

Thursday, 11 January 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the third day this
4 week in which we're hearing evidence in the second
5 chapter of this Phase 8 case study, regarding
6 residential accommodation for young offenders and
7 children and young people in need of care and
8 protection.

9 We have today beginning with a witness in person who
10 is here I think, is that right, Ms MacLeod?

11 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. Yes, that is right.

12 The first witness today is Alexander Buchanan.

13 Alexander Buchanan (sworn)

14 LADY SMITH: Alex, before we start your evidence just
15 a couple of things I want to say.

16 The red folder on the desk there has your statement
17 in. You might find it helpful to refer to it if you
18 want to. You don't have to. We'll also put the text of
19 the statement up on screen as we're looking at different
20 bits of it, so equally you might want to use that, but
21 if you don't want to use either you don't have to. It's
22 up to you.

23 Otherwise, Alex, I want to do anything I can to make
24 it as comfortable for you to give evidence and I know
25 this is evidence about something that is difficult and

1 may be upsetting at times, so please will you guide me
2 if there's anything that would help, whether you want
3 a break for example, just sitting where you are or
4 leaving the room, or if you want us to explain something
5 to you that we haven't explained or we're explaining
6 badly. If you don't understand what we're asking, it's
7 our fault not yours. Please, please understand that.

8 A. Yes, that's fine.

9 LADY SMITH: If it works for you it will work for me,
10 whatever it is. Okay.

11 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and
12 she'll take it from there.

13 Ms MacLeod.

14 Questions from Ms MacLeod

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

16 Good morning.

17 A. Good morning.

18 Q. Are you Alexander Buchanan?

19 A. I am.

20 Q. Were you born on [REDACTED] 1951?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you are now 72?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You've provided a statement to the Inquiry and I'm just
25 going to give the reference for the transcript,

1 WIT-1-000001042.

2 Could you please look at the statement in the folder
3 at the last page and just confirm if you have signed the
4 statement?

5 A. Yes, that is my signature, yeah.

6 Q. In the very last paragraph of the statement do you say:

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

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And you believe the facts stated in your witness
11 statement are true?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I'll begin by asking you some questions about your life
14 before care.

15 I think you tell us in your statement that you were
16 born in Glasgow; is that right?

17 A. Yes, the parish of the Gorbals.

18 Q. Your father died when you were in fact very young.

19 A. I think I were three-year-old.

20 Q. I think you say you don't have much of a recollection of
21 life before that time.

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did your mother go on to remarry?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say that in total your mother had [REDACTED] of a family.

1 A. Yes, [REDACTED] with my father who died [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] my other father.

3 Q. What you tell us in your statement, Alex, is that for
4 you it wasn't a happy childhood.

5 A. Definitely not.

6 Q. Can you just tell me a little about that?

7 A. I don't know, for some strange reason my mother didn't
8 take to me. [REDACTED] kept sort of, I don't know, hitting me,
9 doing different things that [REDACTED] shouldn't do and
10 still to this day I find it so hard to believe that what
11 happened happened. [REDACTED] was, how do you put it -- if you
12 asked [REDACTED] any questions it was, 'You don't need to
13 know'. That was [REDACTED] answer to every question. When
14 I asked later in life about my dad, 'You don't need to
15 know that', so [REDACTED] wasn't very forthcoming. And [REDACTED]
16 certainly wasn't kind.

17 Q. You say in your statement, Alex, that you were battered
18 upside down by [REDACTED].

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Can you tell me about that?

21 A. On one occasion [REDACTED] hit me with a poker at the fireside,
22 [REDACTED] hit me right across the eye with it. Then when
23 I went to hospital [REDACTED] says to tell the doctors that
24 I fell off the midden. The midden is a rubbish tip
25 behind you, sort of thing, like concrete sort of thing,

1 and I had fell there and hit my eye on it, when in
2 actual fact it was [REDACTED] actually hitting me with the
3 poker. [REDACTED] done other things. [REDACTED] kicked me, punched
4 me. [REDACTED] knew that [REDACTED] done it. And one morning I got
5 up and dressed for school and I says, 'Where's my
6 shoes?' [REDACTED] says, 'Just wear your wellies'. I said,
7 'I don't want to wear my wellies, they hurt my legs',
8 because they're leather and they slap against your leg,
9 'Just wear them, your shoes are on the fire'. [REDACTED] was
10 lighting the fire with my shoes.

11 As I say, there's just different things, and
12 I thought maybe I reminded [REDACTED] of my dad who had passed
13 away and I thought maybe this was [REDACTED] taking it out on
14 me because of that. That's the only reason I could get
15 to, because I hadn't -- I was only a wee boy, I hadn't
16 done anything, and I ended up -- I was called a habitual
17 wanderer, because I used to run away from home all the
18 time, and when the police would catch me, I would say to
19 the police, 'I don't want to go back there, [REDACTED] give
20 me a doing.'

21 'We'll speak to [REDACTED]'

22 And they did say, 'You touch him, we are going ...'

23 'I'll not touch him, I'll not touch him.'

24 As soon as the police were away, I got another
25 doing.

1 Then -- I think it might have been around about
2 12 May 1961 I was at Orkney Police Court, I had breached
3 probation, and the magistrate says to my mother, 'You
4 know, Mrs [REDACTED], you could take Alexander home
5 today.'

6 She went, 'No'. So that's when the Approved School
7 thing started to kick in and I started getting put all
8 over the places.

9 Q. At that time, in May 1961, you would have been ten?

10 A. Ten years of age, yeah.

11 Q. Initially, Alex, did you go to a home in Dumbarton?

12 A. Yes, I think it was called Bellfield. All I remember is
13 there used to be a guy in it and he used to play the
14 mandolin and he was missing a finger, and it was like
15 a big house with big bay windows, but I wasn't there --
16 I think it was maybe three weeks or something I was
17 there.

18 Q. From there, did you -- were you then charged with reset,
19 I think you say?

20 A. Yeah, aye.

21 Q. Did you plead?

22 A. I think I pled guilty, yeah, because what it was, it was
23 a drunken man lying, and there were two bottles of beer
24 beside him and I lifted the two bottles of beer and took
25 them up to my dad, and the police had seen me doing it.

1 Q. Were you still ten at this time?

2 A. Still ten, yeah.

3 Q. At that time, were you then sent to a place called

4 Larchgrove?

5 A. Yes, I was sent there on remand. It was a remand

6 centre.

7 Q. In your statement, between paragraphs 20 and 37, you

8 provide some evidence about your time in Larchgrove and

9 you tell us that it was run by Glasgow Council.

10 A. City Council, yeah.

11 Q. Can you just give me an understanding, Alex, of what was

12 Larchgrove at that time?

13 A. It was -- I think it was a single block and it had a big

14 playground outside it with a big high wall, which led on

15 to Edinburgh Road in Glasgow.

16 The unit itself had bars on the windows.

17 Q. Was it a secure unit?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. How many children were there?

20 A. I'm not positive, but I would think in the region of

21 maybe 70 to 100 anyway.

22 Q. Was it boys and girls?

23 A. No, just boys.

24 Q. What was the age range of the boys?

25 A. Well, when I first went in to Larchgrove I reckoned

1 I would be maybe nine, and I think maybe up to about
2 14 years of age.

3 Q. So had you been in once before, maybe when you had run
4 away from home?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Then this was you going back again for a longer
7 period --

8 A. Back again, yeah.

9 Q. -- after you had been in court?

10 A. This was me waiting for a vacancy for an Approved
11 School.

12 Q. During that second period then, can you remember just
13 roughly how long you were in Larchgrove?

14 A. The waiting time for an Approved School vacancy at that
15 point was six weeks, I believe, so it would probably be
16 about six weeks in there.

17 Q. Who was in charge of Larchgrove?

18 A. It was -- it wasn't uniformed officers, it was
19 civilians, and you had like the headmaster, the one
20 below him, and then you had the teachers, I suppose you
21 would call them.

22 Q. Do you remember the name of the headmaster?

23 A. I remember a couple of names. One was a Mr GIA ,
24 one was a Mr McKinnon and there were two brothers who
25 used to chase the runaways. I can't remember their

1 names.

2 Q. In your statement you mention the LTB-LTE brothers.

3 A. That's them. That's the name, yeah.

4 Q. So was that two brothers, the LTB-LTE ?

5 A. I'm sure it was two brothers, yes.

6 Q. Mr McKinnon and Mr GIA, so these are four members
7 of staff that you remember?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Mr McKinnon, first of all, what was his role?

10 A. I think he was more to do with the sporting side, if you
11 want to call it, the football, et cetera. Where
12 GIA was more -- I don't know what you would call
13 him, an enforcer or something like that, and the
14 LTB-LTE -- I'm sure it was the brothers, so they were
15 used to chase runaways, because they were the fastest,
16 because the other two guys were big guys so they
17 couldn't chase anybody.

18 Q. I'll come back to ask you about Mr GIA in a few
19 moments.

20 You describe in your statement some aspects of the
21 routine at Larchgrove and we don't need to go into the
22 detail of that, but I just would like to ask you about
23 bed-wetting and what your memories are of bed-wetting at
24 Larchgrove and how that was dealt with.

25 A. Well, they used to get you up early bells in the morning

1 for the toilet.

2 Q. Who would get you up?

3 A. Whoever was on duty. It could be GIA, it could be
4 McKinnon, whoever is on duty, and sometimes if you had
5 wet the bed you got a cold shower.

6 Q. Did you sometimes wet the bed?

7 A. Yeah. Most of the guys, young boys, it was just fright,
8 I think, with them.

9 Q. So you would have a cold shower.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Would anything else happen?

12 A. You would be bunged back into bed and I don't know --
13 I can't remember if you towelled yourself.

14 Q. Did you have any clothes on when you went back into bed?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. So were you put back into bed naked?

17 A. Naked, yeah.

18 Q. What are your memories of that, when that was happening
19 to you?

20 A. I wasn't liking it. Just fear.

21 Q. You mention in your statement that you would be
22 chattering with the cold.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And that it was a trauma for you.

25 A. Oh, definitely. Definitely, yeah.

1 Q. You describe yourself as a serious bed-wetter.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Do I take from that that you regularly wet the bed --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- and were subjected to this going back into bed with

6 no clothes on and being very cold?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. How long then would you be in the bed naked and cold?

9 A. Until you got up in the morning to your breakfast time

10 sort of thing.

11 Q. Would you manage to get back to sleep?

12 A. No, you were scared to go to sleep, in case you wet

13 yourself.

14 Q. You provide a bit more information in your statement

15 about Mr GIA .

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Indeed, I think you describe him as a bit of an animal.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Can you develop that for me and explain what you mean by

20 that?

21 A. He used to just punch and kick you as you're walking by.

22 He would just punch you, he'd kick you. And that's all

23 he ever really done.

24 Q. Would that be for any specific reason or did you know it

25 was coming?

1 A. No reason whatsoever. You could just be walking along.
2 At that time you weren't allowed to have your hands in
3 your pockets, and if you had hands in the pockets, it
4 was a cuffed fist right to your ear and your ear was
5 really, really sore. But that was -- I think that was
6 his favourite mode, the cuffed fist. It's right into
7 your ear.

8 Q. Did he do this to you?

9 A. Oh, he done it a few times, yeah.

10 Q. Did you see this happening to other boys?

11 A. Oh, definitely, aye. That was his trait.

12 Q. Did he kick you?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Using his foot?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. Which part of your body would he kick?

17 A. Front and back.

18 Q. Any particular part of your body?

19 A. He would probably go for your genitals.

20 Q. Did Mr **GIA** use any implements? Did he have a belt
21 or anything like that, for example?

22 A. I can't remember him having a belt, quite honestly.

23 Q. In your statement, you describe him as your tormentor.

24 A. Yeah, definitely.

25 Q. Were you in fear of him?

1 A. I was only a wee boy and this is a full-grown man, and
2 I think he must have been least 16/17 stone, whereas
3 I would be about 8.5 stone, something like that, so he
4 was a fully-grown man.

5 Q. Was there anybody at Larchgrove who you could go to for
6 support or to report things that were happening to you?

7 A. You wouldn't do it. You would be scared to do it, in
8 case there was some reprisal.

9 Q. Did you run away from Larchgrove?

10 A. Yeah, I run away once, and it was hard to escape from
11 Larchgrove, but what I did was while you're waiting for
12 Approved School, you weren't allowed to go out and play
13 football, and the words I say, I kept nipping
14 Mr McKinnon, said 'Can I get a game of football,
15 Mr McKinnon?'

16 'Will you not run away?'

17 And I says, 'No, I won't run away', so he allowed me
18 to have a game of football, and it was a penalty and
19 Mr McKinnon was the goalkeeper, and he ran down to take
20 the penalty and Mr GIA was down the other side, so
21 as soon as I've seen that, there is a wee -- a six-foot
22 wall. I went over the wall and I went away. I was --
23 I think I was out for six weeks and my mother got the
24 police to take me back.

25 Then I went to Approved School right after that.

1 Q. Having spent about six weeks at Larchgrove, you moved to
2 an Approved School.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Where did you go, Alex?

5 A. St Ninian's. It's a place called Gartmore, it's three
6 miles from Aberfoyle.

7 Q. Who took you to St Ninian's?

8 A. I believe it might have been a social worker.

9 Q. Do you remember their name or anything like that?

10 A. No. All I remember, it was over an hour journey or
11 something like that, and I remember him saying to me,
12 'You'll like it here. This is a good place.'

13 And we drove up a big long avenue, all tree-lined.
14 I had never seen a fox before in my life and I seen
15 a fox darting across the road. So I arrived at
16 St Ninian's and it was like a big house, and he rung the
17 bell and we were met by a man called Brother MCA,
18 who was SNR of St Ninian's. And introduced
19 us, took us in sort of thing. He went away. Then
20 Brother MCA got another boy to take me upstairs to
21 the dormitory and showed me my bed, et cetera.

22 Q. You have mentioned Brother MCA there and that he
23 was SNR. Who ran St Ninian's at the time?

24 A. Well, I believe it was De La Salle Brothers, but it was
25 let out by Glasgow City Council, and the

1 De La Salle Brothers, St Ninian's, St Mary's, St John's,
2 I don't know that -- there was an Approved School in
3 Tranent, St Joseph's, but I don't know if they ran that,
4 and I think there was one in St Andrew's, but I don't
5 know if they ran that.

6 Q. At the time, was your understanding that it was run by
7 the De La Salle Brothers?

8 A. Oh, yeah.

9 Q. What gave you that understanding, that it was the
10 De La Salle Brothers that ran the place?

11 A. Well, when you went in, they introduced themselves as
12 Brother MCA, De La Salle, and you were given
13 dormitories and it was different colours of jumpers you
14 had; De La Salle was red and grey, St Andrew's was blue
15 and white, St Patrick's was green and yellow. That was
16 your sort of dormitory colours sort of thing.

17 Q. So were the boys at St Ninian's divided into houses
18 within the school?

19 A. Yeah, dormitories, yeah.

20 Q. And the dormitories were arranged by house?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. How many boys were at St Ninian's, roughly, when you
23 arrived?

24 A. Must be at least 100, I think.

25 Q. Were you still aged ten when you arrived at St Ninian's?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Was this still 1961?

3 A. I would say, yeah, it's six weeks after 12 May.

4 Q. Autumn 1961?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What was the age range of the boys?

7 A. I think they started as young as maybe about 9/10 and
8 they would go on to about -- you went to St Mary's as
9 soon as you turned 14, so maybe 9 to 14 age group.

