so I got away with that one. But if I would
13 have, I would have been in trouble. There was no mercy
14 if you were late.

15 Q. Generally we're looking to discipline as such, can you
16 help me with that?

17 A. Rigid, absolutely rigid. You got tested as well. On
18 a Friday you get pocket money. I think we used to
19 get -- I think I got 11 pence -- that's just under 5p --
20 and Brother PAF [REDACTED] would come in and you'd all be lined
21 up. Picture 120 boys in a big hall. There was
22 a snooker table at the top of the hall and he come in
23 with a big bag of money and he would just pour the bag
24 of money on to the snooker table. They he would call
25 you and you would all have to walk round it and take

1 your money. He would just stand with his hands in his
2 cassock and you took the right money. There is only one
3 guy I know who used to steal from it. We were all
4 terrified.

5 That was wee trials that he gave you, you know.
6 It's only I'm reflecting on that.

7 Discipline, it was rigid. If you got sent to SNR
8 SNR office you were in for a tanking.

9 Q. Can you give me an example?

10 A. I'm kind of -- he had a belt and it was an offensive
11 weapon, I know because I got it twice. There was no
12 mercy with that belt. That belt damaged you. It really
13 was. I think you were scared of that and Brother PAF
14 would only just need to look at you and suddenly you
15 were cowering.

16 Q. When you were belted, how did he do that?

17 A. I don't know if you want to get into the story. At
18 St Joseph's they took you up to Forfar. You done berry
19 picking.

20 Q. I'll come to that.

21 A. Sorry.

22 Q. That's in your statement. Let's say you've done
23 something wrong and sent to SNR to be
24 punished?

25 A. Fortunately I got away with that. It was

1 Brother [REDACTED] he was the executioner.

2 Brother [REDACTED] had this -- he would always have his
3 hands in his cassock and he would never ever smile and
4 he would just walk by you and stuff. When you went for
5 your dinner the brother would clap his hands and you
6 line up in your lines again and you had to be quiet and
7 he would watch and if anybody was out of order he was
8 going to get you some time during the next dinner break.

9 You would go in and you would sit down and you would
10 have to sit with arms folded, clap his hands and then
11 when your dinner came you could talk. Then he would
12 clap his hands again and you had to wait until all the
13 plates were taken away and if anybody laughed out of
14 order he would walk past you and we used to laugh and
15 it's not really a laughing matter, but if he walked
16 behind you you would always wait, because he would bring
17 out a knife, it was a butter knife, it wasn't sharp,
18 a big bone handle and he would just hit you on the back
19 of the head. Suddenly. It was funny to the rest, but
20 not if you were getting it on the back of your head.

21 So I had a few of them on the back of my head.

22 Q. What was Brother [REDACTED] role generally?

23 A. He was in general, he used to take -- he wasn't -- he
24 was mostly in the yard at the time the boys were in
25 recreation, having the football in the yard or maybe out

1 in the fields. He would always be thereabouts. I don't
2 think he -- I can't think what position he had.

3 LADY SMITH: He wasn't one of the teachers?

4 A. He wasn't a teacher. Brother GRE was and
5 Brother HHT was. They were teachers, but
6 Brother LUJ wasn't that I can remember.

7 MR MACAULAY: In your statement, paragraph 76, you say:

8 'There was a dark side to St Joseph's.'

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. I just want to understand what you mean by that.

11 A. Well, in St Joseph's itself there are young boys and
12 what you say to one another, they called them edgers.
13 Brother PAF had -- boys a wee bit older than me, I was
14 only 11, he would have edgers, I mean Brother PAF put
15 his arm round you and pull you in, that type of thing.
16 But on Saturdays these boys would sort of disappear into
17 a car with Brother PAF and go. So I used to always
18 think about that.

19 One day I was invited, much to my shock, why do you
20 want me to go? So I went out with these guys, these
21 young guys, same age as myself and it shocked me to see
22 how free they were with Brother PAF and pushing him
23 and it wasn't until later on, I don't know if you want
24 me to go into the story, with the camp.

25 Q. I'll come to that.

1 A. That was the beginning I seen something happening here.
2 Every night you were allowed to go and see
3 Brother PAF if you had a problem in the house. You
4 asked a request and there was a staircase down to his
5 office. This is night-time, you got your pyjamas on and
6 you would wait about six stairs between each one, so you
7 would maybe get eight, nine or ten boys down at night to
8 bring their grievances or whatever.
9 You used to go down and ask for crayons and books to
10 do and I remember going down and when I went down it was
11 to see something about my mum and then he pulled me
12 right in. He's got a housecoat on, right, and he's
13 pulling you right in and sort of resisting, what are you
14 doing to me type thing, so whether he was trying to
15 prime me or not I don't know. It was a touch on --
16 taking you on to his knee type thing.
17 Q. Was that the only time you experienced that?
18 A. Yeah. That was the only time with that. That was at
19 the beginning, yeah, that was before we went to the
20 camp.
21 Q. You also tell us that there were boys there who were
22 known as 'bum boys'?
23 A. Bum boys, yes.
24 Q. Can I just understand --
25 A. Yes, in terms of just, 'You're a bum boy'. These were

1 the boys that went out on a Saturday with Brother PAF
2 There was maybe about three or four of them. I can't
3 even remember to be quite truthful, but I just know
4 every Saturday he had a lovely big car and he would take
5 them away in the afternoon. I told you he took me once
6 as well.

7 I think that was basically just to -- to let the
8 rest of the lads know that they had a pal in me and
9 I wasn't like them, it's only I'm thinking about going
10 back: why would you take me? It was just maybe to help
11 these boys, because they would have get bullied in there
12 because they were bum boys.

13 Q. How were they regarded then by the other boys?

14 A. Yes, you kind of -- you never had any time for them.

15 Q. The term 'bum boys', do we take anything from that?

16 A. You're kids, it just means, it's just a saying, you're
17 a pee the bed; or you're a 'bum boy', it's just the
18 cruelty of youth.

19 Q. Can I take you then to the berry picking episode. Can
20 you tell me about that? What age were you at this time?

21 A. 12 then.

22 Q. You went somewhere to do berry picking?

23 A. Up at Forfar. The whole school moved up there and they
24 had old army billets, two or three them, they held about
25 40 in each billet and it's on a kind of hill, but

1 Brother PAF caravan was at the top of that and
2 I don't know whether the other brothers had another
3 place to stay. He slept right next to the billets.

4 Every day he would take you in and you had to go for
5 a wee siesta at 12 pm to 1 pm or 1 pm to 2 pm, I can't
6 remember, and we all hated it, thinking we were playing
7 football or something but we had to go down and lay down
8 and be silent. I didn't know that Brother PAF was in
9 and I was talking away to my friend in the next bed to
10 me. It was then that Brother PAF come in with his
11 housecoat on, tied round, and dragged me, because I was
12 right at the door, and he dragged me out and just ran me
13 right into his caravan.

14 Then the belt come out and that's when I tasted the
15 belt. So he was hitting me everywhere with the belt and
16 I was trying to defend myself. Halfway through that
17 I just noticed because his bed was at the far end of the
18 caravan, and the top was all ruffled up, I seen it
19 moving and then I seen -- it was a wee pal of ours,
20 naked in the bed and I was looking at him and
21 I thought -- he let me go and then I get out but I was
22 trying to act all bravado, because other boys in the
23 dormitory were saying -- I was saying, 'It wasn't that
24 sore'. I didn't know he was behind me, and dragged me
25 in again.

1 So the second time again this boy had nothing on at
2 all, a boy of 12, same age as myself. So I got another
3 tanking. So I never said anything when I went back into
4 the dormitory after that.

5 Q. Did you have marks of injury?

6 A. Oh, yes.

7 Q. Where?

8 A. You see a tartan here, it was like a tartan backside you
9 have on your back and the back of your legs. He didn't
10 really care where he hit you.

11 Q. After that, did you have any more dealings with
12 Brother PAF ?

13 A. Oh no, I stayed well away, absolutely stayed well away.
14 But the cruelty continued with Brother LUU .
15 I'm telling you -- that was daily for the 17 months
16 I was there. As you get older or not it comes away from
17 you a wee bit, you get wiser and you know what to do and
18 stuff, but the new boys, they knew what it was like.

19 Q. You tell us about an incident involving a boy that
20 I think you all looked up to?

21 A. [REDACTED].

22 Q. Who had run away?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you mentioned his nickname?

25 A. His nickname was [REDACTED].

1 Q. He was something of a hero?

2 A. He was bigger than a hero. He was a top notch, because
3 he -- he was maybe about 15, turning 16 maybe.

4 Q. Why was he a hero?

5 A. Because he stood up to them all. He's the only one that
6 stood up to them and we just couldn't believe that you
7 could stick up to this tyranny. He was one of these
8 really good, funny guys. Wasn't a bully. He liked the
9 young boys. He looked after us type thing. Always had
10 time for you. He was just like a gem in a dark place.

11 Q. You tell us about an incident after he had absconded and
12 came back?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you tell us what happened?

15 A. That was a public execution for the want of a -- it's
16 a bit dramatic that, but it was a public flogging he
17 got. You could picture us all back again, we are just
18 ready to get into the showers but we're in the
19 recreation room. There are two for St Patrick's, two
20 for St Andrew's, two for St De La Salle and two for the
21 other one. So we're all lined up and I was [REDACTED] my
22 number, so I'm at the front of the queue, you have the
23 odd numbers here and even ones, but I can see into the
24 shower room. It's a large shower room.

25 He would take you in there to belt you for the echo,

1 it was for the shock value, everybody got a lesson.
2 What they did, what Brother PAF did, was he would take
3 him in and tartan shorts, really silk, really tight and
4 you would have to pull them on and then you had to bend
5 over and that's -- he brought out the offensive weapon
6 and he would whack it. So I can see what's happening.
7 Q. What about the other boys who were with you, could they
8 see?
9 A. Well, yeah, the guy in front of me would have seen and
10 these guy -- the boys in the front line could possibly
11 have seen. Maybe the boys at the far side wouldn't have
12 been able to see. The door was left ajar. I just --
13 I don't know if I seen Brother PAF hitting him.
14 If I explain the story to you, you'll understand.
15 So because he ran away, this was a public flogging he
16 was getting. They took him into the shower room. I was
17 looking into the left and I seen walking up
18 with his tight blooming silk shorts.
19 Q. What about the top part of his body?
20 A. Nothing.
21 Q. He is just wearing the shorts?
22 A. The shorts, that was it. So he walked up to
23 Brother PAF and he walked straight up to his face and
24 looked at him and it was a rebellion. I was loving --
25 every -- so he turned round and he bent down and then

1 there was -- the thing through the air and whacked him
2 and I'm going to have to explain -- he let out a roar
3 that went into your hearts, it was 'argh', and he ran
4 from here to the desk.

5 Q. Who did?

6 A. ██████████, but he ran there to the desk but still shouting
7 'argh', and turned back to him, still shouting 'argh',
8 right up to Brother PAF ██████████ and he went 'argh', and turned
9 round and bent down again.

10 We were all like, please don't cry, don't cry, and
11 that happened six times and he never cried. He would
12 just shout 'argh' and come back to him. And I think
13 Brother PAF ██████████ was tired. We never seen him for about
14 a day, maybe two days and then we're all in the toilet
15 and he just slipped himself off and I had never seen
16 colours like it in my life, the bruises on the back of
17 his legs and back and backside. It was horrendous, but
18 we were all delighted that he didn't give in to
19 Brother PAF ██████████. It was a victory for the boys rather
20 than Brother PAF ██████████.

21 Q. You have already been telling us about Brother LUJ ██████████.
22 What you say at paragraph 90 and I'll just read this
23 out, you say he was Irish:

24 'He was very quiet but the most violent man I had
25 ever met.'

1 A. Yes, at that time, yeah, definitely.

2 Q. I think you have described the knife that he carried,
3 the butter knife and what he would do with it?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Did that cause injury?

6 A. Oh, aye, are you kidding? Maybe half the time you got
7 a cut, there would be some blood. He didn't miss you.
8 It wasn't here, stop that. It was right, bang.

9 Q. Apart from you saying a butter knife, did he do anything
10 else on occasions?

11 A. He was a bit of an enigma, Brother LUU, because we
12 never seen him any other time. He would come in during
13 the time you were going to your breakfast. I used to
14 serve mass in there as well. I would get up early out
15 of the pee-the-bed dormitory and go and serve mass to
16 these five or six brothers, so we would always see them
17 there. All the brothers would be there in the morning
18 and the priest would come in and serve mass, speak Latin
19 and stuff like that.

20 But that was -- always seen him there, he was always
21 there. He would maybe take the breakfast and you never
22 seen him until lunchtime and you never seen him until
23 evening time and maybe take recreation at night. I take
24 it he would probably be -- that would be his forte.

25 Q. You tell us that there was bullying also at St Joseph's,

1 were you bullied?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How much bullying was there?