10 Q. You have mentioned Brother MCA [REDACTED] already. Do you
11 remember the names of other Brothers?

12 A. Oh, yeah.

13 Q. Could you just tell me the names of the Brothers that
14 you remember?

15 A. Brother Benedict, aka Bootsie.

16 Q. He was there when you arrived?

17 A. He was my biggest tormentor.

18 LADY SMITH: Why was he known as 'Bootsie'?

19 A. For his kicking you, my Lady. All he done was he just
20 kicked you whenever he went. If you were walking along,
21 he would just run along behind you and boot you right up
22 the behind. For nothing.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS MACLEOD: What was his role in the school?

25 A. He was like -- just a Brother. He wasn't in charge of

1 anything. MCA was SNR and I'm trying to
2 think who was SNR. There was
3 a Brother MCT, and he's another one that liked to
4 use the cuff. Benedict, MCA, MCT.
5 I'm missing somebody here.

6 Q. You mention a Brother Anthony in your statement.

7 A. Aye, yeah, Brother Anthony. He was a gardener and he
8 used to walk about humming. He had a hearing aid.
9 First time I'd ever seen a hearing aid. He would walk
10 about humming while he was doing the garden and he
11 was -- I never really seen him.

12 Q. Was he an older Brother?

13 A. Oh, yeah. I think he'd probably be the oldest in it.
14 Then MCA would be the second. Then MCT,
15 I think it was MCT. And then Benedict would
16 probably be the youngest one.

17 Q. Was there a Brother MBZ there when you were there?

18 A. It rings a bell, but in these Approved Schools there
19 were two Brother [redacted], ie St Mary's, St John's, so
20 there's a wee bit of confusion, because sometimes there
21 are two Brothers with the same names but in different
22 homes, or 'Approved Schools' as they were called. MBZ
23 rings a bell, yes.

24 Q. Was there a Brother Patrick?

25 If you can't remember it's not a problem.

1 A. No, Patrick does not ring a bell with me.

2 Q. Were there civilian staff that were not Brothers?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Can you remember any of their names?

5 A. Yes. Mr MCK . We called him 'MCK ', because it
6 was just after the war and he used to wear jodhpurs, the
7 riding boots and the riding crop and he was in charge of
8 the stables.

9 And there was -- I can't remember the nurse's name,
10 but she was a civilian obviously. Mr MCK .

11 Q. Just staying with Mr MCK , did he have a role in the
12 school as well?

13 A. Yeah, he was in charge of the stables, yeah.

14 Q. Did he teach in the school?

15 A. No. What he done was we'd go down and muck the stables
16 out and we have: two ponies, Gypsy, Prince; we had one
17 horse, Dawn; we had a wee Shetland Pony, Morag or
18 Pibroch; and we had a half mule, half ass, half donkey,
19 half everything, June Rose.

20 Q. Was there a Brother MBU at St Ninian's when you were
21 there?

22 A. That doesn't ring a bell with me.

23 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the schooling, the
24 education?

25 A. Well, you went into classroom in the morning, sat at

1 your desks and you were in school from about -- I think
2 maybe about 8.30 to maybe 4 o'clock, and during that
3 period you would learn arithmetic, spelling, history,
4 geography, some Latin.

5 Q. Who was the teacher?

6 A. I think most of them done teaching in different aspects.

7 Q. I think you mention in your statement that you won some
8 prizes --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- at school?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Was that academic prizes?

13 A. What I done was I think it was for three years in a row
14 I won a spelling contest. I won the geography category
15 and a won a history category. But you didn't get
16 certificates for it. They used to give you your
17 paperwork and say, 'You're the top', sort of thing. No
18 certificates whatsoever.

19 Q. Were you put forward for any national exams or anything
20 like that?

21 A. No, they didn't do that in those days.

22 Q. We spoke about bed-wetting at Larchgrove.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Did you wet the bed at St Ninian's?

25 A. Yes. I think -- I would say the majority of the young

1 boys in that school were bed-wetters, but I think it was
2 through fear.

3 Q. If I can ask you, first of all, were there Brothers
4 involved in putting the boys to bed at night?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Were there Brothers involved in getting the boys up in
7 the morning?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were Brothers involved during the night?

10 A. I think there was a civilian. I can't remember his
11 name. They used to call him something like 'HPE [REDACTED]'
12 or something like that, because he didn't have any hair.

13 Q. How was bed-wetting dealt with at St Ninian's?

14 A. Same idea: up, cold shower, back into your bed, no
15 pyjamas. You lay shivering until you got up in the
16 morning.

17 Q. You mention in your statement that Brother Benedict
18 would make you have a cold shower.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And that you remember pulling your legs up, curling up
21 tight, holding the sheets.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Was that afterwards when you were cold in bed?

24 A. It was pure, utter fear. It's like something you watch
25 in a film and you see somebody like that and they're

1 actually shaking, because you obviously heard the
2 footsteps come closer to your bed.

3 Q. What were you fearing at that time?

4 A. I was fearing -- well, I knew sexual things were going
5 on. I was fearing -- because he had attempted things
6 with me before.

7 Q. Who had attempted things?

8 A. Benedict.

9 Q. What had Brother Benedict attempted with you?

10 A. Well, we used to wash in the morning with the wee bowls,
11 and you would be washing yourself and he used to come up
12 behind me and he would grab me round the waist and he
13 would jump me up and down, 'Boo, boo, boo' -- he called
14 me 'Boo Boo' -- 'Boo, boo, boo', and I could feel what
15 was happening.

16 Q. What was happening?

17 A. He had an erection. I think he was getting, I don't
18 know, gratification out of me shouting and screaming and
19 spitting. I actually was spitting on him. I know
20 you're not supposed to spit on anybody, but I was
21 spitting on him. I was trying to kick him, I was trying
22 to punch him, I was trying to get him away from me. But
23 a couple of occasions that happened to me. But I think
24 maybe because I was a cheekier type, maybe that's how it
25 didn't actually happen in such a way it happened to

1 other people. He knew how to pick the weak ones.

2 Q. When you mention something happening to other people,
3 how do you know that things were happening to other
4 people?

5 A. I used to hear it.

6 Q. Where did you hear things? Where were you when you
7 heard things?

8 A. In the dormitories.

9 Q. What did you hear?

10 A. Wee boys crying, 'Can you nae do that? I'm going to
11 tell my ma. Mammy, can't you take me home, I promise
12 I won't do it again'. They're crying for their mummies
13 while these people were carrying out offences against
14 them.

15 The boy next to me, he did get interfered with.

16 Q. Did you see that happening?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Who interfered with him?

19 A. Benedict.

20 Q. What did you see Brother Benedict do?

21 A. Try to insert his penis into the wee boy. The wee boy
22 was screaming his head off. Now Benedict wasn't
23 listening. He was obviously too far gone, and then in
24 the morning --

25 Q. What do you mean by 'too far gone'?

1 A. He was getting gratification out of it. He wasn't
2 caring about what damage he was doing to that wee boy.
3 He just wasn't caring.

4 Q. How old was the boy?

5 A. The age of me, maybe ten. Indeed one of my own friends,
6 he got raped, and I seen him in later years.
7 I don't know if I'm allowed to say his name.

8 Q. We don't need his name.

9 A. Yes, but he got raped, and I think he got an award of
10 £50,000, and the Catholic Church lawyer put in a vow of
11 poverty because Brothers don't get wages as such, they
12 only get expenses.

13 Q. If I can just come back to the boy in the bed next to
14 you at St Ninian's.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You have told me that you saw Brother Benedict try to
17 rape this boy.

18 A. Yeah, definitely, yeah.

19 Q. Was it on one occasion that you saw this, Alex, or more
20 than once?

21 A. No, it was a few times. There were rows of beds and
22 sometimes he'd pick one here, pick one here, I think it
23 was -- I can't remember if there were three rows of
24 beds.

25 Q. So the boy next to you that you were talking about a few

1 moments ago, was it during the night that you saw
2 Brother Benedict try to rape him?

3 A. Yeah, during the night.

4 Q. How was the boy in the morning?

5 A. Crying, crying for his mummy.

6 Q. Did you say anything to him?

7 A. I couldn't -- I was a wee boy. I didn't know what to
8 say.

9 Q. Did he say anything to you?

10 A. I think he just says something like, 'That bastard raped
11 me', or something like that. Something to the effects.

12 Q. When you say, Alex, that you saw Brother Benedict try to
13 rape the boy, did you see that come to an end or is that
14 the extent of what you saw?

15 A. The wee boy just wasn't giving into it, so he left him
16 at that point.

17 Q. Did I understand you correctly, did you say that you
18 also saw Brother Benedict go to other beds at other
19 times?

20 A. Oh, yeah, he went to other beds.

21 Q. On these occasions, did you see him do anything at those
22 beds?

23 A. Yeah. He got some young boys to play with his penis.

24 Q. Did you see that happening?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Did you see boys playing with Brother Benedict's penis?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. In the dormitory?
4 A. In the dormitories, yeah.
5 Q. How many times do you think you saw that?
6 A. Quite a few times, and when he ejaculated you could hear
7 him grunting.
8 Q. How many boys were in the dormitory while this was
9 happening?
10 A. I think it might have been about 30/40. I'm trying to
11 remember the dormitory set-up. As I say, it was rows of
12 beds. I think it was one, two, three rows, so maybe
13 about 30/40.
14 Q. With this going on, Alex, are you able to describe for
15 me, what was the atmosphere in the dormitories?
16 A. Fear. You thought you were going to be next. And when
17 you told your mum about it, she didn't believe you.
18 Q. Did Brother Benedict ever come to your bed?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. What did he do at your bed?
21 A. He leaned over me, sort of thing, he leant over me, but
22 I just pulled my covers up again, but I was waiting for
23 him to pull them off me, but he didn't pull them off me.
24 Q. You mentioned there reporting to mothers. Did you tell
25 your mother what was happening?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you tell your mother what you've told me there about
3 witnessing sexual abuse by Brother Benedict?

4 A. Word by word, and her saying was, 'Priests don't do
5 that'. She called them 'priests'. She didn't realise
6 they weren't priests, they were Brothers. And her
7 comments were: 'Priests don't do that.'

8 Q. When would you tell her this, Alex, was this when you
9 went home?

10 A. No, sometimes she would come up and visit me an odd
11 time, along with [REDACTED] and I would
12 tell her about it then and all that, but ...

13 Q. Did you take from that, Alex, that your mother didn't
14 believe what you were telling her?

15 A. She certainly didn't, no. I call her a kid-on Catholic,
16 because the priest came up on a Monday night and maybe
17 gave you a food parcel, and suddenly this was God's gift
18 to her. She wasn't a true Catholic.

19 Q. While you were at St Ninian's did you tell anybody else
20 about what was happening?

21 A. Yeah. I told [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] I told my uncle,
23 [REDACTED]. He has passed away and all. And I told
24 my dad. My dad believed me a wee bit, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 Q. As far as you're aware, did [REDACTED] or your dad
2 raise this with the Brothers or with social workers or
3 the police or anybody like that at the time?
4 A. I'm not entirely sure, but I don't believe it was
5 raised. I think my ma put a stopper on it.
6 Q. Aside from your family, did you have visits from anybody
7 like social workers or probation officers while you were
8 at St Ninian's?
9 A. I can't remember ever being in contact with
10 social workers, but when the council came to visit we
11 were showed away from them so that we couldn't speak to
12 them.
13 Q. Was that a visit of the whole school as opposed to you
14 specifically?
15 A. No, to the whole school.
16 Q. You were kept away from them, do you mean the boys were
17 kept away?
18 A. The boys were kept away from the suits, in case they
19 said something I suppose.
20 Q. And the suits, did you mention these were people from
21 the council?
22 A. Yeah, and social workers.
23 Q. Did you run away from St Ninian's?
24 A. Many occasions, between -- minimum ten, maybe as much as
25 20.

1 Q. What would happen when you ran away, how far did you get
2 or did it vary?

3 A. Well, you thought you'd got to the end of the world, but
4 you only travelled three miles to Aberfoyle and there
5 was -- then there was an indoor market and a policeman
6 saw me:

7 'How you doing young man?'

8 'I'm waiting for my mother.'

9 'Where's your mother?'

10 'She's over there.'

11 Take me into the police station in Aberfoyle, gave
12 me a mug of tea, a big sandwich, and then the Brothers
13 would come down and collect you from a police station.

14 Q. Did the police ask you why you had run away?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What did you tell them?

17 A. I didn't like it. There was a lot happening there to
18 young boys and all that, but they had a good
19 relationship with the Brothers, that is the best way
20 I could say it.

21 Q. So if you said to the police there is a lot happening
22 there to young boys, did you go further than that?

23 A. No, they wouldn't believe you.

24 Q. Brothers would come to collect you at the police
25 station, is that what tended to happen on each occasion

1 you ran away?

2 A. Sometimes the police would take you back, it all
3 depended how many they had on shift. So it's only
4 a substation, so they had to man it, sort of thing.

5 Q. Would anything happen when you returned to St Ninian's
6 having run away?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And what was that?

9 A. Well, you would be met with probably Brother MCA .
10 You would go up to your -- he'd tell you to go up to
11 your bed. You'd go up to your bed, and then in the
12 morning, this was him (indicating), meaning come into my
13 office.

14 Q. So summoning you with his finger?

15 A. Yes. And you would go into the office, the classroom,
16 and he'd tell you to take your pants off and he would
17 give you a wee pair of black, silk pants.

18 Q. Who was in the room at that time?

19 A. MCA .

20 Q. Yourself and MCA ?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. So he'd give you the silk, black pants to put on?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. What would happen then?

25 A. You would lean over the desk, and he had this big

1 leather strap, and he would give you anywhere between
2 six to ten strokes across your behind, and all the while
3 you're crying. It didn't matter. That happened on many
4 occasions.

5 Q. Were you injured as a result of that?

6 A. Well, my behind certainly wasn't feeling too good.

7 Q. What was your understanding of why you were asked to
8 take your pants off and to put these black pants on
9 instead?

10 A. Because they were thinner. They were silk, so they were
11 thinner, and that's what they called them, the black
12 pants. I reckon I must have had in the region of 160 to
13 200 belts across my behind in the time I was in
14 St Ninian's.

15 Q. Did that tend to be from Brother MCA or were other
16 Brothers involved as well?

17 A. MCA was the main sort of man for that. Then he
18 gave you further punishment. He used to give you a wee
19 spelling book and you would stand in the corner, and you
20 would stand from 6 o'clock maybe to midnight, and he
21 would give you a piece to learn the spelling, and you
22 had to learn the spellings and another boy would come up
23 and ask you to spell it, and if it was okay you would
24 get sent up to bed. But I ended up as sort of
25 a tutor --

1 Q. Before we get on to that, if it wasn't okay, what would
2 happen?

3 A. You would be standing there until you learnt every word
4 and be able to spell it.

5 Q. You were telling me that there came a time when you
6 became a tutor.

7 A. Yes, I became a tutor, and I used to ask boys to spell
8 things and they couldn't spell them. A lot of them
9 couldn't spell, but I used to say, 'On you go, go up to
10 bed', and he found out. He would pull the boy back and
11 ask him to spell something that I had passed. The boy
12 couldn't spell anything at all. So I got booted out of
13 that job. And of course the usual, the next morning
14 (indicating), another belting. Brother MCA was
15 thinner than myself. He was like that (indicating). We
16 had a nickname for him, 'MCA'. That's what we
17 called him, 'MCA'. He was like a stick, and he
18 had ruddy cheeks, grey hair, gold-rimmed glasses and
19 this horrible finger.

20 Q. Indeed, in relation to his finger, I think you tell us
21 that there was a punishment which related to his finger.

22 A. Aye, oh, yeah.

23 Q. Can you tell me about that?

24 A. As soon as he done that you knew you were getting
25 a belting, or else you were getting -- something was

1 going to be happening to you.

2 Q. Did he smoke, Brother MCA?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. I think you mention in your statement that he would --

5 A. Yeah. He used to get you to kneel in front of him, and

6 these fingers, they were brown with tar, and he used to

7 tell you to put your tongue out and he would run his

8 finger right down your tongue, and you could actually

9 feel yourself wanting to vomit, and that was I would say

10 probably one of his favourite punishments, because

11 I don't know if anybody has ever had a tar finger down

12 their tongue. It's not nice. It all curls up inside.

13 Q. Am I getting the understanding from how you are

14 describing this, Alex, it's something you remember very

15 vividly?

16 A. Yeah, as I say, it's probably -- see, the beltings,

17 I don't find them as revolting as the nicotine finger.

18 I would rather have had a belting than the nicotine

19 finger, because it's absolutely disgusting. As I say,

20 your whole inside wants to come up and just come out.

21 But, again, he got gratification with it, and also there

22 was another one --

23 Q. Just sticking with that for a second, when you say he

24 got gratification from it, how were you able to tell

25 that?

1 A. You could see the smile on his face. You could just see
2 the smile on his face. You could see he was loving
3 every minute of what was happening to you, and he knew
4 exactly what was happening. He knew that there was
5 a good chance that at this time you were actually sick,
6 and he knew this and he seemed to take pleasure in it.

7 Q. Were you sometimes sick?

8 A. Oh, yeah, yeah.

9 Q. Were you sick there and then in front of him?

10 A. Sometimes, and other times I would run to the toilet and
11 I would --

12 Q. Be sick in the toilet?

13 A. Yeah.

14 But another one of the punishments was food. They
15 used to force feed you with food. I haven't eaten
16 seafood or poultry since 1961/1962. I do have a food
17 phobia, because I've been force fed things like --
18 Catholics on Friday don't get meat, you get fish, and
19 these fish were full of bones, you could feel them in
20 your throat. Chicken, bones. Stew, fat. Boiled liver,
21 like eating rubber soles. It was that bad that I used
22 to take a handkerchief in with me, and when they wasn't
23 looking I would put it in my hanky and then I would put
24 it in my pocket, and my leg would be burning, and he
25 would say, 'Oh, Boo Boo, I see you've ate that?'

1 'Yes, Brother, yes, Brother.'

2 But sometimes if he saw you were hesitating with it,
3 he would come up and help you with it, a spoon or
4 something, open your mouth and he put it in your mouth.

5 As a result of these sort of things, I have a fear
6 of some foods, and I put it down to the fact that
7 I'm scared in case there's bones in them or there's fat
8 in them or that.

9 Q. Did Brother MCA stand over you until you swallowed
10 the food?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, sometimes, if they knew you weren't good at
12 eating the food --

13 Q. Including bones?

14 A. Well, the fish, and it was a wee grey/black thing curled
15 up, and I think it was supposed to be a lemon sauce, but
16 it was more like lemon water, and that was your Friday
17 meal.

18 Q. Did anything happen if you didn't eat the food? What
19 would happen?

20 A. They would force feed you. They'd make you eat it.

21 Q. When you say force feed, would he spoon it into your
22 mouth?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Then what would happen?

25 A. I would run to the toilet and I would be sick.

1 Q. In your statement, Alex, you tell us that thinking about
2 that now makes you feel sick.

3 A. It makes me actually feel very ill. As I say, it's
4 destroyed my -- even my relationship with my wife, and
5 my friends used to want to go out for dinner.
6 I couldn't go out for dinner because I had a fear even
7 of smells of food, and I think once I was in a Chinese
8 restaurant and within minutes I had to get out of there,
9 and that was the last time me and my wife actually went
10 out as a couple. Whereas all our friends were going out
11 for Chinese, Indians, anything. I couldn't go. Even at
12 Christmas I wouldn't go for a Christmas dinner. I would
13 stay at home. They just put the fear of food into me.

14 I've actually been diagnosed, like I say, having
15 a food disorder, if you want to call it that.

16 Q. This force feeding that you are describing, Alex, which
17 Brothers were involved in that?

18 A. It was usually Benedict and MCA . They were the
19 main perpetrators out of the lot of them. MCT was
20 I think I would say -- I think MCT was his name,
21 because there was a Brother MCT , there was also
22 a Brother LOJ , but I can't remember what Approved
23 School he was attached to.

24 Q. Brother MCA and Brother Benedict, were they
25 involved in force feeding you?

1 A. Yeah, they were the main perpetrators, yeah.
2 Horrendous.

3 Q. You've told me about Brother Benedict in relation to the
4 food and also the sexual abuse in the dormitories. Did
5 Brother Benedict kick or did he assault boys?

6 A. Oh, he did it on a regular occasion. I think that was
7 his favourite pastime, kicking you, aka Bootsie, because
8 he used to run right behind you and you may be walking
9 along, as I say you weren't allowed to have your hands
10 in your pocket, and it's wee short trousers you've got
11 there, and Gartmore was quite cold, and the next minute,
12 boot, and 'argh', you would be crying. It wasn't just
13 a wee kick. It was a full, swift kick up the behind.
14 And he knew where to aim.

15 Q. You mentioned earlier that a friend of yours, I think
16 you said, told you that he had been raped by
17 Brother Benedict.

18 A. Yeah, it was proven he was raped.

19 Q. Is that something your friend told you when you were at
20 St Ninian's or something he told you later in life?

21 A. He told me in St Ninian's when we were both in
22 St Ninian's together. That's what he said, 'That
23 bastard raped me', meaning Benedict.

24 Q. Is this the boy you were telling me about who was in the
25 bed next to you?

1 A. The next bed, yeah.

2 Q. Was the boy then talking about an occasion when you
3 weren't there?

4 A. That's the one I saw it happening, basically.

5 Q. So when you were telling me that you saw
6 Brother Benedict trying to rape the boy, that boy in
7 fact told you that Brother Benedict had raped him?

8 A. Had raped him, yeah.

9 I was good friends with the boy. You tended to
10 do -- when you attended one Approved School there is
11 a good chance you would go up the ladder to a second
12 Approved School and a third Approved School, so you all
13 met up again sort of thing.

14 Q. Did this boy tell you to watch out for Brother Benedict?

15 A. No, I knew about Benedict. I was in St Ninian's before
16 him. So I knew all about Benedict. As I say, he tried
17 it on me on a couple of occasions.

18 Q. Something else you talk about in your statement is to do
19 with electricity.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Was Brother Benedict involved in a practice to do with
22 electricity?

23 A. Yeah, what it was, they gave you two wee sort of tubular
24 things, maybe about six inches long, and you would hold
25 them, and he had a battery and he'd wind it up and the

1 electricity would come through.

2 Q. Where would he do this?

3 A. Just in the sort of -- where we used to gather in the
4 morning for our parades, before we go to class and all
5 that. He would pick you out and he would wind this
6 thing up, as I say, maybe about that length, a wee --
7 tubular, and he would send electricity along it.

8 Q. So it was a machine he had and he sent electricity along
9 the machine. You were asked to hold something.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Would that be just you or other boys?

12 A. No, he done it to other boys.

13 Q. When you were doing it, would it be just yourself or
14 would there be more than one boy involved at the same
15 time?

16 A. No, when it was happening, it was happening to me
17 myself, but as soon as I had done that he would maybe
18 move on to another boy.

19 Q. So when you were holding that, Alex, what did that feel
20 like?

21 A. It was quite sore, quite honestly, but you're only a wee
22 boy, so you would feel pain a wee bit more. Nowadays it
23 wouldn't be that much, but in them days I thought it was
24 quite sore, actually.

25 Q. Was Brother Benedict saying anything to you while this

1 was happening?

2 A. No, he just, 'You just hold on to them'.

3 Q. I think you mention on one occasion that you may have

4 refused to hold --

5 A. I done it on a few occasions, but I ended up being

6 kicked the hell out of.

7 Q. Who kicked you?

8 A. Benedict. That is where his name 'Bootsie' came from.

9 We had names for nearly all the Brothers in the

10 Approved Schools. Like MCA [REDACTED] was 'MCA [REDACTED]', old

11 Anthony was (humming noise), and Benedict was 'Bootsie'.

12 LADY SMITH: Alex, did Benedict also look after a room that

13 was known as the boot room?

14 A. Yeah. This is our football room.

15 LADY SMITH: But you are saying the name 'Bootsie' didn't

16 come from that?

17 A. No, no. Oh, no, no, no, it came from the fact, my Lady,

18 the fact that he liked to kick you, and certainly it

19 didn't come from the boot room. That's where the

20 football boots were, but it wasn't that, it was ...

21 MS MACLEOD: Brother MCT [REDACTED] you have mentioned before, was

22 he involved in punishing boys?

23 A. Yeah, well, if I remember correctly, his trick was the

24 fist clasped like that and he always banged you across

25 the ear. He would just walk up right behind you,

1 unsuspecting, right across the ear, and I don't know if
2 anybody's had it across the ear like that, but it's
3 painful.

4 Q. Was there a boy who had difficulties with his ear?

5 A. Yes, it was my wee pal.

6 Q. Was that known to Brother MCT ?

7 A. Oh, they knew it, yeah. They used to have cotton in his
8 ears for some sort of treatment he was getting or
9 something like that. MCT didn't bother about that,
10 he still -- I still maintain to this day he injured the
11 boy.

12 Q. Would the boy respond? Was he hurt, was he injured?

13 A. Crying, and me and him ended up being altar boys, and
14 the old priest -- we called him 'Old RIP', rest in
15 peace, because we thought he was really old and he was
16 ready to die. We used to say the Eucharist, 'This is my
17 body', and when it came to the wine you are supposed to
18 give a wee tip, you used to tip it up. One day me and
19 wee [REDACTED] -- I'll just call him [REDACTED] -- went into the
20 sacristy and drunk a bottle of altar wine, so we got
21 fired and we got belted.

22 Q. You mentioned Mr MCK before and his involvement with
23 the ponies.

24 A. Yeah, MCK.

25 Q. Did he discipline or punish boys?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. How did he do that?

3 A. Riding crop.

4 Q. What did he do with the riding crop?

5 A. He just smacked you with it. He would just walk up
6 behind you and (noise).

7 Q. Which part of your body would he strike?

8 A. I don't think he aimed at anything in particular.
9 I think he just thought, 'As long as I get a strike
10 out', that was it. Hit it in the arms, hit it there,
11 hit it there, hit it in the legs.

12 Q. You mention in your statement you think that was
13 a delight for him.

14 A. Definitely. Definitely. He'd also delight because,
15 being from Glasgow, I wasn't used to horses, and he used
16 to put us on them and make us ride them out sort of
17 thing, and he would get great pleasure because a lot of
18 us fell off the horses, we didn't know how to ride, we
19 were only wee boys, used to fall off, ending up at the
20 nurse with broken wrists or whatever it was, sort of
21 thing.

22 Q. Were you injured from falling off?

23 A. Yeah, I was injured a few times, yeah.

24 Q. How were you able to tell that this gave delight?

25 A. Just the feeling, just looking at the man. He seemed to

1 get great pleasure in what he was doing. He liked to
2 make people suffer. I mean, he used to jump you over
3 the wee benches, and he put you on a pony and make you
4 jump with the pony. As I said, not being used to
5 horses, nine out of ten you are going to fall off
6 anyway, and that is what happened.

7 Q. Did there come a time when you were around 13, Alex,
8 when you left St Ninian's?

9 A. Yeah, roundabout 13, yeah.

10 Q. After a short while you think perhaps you went back to
11 St Ninian's for a few weeks or to Larchgrove again and
12 then to St Mary's?

13 A. St Mary's, Kenmure Drive, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.

14 Q. How old were you when you arrived at St Mary's?

15 A. I think maybe about 13.

16 Q. How long did you spend at St Mary's?

17 A. Two years. Yeah, two years.

18 Q. What kind of institution was St Mary's?

19 A. An Approved School run by the Brothers De La Salle.

20 Q. Was it a school for older children?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. What was the age range?

23 A. I would say you could stay there from maybe 13 until you
24 are 15 and then you would move on to St John's.

25 Q. Was it all boys again?

1 A. All boys, yeah. All through it was all boys.

2 Q. You say that was also run by the De La Salle Order?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What led you to that understanding that that was run by
5 the De La Salle Brothers?

6 A. Because they had the same outfits, the same colours of
7 jumpers that we had in St Ninian's. Like De La Salle
8 was grey and orange, sort of squiggly, and St Andrew's
9 was blue and white. It was all the same colours.

10 Q. So, again, St Mary's was divided up into houses?

11 A. Yeah, dormitories, yeah.

12 Q. Was it a De La Salle Brother who was in charge of
13 St Mary's?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you remember his name?

16 A. I remember a Brother HLY, and I think this is maybe
17 where Brother MBZ comes in and all.

18 Q. In your statement you mention a Brother HLY,
19 a Brother HLX and a Brother HLW?

20 A. Yes, Brother HLW was a great guy.

21 Q. He was what, sorry?

22 A. A good guy. We used to call him ' ', because all
23 he done was eat ' '.

24 Q. In relation to the building at St Mary's, you describe
25 it as a big, red sandstone building.

1 A. Yeah. The front entrance, it was quite palatial,
2 I think you would call it, and you would walk in the
3 front doors and they had a big hall and it was all
4 tiled. It was all tiled. And that's where your
5 classrooms were, and then upstairs, you went upstairs,
6 was the dormitories.

7 Q. Were there civilian staff at St Mary's?

8 A. There were civilian staff in nearly every Approved
9 School.

10 Q. Would you be willing, Alex, to look at a photograph of
11 the building?

12 A. Oh, yeah.

13 Q. If I can put that on the screen, please,
14 WIT-3-0000005605. It will come on the screen.

15 A. That's it. It's Kenmure Drive, Bishopbriggs.

16 Q. At page 1.

17 A. Yeah. That looks as though it's got overgrown foliage
18 in it there. It didn't have at that time.

19 Q. Okay. Can we try page 5, please.

20 A. That's -- I remember this pathway. I remember the
21 pathway. That is St Mary's there.

22 LADY SMITH: Are you talking about the pathway or the track
23 on the right-hand side?

24 A. The track, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. You could probably drive a vehicle

1 up there.

2 A. Yes, that is where it came from, yeah. As I say,
3 I remember it was Kenmure Drive and it was Bishopbriggs.

4 MS MACLEOD: Is that the approach to the school there?

5 A. I remember the driveway, but I thought there was maybe
6 one round the front.

7 Q. If we could look at page 6 as well, please. Another
8 photograph will come on, Alex.

9 A. That's it.

10 Q. Is that it as you remember it?

11 A. Yes, I remember, because see the gravel path, I remember
12 that.

13 Q. So that is the front of the building.

14 A. That is definitely the front of the building. Yeah,
15 it's two-storey. Yeah, that's definitely it.

16 Q. You tell us in your statement, Alex, that your memory of
17 St Mary's is getting constantly belted.

18 A. Yeah. All it was, was brutality. The least thing,
19 infringement, not doing what you're told, hands in your
20 pocket, they were all worth a belting.

21 Q. Who would do the belting?

22 A. I think it would usually be -- I think it was
23 Brother HLY . I'm sure -- Brother HLY rings
24 a bell with me. I think he was SNR , or was
25 it MBZ ?