4 A. I probably had about -- I'm not mentioning the guy's
5 name, but he was 15, I was 11 and the first time -- you
6 go into the yard there is about a dozen balls. You want
7 to be the first to get a ball and I used to always get
8 a ball, so he would come over to me and it was tackety
9 boots you wore, the big heavy boots, and he would always
10 come and kick me right in the thigh and I always tried
11 to fight back but could never ever -- that was quite
12 regular, maybe I had to have a fight with him every
13 month, he hated me with a passion and I was not pleased
14 with him neither.

15 So it wasn't until I was near -- that I started
16 getting a bit bigger and a bit stronger and the last
17 fight I had with him was an even fight and he left me
18 alone.

19 Q. Was that the only bullying you experienced?

20 A. No, you get bullying -- there were wee things, but you
21 can handle that because you've got some friends. It
22 wasn't a good regime in that sense of stuff, but you had
23 enough friends you could stay away yourself.

24 Q. Did you tell anyone in authority about this?

25 A. No, no, no. No, they knew. They weren't daft that way.

1 They didn't really care genuinely or they would have
2 attended to it.

3 Q. As you tell us when you did have this section leaving
4 St Joseph's, as you have already told us at the
5 beginning of your evidence, there were good things about
6 St Joseph's?

7 A. Listen, as I was saying to you, where I lived, I mean
8 I was playing in goal. I'm a goalkeeper playing in
9 goals with grass and dressed in whites playing cricket
10 and I know about aviaries and pigeons, but it's only now
11 that I'm reflecting on that, I thought there were good
12 things in there. I can -- the work I do just now and
13 the odd time I have to use a sewing machine, that comes
14 back when I learned that when I was 11 or 12 years old.
15 The odd bit a bit of joinery and a wee bit of metalwork.
16 I've got basics. The concept was spot on, but the
17 staff, no, that just spoiled everything.

18 As I say, I've only enjoyed the goodness of what
19 I learned now. Not then, because all the good things
20 that I'm talking about, you weren't allowed to enjoy
21 them with the bullying and the assaults, the sexual
22 assaults and things.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Scott', if you were asked to describe what you
24 think was the concept, how would you explain it?

25 A. The concept of the actual home?

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 A. I think somebody come up with a great idea and a passion
3 for young boys.

4 LADY SMITH: What was the idea?

5 A. The idea was to get -- the idea I think was to get the
6 guys in and help them, show them what to do, look after
7 them, be sensitive to what their needs are. It didn't
8 work. There was nothing like that whatsoever. I do
9 know that, my Lady. I'm actually in that kind of field
10 of work now, so I've got the experience that of what
11 they didn't do right and I'm trying to do it right now.
12 So my concept would be that if you had the right people
13 in there, that would have been, aye, fine.

14 LADY SMITH: Or if at least you did not have the people who
15 were abusing the children in the way you describe it.

16 A. Yeah.

17 MR MACAULAY: When you came to leave, did that information
18 come out of the blue?

19 A. [REDACTED] 1963, Brother PAF [REDACTED] was in the yard and it was
20 [REDACTED], believe it or not. So Brother PAF [REDACTED]
21 was in the yard, which was really unusual, we didn't
22 know whether Brother LUU [REDACTED] had went to. You play
23 football in the yard and that so we were all keeping
24 away from Brother PAF [REDACTED] and he walked past me and he
25 went, 'HCH [REDACTED]', when he shouts your name, 'How long have

1 you been here?' And I said:
2 'I've been here 17 months, brother.'.
3 As he walked past, he said, 'You're going home
4 today' and left me, just walked away.
5 I'm in this sort of swamp and suddenly somebody -- I
6 didn't believe him. I thought: is he just telling me
7 that? So nobody said anything to me for about an hour
8 and I'm thinking -- I didn't want to tell my pals. I
9 didn't know. It might have been another brother came in
10 and said, 'Right, HCH [REDACTED] up the stair', so three of us
11 got home that day. It's only talking this morning to
12 you I realised it was [REDACTED], that was maybe
13 a wee penance, 'We'll release Barabbas, away you go,
14 you're getting out', type thing.
15 Q. What age were you then?
16 A. 13.
17 Q. I think then you do go back home, but I think you get
18 back into trouble, is that right?
19 A. Yeah, yeah.
20 Q. Is that what caused you to end up at St Mary's Approved
21 School in Bishopbriggs?
22 A. Yes, it was, the Powers Act.
23 Q. I think you were caught outside late at night?
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. With a torch?

1 A. I was going to be a milk boy in Scottish Dairies, you
2 get two guineas a week, it was a horse and cart and
3 we're going through Fowlers Lane, and there was the back
4 of the shops and we had a wee look in. There were two
5 policemen there so ... and I get 13 months.

6 Q. St Mary's, again that was run by the
7 De La Salle Brothers at that time?

8 A. Yes, Brother GTQ . There wasn't as many there, but
9 it was Mr Armstrong, LYT and I can't remember
10 all the names.

11 Q. Can you compare and contrast St Mary's with St Joseph's?

12 A. Yes, for me, I know what is happening so I'm in this
13 place. So one thing I did make sure that none of the
14 younger boys got bullied. You sort of become a big
15 brother type thing. The abuse in there, there was a guy
16 called Mr LYT --

17 Q. I'll come to him, he was a civilian?

18 A. He was a civilian, yes.

19 Q. As far as the brothers were concerned --

20 A. We never had much dealings with Brother GTQ . He
21 would come in, but there was the same sort of aura of
22 them. You couldn't approach him. You stayed away, but
23 I -- it was only off LYT that I had any kind of
24 abuse type thing.

25 Q. You provide information about the routine. Visits and

1 inspections --

2 A. You are home every Sunday for a day. You went to mass
3 in the morning, and you left about 11 o'clock, you had
4 to be back for 6.00 pm.

5 Q. Do you have any recollection of there being any
6 inspections of the establishment?

7 A. No, I can't -- I can never remember any of that at all.
8 I've never thought about that, but no, there was never
9 that I can think of. No.

10 Q. As far as discipline was concerned, what can you tell me
11 about discipline, insofar as the brothers were
12 concerned?

13 A. Yeah. The discipline was similar, but being older boys
14 that age group would be for 14 to 17 or 15 to 17, 14 to
15 17, I was the youngest in there as well, so the
16 discipline it was a bit more relaxed. You didn't mess
17 about or you got the belt. That was -- if you were out
18 of order you sat outside his office in the main
19 passageway and Brother GTQ dealt with you quite
20 severely, but you were due it.

21 Q. But not the sort of punishments you have described --

22 A. Not the fear, not the fear of the bullying in
23 St Joseph's --

24 Q. But you do have a section in your statement about abuse
25 and this was about -- the abuser here was the civilian

1 you have mentioned?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Who was he?

4 A. There was a Mr LYT , he was the maintenance man. I can
5 only say as well this brings Brother GTQ back in.
6 Brother GTQ was sent to be -- everything had to be
7 in order.

8 What actually happened is Mr LYT made an excuse,
9 because we were maintenance, we did the bins, even in
10 that approved school we learned painting and decorating
11 and stuff, there were some good things in that as well.

12 What he used to say was, 'Oh well, my boys lift
13 stuff, we need to get them a shower', so there were
14 three and sometimes four in his team. He would take you
15 in, put the shower on and stand and watching you getting
16 showers and touch you on the way out as a sort of laugh,
17 just handle you, touch your private parts and stuff and
18 everybody is laughing. That type of thing.

19 Q. Was this a regular occurrence?

20 A. Yeah, every day, just at the end of the day. I just
21 told him to leave me alone. There were two brothers
22 there as well and the younger brother was taking him to
23 task, but that's what he done every day, yes.

24 Q. Did he keep his clothes on?

25 A. He was fully clothed, aye.

1 Q. You tell us really that was the only sexual abuse that
2 you experienced or witnessed?

3 A. Yeah, the only one I did ...

4 The thing about Mr LYT was Brother GTQ must
5 have known that, because he had to get permission
6 because you weren't allowed to do anything without
7 permission. Brother GTQ must have known that we
8 were in there every day, because he was always in his
9 office, so yes, that's about it.

10 Q. When you say he would have known, would he have known
11 about the sexual contact?

12 A. We never went and told him so I don't know. There is
13 a song they wrote about him and I still know it in the
14 back of my head and it's quite self explanatory.

15 Q. Can you give us the verse?

16 A. It is:

17 'LYT he had a brown cow.

18 'He tried to milk it but did not know how.

19 'He got up below and began to pull.

20 'And then he discovered the cow was a bull.'

21 That is what we used to sing to him -- well, behind
22 his back.

23 Q. I think you tell us that notwithstanding the abuse you
24 have mentioned that you quite liked him?

25 A. I did, because he was a great teacher and it's only

1 now -- he used me -- by this time I've got a reputation
2 and they respected it. Nobody bullied me. I'd had
3 enough of all that and I would like to think I was a bit
4 just and fair, especially with younger ones, what I come
5 through.

6 He used me to justify what he was doing to the other
7 three boys. I would laugh and say, 'Don't touch me,
8 [REDACTED] ...' We even called him '[REDACTED]', he allowed us
9 to do it, you weren't allowed to do that, but because
10 ...so he was quite happy and they would laugh and so
11 I think that's one of the reasons why he had me in
12 there.

13 Q. In any event, I think you were there for about a year?

14 A. 13 months, yeah.

15 Q. You left then some time in 1965; is that right?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Would you be aged, 14, 15?

18 A. 15, just coming up for 16. 1965 I would be 16. Aye.

19 There is a wee story in that as well.

20 I got a job the month before I left. I don't think
21 I put it in my testimony. I went to [REDACTED] Bakery
22 in Partick. And I was only 16, I was always quite
23 strong but they had me carrying hundredweight sacks up
24 32 stairs of a truck. So the day that I was due to get
25 out I chucked it, so I went up to get my pass with

1 Brother GTQ and he found out I chucked it and took
2 me back for another month.

3 LADY SMITH: 'Scott', at paragraph 106 you said Mr LYT was
4 a 'silent abuser', what did you mean by that?

5 A. Silent, everybody knew what he'd done and thingy but it
6 was almost as a laugh. He was accepted that he's just
7 carrying on. But he was a pervert, simple as that.
8 I liked him. I can't help --

9 LADY SMITH: He did it under the cover of humour?

10 A. Yes, totally. I never thought of that, my Lady. That's
11 about it. Everybody laughed and he is away touching you
12 up again. Yes, that's right, under the cover of humour.

13 MR MACAULAY: After you left St Mary's then and you are back
14 out of care, I think you got into trouble again?

15 A. Can I just interrupt you. When I got sent to the
16 second Approved School that was under the Powers Act,
17 because the first time that I got sentenced, I can't
18 even remember, I think it was breaking into that hut and
19 getting the stuff, but the second -- there used to be
20 a charge called the Powers Act. If you had a conviction
21 for theft and out late at night, they could charge you,
22 that is where --

23 Q. That's how you ended up in St Mary's?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You are out --

1 A. So I'm out and I'm doing it again, I'm back in trouble
2 again, yes.

3 Q. What you tell us this time is that accidentally, so to
4 speak, you were carrying an offensive weapon?

5 A. No, that wasn't accidentally. Hands up, no, I was
6 carrying an offensive weapon.

7 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I didn't catch that?

8 A. Hands up, my Lady, we were going to maybe go and fight,
9 so I'm guilty as charged.

10 LADY SMITH: You probably tried to persuade the authorities
11 you were carrying it for your own protection, did you?

12 A. Yes, I did, ma'am. They didn't believe me. I don't
13 know why not, this kind of face.

14 LADY SMITH: It's an old story, isn't it?

15 A. I got what I was due.

16 MR MACAULAY: That then led you to ending up in Barlinnie?

17 A. It was borstal I was sent to, but borstals were all
18 full, so I ended up in the top flat of C hall. That is
19 the untried part of Barlinnie. I was in there when
20 I was 16. Youngest again.

21 Q. Again, this has been looked at. You tell us about the
22 routine at Barlinnie. You then do go to Polmont
23 Borstal. You also go to Noranside Borstal in Forfar?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. After borstal you tell us at paragraph 127 what life was

1 after leaving care. You worked on the trawlers for
2 a while?

3 A. Yeah. I told you about Mr Irvine. He was my probation
4 officer, a caring man. He actually quite looked like
5 you, the resemblance is striking. He came from Aberdeen
6 and had some contacts in the trawlers and he used to
7 say, 'What do you want to do?' I said, 'I would love to
8 do the trawlers'. So he took me up to Aberdeen. It was
9 the [REDACTED] and they got a trial trip. It was a
10 two-week trial trip, they took you out to the North Sea
11 and you do your trawlermen. I absolutely loved it.
12 I'm not a great sleeper, never have been, so I was
13 always sitting in with the captain, getting him cups of
14 coffee and ...

15 Anyway, when we get back to Aberdeen I got my list
16 and it was a pass mark, a very good grade and what
17 actually happened was the guy said, 'Brilliant, you come
18 back -- we're going to college next week, trawler
19 college', and I said I need to get home, I have to see
20 my family, 'Can't do that'.

21 I gave that up just because I wanted to see my
22 family, otherwise I would have been in the trawlers.
23 I wouldn't have been sitting here probably.