1 Q. Which part of the body would you be hit on with the
2 belt?

3 A. Hit behind, you would get it on your hands, and if you
4 pull your hands away they would add an extra one on.

5 Q. Did you say your behind or your hands?

6 A. Aye, yeah.

7 Q. When it was your behind, was that over your clothing?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Aside from using a belt, were there other ways?

10 A. It was cuffed fist. That is one of the styles. They
11 liked to cuff you across the ear.

12 Q. You are showing me a clenched fist there.

13 A. Yes, and inward.

14 Q. On your ear, the side of your head?

15 A. On your ear, the side of your head, yeah.

16 Q. Who would do that?

17 A. Most of them. You did get a few who were decent, don't
18 get me wrong. There were certainly a few who were okay.

19 Q. A few of the Brothers?

20 A. Yeah. But the majority, no.

21 Q. The three Brothers you mention in your statement, are
22 these just three you remember? Were there other
23 Brothers as well?

24 A. I think there were more Brothers in it, but my memory of
25 St Mary's is not as clear as it is of St Ninian's and

1 just I'm as clear of St John's.

2 Q. You told me about St Ninian's and that you didn't have
3 any visits from social workers or probation officers.
4 Did you have any visits like that at St Mary's?

5 A. I don't know. I can't remember that.

6 Q. Do you remember any inspections of the school?

7 A. I think the school governors come round now and again,
8 the likes of the City Council, but as usual we were
9 shied away. We weren't allowed to speak to them.

10 Q. Did you have any understanding at the time of what they
11 were looking at or what the purpose of their visit was?

12 A. Didn't have a clue. Just thought: here's the suits
13 again, they've come to look around the school, and that
14 was it.

15 Q. Did you report what was happening to you at St Mary's to
16 anyone at the time?

17 A. As usual, my mother, [REDACTED], and I think [REDACTED]
18 went to the Social Work Department.

19 Q. Your [REDACTED]?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. To tell them?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Did anything come of that?

24 A. Nothing.

25 Q. Did you tell your aunt at one time?

1 A. Oh, my aunt [REDACTED], who was more of a mother to me than my
2 own mother, yes, and I used to go and stay with her, and
3 she used to come round and threaten [REDACTED] for
4 hitting me.

5 Q. What did you tell your aunt about St Mary's?

6 A. I just told her they kept belting you, giving you
7 beatings for nothing. You don't need to do anything to
8 get belted or banged or kicked. It just seemed to be --
9 it was like as soon as you walked by them, it was
10 an automatic hand went up.

11 Q. Did your aunt come to the school and speak to the
12 Brothers?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Were you there when she spoke to the Brothers?

15 A. Yes, I was in the office when -- I think it was
16 Brother HLY [REDACTED].

17 Q. What did she say to Brother HLY [REDACTED]?

18 A. She just said, 'Alex has been telling me what's been
19 going on here and it needs to stop.'
20 'Oh, no, no, no.'
21 My aunty [REDACTED] argued with him and says, 'He's not
22 telling me lies. He wouldn't dare to tell me lies. You
23 better put a stop to this or I'm going to see about it.'
24 But as soon as she went away, belted again. I think
25 she was the only one who really -- and [REDACTED],

1 [REDACTED], they were the only ones that really stuck up
2 for me. Oh, sorry, no, my uncle [REDACTED] and all.
3 Uncle [REDACTED].

4 Q. Did you leave St Mary's when you were 15?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Then did you move to another school?

7 A. I was out for a couple of weeks and I got put back
8 into -- I think it was called a recall, they called it,
9 and I was put into St John's, which is Edinburgh Road,
10 Glasgow.

11 Q. Is that St John's Boys' Approved School?

12 A. Yes. That is a senior Approved School. St Ninian's was
13 junior, St Mary's was intermediate and St John's was
14 senior, and that was right next door to Larchgrove.

15 Q. Who ran St John's?

16 A. De La Salle.

17 Q. Was that similar, with a De La Salle Brother in charge?

18 A. The head of the school was run by the De La Salle.

19 Q. Were there Brothers involved in the dormitory side of
20 things?

21 A. Yeah, but in St John's, I personally have nothing to
22 report. All I got -- I was in St John's a matter of
23 months, and I was put on what they call a TFF, training
24 for freedom, and I went to a local brickworks. I used
25 to go out in the morning. They'd give you your bus

1 fare, your sandwiches. You'd go to your work, come back
2 at night, and then at the weekend you would come in the
3 Friday and you would hand in your wage packet, and they
4 would take so much for your digs and they put so much
5 away for when you were being released. So --

6 Q. I think you say that in your statement, Alex, that you
7 can't complain about anything from your time there --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- and that you didn't see any abuse.

10 A. Nothing whatsoever. It was like a completely different
11 entity. They even had their own swimming pool, I think,
12 if I remember correctly.

13 Q. So having been at St Ninian's and St Mary's, was this
14 quite a change for you then, at St John's?

15 A. Oh, dramatically. It was like night and day.
16 I couldn't believe that they weren't lifting their hands
17 to you. I was waiting at any minute to get a cuff
18 across the ear, a kick. Nothing.

19 Q. Were you there for around a year?

20 A. A year.

21 Q. You were going out to work for part of that?

22 A. For about a year, yeah.

23 Q. From there, Alex, you tell us in your statement that you
24 moved to [REDACTED] house.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And met your future wife.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. After that, did you spend a bit of time in
4 an institution called Longriggend?

5 A. Yes, that was a remand unit and it was near -- just by
6 Airdrie. The address will come to me, but that was run
7 by prison officers or 'screws', as you call them.

8 Q. I think you mention that 'screws', as you call them,
9 came into your cell there and kicked and punched you.

10 A. Yeah.

11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, we are not going to look at the
12 details of that. Alex's evidence in relation to
13 Longriggend was read in, in Chapter 1, and he talks
14 about that from paragraphs 17 to 20 of his statement.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: Did you also spend some time in
17 Polmont Young Offenders Institution?

18 A. Yes. I spent four month in Polmont, and they call it
19 Ally Cally, which means you wait until -- you might go
20 to an open borstal, a semi-open borstal or else you
21 would stay in Polmont. I stayed there four month and
22 I went to Noranside.

23 Q. In relation to Polmont, I think you tell us in your
24 statement that you were again beaten by what you call
25 'screws'.

1 A. Oh, aye.

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, again, that evidence was read in as
3 part of Chapter 1 of this case study.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

5 MS MACLEOD: Sorry to interrupt you there, Alex.

6 A. No, it's okay.

7 Q. You then moved on to another institution in Kirriemuir;
8 is that right?

9 A. Yeah, that was -- it was called Noranside and it was
10 a semi-open borstal, which means that part of this
11 borstal you were sort of keyed up, but once you got on
12 TFF you went up to a unit and you had your own room,
13 your own keys and you would go out and work, come in,
14 getting wages, and they'd do the same thing: take digs
15 and put some money away for you for when you are going
16 out.

17 Q. I think you tell us that your understanding at the time
18 was you may have been moved because you were not as
19 serious an offender as some of the people at Polmont.

20 A. No, people with serious offences generally wouldn't get
21 an open, and they certainly wouldn't get a semi-open.
22 They'd be stuck in Polmont itself.

23 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the same applies to this evidence,
24 which was at paragraphs 150 to 156 of Alex's statement,
25 which was read in, in Chapter 1.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MS MACLEOD: So, Alex, we need not look at the detail of
3 that today, but that evidence is all before the
4 Inquiry --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- and has in fact already been read in in another part
7 of this case study.

8 I now want to move on to look at what you tell us
9 about your life after care and just ask you a little bit
10 about that.

11 You have mentioned already that you met your wife,
12 you had your son, I think you tell us, and you have
13 grandchildren.

14 A. Yeah, we have two grandchildren, 17-year-old and -- oh,
15 I'm dreading it -- secondary school this year.

16 Q. You also tell us about various jobs you've had in quite
17 a variety of areas.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You mention labouring, tourist guide, working in
20 a science centre, grass cutting, working in pubs, as
21 a night watchman, roofing, and that you are now retired.

22 A. Yeah. I done quite a lot. I was a manager of a pub.
23 I was a manager of a travelling person site too. I was
24 tour guide at the Maritime Museum in Irvine on two
25 occasions and I was a tour guide at the Science Centre

1 in Irvine for about eight month, before it closed down.

2 Q. Are you now retired?

3 A. No, I would take a job if I get one. No, but I'm 72,
4 I'm 73 in [REDACTED] so I suppose you could say I might be
5 able to retire.

6 Q. You tell us about the impact your time in care in the
7 institutions we have been looking at has had on your
8 life. One of the things you mention is that you hear
9 the voice of children crying.

10 A. Yeah. I hear the dormitories at night and it's the most
11 vivid I get, and it's, 'Mam, are you going to take me
12 home, I promise I won't do that again, I promise', and
13 it's quite a hard thing.

14 Q. Do you consider that to be voices from your time at
15 St Ninian's?

16 A. Definitely. It's the only place it could come from, and
17 I get flashbacks about Benedict.

18 Q. Is that flashbacks of him in the dormitory at the
19 bedsides?

20 A. The abuse and all the different things. It's not every
21 week, but sometimes it just hits you when you're not
22 expecting it. But, as I say, hearing all the wee boys
23 crying and their mums and dads not believing them. It's
24 just not right.

25 Q. You tell us in fact that you've had times where you've

1 resorted to drinking to black out those memories that
2 you have?

3 A. Yeah. I suffer from constant coughs and that is due to
4 drink, and it's short-term memory loss or something,
5 I think they call it. I know it's no reason, I know
6 it's false, but the thing is, it blacks it out.

7 Q. Towards the end of your statement, Alex, at
8 paragraph 168, you have shared with the Inquiry that you
9 in fact tried to take your own life --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- at one stage.

12 A. [REDACTED]

13 Q. We have already discussed your evidence in relation to
14 the smells of food and how that's a major trigger for
15 you.

16 A. Yeah. It's a terrible feeling.

17 Q. Something you say -- this is at paragraph 176 -- is that
18 when you were in care, aged ten years old, you were
19 meeting people who had done things like breaking into
20 houses and things like that, who were telling you about
21 money --

22 A. How you can do this and how you can do that. Me myself,
23 as I say, original mine was a breach of probation, and
24 then it was reset of two bottles of beer, and I was
25 going in here and there's young -- well, slightly older

1 than me, bragging about breaking into houses and they
2 were getting this and they were getting that. And it
3 seemed like a graduation or a step up, because at
4 St Ninian's, you would normally do St Mary's, and
5 St Mary's, there is a good chance you'd maybe do
6 St John's. It seemed like a graduation.

7 Q. Indeed, you say that if you hadn't mixed with those boys
8 at that time, you may have been a different person.

9 A. I think I would have, yeah. I think I definitely would
10 have. I'm not a bad person, but I've done things that
11 are wrong, and I agree they were wrong, but I don't
12 think it makes me a bad person.

13 Q. While you did well in school at St Ninian's in terms of
14 winning prizes and things like that, the point you make
15 here in the impact section is that because you didn't
16 get qualifications, as such, and certificates, you feel
17 that the lack of education has held you back in life.

18 A. Well, it did. When I was in the Maritime Museum, we had
19 to go to learn about tourism and food and technology in
20 Glasgow, and it was only a three-month course sort of
21 thing, and I was the oldest -- at that time I think
22 I was 39. I was the oldest member out of the people
23 from the Maritime Museum actually sitting at college,
24 and I couldn't believe it. Sitting at college at
25 39 years of age. And I got my qualifications.

1 Q. In terms of lessons to be learned, Alex, you make a few
2 points. I just want to raise a couple with you.

3 You say that people need to listen to children in
4 care when they're told that something is happening to
5 them.

6 A. Definitely.

7 Q. You say that the carers of children need to be honest
8 and better trained.

9 A. Yeah. They need to be able to spot the people who are
10 not good people in their groups, because this is what
11 happens. They know people are doing it but they won't
12 say nothing about it, and that is a big problem. Now,
13 if they came out and say -- that would sort it out, but
14 I don't know if that's ever going to happen.

15 Q. Another point you make is that you think having a group
16 of people who were independent who could speak to
17 children in care might work.

18 A. Yes. When I was in social care in the 1960s, it was
19 basically in its infancy. It's come on a long time
20 since then, but there are still things happening. There
21 is a place down my place where two of the people got ten
22 years for it, and this wasn't that long ago. So some
23 lessons just haven't been learned.

24 Q. You feel that by an independent group, somebody outwith
25 the setting, that that would be a good thing?

1 A. Yeah, definitely.

2 Q. Finally, Alex, you tell us that you think about your
3 time in care quite a lot.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You say, 'What annoys me is when I think how could
6 a grown-up person do those things to a child, it's
7 beyond me'.

8 A. I watch my wee granddaughter, I've watched her for ages,
9 and I sit and look at her and I think: how could anybody
10 harm a wee person like that? Especially a full-grown
11 adult.

12 When my son was born, I vowed I would never raise my
13 hands to him. He's 52 in [REDACTED]. I've never raised
14 my hands to him and I've never had one argument with
15 him. He's 52 years of age. I left it to his mother.

16 Q. I have been asking you a lot of questions this morning,
17 Alex. I just want to give you the opportunity now in
18 case there is anything you want to add or say before
19 your evidence is completed.

20 A. I would just like to say my honesty here is sitting here
21 right this minute, the vividness of St Ninian's haunts
22 me. St Mary's haunts me. St John's, no. Larchgrove
23 haunts me. Longriggend definitely haunts me. Polmont
24 to a certain extent, in the first four month. And
25 Noranside, no problem.

1 But I just hope people will listen to people when
2 they're saying things at that time and be investigated
3 at that time, rather than two or three years later.
4 Because a lot of evidence is away because a lot of the
5 people might be dead or something, so you've lost a lot
6 of evidence.

7 As I say, I mean, I think that social work is
8 a great idea. I myself am working with a couple of
9 groups now to help me through my sort of mental health.
10 I'm working with about four different groups and they're
11 all great and they're all independent, and I've got
12 a visitor coming tomorrow from First Tier. The guy is
13 absolutely amazing. I can sit and talk to him, no
14 problem. Whereas people who are maybe sitting in the
15 problems talk to them, the people that's around me, my
16 circle, the now. I'm quite happy with it.

17 As I say, I still get haunted by St Ninian's and
18 I still get the food phobia, still. It makes me angry.
19 Makes me think -- a problem with certain foods that are
20 probably good for me, because I was diagnosed at one
21 time -- they thought I was anorexic, then they thought
22 it was bulimia, because I think it was 17 days I didn't
23 eat a thing, and I didn't realise the state I had went
24 into until my son showed me a photo a couple of years
25 ago of me, and I was down to 7 stone 7, and I was like

1 that (indicating). He said, 'That's what you were
2 like', I went -- no recollection of it.

3 But, as I say, it's not destroyed my faith in
4 social work and things like that, because I know there's
5 good people there. It's just that they need to be alert
6 to the ones that aren't so good and let people know
7 right away, not two years from now.

8 Q. Okay, thank you very much for those thoughts, Alex.

9 A. Okay, thank you. Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I haven't received any questions for
11 Alex.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Alex, could I add my thanks, please, for everything
14 you have contributed to the work of the Inquiry. What
15 you have provided is so valuable to my learning and
16 understanding, both in terms of your written statement,
17 which is also your evidence, and what you have told me
18 today. It's really made parts of that come alive in
19 a way it wouldn't have done if you hadn't felt able to
20 come and talk here.

21 So thank you very much indeed.

22 A. I would love to say it's a pleasure to attend, but
23 I don't know if it is.

24 LADY SMITH: As I said at the beginning, I realise that it's
25 not. It's really difficult.

1 A. Thanks very much anyway.

2 LADY SMITH: I hope for you it is worthwhile, and I hope you
3 understand you have contributed to important work.

4 A. It's got something out that has been there for all these
5 years, and it was a taboo at that time, but it's not
6 taboo now. There's no taboo now.

7 LADY SMITH: No, it mustn't be.

8 A. It was a taboo, yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Alex, go home, rest and relax for the rest of
10 today. Thank you so much.

11 A. Thank you very much, my Lady.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: Before I stop for the morning break, some names
14 of people who are not to be identified outside this
15 room: Mr GIA, Mr McKenna, Mr McKinnon, Mr MCK,
16 Brothers MCA, MCT, Anthony, LOJ, HLY,
17 MBZ, HLX and HLW, whose identities are all
18 protected. Please remember that.

19 Thank you.

20 We'll have the break now and I'll sit again in about
21 a quarter of an hour.

22 (11.35 am)

23 (A short break)

24 (11.50 am)

25 LADY SMITH: Welcome back.

1 Mr MacAulay, is the next witness ready?

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant and
3 he wants to remain anonymous in giving his evidence and
4 he wants to use the pseudonym 'Derek'.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Derek' (sworn)

7 LADY SMITH: 'Derek', you found the red folder. You can use
8 that to refer to as we go through your evidence if you
9 like, you'll see it has your statement in it. We will
10 also bring parts of your statement up on screen. You
11 might find that helpful too. But you don't need to use
12 either. It's up to you.

13 'Derek', what I want is to do anything I can to make
14 the whole experience of giving evidence as comfortable
15 for you as I can. I know it's difficult to be asked to
16 talk about the things that you are going to cover in
17 your evidence and you may find it stressful. If you
18 want a break at any time, just let me know. We can
19 pause where you are or you can leave the room if you
20 want to. Or if there's anything else you want to ask
21 us, just say. You can speak up here at any time.

22 If it works for you, it will work for me, whatever
23 it is you are asking. Okay?

24 A. That's fine, yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: That is the rule.

1 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay.

2 A. I just need to put my phone on silent.

3 LADY SMITH: Please do.

4 A. I just remembered that.

5 (Pause)

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you for thinking of that, 'Derek', that's

7 very helpful. Can I hand over to Mr MacAulay now; is

8 that okay?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 Questions from Mr MacAulay

12 MR MACAULAY: Hello again, 'Derek'.

13 A. Hello.

14 Q. As Lady Smith has mentioned, you have in front of you

15 your statement in the red folder. The first thing

16 I want you to do for me is to look at the last page.

17 Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I want to read out to you what you have said in your

20 statement in the final paragraph:

21 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

22 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.'

23 Is that correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. You go on to say:

1 'I believe the facts stated in this witness
2 statement are true.'

3 Is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I just want to give, for the benefit of the transcript,
6 the reference of the statement and that is
7 WIT.001.001.5243.

8 'Derek', I don't want your full date of birth.
9 I just want to put to you the year of your birth so we
10 can get a context for your evidence. Can you confirm
11 you were born in 1954?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. You provide in your statement some background to your
14 life before you went into care, in particular about your
15 family set-up.

16 One thing you tell us for example was because of the
17 number in your family, it was a bit overcrowded in your
18 house at the time.

19 A. It was, yes.

20 Q. Indeed, you say you spent quite a bit of time with one
21 of your uncles, rather than being in your own home.

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. You also say that -- the way you've put it, and I'll
24 just read it out for you, is:

25 'My dad went for a packet of cigarettes and didn't

1 come back.'

2 A. Never seen him for 30 year.

3 Q. But you did see him later on after 30 years?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But the impact upon that in relation to your mother

6 then, what was the impact of that?

7 A. Devastating.

8 Q. She was left on her own really to bring up five

9 children?

10 A. Five.

11 Q. You also tell us in this section of your statement that

12 you started skipping school.

13 A. My spelling wasn't the greatest.

14 Q. Was that the reason --

15 A. And I knew there was a particular day that I was getting

16 spelling.

17 Q. You also tell us that when you were nine you got caught

18 stealing a bar of chocolate from Woolworths.

19 A. Yeah, that's correct.

20 Q. What happened after that?

21 A. Well, I got hell from my mother. That was one thing.

22 But I was taken by the police. I was charged with

23 a crime, and I was -- subsequently then more or less had

24 a criminal record, which my mother didn't approve of

25 anybody having that.

1 I was taken to the Edinburgh Sheriff Court, that was
2 quite daunting because it wasn't the Sheriff Court as we
3 know it now. It used to be the Sheriff Court in --
4 where the police station was at the time, was there.

5 LADY SMITH: That's just across from the cathedral, by the
6 Mercat Cross?

7 A. Yes, to the left-hand side, yes, of the cathedral.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 A. I was taken there, questioned and ... as a child,
10 I didn't know much what was going on. These people were
11 deciding what was going to happen to me or what wasn't
12 going to happen to me. All I know is I just wanted to
13 go home, you know.

14 Once I'd been to -- the background reports that
15 I had -- well, not that I had, that my mum and social
16 work were getting involved and so forth, it clearly
17 shows that my mum was not in a very good place, trying
18 to bring five people up or five children up at the time,
19 and the stress on her must have been enormous, far less
20 me doing what I did at the time. But I was hungry, and
21 hence the reason why I stole a bar of chocolate.
22 I wasn't the only one that was there on that day. There
23 were two or three of my mates from school. So we were
24 all involved, but I was the one that got caught.

25 Q. Was this the background to you being sent to

1 St Ninian's?

2 A. More or less, yeah, but I think basically it wasn't so
3 much the initial theft, because then, back in those
4 days -- I didn't know at the time, but I had heard of
5 children being taken away for not attending school.
6 I only didn't attend school because, as I said, my
7 spelling and my education, I couldn't -- I found it
8 difficult to grasp it, and I thought that that was the
9 reason why and not so much the bar of chocolate.

10 Q. I think you say in your statement that when you were in
11 court, the judge actually spoke to you to tell you why
12 you were being sent to St Ninian's.

13 A. The court order was made out to be sent to St Ninian's.

14 Q. What did the judge say to you?

15 A. It was only because I was constantly crying and I wanted
16 to go home, because I was put in cells with men that
17 I don't know, strangers and everything like that, so
18 I was constantly crying and crying and crying and
19 crying. I think then I was actually taken from there
20 to -- when the judge took me back up the stairs, I asked
21 him, 'Can I go home? All I want to do is go home.
22 I'll never do it again'. And obviously it fell on deaf
23 ears.

24 I was then taken from there to Gilmerton Remand
25 Centre, which used to be up the top where the 33 bus

1 terminus used to be, up there on the Gilmerton Road, and
2 I was there for quite some time.

3 My mum did come up and visit me up there, which
4 again was daunting because you were in a large dormitory
5 with a lot of other kids and a lot of them were either
6 older. I don't know if there were any of them any
7 younger than myself.

8 Then from there on in -- I don't know how long I was
9 there, it could possibly have been a couple of weeks
10 before I was picked up by car and taken to St Ninian's.
11 I remember passing through Stirling in the car, because
12 I seen the castle and we drove way past there. I didn't
13 know where we were going and I ended up -- and went up
14 a long driveway to what we know now is St Ninian's
15 Approved School, that's what it was called.

16 Q. Who took you there?

17 A. I honestly do not know. Like a probation officer or
18 some social worker or -- I don't know the person who
19 took me.

20 Q. At this time you are age nine; is that correct?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. That would be -- having regard to the year of your
23 birth -- around 1963.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. I think you spent about two years in St Ninian's; is

1 that right?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Which would take us to about 1965; is that roughly the

4 period you were there?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Would you have any problems looking at a photograph?

7 A. Sorry?

8 Q. Would you have any difficulty looking at a photograph?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. The first photograph I want you to look at is at

11 DLS.001.001.0151. It will come up on the screen.

12 A. That's it.

13 Q. You recognise that as St Ninian's?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. We don't know when the photograph was taken. We see the

16 main building to the forefront. Can I just ask you

17 about the building directly to the rear of the main

18 building, was that there in your time?

19 A. School block.

20 Q. That's the school block?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So that was there in your time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. We have heard about stables. Are they off to the right?

25 A. That -- I didn't know where the stables was, but I knew

1 they had ponies.

2 Q. The building then beyond what you called the school
3 block, behind that, what was that?

4 A. The one to the right-hand side on the photograph was --
5 there was a joinery shop and different learning things,
6 joinery, metalwork and so forth there.

7 As I went through my time in St Ninian's I tried
8 just to fit in, and I was one of the lead players in
9 a school play that we put on, and hence the reason why
10 I remember two names. I won't mention their names.

11 Q. Are these names of adults?

12 A. Well, they are now, yeah.

13 Q. I see, but they were boys then.

14 A. At the time they were kids, the same age as myself or
15 slightly older than myself. We were sort of the lead in
16 this play, between the three of us, and it was run by --
17 I would clearly turn round and say that he was a vicious
18 man. Can I mention his name?

19 Q. Yes, of course.

20 A. His name was Mr MCK , and I mentioned him a few times
21 in this. He was -- he's just a horrible person.

22 Q. We'll come back and look at Mr MCK . But I think you
23 are telling us about an event that you were involved in,
24 and was that something that took place in the stable
25 block?

1 A. Yeah. Well, I think -- if that is the stable block,
2 it's sort of open at one end and it just ...

3 Q. What about the building to the rear of what you call the
4 school block, the very rear, what was that?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. It may not have been there in your day, of course,
7 because if we look at another photograph, look at
8 WIT-3-0000005605, this is on page 13.

9 A. St Mary's.

10 Q. This is a sort of aerial view of St Ninian's. Can you
11 see here that the buildings in the previous photograph
12 are not there?

13 A. Yeah, I see that now.

14 Q. I think that tells us that the photographs must have
15 been taken at different points in time.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Can I then ask you to describe the accommodation in the
18 main building at St Ninian's?

19 A. In the main building, where my particular room was, when
20 the police come to interview me just recently, they
21 brought over 100 photographs of St Ninian's School and
22 they never asked me any questions, but I went through
23 every single photograph and pointed out: this was that
24 place, that was that place, this was my room, this was
25 a shower room, this was where we got changed, this was

1 the tuck shop, this was the television area. And that's
2 them not asking me. I took them through the whole
3 building and I was on the top block, and if you have
4 a look back at the photographs that you originally see,
5 if you show the original photograph that you showed me.
6 Q. So that's DLS.001.001.0151, if we have that back on the
7 screen then.
8 A. You'll notice on the top floor there's three windows in
9 the centre.
10 Q. Yes.
11 A. I was in -- that was my room, in the centre. That was
12 the window that I was looking out every morning.
13 LADY SMITH: Did those rooms have sloping ceilings? It
14 looks like it.
15 A. That I can't remember offhand, whether -- I know that
16 the windows were -- they would come down like that and
17 then down. The only thing that gave me comfort there
18 was during the summer mornings I could see Stirling
19 Castle, I could see the monument, you know.
20 MR MACAULAY: Can I ask you this then, 'Derek', who ran
21 St Ninian's?
22 A. The De La Salle Brothers.
23 Q. Are you able to tell me the names of any of the Brothers
24 who were there when you were there?
25 A. It was Brother MCA, Brother MBZ,

1 Brother Benedict, and that was another evil, evil
2 person, I think it was Brother MBU, and other ones
3 I can't recall.

4 Q. You mentioned a number of Brothers there.
5 Brother MCA, did he have a particular position when
6 you were there?

7 A. I think he was SNR

8 Q. And civilian staff?

9 A. There were civilian staff.

10 Q. You mentioned Mr MCK, were there other civilian staff?

11 A. There was a joinery teacher, and I can't remember his
12 name. A metalwork teacher, and I can't remember his
13 name either offhand.

14 Q. Again, we'll come back to look at some of these
15 individuals. I just want to look at aspects of the
16 routine at St Ninian's. In the morning, for example,
17 how were you woken up in the morning?

18 A. They used to come along the corridor and just bang on
19 the doors.

20 Q. When you say 'they' --

21 A. Well, when I say 'they', one of the -- or the night
22 watchman who looked after us or things like that,
23 because I know that Mr MCK had a room right next to
24 one of the bathrooms up there, and if he was on doing
25 the night thing, he would be up early in the morning and

1 he would go in -- there was no doors to the dormitories.

2 It was just straight, clear, no doors.

3 So he would come in and start shouting, 'Everybody
4 up, up, up'. He could actually go from one room to the
5 next without going out into the corridor.

6 Q. Apart from Mr MCK, would any Brother be involved --

7 A. Some of the Brothers. Brother Benedict, he would be
8 one.

9 Brother MBZ would be another one.

10 Brother MCA -- no, he was SNR. He was SNR
11 SNR, so he wouldn't ...

12 Q. From what you're saying, then, apart from the Brothers
13 being involved in this process, Mr MCK, who was
14 a civilian, was also involved?

15 A. Yeah, and I think that was his room, his permanent room
16 in St Ninian's.

17 Q. Just moving on to nighttime then, what were the
18 arrangements for when you were going to bed? Who would
19 supervise that?

20 A. Whenever Mr MCK wanted everybody up the stairs. It
21 wasn't a case of a set time. If we managed to get to
22 watch television and watch -- well, going back now --
23 'The Man from UNCLE', and it was something that I think
24 all the kids used to enjoy it and we just used to sit on
25 the chairs, and if Mr MCK took it to his fancy or he

1 seen the kids were enjoying themselves, he would just
2 shut the television off and tell us to go and get our
3 boots on, our wellies on and everything like that and
4 a coat. We're going for a walk. Pitch dark, pouring
5 with rain, it didn't really matter to him. He just did
6 it out of spite.

7 Q. I may come back to that, but again for going to bed,
8 would any Brother be involved in that process?

9 A. Well, there was -- obviously there was somebody for each
10 floor, and I know that Mr MCK was on the floor that
11 I was on, unfortunately.

12 Q. And the other floors?

13 A. The other floors, I never seen any other full-time
14 civilian members of staff on these floors, so I assumed
15 that they would be the Brothers, like Brother Benedict,
16 because there was a certain amount of them that would
17 be -- I don't know if they worked on a rota basis or
18 anything like that.

19 Q. What you said a moment ago about Mr MCK getting you on
20 the spur of the moment, you suggest, to go for a walk,
21 can you just tell me about that, why would that happen?

22 A. Because that was -- he just didn't like -- why would it
23 happen? We didn't know. It was either that or somebody
24 was messing around sitting watching the television. He
25 didn't like that. Everything had to be that way. That

1 way or no other way.

2 Q. Do I take it from what you're saying then that although
3 the establishment, you say, was run by the
4 De La Salle Brothers, Mr MCK also had quite
5 a prominent role to play?

6 A. Yeah. He was the guy that actually orchestrated the
7 play that I was in, and when that play was announced and
8 when they were looking for characters for that play,
9 I know that I put myself forward for that, because it
10 was -- I think it was more security, for my own safety,
11 because then you do a good job, you're rewarded in some
12 way. You're left alone, you know.