24 LADY SMITH: One thing, let me check, 'Scott', you said it
25 was [REDACTED] --

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: -- that was the name of the company?

3 A. The name of the company was called [REDACTED], ma'am,

4 yes.

5 LADY SMITH: They are well known as business people in

6 Aberdeen.

7 A. There was one ship called [REDACTED], anyway I was

8 wanting to be on that one, but I got the other one, the

9 other ship we got deep sea trawling.

10 MR MACAULAY: Did you get another couple of jail sentences

11 after --

12 A. Yes, six months, six months, 18 months.

13 Q. Then you managed to become a relatively successful

14 businessman; is that right?

15 A. Yes, I've always been able to -- the thing is I have

16 worked for myself and I've always had the opportunity

17 when I get fed up doing something, I never had a lot of

18 money but I always had money to try something else like

19 I had two taxis, I had a wee garage buying and selling

20 cars, I got bigger and I had a sandwich company. Done

21 13,000 sandwiches a day with 70 staff, that type of

22 thing.

23 Q. Did you have some involvement in the drugs scene?

24 A. Yes. Never took drugs in my life until I was 29-year

25 old. My friend he was the main drug dealer in Scotland

1 and he called me one day. He used to come and buy cars
2 off me. I suppose you could call it laundering. It
3 didn't bother me, because I was a businessman, but he
4 would come in and say, 'What cars do you have?' I would
5 say there is two or three and then he would give me the
6 money (indistinguishable).

7 I got a phone call from him -- you want me to go
8 into this story?

9 Q. Yes, please.

10 A. I got a phone call on 1 May, summer day and I had a wee
11 Rover belonging to [REDACTED], and I was repairing it for
12 him. So I get a phone call from London and [REDACTED] says
13 to me, '[REDACTED] [this is his courier] has left, I've missed
14 my plane, I'm getting a later plane can you pick me up
15 at Glasgow airport?'

16 Inside me is going like, 'No', but I hear myself
17 saying, 'Aye, all right'.

18 So I jumps in the car and I know what [REDACTED] does and
19 I know what [REDACTED]'s bringing up. Anyway I takes the car
20 to the airport and I give him his keys and I'm looking
21 for the cameras. There are the keys. Take me home.
22 We're coming home and he says let's go and pick him up
23 at Central Station, he's just arriving.

24 Inside I'm saying, 'No', and I goes to
25 Central Station and there is the Serious Crime Squad and

1 the Drug Squad and they're jumping into the car and
2 they're shouting at me, 'Where's the tools?' I thought
3 they think I'm a mechanic, they were looking for
4 firearms I think, but apparently there were 33lb of
5 cannabis in the bag.

6 I knew straightaway, right, with my past in prisons
7 and stuff I'm in for a lie in here. I know the drugs
8 are not mine, the car's not mine, just need to wait
9 until these two put their hands up and say, 'Sorry, we
10 got **HCH** to pick us', and I'm out, but I need to do a lie
11 in, I need to go back to Barlinnie again and do three
12 months.

13 We go up to Barlinnie and I'm speaking to the big
14 drug dealer and I said, 'You will be pleading guilty,
15 let's get it done, put a plead in so I can get out'.

16 He said, 'I'm not pleading guilty'.

17 I said, 'Aye, you are'.

18 So I threatened him, a dear friend of mine. He put
19 himself on protection and that left me with a boiling
20 brain for three months.

21 Q. I was going to say to you, I think it did end up in the
22 High Court?

23 A. In the High Court, yeah.

24 Q. I think although it's not covered in your statement, you
25 were represented by a QC, now KC?

1 A. Yeah, Mr Drummond.

2 Q. Also you had an experienced solicitor?

3 A. Yeah, John is a judge now, he's a pal of mine.

4 Q. I think, to cut a long story short, not that I want to
5 cut you off, ██████ did in fact plead guilty?

6 A. He pled guilty --

7 Q. And you were released?

8 A. -- and I was released.

9 ██████ got five years and ██████ got three years and
10 I was released.

11 Q. I just want to bring you to a point when there was
12 a sort of quite an important moment in your life and you
13 sort of turned your life around. Can you tell me about
14 that?

15 A. Of course I can.

16 While I was in there, the QC, Mr Drummond, said to
17 me that HCH ██████, the drugs guy, we would need to
18 impeach him, that means I would need to say he done it
19 and for me to question him, it's the only way that
20 I could question him. I said, 'No, my name's [whatever
21 my name is], we don't shop anybody, we don't do that'.
22 He said, 'Mr HCH ██████, you're getting eight years,
23 ██████ is getting five and ██████'s getting three,
24 I've spoke -- did you have anything to do with this?'.
25 'Absolutely nothing to do with it. Absolutely

1 nothing.'

2 He turned to John Morris, the High Court judge, he
3 was a lawyer at the time and he said:

4 'John, I want an overhead photograph of
5 Central Station.'

6 I said:

7 'Why is that?'

8 He said:

9 'Being in the car doesn't convict you, the drugs
10 being in the car doesn't convict you, but one of the
11 police officers said they heard you saying, "Did you get
12 the stuff?" Did you say that?'

13 I said, 'No'.

14 He said:

15 'These two guys are going to have to tell me
16 whereabouts in Central Station you didn't or did say it.
17 Don't put anything on it. You're away.'

18 It gave me a wee bit of hope. I had a daughter at
19 the time, so my girlfriend came up to the jail, I says,
20 'They are putting me away for eight years, do you want
21 to get married?' Best way to make a proposal, in the
22 jail.

23 She said aye. I was quite disappointed because it
24 took her about ten minutes to answer that one. She said
25 yes, so four weeks later I'm walking out of the High

1 Court shattered, I've got to go to a wedding in two
2 weeks, mine.

3 Anyway, we got married, but I was so caught up with
4 the hatred I had for my pal, I was so caught up with it
5 and I come from quite a hard family, but I didn't want
6 to hate him.

7 Q. He pled guilty though?

8 A. He pled guilty, yes.

9 Q. It got you off the hook in a way?

10 A. Basically my lawyer came out to me and he says to me,
11 'Don't sing any hallelujahs', John Morris came out, he
12 says, 'He's copping a plea, you're walking out', but
13 I walked out more with a hatred for [REDACTED] for what he
14 done to me than I would have for the eight years.

15 Q. I was wanting to bring you to the point where you did
16 transform your life and why that happened. Can you just
17 tell me about that?

18 A. It was through this being so -- I got married in
19 September, the time in December -- I started getting in
20 to drugs when I was 29, you wouldn't have know, I didn't
21 pay for them because my mate used to be the ... my mate
22 came back from India and we were sitting and he says to
23 me, 'The Christians are gathering', I was like, 'We are
24 Christians', so the first thing that come into my mind
25 genuinely was sex, drugs and rock'n'roll, so what

1 I could do was divorce the wife, sell the house and go
2 to India, stay there for three year, wait until [REDACTED]
3 comes out, sort him out -- this is the madness in my
4 mind, what I went through.

5 I couldn't wait until my wife came in and said,
6 'Look, this is not working, I'll sell the house, give
7 you some money, I'm going to India'.

8 Let me fast forward. So three months later I'm in
9 the room and I had an epiphany, I was brought up as
10 a Catholic, I speak the Latin and always spoke to the
11 Lord constantly, and I had an epiphany in the bedroom,
12 the Lord touched me, no doubt about it whatsoever,
13 touched me so much that half of my family thought I had
14 a nervous breakdown, and the other half thought it was
15 worse, they thought I became a Protestant.

16 That's a change and from that day on, 1983,
17 March 1983 I do what I do now and recognise, but
18 I'm quite contented with what I went through because of
19 what I do now.

20 Q. Without describing the name of the enterprise, can you
21 tell us what it is that you do?

22 A. Yeah. I love it with a passion. We take guys,
23 community paybacks and lifers and they come and work for
24 us. We've got a charity that I run and they do that.
25 It's the most fulfilling job I've ever had in my life.

1 Now we've been approached by the Justice Department,
2 which is quite ironic, to take another ten community
3 paybacks and we have also been approached by another
4 guy, the old job centre, to take that over. So
5 90 per cent of my guys are used to going to the job
6 centre and they've been in the courts, so that's what we
7 do now.

8 We have a great success rate. We're all
9 voluntary -- no, that's not true, because we have a guy
10 who has done 21 years, get released, he has worked for
11 us for two years, he is my social worker, with a wee
12 potential, these guys, you call my brother a bam, we can
13 put them onto [REDACTED], [REDACTED] deals with them, we bring
14 them in and I get every single one who want help and
15 say, 'What do you want today? Is there anything we can
16 do for you?'

17 I take them to options, I take them to whatever and
18 I am looking for signs that they want to do something.
19 So we have had 500 community paybacks through and 21
20 lifers through our doors.

21 Q. Another passion in your life, if I can put it that way,
22 is caring for your son who is disabled?

23 A. I was going to bring him. You would love him. [REDACTED]
24 has Down syndrome, see he's another miracle. I start
25 telling stories again. We had a daughter, I won't

1 mention names, I mention my boy's name, his name is

2 [REDACTED].

3 We had a daughter and I started telling -- we're
4 going to have a son, told everybody being a mad
5 Christian. We were going to have a son. But it never
6 happened for two years so we had to go and get tests
7 done. Found out that my wife couldn't have any more
8 kids. And the gynaecologist we spoke to, her name was
9 Dr Drummond as well, the same as my QC and she sat and
10 after three months of tests and took us in and she said
11 I'm so sorry, there is really sinister things and you
12 need a hysterectomy and we said, being a new Christian,
13 'No God's told us we don't need a womb', [REDACTED] was a
14 month pregnant when we said that to that doctor.

15 And we had [REDACTED] and so Down syndrome, so hole in
16 the heart, stomach, all sorts of problems. My joy, my
17 absolute joy. My wife and I are divorced now but I get
18 [REDACTED], he comes to the centre on a Thursday, he looks
19 after the down and outs and drug addicts.

20 Q. He's grown up now, is he?

21 A. Aye, he is 34, I get him on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
22 I know I can talk on ...

23 Q. I want then to look at that part of your statement where
24 you look at -- it is headed 'Impact' but it goes beyond
25 that.

1 One thing you say at paragraph 136 that you don't
2 think you got a good education overall?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Having regard in particular to your experiences at
5 St Joseph's's and St Mary's?

6 A. No, no. Very poor.

7 Q. When you say -- this is now paragraph 136:

8 'People like me need to work with social workers to
9 get people like I used to be to work with them.'

10 Can I just understand the thinking there?

11 A. Totally, we have had all sorts of dissertations done in
12 our charity. It's mostly -- 100 per cent girls and
13 their passion is second to none. I better watch what
14 I'm saying here. I know when they get into the social
15 work department the zeal is taken away and I'm always
16 saying to them, 'Please don't lose your zeal for this,
17 we need you in here', because there needs to be a blend
18 ... there needs to be a blend behind the social work and
19 us, and it is not going to work ...

20 Q. Is that because you have a certain insight that the
21 social worker may not have?

22 A. I think so, yeah, because if you've had anything to do
23 with criminality, you lump them all together, the
24 police, prison officers, social workers, it's just one
25 big unit basically. I'm talking in general here.

1 Obviously it's -- I'm just talking in general. Maybe
2 it's a biased point of view.

3 LADY SMITH: Were you saying that it's mostly girls who are
4 doing dissertations based on the work of your charity?

5 A. Yes, them all that we have had. They've got
6 a compassion, a serious compassion, ma'am. But it gets
7 knocked out of them.

8 LADY SMITH: Are these dissertations part of social work,
9 social sciences degrees or other types of degree?

10 A. It's different types, mostly social work but a couple --
11 one of the girls was doing -- it has got to do with
12 lawyers and stuff. She wanted to get into that side of
13 it.

14 We have another lawyer as well who deals with us
15 directly, who deals with lifers and parole. We are
16 trying to work through that. We spoke to the mixed --
17 Barlinnie Prison, so we are trying to get ... there are
18 things we can do, so they're coming together a wee bit
19 and listening. I'm listening to them as well.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 A. You're welcome.

22 MR MACAULAY: At paragraph 138, I'll read this out to get it
23 into the transcript:

24 'I've been too busy to think about my time in care
25 for most of my life. I've thought about it more this

1 past year. The last few years I've been getting
2 flashbacks, especially when I meet young men through my
3 work. I've forgiven everybody who was involved in my
4 younger years. I've been forgiven a lot, so I know how
5 to forgive.'.

6 Is that your position now?

7 A. Totally. It's the only way you can go on in life. You
8 need to forgive.

9 Q. In relation to the reporting of abuse, you say that
10 until you came forward to the Inquiry you've never
11 reported the abuse you experienced, because you are too
12 ashamed to report it?

13 A. Yes, I was ashamed at the time, yes.

14 Q. Why were you ashamed?

15 A. I don't know, because getting bullied, it's a strange
16 thing. Getting ridiculed, the wetting the bed, is
17 another thing. Certainly getting bullied through my
18 family, but the background I've got, it's not
19 acceptable. You don't get bullied. I should have been
20 running to my relatives and all sorts of stuff.

21 It's a degrading thing, it really is. As I say,
22 since I've started speaking to this it's only now I can
23 look back at that, because that was dead to me, that
24 past, it was all gone.

25 Q. In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, what you say at

1 144 is:

2 'I hope that something really good comes out of the
3 Inquiry. I just hope that a serious clearing out comes
4 as a result of it. I think the Inquiry should encourage
5 people who have been through it and who have experienced
6 care to go and get the training to work in the care
7 system. People working in the care system need to have
8 the heart for it.'

9 A. Totally. It can't be a job. That is something I am
10 a wee bit scared about our charity. I'm not any spring
11 chicken and we don't take any wages. We're voluntary.
12 The thought of me passing on, because suddenly what
13 happens is you suddenly get this big massive wage that
14 comes in. A labourer is due his wages, don't get me
15 wrong, but the heart needs to be first before the wage.

16 So we're looking at somebody else to take over,
17 somebody I think, she doesn't want to do it just now but
18 we'll see how that goes.

19 Yeah, yeah, we need to get something together and
20 that's why I am hoping you, ma'am, can come up with the
21 right suggestions. There needs to be a blend, we need
22 to get more male social workers in and that's -- there's
23 an imbalance. 90 per cent of the guys we get are in the
24 domestics. I've never in all my life seen so many
25 domestics and some of the cases -- I'll leave that to

1 the legal side of it, but these guys need to be cared
2 for as well. Aye, there will be some rascals in amongst
3 that, but there is genuine victims even in there doing
4 community service.

5 LADY SMITH: 'Scott', when you say many of the guys you get
6 in are in domestics, what are you talking about?

7 A. Partner abuse, women abuse. Our system's changed now.
8 I don't know how it works, but in my experience the girl
9 owns the house now and the man might get it, it all
10 depends what happens, he's back and forward. There is
11 an imbalance in that, so the kids they don't know if
12 they're coming and going and young guys growing up and
13 it's rotating. We need to put the brakes on, have
14 a look at it. I'm not a marriage guidance bureau but
15 I would like somebody to get into that as well. They
16 need two parents for a kid.

17 MR MACAULAY: In your final paragraph, and this is, I think,
18 echoing what you said previously, you say:

19 'I don't want to see condemnation as a result of the
20 Inquiry. What is in the past is in the past. We need
21 to forgive people for what's happened in the past and
22 comfort those who have been damaged.'

23 A. Yeah, totally.

24 Q. That is your philosophy?

25 A. Totally, yeah. It needs to be. One guy I'm dealing

1 with just now is through (indistinguishable). He's been
2 near suicide three times and (indistinguishable). So
3 I'm working through it and definitely we need to do
4 that.

5 MR MACAULAY: These are all the questions I have for you
6 today, 'Scott'.

7 Thank you for answering them all as you have.

8 I give all the applicants the opportunity always at
9 the end to say anything they may wish to say to assist
10 the Inquiry.

11 A. I would just like to thank the Inquiry because this was
12 dead stuff to me. I never even aired this, what we're
13 doing now. Thanks very much.

14 I hope even if it does one life, we've been a bit
15 successful because there's not a lot of successes out
16 there for people like myself, damaged. I come through
17 with the Lord. I'm tickety boo, but we do need to care
18 and there needs to be a compassion.

19 Ma'am, can you get more men social workers? I don't
20 know if you're allowed to do that, ma'am?

21 LADY SMITH: I don't think I can advertise.

22 A. These wee girls, their passion is great, but they're so
23 easily turned by their bosses. Thank you very much for
24 listening to me. I really appreciate it and hope we can
25 get something together and something good comes out of

1 it, ma'am. We're depending on you, ma'am.

2 LADY SMITH: No pressure.

3 'Scott', thank you so much for engaging with us,
4 both for your written statement, which is so valuable
5 and then coming here today to make the parts of it we
6 wanted to talk about today really come alive. You have
7 helped me so much to understand what it was like when
8 you were little and in these places, experiencing what
9 you experienced and what you saw other people experience
10 as well. It's enormously valuable to me?

11 A. Thanks, ma'am.

12 LADY SMITH: Please feel free to go now.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 MR MACAULAY: We're having an earlier lunch today, the next
15 witness isn't due until 12.30.

16 There may be time to fit in a read-in just now.

17 Some names came out there.

18 LADY SMITH: I was about to deal with that.

19 The total of this morning's names, some we have
20 heard before, but we have had Brother LAA, MJI,
21 GEC, GRE, PAF, LUU, GTQ, the last
22 witness actually referred to his own name at two points,
23 and Mr LYT.

24 These people cannot be identified outside this room
25 and I would ask everybody to remember that. Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will now read a statement in of
2 an applicant who has died since giving his statement to
3 the Inquiry.

4 William Dyer (read)

5 MS MACLEOD: This is the statement of William Dyer, who
6 waived his right to anonymity:

7 'My full name is William Dyer. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED] My contact details are known to the
9 Inquiry.

10 I was brought up in Glasgow and resided in
11 [REDACTED] along with my mother, father [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]. My father worked as a hawker and
13 spent most of his earnings on alcohol. My mother lived
14 on what was left and although life was hard we were
15 an average family living in the poor are part of
16 Glasgow. I was brought up as a Catholic, but not
17 a regular church going.

18 The reference number is WIT-001.001.1550:

19 'I was no angel as a boy and spent a lot of time
20 dodging school. We used to have to avoid the truant
21 officers who would take you back to school if they
22 caught you. I also used to steal apples and pears from
23 people's gardens. I used to climb tall buildings to
24 steal homing pigeons. We used to capture them, play
25 with them and then release them to return home.

1 I also remember from my youth going to the local
2 water tank where I learned to swim. I didn't realise
3 that this would later prove useful to me in my stay at
4 St Mungo's. The water tank was always cold and had lots
5 of debris floating in it.

6 At the age of nine or ten I was dogging school.
7 I was sent with my mother to a hearing in a court
8 building in Ingram Street, Glasgow. The outcome of the
9 hearing was that I was to be sent to a residential
10 approved school. I remember crying and asking my mother
11 to help me to stop this happening but she was unable to
12 do anything.

13 I was initially sent to a school in St Vincent
14 Street, Glasgow. This school was residential and
15 locked. We had our own bedroom and access to comics and
16 things to entertain me. We were treated well at this
17 place which I cannot remember the name of. I spent
18 a total of two weeks there and was never subjected to
19 any form of abuse. After this period I was advised that
20 I was being moved to St Mungo's Approved School in
21 Ayrshire.

22 I was taken from the home in St Vincent Street,
23 Glasgow to where we boarded a train to Mauchline in
24 Ayrshire. I was accompanied throughout the trip. On
25 arrival at Mauchline we were met by Brother **MJG** and

1 Brother LAA. They signed papers and I was put into
2 a car and taken to the school. I remember at the time
3 thinking that the priests dressed differently from the
4 ones I knew. Their uniform was different and I thought
5 at the time that they were failed priests and wore
6 a different uniform.

7 I remember being driven over a bridge and then up
8 a driveway to the big house. I had never seen anything
9 like it as I was so used to my small home area. I
10 couldn't understand why I had been brought there.

11 I remember being walked through a courtyard, through
12 the bootroom and I knocked on a small door. I was asked
13 to go in there and there was a lady who was the matron.
14 She asked me to remove my clothes. When I was naked she
15 hit me and I was knocked to the floor. I was on my own
16 in the room with the matron but Brother LAA was
17 waiting outside. She then inspected my hair and I was
18 told I had nits or lice and need all my haircut off.
19 I was then given a dose of castor oil and passed to
20 Brother LAA.

21 Brother LAA made me enter the showers. I had
22 never been in a shower before. He kept making the water
23 hot and cold and I couldn't see anything because of the
24 steam. Whilst I was in the showers, I could feel
25 Brother LAA hitting me with a stick made from a tree

1 branch. He then took me out of the shower and proceeded
2 to shave off all my head hair.

3 I was then returned to the boot room where I was
4 given my day-to-day clothes to be worn during my stay at
5 the home. They consisted of boots, underpants, vest,
6 shirt, jersey, shorts and a coat.

7 I was allocated the number 77, all my clothes were
8 stamped with the number '77'. At the time I was at the
9 school there were 88 pupils. Most of the pupils were
10 there long term and their release date was when you
11 attained the age of 15 years.

12 I was then taken by one of the older boys to my
13 dormitory. I was allocated a bed in dorm 5 or 6,
14 I can't remember. I slept in the same dormitory
15 throughout my entire stay. The boy that took me to the
16 dormitory advised me not to wet the bed or I would be in
17 big trouble. Fortunately I was not a bed wetter and was
18 never punished for that.

19 Prior to going to the school, I was spoken to by [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] who had been previously at St Mary's School,
21 Bishopbriggs in Glasgow. He warned me about what to
22 expect and how to avoid being got at by the staff at the
23 home. I was wise to this and reckoned I could hold my
24 own. He warned me about being touched by the brothers
25 and how to avoid being singled out.

1 I was taught to read and write and must have kept
2 good health, as I was never taken to the doctors or to
3 the hospital. This was the time of rationing and unlike
4 other children my age, I was being fed, clothed and
5 given a bed to sleep in.

6 The real bad times were when you were being
7 constantly hit and abused by the brothers. When you
8 would be lying in bed at night wondering when you would
9 get home and missing your family. You also wondered why
10 you had been sent there in the first place.

11 The daily routine at the school did not change and
12 the weekly routine only varied slightly, with weekend
13 activities changing during the course of the year.

14 We would be wakened at 6.30 am every morning by
15 Brother LAA coming into the dormitory and clapping his
16 hands together. Anyone slow in getting up would be
17 struck with whatever he had in his hand at the time.
18 Anyone who had wet their beds would have the wet bed
19 sheets rubbed in their face and they would be struck
20 about the head. They would then have to take the sheets
21 to the laundry for washing. On the first morning at the
22 home I tried to stand up to Brother LAA and told him
23 to stop hitting another boy in the dorm. Brother LAA
24 just turned his anger on me and started hitting me.
25 None of the brothers would tolerate any form of dissent

1 or insubordination.

2 Next we would have to make up our beds and fold the
3 covers away. We were then put into a single line and
4 taken to our room for benediction. Prayers in the
5 morning were taken by Father McGrory, who was the priest
6 at the school. Over the years I tried to tell
7 Father McGrory what was happening during confession. He
8 told me to stop telling lies and say three Our Fathers
9 and a Hail Mary. Benediction and prayers lasted for
10 about half an hour every day and then we were made to
11 clean the house. Everyone had a job allocated and were
12 responsible for their own area. It was then off to the
13 dining room for breakfast.

14 My first day I recall being made to eat the lumpy
15 porridge that was put down in front of me. Because
16 I couldn't eat it, Brother LAA held my head and forced
17 me to eat the porridge. I was being sick as a result
18 but Brother LAA continued to force the mixture of
19 porridge and vomit into my mouth. This continued until
20 the plate was empty and everything else had fallen onto
21 the floor. The other boys kept their heads down and
22 never said a word.

23 After breakfast, it was off to the classroom for
24 lessons. The lessons usually started at 9.00 am in the
25 huts which had been built in the courtyard. There were

1 three classes, simply numbered 1 to 3. I was placed in
2 classroom 3 and my teacher was Mr Slaven, the other
3 class teachers were Brother Augustus and
4 Brother Ambrose. Prior to going to the classroom we had
5 to bless ourselves and then in single file make our way
6 to the classroom through the courtyard. Class 1 was the
7 highest class and was run by Brother Ambrose. Class 2
8 was run by Brother Augustus. Class 3 run by Mr Slaven.
9 The teachers were trained to provide education to all
10 the boys at the school.

11 When I was in class 3 I was not able to read and
12 write. Mr Slaven quickly identified this. He got me to
13 sit next to another boy who came from Port Glasgow. The
14 other boy helped me to learn to read and write and we
15 became the best of friends, looking out for each other.
16 Mr Slaven behaved like any other teacher you would get
17 in school. He did use the belt if you misbehaved in
18 class. He made you wear a dunce's hat and sit on
19 a stool if you were breaking his rules. I felt that he
20 was fair and that his treatment of you was fair. He
21 helped me to read and write. Mr Slaven also said
22 prayers every day and we had to bless ourselves.

23 There was never any homework to do as it was never
24 given to us by our teachers. Instead we were expected
25 to do our cleaning and other tasks which were allocated

1 to us. We also took part in sports, such as football,
2 boxing and running. We were also taught handicraft,
3 such as basket weaving and making things from raffia.
4 Mr McGowan ran the handicraft workshop.

5 It was play time at 10.00 am and then it was back to
6 school for more lessons until lunchtime. Lunchtime was
7 between 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm. You were again required
8 to say prayers before and after lunch. Once again you
9 walked in single file back to the dining room, where you
10 were made to eat everything. I can remember being
11 forced to eat the sago pudding in the same manner as
12 I was forced to eat the porridge. Apart from lumpy
13 porridge and sago the lunch meals were quite varied and
14 quite nice.