13 I don't know if you would call it becoming
14 a favourite, you know. I didn't see myself as
15 a favourite. I did put myself forward for the play,
16 I was accepted into it, and all the kids that were in
17 that play, there were only 11 of us, we put our heart
18 and soul into it. Even after we had performed the play
19 we were called 'the Haylofters', because it was up in
20 the loft, that building it was in, and it was -- we even
21 took the play to Perth Town Hall and we did it there as
22 well.

23 Q. You did it in front of various audiences?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You found that a good experience?

1 A. I found it rewarding. In my -- within myself, I enjoyed
2 doing it, you know, so I felt good about myself.

3 Q. Going back to the arrangements in the morning, for
4 washing for example, you tell us something about that
5 and brushing your teeth. Was that supervised?

6 A. By Mr MCK .

7 Q. What would happen during this supervision?

8 A. You know, can I take you back?

9 Q. Of course.

10 A. Just -- I had -- the dentist would appear at St Ninian's
11 and check X amount of children, and I got taken into the
12 dentist. There was a dentist chair there. They would
13 take you back, and they proceeded to withdraw teeth.

14 Q. I think that's later on in time.

15 A. Is it?

16 Q. I'm going to come to that.

17 A. What I'm saying is that it's relevant that Mr MCK was
18 one of these guys, because he used to have Gibbs
19 toothpaste, it was a powder or a paste that you rubbed
20 your toothbrush into, and you were made to scrub your
21 toothbrush until your gums bleed, because he would ask
22 you to spit, and if there was no blood in it, keep
23 scrubbing.

24 Q. I'm going to come on to the dental thing shortly.
25 Just generally, if we take the first early period

1 there, I think you are saying that Mr MCK did
2 supervise the morning washing and brushing of teeth of
3 the boys in his group; is that right?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. If he wasn't happy with the way you were washing or
6 brushing your teeth, did anything happen?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. What?

9 A. He had a stick and you would get hit with the stick. At
10 that point in my life there, I never got hit with
11 a stick, so I was quite fortunate at that time, washing
12 or anything like that.

13 He would just pick somebody at random and he would
14 physically abuse them or drag them by the hair and throw
15 them out into the small corridor, because his room was
16 sort of like there, the toilet was off here, with the
17 wash hand basins and so forth there, and the corridor
18 would come back a bit and then go into the first room,
19 which would then come through and come into my room and
20 so forth and so forth, and you could actually walk
21 straight along without going out into the corridor
22 again.

23 Q. If he hit somebody with the stick, was he targeting any
24 particular part of the body?

25 A. It didn't matter to him. It was just a stick. And it

1 wasn't a big stick. It was always a short --

2 Q. That looks about 18 inches, something like that?

3 A. Yeah, because there wasn't much room in that toilet to

4 fire about with a big stick.

5 Q. Did this happen on a regular basis?

6 A. Not all the time. Only when he was either upset or --

7 I don't know what his mood swings were or what was wrong

8 with him.

9 Q. The other thing you tell us in your statement is this

10 arrangement as to how you would be given toilet paper.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. Brother Benedict used to dish out the toilet paper when

14 we'd be standing in our houses. If you go back to the

15 picture, if you don't mind.

16 Q. Yes, we'll do that, if that helps.

17 A. I'll show you exactly where we used to stand and form

18 up.

19 You will see a small white hut to the left-hand

20 side.

21 Q. Oh, yes.

22 A. That hut was never there. Those windows were never

23 there at the bottom, as you can see. That was open when

24 you went straight in and the toilets were there. They

25 used to line up where that small hut is, so you would

1 have St George's House, St Andrew's's House,
2 De La Salle, St Patrick's House and so forth. So you
3 would line up. If you needed the toilet, you were given
4 two small sheets of paper to go to the toilet, and you
5 were only given X amount -- you were only given X amount
6 of time in that toilet, for one minute to two minutes,
7 and that was it. If you weren't out by that time, you
8 would either get a bucket of water thrown over the top,
9 and that was it. There was no locks on the doors.

10 Q. Who was --

11 A. Brother Benedict.

12 Q. One thing you tell us about your experience at
13 St Ninian's is -- this is at paragraph 23 -- that you
14 did develop friendships there.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. That no doubt would be important to you.

17 A. We did, because we were like a wee clique, a wee -- as
18 children do, you meet people and you form small
19 alliances between -- you know who to trust and who not
20 to trust, whether it be the person that's at your table
21 constantly, and you get to know these other three people
22 who are at your table when you're dining or when you're
23 eating your lunch or dinner at night. And two of the
24 people that I was quite friendly with ended up being two
25 people that were in the play as well. So it wasn't

1 really a decision that the three of us all took at
2 exactly the same time to go and put our names forward
3 for the play.

4 So ... yes, I did meet and we did have some friends.

5 Q. You mention being at a table and having dinner. What
6 was the food like?

7 A. Terrible.

8 Q. Was there a particular food that you had difficulty in
9 eating?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What was that?

12 A. Butter beans.

13 Q. Can you tell me what would happen?

14 A. If Mr MCK was in the dining room, if he was the one
15 that was in the dining room supervising the lunch meal,
16 because this happened -- I'm sure it was at a lunch
17 meal, I couldn't -- I just couldn't eat butter beans.
18 I would be violently sick if I did, if I felt anything
19 like that. It was just -- they were absolutely
20 disgusting. They were just boiled.

21 Q. What would happen then if you weren't eating --

22 A. I tried to pass them over on to one of the other lads to
23 see if they would eat them, and they're not too keen on
24 them either, but they managed to swallow them, but if
25 I tried to swallow them, it was just giving me -- how

1 could I say -- the 'boke', and if I remember right,
2 these beans come with black pudding, a slice of black
3 pudding. So I tried to mash them up with that and
4 everything. And because I knew that they were in the
5 with the black pudding, I still couldn't. So I took
6 some of it out my mouth and tried to hide it underneath
7 the ledge of one of the tables, and I got caught.

8 And I failed to mention before that I dropped my
9 food at one time and it had butter beans on the plate --
10 they were a great believer in giving you butter beans.
11 And I didn't mention this in my statement, and we were
12 actually forced to eat the food off the floor.

13 Q. By whom?

14 A. Mr MCK . It never happened with the Brothers. That
15 never ever happened with them. Everybody hated it when
16 Mr MCK was on meal duty.

17 Q. Did Mr MCK at any time punish you for not eating the
18 butter beans?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What did he do?

21 A. I lost my weekend home.

22 Q. Was there any physical punishment?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What was that?

25 A. To eat off the floor.

1 Q. Did he hit you at all because of your --

2 A. He dragged me down. Dragged me off the table by the
3 scruff of the neck.

4 Q. You have told us, 'Derek' -- and we have looked at the
5 photograph -- that the school building was in fact in
6 your time a separate building from the main building.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you tell me about the schooling, how did you find
9 the schooling?

10 A. Brother MBZ was -- he was a good class to go to.
11 Mr MCK wasn't. Nobody wanted to go to Mr MCK's.
12 But there was -- as I said, there was other civilian
13 teachers. Whether they lived local, I couldn't really
14 tell you.

15 Q. You say then there are civilian teachers and also
16 Brothers who are teachers?

17 A. Yes. I know that Brother MBZ was one of the teachers
18 that was definitely there. I know Mr MCK was there.
19 Whether Brother Benedict had a class, I can't remember,
20 and it's just ... The school just looked like
21 an ordinary small primary school, whereby you went up
22 a few steps, in through two doors and a corridor to the
23 left. The corridor to the right took you to a gymnasium
24 and, if I remember right, the toilets were like straight
25 ahead of you. That was ... Brother MBZ's class was

1 down the end of the corridor on the right-hand side.
2 Mr MCK 's class was directly opposite his class, and
3 nearer to the -- as you are coming back up, to the
4 left-hand side, I'm sure that was Brother Benedict's
5 class. I don't know what he taught, but it wasn't as if
6 you were swapped.

7 Q. Overall, how did you think the standard of the education
8 was that you received at St Ninian's?

9 A. Spelling was my biggest -- which I had real difficulty
10 with. I still have difficulty with it. I'm not exactly
11 the greatest speller. I've got through life the way --
12 and I've learnt a lot by using a computer in the
13 military.

14 Q. That's now, of course.

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. But then?

17 A. Then -- I mean, I must admit that Brother MBZ
18 encouraged me to start spelling, and my maths, he was --
19 he did a lot of maths, and he had a shop within the
20 classroom, which then used to have different items, but
21 they were only fake items, like small boxes of
22 cornflakes, various different items, and he used to ask
23 me to spell 'cornflakes'. Albeit I was a bit slow,
24 I got there, and I started to remember these names of
25 these things.

1 Q. From what you're saying, Brother MBZ at least was
2 helpful to you?

3 A. At that point, yeah.

4 Q. Did you receive any visits from anyone when you were at
5 St Ninian's?

6 A. No.

7 Q. I mean, for your mother, she had quite a long --

8 A. Well, for my mother to travel that distance, it was
9 virtually impossible.

10 Q. As you told us, she was in Edinburgh, she was a single
11 parent, and the distance would be very difficult to
12 overcome.

13 What about a social worker, did you receive a visit
14 from a social worker?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you have any recollection of anyone coming to inspect
17 St Ninian's?

18 A. Not offhand, no.

19 Q. There may have been a board of managers in connection
20 with St Ninian's; do you have any recollection of seeing
21 anyone who may have been from the board of managers?

22 A. You would see people coming around the school, but
23 I didn't know who they were, I don't know what they were
24 there for. So to my knowledge at that age, it was just
25 somebody else.

1 Q. Can I then take you back, 'Derek', to your encounter
2 with the dentist, because you started telling me about
3 that and I think drew you back from that, but I want to
4 ask you about it now. Can you tell me about that? This
5 is at paragraph 48 of your statement.

6 A. Yeah. The dentist -- I was taken to the dentist ...

7 Q. This was an outside dentist?

8 A. Yeah. He's not ...

9 Q. But did the dentist --

10 A. In the room, as I said, there was a dentist chair.

11 Q. But the dentist came in to St Ninian's?

12 A. Yeah. And checked my teeth and things like that.

13 Before -- I remember him taking teeth out my mouth,
14 and there was absolutely nothing wrong with my teeth.
15 Nothing. I don't know why, whether he got paid per
16 tooth that he took out, I don't know. But that would
17 have been my only thing there that I would surmise that,
18 thinking now, my head now is telling me: why would he do
19 it just for nothing?

20 Q. How many teeth did he remove?

21 A. Two. I just -- my gums -- I had no anaesthetic, there
22 was no gas, there was nothing. It was painful.

23 LADY SMITH: Can I just check, 'Derek', do you remember
24 whether these were what we call milk teeth, your first
25 teeth, or second teeth?

1 A. I think -- I -- to be honest with you, I wouldn't know.
2 I have my own children. I know how long my son's
3 teeth -- how long he had them, so it's every possibility
4 that -- whether they were milk teeth, I would surmise
5 that they would be milk teeth or things like that,
6 but -- because I always kept my teeth in good order.

7 MR MACAULAY: Did teeth grow back in the spaces where the
8 teeth had been removed?

9 A. Yes, so that's -- as I said, I would surmise that they
10 would be still my milk teeth.

11 Q. But you had no warning that these were going to be
12 removed?

13 A. No, no.

14 Q. I now want to take you to the point where you were
15 required to brush your teeth. Can you tell me about
16 that?

17 A. That was the very same night. My gums were really,
18 really sore and I was forced to scrub -- excuse me.

19 Q. Take your time.

20 A. Okay. I was forced to scrub my gums and my teeth and
21 brush and brush and brush.

22 Q. By whom?

23 A. Mr MCK . I was in agony. I was in pain. He dragged
24 me out and he made me stand in a corner, naked, down the
25 stairs, on one of the landings of the stairs, and I was

1 beaten. I was told to shut up. I was crying and I was
2 crying. Did I say I was crying? Yeah, I was crying.
3 I don't mean that in a bad way. It's just me. And it
4 was the most -- scariest night of my life.

5 Q. How long were you standing there?

6 A. That I couldn't tell you, but for a child of my age, it
7 was a long time, and it was pitch dark, and I mean dark.
8 And I had heard ghost stories about St Ninian's, about
9 the white lady going through the corridors. So, yeah,
10 I was frightened.

11 Q. Were you naked?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say you were beaten?

14 A. I was beaten with Mr MCK█'s stick that he always had.

15 Q. Where did it hit you?

16 A. On the backside, shoulders, my back, my legs.

17 Q. Did you have injuries?

18 A. Bruises. Bruises.

19 Q. Do you know why he did this to you?

20 A. Because I told him that I had teeth taken out and
21 I can't brush my gums, my teeth, but that wasn't good
22 enough. He forced me to brush my teeth, which then
23 started my gums bleeding again, so ...

24 Q. You say that was agony.

25 A. It was. My gums were swollen.

1 Q. You also tell us in your statement that, apart from this
2 happening to you, being made to stand naked in
3 a corridor, that if Mr MCK was on duty, this could
4 also happen to other boys.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Did you see that happening to other boys?

7 A. I seen him giving other boys a severe beating with the
8 stick. Not all of them would be subject to the abuse
9 that I had received that night, and I don't know what
10 time I got back to my -- to bed. It felt like --
11 because it was pitch black, it just felt so late and
12 scary. Whether he did exactly the same to other boys --
13 you could hear other boys crying, and I -- you just
14 didn't want -- if you wanted to even go to the toilet,
15 you just didn't go to the toilet until Mr MCK had went
16 into his room, and I've seen some of the lads go to the
17 toilet and tiptoe along the corridor to go to the
18 toilet, only for Mr MCK to open the door and start
19 shouting at them, abusing them, 'What's all the noise?'
20 Everything like that.

21 Q. If we look at that section of your statement, 'Derek',
22 where it is headed 'Abuse at St Ninian's', the first
23 point you make, and I want to ask you about this, is:

24 'The staff at St Ninian's didn't show any sympathy
25 towards any of the kids there. Kids would be crying.

1 I would be crying.'

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. When you talk about the staff, are you talking there
4 about Mr MCK , who you have been telling us about, and
5 the Brothers?

6 A. Yeah, and the Brothers. Brother Benedict, he was --
7 obviously we'll come on to when we go for a shower and
8 things like that. He was always there and he had a big
9 stick. If you were in there showering and doing your
10 business, what you were supposed to go into the shower
11 and do, he would just come in. It wasn't a stick. It
12 was a branch. A very -- like a whip. The branch would
13 be ... you could flick it and it would be flexible.

14 LADY SMITH: You are talking about a branch that would have
15 flexibility, something that had come off a sapling, that
16 kind of thing?

17 A. Yeah. He would walk in that shower. It was a square
18 room. I even showed the police that shower, where the
19 shower rooms were when they showed me photographs.
20 I just pointed out: that room there was a shower room,
21 and it would have eight shower heads, and the water was
22 never -- it wasn't always hot. If you were last to
23 shower, you knew you were having a cold one. And he
24 would come in and, honestly, you just got yourself out
25 of there. If you were number eight -- because he would

1 start at number one, out, out, with his stick, all the
2 way right round until he come to -- so you just got
3 yourself out. If you were number eight and you seen him
4 coming in, you got yourself out.

5 Q. You say 'he'; who is the 'he' here you are talking
6 about?

7 A. Brother Benedict.

8 Q. Was this a regular occurrence in the showers?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. These uses of the stick, did they cause injury to the
11 boys?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And to you, did you suffer?

14 A. A lot of bruises to my legs and everything like that,
15 yeah. My back.

16 Q. At paragraph 51 in your statement you mention a Brother,
17 I think the reference here is 'LOJ [REDACTED]'; is that
18 'LOJ [REDACTED]' or is that a name you remember?