15 After lunch there were some play in the courtyard
16 and then it was back to lessons until 4.00 pm, when
17 school finished for the day.

18 After school we were required to tidy up and do our
19 cleaning jobs. My first job was to keep the toilets in
20 the courtyard clean.

21 Prior to tea you were allowed to play in the
22 courtyard for about half an hour. Tea was 5.30 pm and
23 again prayers were said at the meal. After tea it was
24 off to the boot room where we had to clean our beds.
25 There were three separate inspections every week for our

1 boots, our teeth and our underpants. The boots had to
2 be kept very clean and shiny. When the boots were
3 inspected you had to stand in a line and hold them up.
4 If you hadn't managed to get a shine on them and
5 Brother LAA was not happy with the result he would
6 take the boots out of your hands and you would be hit on
7 both your ears at the same time. Brother LAA would
8 also hold your head and strike it off the sink in the
9 boot room.

10 The underpants inspection was held every week on
11 a Friday and if you had any skid marks/staining on your
12 pants you would be punished by being hit with a stick.
13 The brother would also rub your face with the soiled
14 underpants. You would then have to take them to be
15 cleaned. All the boys knew that you could rub your
16 underpants on the wall of the showers and the substance
17 that came off the wall used to make them appear white.
18 I recall another boy who never got into trouble for
19 staining on his underpants. I met him many years later
20 and he told me that he never wore his underpants through
21 the week and only put them on just before the
22 inspection.

23 There was also an inspection made of your teeth and
24 if they were found to be dirty you would receive
25 a beating.

1 Bed was usually 9.00 pm. Prior to that, you would
2 have to finish your cleaning job, you were sometimes to
3 sit in the boot room and listen to the radio.

4 Lights out at 9.00 pm meant just that, and the
5 nightshift boiler man would take over. He was called
6 EIV [REDACTED] and he was involved in sexually assaulting
7 some of the boys. It never happened to me because [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] had prepared me for what to do and how to avoid
9 letting anyone touch your privates. You seldom saw
10 anyone of the brothers after lights out.

11 There was religious instruction day and night.
12 Father McGrory was the priest attached to the school.
13 He seemed to be a very holy man and walked about all
14 day, deep in thought or prayer. He took most of the
15 religious ceremonies held at the school. He was not
16 involved with most of the residents and I never saw him
17 striking anybody.

18 Saturday and Sunday meant no school. A lot of the
19 times was spent cleaning the house and praying. There
20 was a number of sporting activities available, including
21 football and boxing.

22 At the weekend we were also taken to the Abbey Hill
23 Picture House in Mauchline, this involved a walk of
24 about three miles into Mauchline. During the walks we
25 would be forced to sing different songs and would be

1 punished for not joining in. We were also given a bar
2 of toffee and a caramel chew.

3 When I first arrived at the home there was no
4 television, but having been there for a while the local
5 shopkeepers in Mauchline got together and presented one
6 to the school. We were never given pocket money at the
7 weekend, but we were given chews and toffee.

8 There was a system of star rewards and there was
9 a chart kept on the wall. If you were helpful and you
10 earned a star, which was a hard thing to do, it would go
11 on the chart. The only stars I ever saw were in the sky
12 or in my head from the doings I got from the brothers.
13 After you achieved five stars you were entitled to go on
14 a trip to Kilmarnock. On this trip you were given money
15 and were able to buy an ice-cream.

16 We were encouraged to get involved in handicraft.
17 We did basket weaving and making mats and things from
18 raffia. I think the brothers went on to sell these
19 things, but we never saw any of the money.

20 I was a good swimmer, having learned to swim as
21 a young boy in the water tank in Glasgow. We would be
22 taken to the river and all the boys would get a chance
23 to swim. Me and another boy were always placed down
24 river in case we had to pull anyone out that washed
25 downstream.

1 The home had a very successful football team, which
2 won the cup final at Parkhead Football Stadium in
3 Glasgow, you were actively encouraged to play football.

4 The boxing team, trained by Mr Travers, was also
5 very successful and used to win lots of medals when they
6 travelled to boxing competitions. Mr Travers was never
7 involved in any abuse. When the boxing coaching was
8 taking place the brothers were never there. If there
9 was an argument between the boys resident at the school
10 you would be handed a pair of boxing gloves by the
11 brothers and you would square up to each other until the
12 matter was sorted out.

13 I was a very good runner and one of the fastest boys
14 at the school. I used to love sports day and the paper
15 chases we did in the woods. Brother LAA used to lay
16 the paper trails in the woods and Brother EIW would
17 go round after and pick up some of the bits of paper to
18 make the trail harder to follow. On sports day you were
19 always rewarded with a toffee bar or a caramel for
20 winning the races.

21 In 1953, in honour of the Queen's Coronation, we
22 were taken to a celebration in Mauchline. There was
23 a sports day there and I remember competing against
24 other boys who were local and managing to win races.

25 If you did not go home during the holidays you could

1 go on a trip with the brothers to Girvan or Saltcoats.
2 We used to sleep on beds made up on the floor of
3 classrooms of local schools. These trips were great fun
4 and we used to be able to play on the beaches.

5 You were entitled to a spring, summer and Christmas
6 holiday, where you had the opportunity to go home to
7 your family. This would involve a trip from Mauchline
8 to Glasgow by train. You had to be met at the other end
9 by a family member. You were only able to go home if
10 your parents sent the required train fare. Without the
11 money you had to remain at the home. A lot of the boys
12 were not able to go home because their parents did not
13 have the money to send. You could also be held back at
14 the school if you were punished for any reason. I was
15 held back on one occasion.

16 I had only two visits all the time I was at the
17 school, one from [REDACTED] when he caught me getting
18 a beating from Brother LAA [REDACTED] and the only other visit
19 was from [REDACTED], my parents didn't visit at all. If
20 you did have visitors they would have to walk the three
21 miles from Mauchline to the school.

22 We used to go to local farms and help farmers by
23 picking potatoes and other labouring jobs, including
24 pulling, collecting and burning weeds. As far as
25 I'm aware we were never paid for these jobs, although

1 the brothers may have had an arrangement with the farmer
2 which we did not know about.

3 I recall working on one of those farms. There was
4 a shed in which we could see a bicycle. My mate and
5 I had never been on a two-wheeled bike before. We took
6 it out and tried balancing on it, it was an old rusty
7 bike and the tyres were still hard. To get the bike we
8 had to break off a padlock to the shed. We were caught
9 by the farmer, who up until that point treated us very
10 well. The farmer then met Father McGrory one day and
11 told him what happened. Father McGrory brought it up
12 before the whole school at benediction one night and
13 managed to publicly humiliate us. Brother LAA punched
14 us both on the head and we had to clean and dub all the
15 football boots as a punishment. We were never allowed
16 to work on the farm again, it was a pity because working
17 on the farm was one of the best jobs.

18 I used to be good at repairing and making basket
19 weavings, I even made items which I learned were sold by
20 the brothers. This was a big part of a day's work.

21 One of the other tasks we had to undertake was to
22 relay the gravel driveway from the bridge over to the
23 river to the front of the house. We were given buckets
24 and had to collect gravel from the bed of the river and
25 spread it on the driveway. The buckets were heavy for

1 young boys such as ourselves. If you were going too
2 slowly we would receive a doing from Brother LAA who
3 was supervising the work. On some occasions
4 Brother LAA would empty your bucket of gravel over
5 your head. The work took four months to complete.

6 I never remember anyone being ill at the school, all
7 medical issues were referred to the matron who would
8 administer whatever was required. Certainly I cannot
9 recall anyone being sent to bed. If you had problems
10 with your teeth you would be taken to a dentist in
11 Mauchline. Your teeth were inspected by the brothers
12 every week.

13 I had no physical or mental health problems in later
14 life as a result of my stay at St Mungo's. I cannot
15 remember having any of these when I was at the school.
16 In 1970, some 14 years after leaving St Mungo's, I had
17 a brain haemorrhage. It required surgery. I don't
18 think that I attribute this to the abuse I suffered at
19 school.

20 On the whole, apart from the beating and ill
21 treatment I suffered at the home, I had no other
22 injuries. I managed to cope with what happened to me,
23 but I can recall every beating and thing that happened
24 to me. I can remember the layout of the establishment
25 as if I was still there.

1 I was never aware of any official visit to the home
2 during my stay. The only visits were occasional family
3 members of the boys or other brothers who were members
4 of the De La Salle Order. These brothers would stay for
5 a while and then move on. We did not have much contact
6 with them.

7 Brother LAA and Brother EIW hit you at various
8 times during the day and there was often no reason for
9 them to do so. They were just cruel. They had sticks
10 or just used their hands to slap and punch us. If
11 someone farted, Brother LAA and Brother EIW would
12 ask, 'Who fouled the air?' If no one owned up they
13 would get one of the boys to go round and smell
14 everyone's bottom until a culprit was identified.
15 Sometimes if there were no admissions the boys would
16 select an unpopular culprit to blame. The culprit would
17 be taken to the boot room, where he would receive
18 a beating.

19 You were never allowed to use any bad language at
20 the home and the brothers never used swear words. You
21 were disciplined for stupid thing, for laughing, for not
22 singing on the walks we used to go on, for having skid
23 marks on your underpants, for failing to clean your
24 boots properly. On one occasion I was made to stand in
25 the snow barefoot for about an hour-and-a-half for

1 breaking wind.

2 One of my early duties was to clean the toilets used
3 by the pupils. They would be particularly messy and if
4 I didn't keep them clean I would be beaten. Other
5 pupils that were on cleaning duties would be beaten if
6 Brother LAA or Brother EIW found any dust after
7 the area they were responsible for had been cleaned.

8 On one occasion, when someone had not pulled the
9 flush, Brother LAA pushed my head into the toilet bowl
10 and right into the faeces. On one occasion on a Sunday
11 Brother LAA told me that my toilets were not clean.
12 He put me into the showers, turning them on from hot to
13 cold and beating me with a stick. I ran naked out of
14 the showers into the courtyard, where I came across
15 who had unexpectedly come to visit me. I
16 remember this as it was only one of two family visits
17 I had during my spell at St Mungo's. was
18 about 24 or 25 years old at the time. He asked what was
19 going on. When challenged Brother LAA he
20 ran off and locked himself in a room.

21 Brother MJG, who was SNR, called the
22 police and dealt with them. I don't know what was said
23 to the police. The police told that I was in
24 care and that there was nothing that they could do as
25 the home was responsible for me. had refused

1 to leave the school until something was done but the
2 police persuaded him to leave. [REDACTED] left with the
3 police after a promise that Brother MJG [REDACTED] would speak
4 to Brother LAA [REDACTED] to prevent this happening again. The
5 outcome of this was that Brother LAA [REDACTED] changed my job
6 from cleaning the toilets to inspecting the boots in the
7 boot room. This was a much easier job. The physical
8 abuse from Brother LAA [REDACTED] continued nonetheless.'.

9 My Lady, I do have five pages to go.

10 LADY SMITH: I think we should probably pause then and break
11 just now.

12 Thank you for that.

13 (11.34 am)

14 (The luncheon adjournment)

15 (12.30 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

17 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is James Doherty,
18 who is an applicant. James likes to be known as 'Jim'.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 Jim, good afternoon. Thank you for coming along to
21 the Inquiry. I would like you to begin by taking
22 an oath.

23 James Doherty (sworn)

24 LADY SMITH: Jim, a couple of things before we begin, the
25 red folder that is on the desk there has your statement

1 in it. You might find it useful to have that available
2 during your evidence, but we will also put your
3 statement up on the screen in front of you, so you'll
4 also see it there. You don't have to look at either of
5 them if you don't want to, it's just that they'll be
6 there for reference if you feel that would help.

7 Otherwise I want to do anything I can to make it as
8 comfortable as possible for you to give your evidence.
9 I know what you have agreed to come and do here today
10 isn't an easy thing and talking about your past and
11 difficult things in your childhood can be very tough and
12 can take you by surprise sometimes in the memories that
13 it may provoke.

14 If you want a break at any time, please just tell me
15 and we can arrange for that. If you want to ask us
16 anything at any time, go ahead. This is where you can
17 speak up. Not like how things were at times when you
18 were a little boy.

19 If there are any other questions you have, don't
20 hesitate to raise them. Will you do that?

21 A. Aye.

22 LADY SMITH: Really, if it works for you it will work for
23 me, whatever it is. If it helps you feel able to give
24 your evidence as best as you can.

25 If you're ready, Jim, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay

1 and he'll take it from there. Is that all right?

2 Mr MacAulay.

3 Questions from Mr MacAulay

4 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

5 Jim, the first thing I would like you to do for me
6 is to turn to the last page of your statement, which
7 you'll find in that red folder. Can you confirm that
8 you have signed the statement?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Just looking at paragraph 75, which is the very last
11 paragraph, do you say there:

12 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
13 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.'

14 Is that correct?

15 A. I have no objection.

16 Q. Do you go on to say:

17 'I believe the facts stated in this witness
18 statement are true.'

19 Is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. We can perhaps note in passing that you signed the
22 statement quite some time ago, in August 2017?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Quite a long time ago.

25 I just want to give a reference for the statement

1 for the transcript. This doesn't concern you, Jim.

2 It's WIT.001.001.5417.

3 The first thing I want to put to you is: is your
4 date of birth [REDACTED] 1948?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Your birthday [REDACTED]?

7 A. [REDACTED].

8 Q. You begin by providing us with some background. In
9 particular you tell us that you are now retired, but you
10 had worked as a demolisher, is that right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You have been married for rather a long time, I think.
13 Well over 50 years. I think 55/56 years?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. You tell us a little bit about your family. Can I just
16 go back in time to your life before you went into care,
17 because I'm going to be asking you about your time at
18 St Joseph's, Tranent, but before I come to that, can
19 I ask you about life before that.

20 I think you tell us that you had a happy family
21 life; is that right?

22 A. Yeah, aye. Very happy.

23 Q. One of the difficulties was that your father had
24 a serious injury?

25 A. Aye, broke his back and he never worked again.

1 Q. Did that affect his working?

2 A. Yeah. He was working in the steelworks.

3 Q. Is it the case that you weren't attending school?

4 A. I was dogging school, playing -- whatever, you know.

5 And I got into trouble and I got put in an Approved

6 School.

7 Q. Because you got into trouble, is that how you ended up

8 going to St Joseph's?

9 A. No. I think it was more the truanting, because

10 I wouldn't go to school.

11 Q. That is then the background to you going to St Joseph's?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You actually mention in your statement that you were

14 sent to St Joseph's in December 1960; is that right?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. How old were you then, were you about 12 then?

17 A. I was 12, going on 13. My birthday [REDACTED] and

18 [REDACTED] I think.

19 Q. When you first arrived at St Joseph's, what were your

20 first impressions?

21 A. I thought I was in a madhouse. As soon as I arrived

22 they gave me a beating, they took me up the stair to SNR

23 SNR [REDACTED] office and a couple of monks gave me

24 a beating and I was a Catholic. I couldn't believe

25 that.

1 My mother was a devout Catholic, she went to mass
2 every day.

3 Q. I'll come back to that sort of matter later, but before
4 I do, when you arrived for the first time, and that was
5 in December 1960, is it the case that most of the boys
6 who were at the school were not there, because they were
7 away for the Christmas break?

8 A. Yeah, they were away for Christmas week.

9 Q. There were a few boys there when you arrived?

10 A. Aye, there were about half a dozen. You know, never had
11 families or whatever. They couldn't go and leave.

12 Q. Of course there were some boys that really didn't have
13 anywhere to go?

14 A. Yeah. There were boys in that home whose mother and
15 father had been killed in car crashes. Never had
16 an orphanage to put them in, so they put them in with
17 us. I thought that was a disgrace that they were in
18 with us.

19 Q. Were they treated the same way as you were treated?

20 A. Aye, just the same. Beatings, the usual.

21 Q. Before we look at beatings and so on, if I can just get
22 some idea of the routine that you had there.

23 Let's look at the mornings. When you got up in the
24 morning at St Joseph's, who got you up?

25 A. One of the brothers.

1 Q. Was there a particular brother that you were involved in
2 during your time, as far as that was concerned?

3 A. No, different ones, different days.

4 Q. Insofar as going to bed in the evening, who was in
5 charge of that?

6 A. Different brothers.

7 Q. Looking to the dormitory set-up, I think you tell us in
8 your statement that there were perhaps about three
9 dormitories with about 40 children in each dorm, is that
10 right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. These were big dormitories?

13 A. Oh, yes, aye. The building is still there, in East
14 Lothian.

15 Q. Yes. Was there a dormitory that was designed to
16 accommodate children who wet the bed?

17 A. Aye, it was two ordinary dormitories and then there was
18 a pee-the-bed dormitory, so they used to get humiliated
19 carrying their wet sheets out the dormitories down the
20 stair.

21 Q. Were you somebody who wet the bed?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You are saying 'no'.

24 Can you tell me, Jim, how were those who wet the bed
25 treated?

1 A. They were treated the same as us.

2 Q. Did anyone try to make fun of them or --

3 A. No. We had too much on our minds trying to survive.

4 Q. You are very complimentary of the food, you say the food

5 was excellent.

6 A. I can't hear you very good.

7 Q. Have you got some trouble with your hearing?

8 A. Yeah, and my sight, I have to go and get cataracts done

9 next week.

10 LADY SMITH: Hang on, are you looking for a hanky?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: There are some on the desk, we will help you

13 with those.

14 A. ... come out the house with two hankies and I don't know

15 where I put them.

16 LADY SMITH: It's easily done, no need to apologise. You

17 just get yourself comfortable again.

18 MR MACAULAY: Are you ready to carry on, Jim?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Can I then move on then and ask you about the brothers

21 who were there. Are you able to say how many brothers

22 were there during your time?

23 A. Well, I only really mind the brothers that were bad to

24 me.

25 Q. Can you name them?

1 A. Brother LUU, Brother MJJ, Brother PAF, SNR
2 SNR. Brother LUU was evil.
3 The names will come to me as I'm talking.
4 Q. What about civilian staff, those who weren't brothers,
5 were there civilian staff there?
6 A. Yeah, there were cooks and I don't know what you call
7 them, maids, that helped in the kitchen and there were
8 school teachers. I don't know where they got their
9 university degrees, but I was still doing the ten times
10 table when I was 15.
11 Q. That takes me to the schooling then. What did you make
12 of how you were being educated when you were there?
13 A. Terrible.
14 Q. Did you go to school?
15 A. We went to school about three days a week, but you never
16 got any education. I was still getting stuff I got in
17 primary school when I was a wee boy. They weren't
18 learning us anything.
19 Q. Did any of the brothers teach?
20 A. No, but one was always in the class so you couldn't mess
21 the teacher about.
22 Q. Did you have any visits when you were there?
23 A. I can't hear you.
24 Q. Did anybody visit you when you were at St Joseph's?
25 A. I can't --

1 LADY SMITH: Did anybody come to St Joseph's to see you?

2 A. No.

3 LADY SMITH: No family?

4 A. No. In those days it was like going to Majorca. They

5 had to get trains, buses. So I told them not to bother.

6 LADY SMITH: It would have been an enormous journey for your

7 family, is that what you're saying?

8 A. Aye, my mother.

9 LADY SMITH: And it would have cost money?

10 A. Aye, well we were poor.

11 MR MACAULAY: Do you know if any official person came to

12 look at the school?

13 A. I can't mind anybody coming or asking us anything,

14 because I would tell them, I'd have told them.

15 As I said, I was getting beaten that much I wouldn't

16 have cared if I got a doing again. I would have said.

17 They were evil men. Brother PAF was evil.

18 Q. I'm now going to look then at that part of your

19 statement where you talk about the abuse you suffered.

20 Can you follow me on that? I just want first of all to

21 look at your first day at St Joseph's.

22 Can you tell me what happened leading up to you

23 going to St Joseph's?

24 A. I was in Glasgow, there was a probation officer taking

25 me out of East Lothian. We were on the train station

1 and he was holding me like that.

2 Q. You are holding your sleeve?

3 A. He was holding my sleeve. And I thought I would try and
4 escape, so these two workmen must have been going along
5 the platform and I've started screaming and, 'Leave me
6 alone', I said, 'You're not my father, they're taking me
7 away'. And a couple of them stepped in and thumped him
8 but he wouldn't let me go. So I got -- the police came
9 and put me on the train.

10 When I got there they took me up to Brother PAF
11 office and the guy signed me in and told him what
12 I'd done and they decided to beat me up.

13 Q. Can I just slow you down.

14 The probation officer has taken you to St Joseph's?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. When he got there with you, who did you see first of
17 all?

18 A. One of the brothers showed them up to Brother PAF
19 office.

20 Q. Brother PAF was SNR ?

21 A. Aye, he was the one that gave out the punishment.

22 Q. Did the person with you say anything? What did the
23 probation officer say to Brother PAF ?

24 A. Must have said to him what I'd done at the train
25 station.

1 Q. What happened after that?

2 A. They gave me a beating up and then they took me into
3 a dormitory and flung me on the bed. Then the boys all
4 come in and they were all good to me.

5 Q. Can I just understand when you say that Brother PAF
6 gave you a beating and beat you up, what did he do to
7 you?

8 A. He punched me, kicked me, swung a strap at me a few
9 times, but I was shocked. I couldn't believe
10 a religious man would do that to you.

11 When I seen the boys coming out the dormitory they
12 were telling me, 'Oh, you can't do that, you can't do
13 this, he will beat the hell out of you'. He's the one
14 that used to give you the belt, the school tawse, there
15 is a big corner, just an ordinary school tawse, but he
16 held you down and he gave you 12 strokes on the
17 backside.

18 Q. On this occasion we're talking about, this first time
19 that you went to St Joseph's, was there anybody else
20 there with Brother PAF when he was beating?

21 A. Aye, there was another brother. There always was.

22 Q. What was that other brother doing?

23 A. He would hold you down.

24 Q. Was he holding you down while Brother PAF was beating
25 you?

1 A. Sometimes there were two or three.

2 Q. On this occasion, can you remember how many brothers
3 were there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. When Brother PAF was beating you on this occasion,
6 were you fully clothed?

7 A. Aye, oh, aye. I never seen any of that. When I was
8 making my statement the lawyer was asking me, 'Were you
9 sexually abused?' I would say 'no', we were older, we
10 were 12 to 15. The younger ones got abused. The 10 to
11 12 in different institutions and he kept asking me all
12 the way through making the statement, 'Are you sure you
13 weren't?' I says, 'I was an ugly child, nobody would
14 touch me'.

15 I said, 'I didn't see it, I never heard about it'.

16 Q. But when you are being beaten by Brother PAF did you
17 have to remove your trousers and your underpants?

18 A. Aye, they stripped you naked and you put a wee pair of
19 tartan shorts on, wee cotton shorts and they had two
20 full-sized snooker tables and a wee snooker table and
21 three brothers held you over the table. One lay under
22 the table and held your legs and the other two held you
23 up the top.

24 I can't tell you how bad the pain was, but they
25 stripped you naked in front -- I mean, the whole school

1 was there, the women out of the kitchen and everything.

2 It was unbelievable.

3 Q. Just looking again back to the first day, what you tell
4 us in your statement is that after you had been beaten
5 by Brother PAF, you were taken to the chapel. Did
6 that -- on the first day, were you taken to the chapel?

7 A. Aye, they gave me a good doing and then they took me to
8 the chapel. There was wooden floor boards and tore on
9 the knees. By this time he had given me the shorts and
10 the jumper and things, so they made you pray, say the
11 rosary, but you had to say it out loud. So they just
12 sat and listened to you.

13 So I said the five decades of the rosary and then
14 they put me on the bed, but I'm praying on my knees ...
15 I couldn't believe that, that they would do that to me.

16 Q. After you had been in the chapel were you then taken to
17 the dormitory?

18 A. Yeah, aye.

19 Q. Did anything happen to you there when you were there on
20 this occasion?

21 A. I can't mind.

22 Q. Were you crying?

23 A. Oh, aye. As soon as he touched me with that tawse I was
24 screaming.

25 Q. Did you have injuries?

1 A. Bruises and big welts. The way they done it you would
2 get 12 on the backside, but you are squirming about like
3 a rat and I swear to God they got you in the middle of
4 your back to the back of your knees, because you were
5 squirming that much. I mean it was torture.

6 Q. After that happened, were you able to speak to some of
7 the other boys and find out how things were there?

8 A. Aye, they told me. They thought -- I don't know, they
9 tell me and say, 'Don't answer back. Don't swear.
10 Don't do anything you are not supposed to do. We'll
11 keep you right'. So I don't know.

12 I think they picked on me because I was big. The
13 bigger I got the more they left me alone.

14 Q. Can I get you to look at one paragraph in your
15 statement, it's at paragraph 32. You can see it on the
16 screen, paragraph 32. I'm just going to read this to
17 try to get it into the evidence. What you tell us in
18 your statement is:

19 'As a Catholic and regular at mass with my mother,
20 [REDACTED] I was amazed how these religious
21 brothers could be so cruel and evil. I went on to be
22 beaten so many times over the next two years that I lost
23 count. I reckon I probably got 12 of the best about 70
24 times during my time there. I think I got picked on
25 because I was tall.'

1 Does that summarise your life at St Joseph's so far
2 as being beaten is concerned?

3 A. Yeah. My mother used to write me every week. I never
4 told her. She wouldn't have believed me anyway.

5 Q. You never told your mother?

6 A. No, she was a devout Catholic. She went to mass every
7 day. She wouldn't have believed me. She would have
8 slapped me and said 'you're a liar'. As long as she
9 lived, I never told her. She lived till she was 84.

10 Q. You go on, Jim, in your statement to talk about
11 something that would happen on a Wednesday in the school
12 assembly hall.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you tell me about that?