19 A. Brother LOJ [REDACTED]. The name does ring a bell.

20 Q. Can you tell me about him then? What did he do?

21 A. That would be my brother, when he was in St Joseph's.

22 Q. Is this something that your brother was telling you
23 about this particular Brother?

24 A. No, but I do remember a Brother LOJ [REDACTED].

25 Q. Did you have any involvement with him?

1 A. I didn't really ... I remember that particular point.
2 That's when -- obviously kids are kids and they fall out
3 and they have arguments and they have fights, and
4 a fight broke out and so forth, and he -- which was
5 quite a scary moment, actually, because he reached over,
6 like the chairs, and grabbed the kids by the hair and
7 dragged them and threw them across the floor in the main
8 hall. It was a regular occurrence, actually, with most
9 of the Brothers. They just -- kids would be kids.

10 Q. If you were to point to the main perpetrators, who would
11 you be pointing to?

12 A. For reference to that particular incident?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Would be that Brother LOJ .

15 Q. Was he also involved in the showers?

16 A. No, Brother Benedict was the one, because he used to
17 ogle at the children in the showers.

18 Q. You also tell us, 'Derek', about a French Brother who
19 came to St Ninian's.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Can you just tell me in your own words what happened
22 with him?

23 A. He was another person who liked to go on walks, but he
24 would take small groups of boys, maybe four or five
25 boys, and I was fortunate enough to go -- or unfortunate

1 it would turn out to be later -- that I was picked to go
2 with him, and we used to go for walks into Aberfoyle and
3 headed up to or round by Loch Katrine and so forth. He
4 seemed not like the other Brothers, who could be
5 aggressive like that. He wasn't.

6 Some of the lads at Loch Katrine, we went up there,
7 we sat on the banks of Loch Katrine, and he says to us,
8 'Any of you want to go for a swim?' Well, I think we
9 all did and we went in the water. We were just in our
10 underwear. And then it was time to walk back. By the
11 time we walked back, it was getting to such and such
12 a time and nearer our mealtimes and things like that.

13 And he would take us out on another day, a different
14 way, a way up through Gartmore, and come down through
15 the bottom road and then along the front of the
16 building, heading towards Aviemore again.

17 It was just different routes that he would take
18 through the woods and things like that.

19 Q. Was there an occasion when you got back that something
20 happened?

21 A. Yeah. I was asked to take a package, because he
22 lived -- if you went back to the photograph, I would
23 show you exactly where his room was within the school
24 building.

25 Q. The photograph is back on the screen now.

1 A. Where you see the school building and you see the door
2 going in, his room was the first room on the left-hand
3 side if you were going down the corridor.

4 Q. So he's not in the main building?

5 A. No, he's not in the main building. His room was there.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. I remember Brother MBZ giving me something to take to
8 his room, and he invited me in and offered me
9 a chocolate biscuit, so I said yeah, because we had been
10 with him on a number of occasions and he seemed a not
11 bad guy. In a child's eyes, a chocolate biscuit --
12 well, you didn't see one of them very often, you know.

13 And before I knew it, he raped me. I can't put it
14 any -- anything other than that. I was raped with full
15 penetration, which I just -- I had no words for it.
16 That's basically it.

17 But on hindsight, when I look at it now, because it
18 was a friend of Brother MBZ's, and I don't know
19 whether they had collaborated together to say, 'Get him
20 to bring this parcel to my room' and blah, blah, blah.
21 If that was the case, I would say that Brother MBZ
22 orchestrated that. I couldn't prove it, but in my mind,
23 as an adult now, at nearly 70 years of age, I can turn
24 round and say: yeah, I would say that that was
25 orchestrated by Brother MBZ, because that was his

1 friend.

2 Q. Were you crying during this?

3 A. Yes.

4 Was I in pain? Yes.

5 Was it humiliating? Yes.

6 Q. What age were you?

7 A. Ten.

8 Q. Did you see him after that?

9 A. No. He was only there for a short period of time, maybe

10 two to three weeks or four weeks. I can't remember how

11 long he was there, but it wasn't -- he wasn't there

12 permanent.

13 Q. What you say in your statement is he may have been in

14 his 30s, and he wasn't a teacher, he was just visiting.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. How did you respond to this? For example, did you think

17 about reporting it to somebody?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Why not?

20 A. I don't know, I just didn't want to say anything.

21 Q. Could you report anything to anybody?

22 A. You just didn't know who to trust.

23 Q. You also tell us in your statement, 'Derek', about how

24 bed-wetters were treated. I don't think you were

25 a bed-wetter.

1 A. No, I wasn't.

2 Q. Can you tell me about how bed-wetters were treated?

3 A. There was one bed-wetter in my room, and Brother MBZ
4 used to come into the room, and if he was on night duty,
5 or whatever it may be, he would check the bed-wetters,
6 because he would lift the covers up in their beds and
7 feel while the kid was sleeping and touch them, which --
8 they knew that I wasn't a bed-wetter, but I was touched.
9 My genitals were touched.

10 Q. By whom?

11 A. Brother MBZ. I just pretended I was asleep, and
12 I never really stirred until I decided to roll over and
13 his hands were taken out from under my covers.
14 He would do other kids who were bed-wetters, to find
15 out if they had wet the bed or anything like that. If
16 you did wet the bed, well, your life was hell.

17 Q. In what way?

18 A. You were called everything. You were made to scrub
19 floors. You got the dirty jobs to do.

20 Q. You say in your statement -- this is paragraph 58 --
21 that the Brothers used to go crazy whenever boys wet
22 their beds.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You say you weren't a bed-wetter:
25 'I saw others who did.'

1 You go on to tell us about that.

2 Then you say:

3 'The boys who wet the bed had to chap the Brothers

4 or Mr MCK 's door to tell them.'

5 So would it depend on who was on duty then?

6 A. That is if the child had woken at night after wetting

7 the bed, because some children don't wake up until the

8 following morning and realise that they have wet the

9 bed.

10 Q. You go on to say:

11 'You would hear the boys who wet the beds screaming

12 because they were getting hurt after telling the

13 Brothers.'

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You heard that, did you?

16 A. Yes. You hear it and -- you heard -- within the school,

17 you heard -- there was always somebody crying within the

18 school. I don't know how many children were in the

19 school. I don't know the exact number. I never knew

20 exactly what the number was. So there was always

21 somebody going to get it, whatever it was.

22 Q. You also tell us that you saw a Brother rubbing a boy

23 who had wet the bed's face in the wet sheets?

24 A. Yes, that's right. That was the boy that was in my

25 room, who was a bed-wetter. And Brother Benedict was on

1 duty that night, or that morning, waking everybody up,
2 and he just went berserk. You could see the fear in the
3 child's face, and I didn't want to be part of that,
4 because my bed wasn't far away from his, because you
5 used to have to stand by your beds, an old army saying,
6 'Stand by your beds', and you used to have to fold your
7 covers back to halfway, and it's easily noticeable that
8 the bed was wet.

9 Brother Benedict, with his stick, would just smack
10 right across the legs and told the young lad to kneel
11 down and pushed his face into the mattress.

12 Q. Was this just one occasion this happened?

13 A. That was the only occasion that I know of, that I seen.

14 Q. I've been asking you these questions about St Ninian's,
15 'Derek'. Is there anything else you would want to tell
16 me about your experiences at St Ninian's before I move
17 on?

18 A. In hindsight, during my initial statements, and when
19 I got home and I was telling my wife -- you know,
20 I never told my wife that I was abused. I never told
21 her for 40 years, because I was so embarrassed, and it
22 was heartbreaking to tell her. It only come out in my
23 house after my brother had died and we had a few drinks
24 in the house. My sister was there, my two older
25 brothers. It was my younger brother that died. And

1 that was when the story first broke a way back. I can't
2 remember the solicitor's name, Thompson, I think from
3 Glasgow, who broke the story. And I blurted it out at
4 my dining room table, when we were sitting having
5 a drink and so forth.

6 My sister says, 'Och, it's 'Derek' exaggerating',
7 and I went, 'No, I'm not exaggerating'. She didn't
8 believe me to start with. But my brother, [REDACTED], and
9 his wife, they said, 'Yeah, I believe you', and then we
10 decided -- I decided to go to Gayfield Square Police
11 Station and report it. I was interviewed by two female
12 officers and I gave them a statement, but I had already
13 told my brother and his wife, and she was a secretary,
14 so she typed everything down that I had said, and I took
15 that statement with me and I reported it to them, and
16 I'm still trying to remember the solicitor's name that
17 broke the story originally.

18 Q. I wouldn't worry about that. You do tell us about that,
19 in fact, at paragraphs 102 and 103, about how it came
20 out that you in fact disclosed the abuse.

21 I'm thinking more about whether or not there is
22 anything else you may want to tell me about what
23 happened to you at St Ninian's that we haven't covered.
24 Are you quite happy that I move on to the next stage?

25 A. I would be quite happy if you moved on. It would be

1 much appreciated.

2 Q. Can I then take you to when you left St Ninian's.

3 I think that was in 1965; is that correct?

4 A. Yeah.

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

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You went home?

8 A. I certainly did.

9 Q. I think between being at St Ninian's and moving on to

10 another Approved School, you went to a local school.

11 A. Yes, St Anthony's Secondary School.

12 Q. What you tell us at paragraph 62 is that when you were

13 13 you and a cousin --

14 A. My cousin.

15 Q. -- went into the Scotsman's building, and I think you

16 had a particular plan that you wanted to execute.

17 A. It didn't work out.

18 Years ago, in the Evening News, I don't know if

19 anybody would remember, obviously you would probably

20 remember yourself, they used to have the spot the ball.

21 To talk about it now, it's quite funny actually, how

22 silly it was, but we decided to find the spot the ball

23 office, which we did.

24 LADY SMITH: You thought you could find the photograph that

25 had the ball in it --

1 A. Exactly. Yes, ma'am.

2 LADY SMITH: -- which had been deleted from the one that was
3 in the newspaper?

4 A. Yeah. We got caught, you know, so it wasn't a great
5 episode, that.

6 MR MACAULAY: Was that what led you then to being sent to
7 St Mary's --

8 A. St Mary's.

9 Q. -- Boys' School in Bishopbriggs?

10 A. Yeah. Yeah.

11 MR MACAULAY: That is the next little section I want to look
12 at.

13 I see it's 1 o'clock, my Lady. Perhaps it's a good
14 time to give 'Derek' a rest.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. 'Derek', there is a wee bit more that we
16 would like to take from you in evidence. It won't take
17 too long but I don't want to rush you or Mr MacAulay.
18 I think it's better we have a break, if that would work
19 for you, now.

20 A. Much appreciated.

21 LADY SMITH: I'll sit again at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

22 (1.00 pm)

23 (The luncheon adjournment)

24 (2.00 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Derek'. I hope that break

1 helped.

2 A. Yeah, much appreciated, thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: Is it okay if we get back to your evidence now?

4 A. Yes, sorry.

5 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

6 MR MACAULAY: I'm now wanting to move on, 'Derek', to

7 St Mary's Boys' School in Bishopbriggs and you begin

8 telling us about that in your statement at paragraph 63.

9 As you tell us there, you were there between the

10 ages of 13 and 15, which takes us to about 1967 to 1969,

11 is that about right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Again, it was all for boys. Did you ever form any

14 impressions as to how many boys were there?

15 A. Again, there were houses, like St Andrew's, St George's,

16 St Patrick's and so forth. I would average, a figure of

17 speech, I would average you anything between 25 to maybe

18 30 per house, and I think there was five houses.

19 Q. So possibly up to 100?

20 A. Yeah, up to about 100.

21 Q. You do tell us at paragraph 65 that you were a bit

22 older, which is correct, but also a bit wiser when you

23 went to St Mary's, and of course you had the experience

24 of St Ninian's behind you by this time.

25 A. I sort of felt a bit more easier, I felt within myself

1 a bit more confidence, owing to what happened in
2 St Ninian's, which was then going back a few years, what
3 I've learnt there from St Ninian's is just get on, do
4 it, whatever you're going to do and that's it.

5 Try and get in -- because they had work groups
6 within St Mary's, and I ended up working in
7 LYT [REDACTED]'s group, what we used to call -- his
8 nickname was 'LYT [REDACTED]' and that's -- we were called
9 'LYT [REDACTED]'s gang', because we used to get away with a bit
10 more than what normal boys would get in other gangs or
11 whatever there were, units, for gardening to joinery to
12 bakery and things like that.

13 Q. Were there about three or four boys attached to Mr LYT [REDACTED] ?

14 A. Four -- usually about four.

15 Q. I'll come back to him shortly.

16 Just looking at some of the other persons you
17 mention. At 67 you thought the headmaster's name might
18 have been Turner; is that correct?

19 A. I'm sure it was Turner.

20 Q. You describe him as a really nice guy, he was very
21 pleasant.

22 A. He was.

23 Q. Mr KDN [REDACTED], who you had some dealings with --

24 A. Issues with.

25 Q. -- he was SNR [REDACTED] ?

1 A. He certainly was.

2 Q. By this time, can we say that it really is the civilian
3 staff that are managing the establishment?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You tell us -- when you are looking at the routine --
6 there was no classroom work, it was more technical type
7 of work.

8 A. Yeah, but there was a classroom or classrooms at
9 St Mary's, and I never had much to do with them because
10 I wasn't in any of the classrooms, but I believe that
11 there was a few classrooms there.

12 Q. You weren't involved in that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You go on to tell us that your mother did come to visit
15 you, but that you never saw a social worker or
16 a probation officer when you were there.

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. If there was a board of managers involved, did you see
19 any of the managers?

20 A. Well, they all looked the same. Everybody in suits or
21 whatever it is that they wore.

22 Q. Did you see people with suits coming to look at the
23 place?

24 A. Not that I can remember.

25 Q. In relation to discipline, I think you tell us in your

1 statement that discipline was maintained by the use of
2 the cane.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Who used the cane?

5 A. There was two teachers, and I can't remember -- one of
6 them was the joinery teacher. I can't remember his
7 name. He used a -- obviously he had a cane and he would
8 use that. When we were lining up, just to get the guys
9 in order, this is like forming up in the British Army,
10 he would stand there, like, you know, "Form up", and he
11 would start using the cane then, and depending on the
12 weather as well, because he didn't like going outside.
13 So, again, for quickness he would start using the cane.

14 Q. What about Mr KDN, who you have mentioned already,
15 was he somebody who would use the cane?

16 I'm not suggesting he caned you, but --

17 A. No, he didn't cane me. Mr KDN, he was SNR
18 SNR. He had ginger hair and I -- I says to myself --
19 well, you know, going there to St Mary's, I made it
20 my -- my mindset was to not play them at their own game,
21 but not to be trodden upon by -- because I thought,
22 going to St Mary's, I thought it was going to be another
23 place like the Brothers' place, and it wasn't. It was
24 a completely different set-up and everything.

25 So as I said, I was a bit wiser, so I was trying to

1 take advantage. It didn't always work, if you
2 understand what I'm saying. My thinking and their
3 thinking were two different things.