15 A. That was the punishment day. So what happened was all
16 week from the previous Wednesday just playing about the
17 school, but if you swore and one of the brothers heard
18 you, he wrote in a wee book about you swearing. So
19 there is a school assembly and there are four houses.
20 We had: St Pat's, the one I was in; St Joseph's;
21 St De La Salle; and St Andrew's. We all had different
22 colour uniforms.

23 You would be standing there, I was P6, I was number
24 six in the line-up. I was standing there saying, well
25 I've not done anything this week. I've not sworn,

1 I've not -- I've been keeping myself out of trouble and
2 the next thing he shouted my name. I was going,
3 'I've not done anything'.

4 Then they had me up. It was like a wee stage and
5 they were up on the stage and had to go up on the stage,
6 strip off and they gave me 12 of the belt and all the
7 kitchen ladies were there. Everybody was there, school
8 teachers, everybody and they gave me a whipping and then
9 took me to the chapel to say the rosary. I couldn't
10 believe it. I was saying, I don't know whether I had
11 sworn or not. Last Wednesday, you swore. I said,
12 I can't mind what I did last Wednesday but they didn't
13 tell you you were doing anything wrong, they just put
14 your name in a book.

15 Q. This happened to you and when you say you were stripped,
16 were all your clothes taken off?

17 A. Oh, aye. Every time you got the strap, over the desk,
18 all your clothes come off and then they put a wee pair
19 of tartan shorts on you, wee cotton shorts. It's
20 terrible.

21 Q. Who did belting?

22 A. Brother PAF .

23 Q. Were other brothers there as well?

24 A. Now and again Brother LUU done it, he was a big
25 giant Irishman.

1 Q. Did you say a moment ago that other members of staff
2 would be present when this happened?

3 A. Yeah, they were all there, everybody. Priests, you
4 know, everybody.

5 Q. And other boys?

6 A. Aye, aye, the four houses were all lined up like an army
7 regiment. And he shouted you, got the strap and you
8 went back in, moaning and greeting, and they were
9 obviously terrified in case you shouted them out next.

10 Q. Would more than one boy be shouted out then on the
11 Wednesday for this form of punishment?

12 A. The whole school had to go.

13 Q. As far as those chosen to be beaten would be concerned,
14 would more than one boy be chosen to be beaten?

15 A. Aye, well, there would be 10 or 12 boys, they were out
16 of the different houses, getting the strap.

17 Q. Were you injured when this happened to you?

18 A. Oh, I was always injured. I had big welts on my
19 backside, my back, the back of my thighs. I screamed
20 the place down, honest. That's why they needed three
21 brothers to hold you down.

22 Q. The picture that you are presenting to me is that you
23 have this like a public flogging really of a number of
24 boys?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Who have been stripped naked, but put on these tartan
2 shorts and that that was either Brother PAF usually or
3 possibly Brother LUU. Is that a fair summary of the
4 position?

5 A. Sometimes after they'd been to mass -- not mass, chapel
6 and said the rosary, they would put us up the stair and
7 into our beds and there could be a dozen boys there, all
8 greeting. It was really sore. I remember that all my
9 life.

10 Q. Apart from the tawse, did you receive other beatings by
11 the use of fists or boots and kicks?

12 A. Aye. They would punch you or kick you. I mind one day
13 when they put me out to sit in the yard in the cold.

14 Q. Can you tell me about that incident when you are put out
15 into the cold?

16 A. I was walking down the stair, so I'm coming down the
17 stair for breakfast. We had to walk about six feet
18 between each boy. And me, mischief again, I have shoved
19 my pal KEV, he shoved the boy in front of him, he
20 shoved the boy in front of him, so a couple of them fell
21 and landed on the landing and of course I had the
22 innocent face on, but Brother LUU had peeped round
23 the wall of the staircase as I shoved him and he jumped
24 on me, he grabbed me -- I had hair then -- by the hair,
25 dragged me down the stair, punching and kicking me,

1 dragged me into the yard. It was a frosty morning. We
2 were going to breakfast and I only had a wee pullover on
3 and a shirt and he got a chair and sat me on a chair in
4 the middle of the yard facing Brother PAF office.
5 He was one up, and he sat me there all day. I was
6 froze. It was cold.

7 It was going a wee bit dark and he decided to take
8 me in and I couldn't talk. I was chattering.

9 Q. When you were taken in, who took you in?

10 A. No, they sat me there for a while.

11 Q. You were there for the day, but when you were taken back
12 into the building who was involved in taking you in?

13 A. Brother LVD. He was one of the younger ones. He
14 was about 25/30 maybe, and --

15 Q. Was Brother LUU involved in taking you back in?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What happened then when you are taken back in?

18 A. He took me back in, he battered me, threw me in the
19 shower and it was that cold I was still cold when they
20 brought me out of it. I was really not well.

21 I couldn't talk. Shattered. My mate, KEV
22 twice he tried to get out to see me ... twice they
23 caught him and gave him a doing.

24 So they took me up to the dormitory, he was a couple
25 of beds away from me. I still couldn't talk.

1 Q. When you were taken back in and given a shower, were you
2 beaten at that time?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Who by?

5 A. Brother LUJ, he done most of it.

6 Q. Did you say a moment ago because of your condition you
7 had to go to the sick bay; is that right?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Was it then that your friend was trying to visit you?

10 A. I can't hear you very good.

11 Q. Was it when you were in the sick bay that your friend
12 was trying to visit you?

13 A. No, he was trying to get hold of me in the school
14 playground and he was crying, so I thought I must be
15 dying if he's crying, because he was a handful.

16 I was saying to myself, I must be dying. I had that
17 cold disease.

18 Q. Did you suffer from hypothermia?

19 A. I had hypothermia, because KEV had heard them talking
20 and they never got me a doctor, nothing.

21 LADY SMITH: You are telling me it must have been really bad
22 for your friend to be crying, because he was a tough one
23 and didn't cry easily, is that right?

24 A. That's right. When he started crying I thought I was
25 dying, because he would never have cried.

1 I was in the sick bay about two or three weeks.

2 I can't mind now ...

3 MR MACAULAY: You have set that out for us in your
4 statement, so I needn't spend too much time with you on
5 that.

6 I do want to ask you about another brother and
7 that's Brother LVD . Did you have any trouble with
8 Brother LVD ?

9 A. Aye, he was a wee shite.

10 Q. What happened with him?

11 A. He thought he was a football player, played in the
12 school team and we had won a cup in the league and it
13 was the end of the season and we were training. He was
14 in charge and he always had his football boots on and
15 was trying to show off. He tried to do play with us and
16 he would kick you and pull you back and just all the
17 time foul you.

18 He kicked me on to my ankle so I couldn't play for
19 a couple of weeks and then he was -- they were still
20 winning and I spoke to all the boys and I said, I'm not
21 playing for him again. I'm staying. On the Saturday
22 I was like, I'm not playing, after my leg, I'm not
23 playing, so I never played again and I was waiting for
24 a trial with Hibs at that time and when the guy found
25 out I was in an Approved School ... that was me out the

1 door.

2 As I said, I wouldn't play and then half the boys
3 wouldn't play. One of the boys went and played in
4 England, [REDACTED] his name was.

5 Q. As far as Brother LVD [REDACTED] is concerned, you tell us in
6 your statement that there was an occasion when
7 Brother LVD [REDACTED] punched you as you came out of the
8 shower after you had stopped playing for the team. Do
9 you remember that?

10 A. Yeah. The showers were in two rows, back to back, and
11 another shower behind you. So we were getting showers
12 but I was a hooligan, so he's flung a bar of soap up the
13 shower and hit one of the boys and he had flung it back
14 and just boys kind of going and he caught me flinging
15 it, and as I walked out the shower he punched me right
16 there.

17 Q. You are pointing to your midriff?

18 A. It knocked the wind right out of me. I was lying in the
19 shower vomiting and he was shouting at me. That was
20 a shame. But when I got a bit bigger I waylaid him in
21 the woods.

22 We had an army assault course laid out with ropes
23 and nets, you climb up and do it and I went in the
24 kitchen and stole a knife and I jumped out on him, they
25 used to walk about doing the wee breviary -- a wee

1 prayer book thing and I jumped him about 7.00 am in the
2 morning and I told him, 'If you ever hit me again
3 I'm going to stab you'. He never did. The wee coward.
4 But I was getting big by then.

5 Q. You have mentioned already Brother LUU and what he
6 did to you. If I ask you to look at paragraph 52 of
7 your statement, on page 10, what you say there is:

8 'Brother LUU was always hitting the boys. You
9 could just be sitting in the dining room and he would
10 come up and hit you on your head with his knuckles or
11 even a set of keys.'

12 A. Bunch of keys.

13 Q. Did that happen to you?

14 A. Oh, aye. He would chap your head and the pain would go
15 right into you. If he chapped your head. He would do
16 it with keys and all. Honest to God, we went to Forfar
17 one summer to go to pick the berries and the money went
18 to the school and I wouldn't do much. I did a wee bit
19 but honest to God it was terrible.

20 There were no showers or anything and we stayed in
21 huts and when it was heavy rain they put shampoo on our
22 head and flung us out in the cold rain and we would run
23 round in this big grassy bit, all foaming. I was like
24 that.

25 LADY SMITH: You are telling me they were washing your hair

1 in the rain, they were using the rain to wash your hair,
2 is that right?

3 A. Aye. That got you wet and then you had to keep running
4 around until the soap came off you. We were all
5 freezing.

6 MR MACAULAY: One thing you tell us is that a while after
7 the freezing incident you and some other boys decided to
8 get some revenge on Brother LUU . What did you do?

9 A. I'm ashamed.

10 Q. Sorry?

11 A. We hung Brother LUU dog.

12 Q. Did you say a moment ago it is something you are ashamed
13 about?

14 A. Aye. I really love dogs, but it was a big fat lazy
15 golden Labrador, always lying at the kitchen door for
16 scraps and we enticed it away. It wasn't my idea, but
17 I got involved and that's how much hatred there was for
18 him and we got a rope and put it round his neck and over
19 a branch of the tree, about 12 boys, and we hung it.
20 Godawful thing to see.

21 Q. If I can read what you've said in your statement on this
22 point, Jim, at paragraph 53:

23 'Brother LUU was brutal to all of us. A few
24 months after the freezing incident a few of the boys
25 decided they were going to take revenge on him by

1 hanging his dog. It was a beautiful creature and though
2 I didn't want to be involved I got caught up in it.
3 About ten of us took the dog into the woods and hanged
4 it. I have been ashamed of being involved in that
5 throughout my life.'

6 Is that your position?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. What was the aftermath of that? What happened? What
9 did Brother LUU do?

10 A. We were in the dinner hall and he got a big branch of
11 a tree or something and he come bursting in the room.
12 We knew what he was in for. We ducked under the table
13 and he was running about hitting boys over the head.
14 I was under the table.

15 Then during next week they sent him there -- I don't
16 know a place where they get a retreat, where he could go
17 say his prayers. I don't know. It was -- he was
18 definitely crazy.

19 Q. Again, if I take you back to your own statement at
20 paragraph 54, what you say is:

21 'That lunchtime, Brother LUU came into the
22 dining room with a big stick and went berserk. He was
23 lashing out at all of us and it took five of the other
24 brothers to pull him away.'

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Were you hit on this occasion or did you manage --

2 A. No, no, I was under the table. I knew what he was in
3 for, the other boys having their breakfast, they didn't
4 know. The next minute he started battering people all
5 over the place. So I said it took about five brothers
6 to get hold of him and get him out. He ended up going
7 away on a retreat somewhere.

8 Q. Jim, can I now take you to part of your life after you
9 had left care and that's the next section in your
10 statement.

11 I think it is the case that when you were back home
12 that you did get into trouble?

13 A. Oh, aye. I think we all got into trouble.

14 Q. The way you describe it at paragraph 59, and I'll read
15 this out:

16 'My life was a shambles and I was a big lump of
17 a man who would do whatever I liked, hence the reason
18 I ended up in prison. I came out of prison mad with the
19 world.'

20 Was that the way it was at that time?

21 A. Then I met the wife and I've never looked back.

22 Q. That is what you tell us next, that you met your wife
23 and as we looked at earlier you've been married now for
24 well over 50 years?

25 A. Aye, 57 years.

1 Q. You also tell us that really your wife is the only
2 person you've ever spoken to about what happened at
3 St Joseph's?

4 A. That was only about 12, 15 years ago. I never said
5 anything when my mother was alive.

6 As I was saying, she wouldn't have believed me that
7 that happened. She would have thought I was lying and
8 slap me. KEV was the same. His mother was a devout
9 Irish Catholic, went to mass every day and he got into
10 trouble so she never believed a word he said either.

11 Q. You do tell us a little bit about what impact being in
12 St Joseph's had on you and we can read that, Jim.
13 I needn't take you through it in detail.

14 What I want to take you to is the section at
15 paragraph 72, where you set out your hopes for the
16 Inquiry.

17 I'll just read that to you.

18 A. I see that.

19 Q. That is at paragraph 72:

20 'I want people named and brought to justice. I want
21 people to pay for what happened to KEV and me and
22 kids like us. We got an apology from Jack McConnell
23 when he was First Minister, but I don't want any more
24 apologies. I want justice.'

25 Does that summarise your hopes for this Inquiry?

1 A. Yeah, well, I hope we're going to be -- there's going to
2 be some blame handed out. I can't understand how the
3 Catholic Church has never said a word, do you know what
4 I mean? And I lost my religion. I will only go to
5 a funeral with my mother, well, with my wife, because
6 that should never have happened to anybody and I don't
7 think there was enough people inspecting them homes,
8 [REDACTED] he was in St Ninian's.
9 He was raped repeatedly and he's a lovely boy. It's
10 a shame.

11 Q. That I think takes me to what you say about lessons to
12 be learned. That is at paragraph 74. You have just
13 touched upon this. I'll read that out:

14 'There has to be investigations into these places
15 and they need to be inspected. There has to be people
16 that go into these places and look thoroughly at their
17 procedures.'

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. That is your position?

20 A. I was putting a roof on the Geilsland Approved School
21 gymnasium and I was on the roof and the guys came
22 marching down and this wee teacher punched a boy in the
23 face and I climbed off the ladder and punched him in the
24 face.

25 I got sacked immediately, but I didn't want to work

1 on it. I left. (Indistinguishable) but I couldn't
2 believe. I was watching him punch that lad in the face.
3 It is still going on that was only a few year ago.

4 I ended up a big lump of a man. I've lot a lot of
5 weight because I've broken my leg, but I could always
6 look after myself.

7 MR MACAULAY: Very well, Jim.

8 These are all the questions I have for you today.
9 If there's anything you would like to say to the Inquiry
10 to help the Inquiry then please feel free to do so.

11 A. No, I think I've said enough.

12 LADY SMITH: Jim, can I just add my thanks to Mr MacAulay's.

13 Thank you for providing your written statement.
14 I'm very conscious of the fact that that was about six
15 years ago and you've been very patient in waiting for us
16 to get to this stage in our case studies and I'm sure
17 you understand it's not that we've been doing nothing in
18 the meantime. It's all to do with the programming of
19 the case studies that we are running. We have been
20 working on others before we got to this.

21 But it doesn't mean that your evidence isn't just as
22 important now as it was then. And it's really helped me
23 understand more about what life was like for you in
24 those days so long ago when as a child you were in
25 a place way from home, way away from home with no

1 contact with family and being treated as you say, in
2 a terrible way.

3 Thank you for coming along and making your evidence
4 come really alive for me. It's memorable you having
5 done that.

6 A. Thank you for listening.

7 LADY SMITH: I'm sure we have tired you out. I'm delighted
8 to be able to let you go now and I wish you a safe
9 journey back home.

10 Jim, if you like, because I don't want you to feel
11 under pressure I would much rather you take your time
12 leaving the room and you might feel you have to rush if
13 I carry on sitting here. So I'll get up and go and then
14 you just take care and make your way out.

15 A. Thank you very much.

16 MR MACAULAY: Perhaps, before your Ladyship leaves the bench
17 we should have a short break and then we'll have
18 a read-in.

19 LADY SMITH: We'll finish off the read-in we had before.

20 Yes. Thank you.

21 (1.27 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (1.37 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

25

1 William Dyer (read) (continued)

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I now propose to complete the read-in
3 that we started before the lunch break and that's the
4 statement of William Dyer at WIT.001.001.1550.

5 I'll pick that up at paragraph 64, which is on
6 page 13 of the document.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS MACLEOD: 'Brother LAA had a leather belt hidden under
9 his clothing. The belt was kept in easy reach near his
10 shoulder. Brother LAA was able to pull it out very
11 quickly and hit you with it. Brother LAA would hit
12 you on all parts of the body, including your head.

13 The penalty for running away and being caught was
14 a beating from SNR, Brother MJG. I was
15 subjected to a beating by him on one occasion when I ran
16 away. You were taken to the bedroom of Brother MJG,
17 where you had to take down your trousers and underpants.
18 Brother MJG had a thick leather belt which he would
19 use on your bare backside. I remember after having got
20 the belt from him that I ran to the shower room and
21 looked in the mirror and saw the marks from where I had
22 been belted. The marks stayed with me for the rest of
23 the week. When Brother MJG belted you it was always
24 in his bedroom and you were required to expose your bare
25 bottom. I think Brother MJG derived some sort of

1 pleasure from this.

2 On a Monday night, two other boys and me, who were
3 all from Glasgow, decided on the spur of the moment to
4 run away. We ran down by the river then managed to make
5 our way to Mauchline train station. No train arrived so
6 we went to a bus stop which was signposted Kilmarnock.
7 We had no money. We were never allowed to carry on.
8 A short time later, we saw a car coming and realised
9 that it was Brother MJG car. Brother EIW and
10 one of the house captains jumped out of the car and
11 started to chase us. They caught the other two boys
12 quickly but I was a renowned fast runner and they failed
13 to get me.

14 I hid myself in fields and gardens in Mauchline. I
15 spent the night in a farmer's barn and remember eating
16 raw eggs for breakfast. I realised that I had nowhere
17 to go and couldn't get to Glasgow. I made my way back
18 to the school. When I was crossing the bridge I was
19 seen by Brother LAA who grabbed me and put me in the
20 showers. He was jabbing me with a stick. He then took
21 me to Brother MJG who beat me over the bare my bare
22 backside with a leather belt as I have described
23 previously.

24 Most of the hitting and physical abuse you were
25 subjected to by all of the brothers was performed in

1 front of all the other pupils. The only punishments
2 that were not seen by other boys was the times you were
3 taken into Brother MJG room. Boys who wet the bed
4 were all put into dormitory seven. I did not know what
5 went on in that dormitory as I never had a bed wetting
6 problem. I can only imagine the punishments that those
7 boys got. If you wet the bed in the other dormitories
8 the sheets were rubbed in your face.

9 Brother LAA insisted that all the boys only looked
10 straight ahead. I was always looking about me and kept
11 getting into trouble with Brother LAA when he were
12 marched into the classroom or on the long walks to
13 Mauchline. As a result of this, Brother LAA made me
14 a pair of leathers blinkers similar to ones made for
15 horses. I had to wear these blinkers for about two
16 months. As a result of this, I was mocked by all the
17 other boys. If Brother EIW, who was a gambler, lost
18 money betting on the horses and the dogs he would take
19 it out on you by beating you for no reason.

20 I don't recall seeing any sexual abuse at the home,
21 other than the boiler man, EIV, who put his hand
22 under the bedsheets of some of the boys and played with
23 their dicks. I was never subjected to it as I had been
24 well warned by .

25 I think that Brother MJG used to enjoy taking

1 down your trousers and underpants and hitting you with
2 a belt on your bare backside. On reflection, I think it
3 was odd that he did this in his bedroom, on his own,
4 with the door closed.

5 I remember a pupil at the school going on his own on
6 walks with Brother MJG around the school and in the
7 woods. Everyone at the school knew this. I don't know
8 what happened on these walks, but the other boy was my
9 friend and we used to kid him about them.

10 EIV, who was the boiler man and night
11 watchman used to prey on some of the boys. EIV
12 was without doubt a paedophile. He used to be able to
13 go about the dormitories through the night as the
14 brothers were not about. EIV would bring comics
15 and sweeties and give them to some of the boys he had
16 targeted. EIV would initially prey on the boys in
17 dormitory seven who were the bed wetters. He had
18 an excuse to be there as he was looking after the
19 radiators. EIV would slip his hand under the
20 covers and play with the boys' privates. Everyone knew
21 it was going on but they just kept their heads down and
22 presented to be asleep. EIV would come back
23 during the night and get some of the boys out of bed.
24 EIV would take them downstairs. We called these
25 boys ricers. I cannot give you an explanation as to

1 why. I did not see what happened but what else could it
2 have been for?

3 When we were showering every day, Brother LAA
4 would come into the shower room. There were six showers
5 and we would be in groups of four. Brother LAA would
6 watch us showering. Brother LAA would examine our
7 bodies. Brother LAA would use his walking stick to
8 spread our legs or lift up our arms and make sure we
9 used the carbolic soap provided. On reflection, I think
10 that this behaviour may have been sexually motivated.

11 I never contemplated telling the police about what
12 happened to me as they would never have believed it.
13 There was also a feeling at the time I was in the home
14 that if you spoke to the police you would be a grass.
15 The only other persons we could tell were the abusers.
16 When I finally got home I did not discuss what had
17 happened with my family.

18 At age 15, I was finally freed from the school to
19 return home. On the final day, I was given a pair of
20 long trousers. I was taken to the train station at
21 Mauchline and put on the green to Glasgow. Brothers
22 LAA and EIW offered their hand to shake. I
23 refused to do it, turned my back on them and walked
24 away.

25 Life treated me well after St Mungo's. I worked at

1 various jobs, including a fishmongers, and a big farm
2 where I learned to drive. I had my own business. I
3 married and had a family. I am now well able to support
4 myself and my family and I have been able to deal with
5 what happened, although I can never forget Barskimming
6 House and the abuse we suffered at the hands of the
7 De La Salle Brothers.

8 I have never considered or wanted to seek
9 compensation for what happened to me. In 2003, I
10 completed and published a book about my experiences
11 living at the school called "My Memoirs of a Mansion Fit
12 for a Lady But Not For Me." During the research for the
13 book, I met up with a lot of other survivors from
14 St Mungo's and shared their stories. We even had
15 a reunion at the house which had been our former school.
16 This was hosted by the current occupants, Lord and
17 Lady Strathclyde as the school is now a private house.
18 Lord and Lady Strathclyde were the inspiration behind me
19 writing the book.

20 My book goes on to describe what happened to a lot
21 of the boys I knew of at the school. A lot of them are
22 now dead. A lot of them went on to commit crimes and
23 ended up in jail. A few managed to lead relatively
24 normal lives, although they were never able to forget
25 the abuse they were subjected to.'

1 My Lady, William passed a copy of his book to the
2 Inquiry and indeed here it is.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS MACLEOD: 'Most of the brothers I have mentioned in my
5 statement are now dead. Some years back I heard that
6 Brother MJG was alive and living in a retirement home
7 in Coatbridge. I went to that home. I spoke to him and
8 he remembered me. He showed me a lot of photographs I
9 copied and kept. He was able to tell me that the only
10 surviving brother was Brother MBU, who was living in
11 retirement home. Brother MBU was never involved in
12 any of the abuse but he witnessed the other brothers
13 hitting and abusing the boys. I learned that
14 Brother MJG moved on to St Joseph's School in
15 Tranent, East Lothian where he worked until he retired.

16 Brother LAA, moved to St John's school on
17 Edinburgh Road. He then worked for the Home Office.
18 He's now dead. I don't know what happened to
19 Brother EIW Brother Ambrose, Brother Augustus,
20 Mr Slaven or Mr Travers but Brother MJG confirmed to
21 me that they are all dead.

22 As a result of the visit to see Brother MJG
23 I was able to obtain a number of photographs of the
24 pupils at St Mungo's between 1948 and 1956 when the home
25 was closed. I was also able to compile a list of all

1 the pupils that were resident at the school which I have
2 given to you. I also can give you a press cutting from
3 the [REDACTED], dated [REDACTED] 1955 which covers
4 the retirement of Brother MJG [REDACTED] from St Joseph's in
5 Tranent.

6 The reasons that I am telling my story today are not
7 for any form of compensation. There are lessons to be
8 learned because the abuse will never stop. There are
9 some things I have not been able to tell you for
10 a variety of different reasons.

11 I hope that the book I wrote will help other
12 survivors as I found it the best way to cope. I will
13 never forgive the brothers for what they did and for the
14 way they treated us. I have never sought any help or
15 reported what happened to the authorities. I will also
16 speak to some of the other survivors I have contact with
17 to get them to come forward and give evidence. I intend
18 to write another book at some stage.

19 I have no objection to my witness statement being
20 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
21 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
22 true.'.

23 And, my Lady, William Dyer signed his statement on
24 12 November 2016.

25 LADY SMITH: There is much that is striking about his

1 evidence. One of which of course is that he was
2 effectively banished from his family when he was nine or
3 ten years old and there was never any family life for
4 him again, like so many, they couldn't travel across the
5 country to keep in touch with them.

6 MS MACLEOD: Indeed, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: On top of everything else that was happening in
8 his life. Remarkable that he can then at the end say,
9 well, life worked out okay for me.

10 Thank you.

11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today.
12 Tomorrow, the plan is to sit as normal at 10 o'clock and
13 the plan is to have three live witnesses tomorrow, and
14 possibly some read-ins, only if time allows.

15 LADY SMITH: Just to finish off names for today, in addition
16 to the ones I mentioned earlier, names and identities, I
17 should say, we have now to add brothers MJG, EIW,
18 LVD and a Mr EIV and a KEV, I think,
19 to the list from earlier on.

20 Thank you very much. I'll rise now and that will be
21 it until tomorrow morning.

22 (1.50 pm)

23 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
24 on Thursday, 11 January 2024)

25

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