4 Q. You do tell us about an incident when you took a swig of
5 the priest's wine.

6 A. The wine, the church wine.

7 Q. And you had some involvement with Mr KDN .

8 A. Mr KDN .

9 Q. What happened there?

10 A. He dragged me from where the chapel was, within the main
11 building, and he dragged me along the corridor, threw
12 his door open and threw me in, slapped me about and
13 pinned me up against the wall by my throat. And
14 I thought I got on all right with Mr KDN , until he
15 did that. I then -- because I used to wash his car on
16 a Sunday, just to get out of a lot of the other arduous
17 duties, you know. It was easier just to wash his car,
18 so I would make it last for the amount of time that they
19 would be doing -- or how could you put it --
20 conservatory(?), you know, just general stuff that
21 needed to be done around the school, like throwing
22 a bumper about on the floor. You would be there for
23 hours doing that, but --

24 Q. So washing the car was a very viable alternative?

25 A. It certainly was for me.

1 Q. But in relation to the occasion when he put you into his
2 room and I think he slapped you about, where did he slap
3 you?

4 A. On the face.

5 Q. Did he ask you why you took the wine?

6 A. I just told him I was thirsty, I think.

7 Q. Was that seen as a sarcastic remark?

8 A. Probably, it probably was, because, I mean -- although,
9 in saying that, I was -- I can laugh -- I can laugh at
10 it now -- I was an altar boy at St Mary's. I was also
11 an altar boy in St Ninian's. The reason why I did that
12 was to make my life a bit easier. I know I was
13 a Catholic boy, but I wasn't to the extent that I was
14 a staunch Catholic or anything like that. I took that
15 to my advantage and it made my life a bit easier within
16 that -- these parameters that were set before you. So
17 I'm saying to myself, 'If I do that, I'm not doing that.
18 I'm getting away with that, because I'm doing that', if
19 you understand what I'm saying.

20 It's got -- it's a roundabout way.

21 Q. That makes sense to me, I have to say.

22 You talk about boys being struck on the legs with
23 a cane. By this time, were the boys in long trousers?

24 A. Yes. Some of them were, some of them weren't. Some of
25 them chose, depending on weather conditions or depending

1 on what group you were in. Whereas if you were in
2 engineering and woodworking or anything like that, it
3 was always -- they actually had like boilersuits.

4 Q. At paragraph 94, you say:

5 'You did see kids getting beaten with sticks and
6 being battered over the head.'

7 You talk about one young lad being punched in the
8 stomach because he had run away.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. I just want to ask you, who was involved in that, these
11 actions?

12 A. That ... that wasn't KDN, no. It escapes me at
13 the moment. I don't think --

14 Q. So far as the boy who ran away was concerned, you do say
15 that Mr KDN was there, but you couldn't see the
16 other person. Is that --

17 A. No. Some of the lads would just disappear during the
18 night. You get up in the morning and you go to roll
19 call, if you want to call it that, or house checks, and
20 somebody is missing, or two guys are missing.

21 Q. I want to go back then to Mr LYT and one particular
22 experience you had with him. You start telling us about
23 that at paragraph 95, when you were aged 14, I think you
24 tell us.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. What you say is that you had been in the storeroom and
2 you were there with him on your own.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What happened?

5 A. It used to be maybe two of the lads would be sent in
6 there to sort the stores out, shelving, everything like
7 that, make sure that everything was in order, and
8 LYT [REDACTED] come in and told the other lad to go over to
9 the main building for some reason, and I don't know what
10 the reason was or what for. And he, if I remember
11 right, asked me if I wanted new dungarees, things like
12 that, because in LYT [REDACTED]'s group that's what we
13 would wear, painting and decorating dungarees, you had
14 engineering dungarees. So it wasn't like jeans or
15 anything like that.

16 He says, 'Here try these on', and I remember
17 stripping off to try these on, and that's when he -- he
18 came over to me and started stroking my back and my
19 bottom and everything like that.

20 From what I remember -- I'm sorry. Before I knew
21 it, I was on my knees behind the counter and he took his
22 penis out and stuck it in my mouth, and he threatened me
23 and turned round and said, 'You say a single word about
24 this and I'll have you', or along those lines.

25 Q. Did you ever tell anybody about it?

1 A. No, I did not. As I said, I was just too ashamed.

2 When you're in a boys' school like that, you find it

3 difficult to speak to other boys, even other boys,

4 because then you would be ridiculed and you would be

5 subject to abuse from the boys themselves. So it's just

6 a case of: 'Shut up, do as I say'.

7 LYT [REDACTED] was quite a heavysset guy. Quite

8 powerful within the school. I believe he had a house on

9 the grounds of the school that was built purposefully

10 for him and he stayed with his mum.

11 Q. Let's take you on then, 'Derek', to when you come to

12 leave St Mary's, and that was after your 15th birthday.

13 That would take us into about 1969.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I think you say you essentially went back to your

16 mother's.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Looking at that section where you deal with life after

19 care, you tell us about what employment you had, that

20 you got married in 1973 and that you joined the army; is

21 that right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Did you spend quite some time in the army?

24 A. 35 years. Talk about being institutionalised.

25 Q. We have looked at the section already, or you have told

1 us about the section already, under the heading
2 'Reporting of abuse', how you didn't tell your wife for
3 40 years what had happened to you, and you've told us
4 about that.

5 What I want to ask you now is what you say on
6 page 23, under the heading 'Impact'.

7 You begin by telling us, at 106:

8 'Every time I see abuse being discussed on the
9 television, it brings everything back. Just when you
10 are trying to crack on with life, there is something
11 else covered.'

12 Is that what happens to you?

13 A. Yeah, and it still happens to me. I feel and I hope
14 that I can draw a final line under it -- because I felt
15 I needed to come here, tell my story, and I can have
16 closure. My wife wouldn't understand closure now,
17 because she's got vascular dementia.

18 Q. If I can take you towards the end of your statement,
19 'Derek', at 115, that's really what you say:

20 'I think providing evidence to the Inquiry has
21 helped me get some sort of closure. It might help my
22 brother too.'

23 A. Yes, because my brother was abused in St Joseph's
24 school. I told him about the Child Abuse Inquiry and he
25 did get in touch with them and they sent him paperwork

1 and everything, but shortly after that my brother died.
2 So my sister-in-law now, she is in Shetland, she is 74
3 now, and I kept her posted as to what was happened with
4 reference to myself, and I told her -- my brother --
5 there was a representative that had went up to Shetland
6 to interview my brother, like [REDACTED] had interviewed me
7 and wrote my statement and everything down, and
8 I believed that that was all done and dusted. They sent
9 the paperwork, but my sister-in-law just doesn't know
10 what to do or who to go to or where to fill -- help fill
11 these forms out.

12 I spoke to her [REDACTED] weeks ago, because it was --
13 I think it was her birthday actually and I gave her
14 a phone and things like that, and she phoned me back to
15 tell me one of my friends in Shetland had died, and
16 I said thanks, and I asked her again, 'Have you been to
17 a solicitor in Lerwick to see about getting some help,
18 and just take the forms to a solicitor. They should
19 know what to do, because it's self-explanatory.' Like
20 what I did. I chose a solicitor to do my side of it,
21 and everything just went from there.

22 My brother was abused in St Mary's, and he was
23 abused by one of the same Brothers that was at
24 St Ninian's, Brother Benedict.

25 MR MACAULAY: Very well, 'Derek', I think you want to make

1 another statement.

2 A. I do have, ma'am, I hope you don't mind.

3 LADY SMITH: Not at all, please, when you are ready,

4 'Derek', I would very much like to hear it.

5 (Pause)

6 A. There was a [REDACTED], and when I
7 seen it, I -- everything just come back. Every horrible
8 detail come back.

9 So I started to write on this and it started off
10 just by me saying, 'Please, read my story', and I went
11 into the whole story. It only takes less than
12 a minute/a minute and 15 seconds to read it out.
13 I don't mention any names, anything like that
14 whatsoever, and I'm very courteous on it and I think
15 I'm being pretty generous with it, but I felt that
16 reading that would have actually -- would give me
17 a final closure.

18 It's called, 'Read my story in full, please':

19 'This picture brings back a whole lot of hurt and
20 bad memories, and might give you a little insight into
21 my years as a child. I was about eight/nine years of
22 age when I was sent there for skipping school.

23 'A list of things that happened to me ...'

24 (Pause)

25 'I was about eight/nine years of age when I got sent

1 there for skipping school.

2 'List of things that happened to me:

3 '(1) beaten with sticks and a whole host of other
4 implements.

5 '(2) My teeth were removed without gas, jabs, all my
6 teeth were in good condition at the time.

7 '(3) I was sexually abused on multiple occasions
8 through my time there. The details I will not go into
9 ...'

10 (Pause)

11 '... sexual abuse on multiple occasions in my time
12 there. The details I will not go into right now as it
13 brings back horrible memories to just let you know.
14 I never told my wife. I kept this to myself for
15 40 years of our marriage, only because I was too
16 embarrassed to say anything. This episode of my life,
17 it still hurts me and it still haunts me.

18 '(4) we were deprived of food sometimes. Also we
19 were forced to eat food off the floor. We were deprived
20 sleep. One time I was made to stand in the dark hours
21 for brushing my teeth properly as my gums were sore
22 after being to the butcher dentist. I was so frightened
23 in the darkness as a child. I'll leave that one for
24 your imagination.

25 'As I was in the corner I was crying, sobbing.

1 I was being hit with a stick and told to shut up. It
2 was one of the most scariest nights of my life.

3 'Some people who might read this right now, this is
4 the time in my life that still haunts me now. It never
5 leaves me. It's like a stain on my soul.

6 'Let me apologise to anyone reading this story of my
7 life as this is just a very small part of the
8 two-and-a-half bit years of my life at St Ninian's
9 School for Boys back in the 1960s.

10 'I can only apologise for the contents of this
11 story.'

12 MR MACAULAY: 'Derek', thank you very much indeed for
13 sharing that with us. I can see it's been an emotional
14 thing for you to do. Thank you for doing that and thank
15 you for coming to give evidence.

16 My Lady, I've not received any questions to put to
17 'Derek'.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 'Derek', let me add my thanks to those you have just
20 heard from Mr MacAulay. As I said at the outset,
21 I realised what we were asking you to do was difficult.
22 A. It's over and done with now, ma'am.

23 LADY SMITH: I just want to say this: in the last few
24 moments you have talked about explaining you not telling
25 your wife for 40 years because you were too embarrassed,

1 and also that you apologise for the contents of this
2 story.

3 It's not you or anybody in your position who should
4 be embarrassed, or you or anybody in your position who
5 should feel the need to apologise.

6 A. I had 301 messages with that.

7 LADY SMITH: Good.

8 A. Of support.

9 LADY SMITH: I have heard -- if it is of any comfort --
10 people in your position saying the same thing again and
11 again. The shame -- if 'shame' is the right word -- is
12 not the shame of somebody who is abused. It shouldn't
13 be. And they should not be embarrassed, and nor should
14 they feel the need to apologise. It's other people, the
15 perpetrators of abuse, who should feel ashamed and feel
16 the need, the urgent need, to apologise.

17 Thank you for being strong enough to get through
18 your evidence today.

19 A. Thank you, ma'am.

20 LADY SMITH: No doubt you're exhausted, and I'm glad early
21 in the afternoon to be able to say to you: please feel
22 free now to go, take time to get yourself together again
23 if you want to do that, but you go with my thanks for
24 what you have added to all the valuable evidence that
25 I am hearing here.

1 A. Thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: I'll take a five-minute break while we get
5 organised for the next witness.

6 Meanwhile, names again, just about all of whom you
7 have heard before, but let me repeat: the identities of
8 Mr MCK, Brothers MCA, MBZ, MBU, LOJ
9 are protected, LYT, otherwise known as LYT,
10 his identity is protected, as are Mr Turner's and
11 Mr KDN's. They're not to be identified outside
12 this room.

13 Thank you.

14 (2.31 pm)

15 (A short break)

16 (2.35 pm)

17 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
18 will give evidence using the name 'Jimmy'.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 'Jimmy' (sworn)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', a couple of things before we begin
22 your evidence.

23 First of all, that red folder has your statement in
24 it. Feel free to use that copy of your statement if you
25 find it helpful. We'll also put parts of your statement

1 up on the screen and you'll be able to look at it there
2 as well, if you want. If you want, you don't have to,
3 but if they're useful they're there for you.

4 We may or may not put up the odd photograph as well,
5 but Ms MacLeod will check with you as and when we get to
6 that stage.

7 Otherwise, 'Jimmy', help me to do anything I can
8 that would ease the burden of giving evidence and make
9 it as comfortable for you as I can. I say that knowing
10 that what we're going to ask you about isn't easy
11 subject matter and you may find it upsetting at times.
12 I get that. I do understand how difficult it is --

13 A. Excuse me just a second, please. I have forgotten my
14 glasses in the back room. They're in my jacket.
15 They're just in the pocket inside.

16 LADY SMITH: I am sure they can be collected for you, well
17 remembered.

18 I just want to try and make this comfortable, if
19 I can, because I know it's not easy and this is
20 difficult subject matter. You let me know if, for
21 example, you want a break at any time. I'll take
22 a break in any event in about 40 minutes to an hour from
23 now, but it's okay if you want a break before then. Or
24 if you have any questions, speak up, we're here to
25 explain anything that you are puzzled about, or if the

1 way we ask the questions doesn't make sense to you,
2 that's our fault, not yours if it doesn't, so you tell
3 us.
4 A. Absolutely.
5 LADY SMITH: There's your glasses. Those are your glasses,
6 are they?
7 A. They are.
8 LADY SMITH: Good.
9 If you're ready, 'Jimmy', I'll hand over to
10 Ms MacLeod and she'll take it from there. Is that okay?
11 A. All right, thank you.
12 LADY SMITH: Very well.
13 Ms MacLeod.
14 Questions from Ms MacLeod
15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
16 Good afternoon, 'Jimmy'.
17 A. Good afternoon.
18 Q. I don't need your full date of birth but, for
19 a timeframe, could you confirm that you were born in
20 1954?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Are you 69?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. You've provided a statement to the Inquiry and I'm just
25 going to give the reference of that for the transcript,

1 WIT-1-000000984.

2 'Jimmy', the copy of the statement in the red folder
3 in front of you, could you possibly turn to the final
4 page and confirm for me if you have signed that
5 statement?

6 A. Yes, I have.

7 Q. In the final paragraph, do you say:

8 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
9 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
10 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
11 true.'

12 A. Yes, absolutely, yes.

13 Q. To begin with, I would like to take you back to ask you
14 a little about your life before you went into care.

15 I think you tell us that you were brought up in
16 Dundee.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did your father become unwell?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you tell us that your mother started drinking.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You mentioned that before that, your mother had been
23 brilliant.

24 A. Yeah, yeah. She just changed for some reason. I don't
25 know why.

1 Q. And that you had had very happy family times before
2 that.

3 A. Oh, yes.

4 Q. After that, did things change?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you and your siblings have to fend for yourselves?

7 A. Basically, yes.

8 Q. I think you tell us that you have five siblings, there
9 were six children.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You say that the family was poor.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did there come a time when you and your brother started
14 stealing in order to provide food for the family?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell me a little about that?

17 A. Well, basically it would start off with maybe just bikes
18 out of garden sheds and stuff like that that we could
19 sell on, but eventually we were going into town and
20 stealing purses out of people's baskets and stuff like
21 that, and basically started doing that, which was a lot
22 more dangerous and a shame for the people that we stole
23 off as well, because they could be as poor as me.

24 Q. You say that you would buy soup and bread and things
25 like that for the family.

1 A. It was always spent on food. It wasn't for buying stuff
2 for ourselves. That wasn't the use for it.

3 Q. Was it as a result of stealing purses and that kind of
4 thing that you were caught?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did the police become involved?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you go to court?

9 A. Yes, but we were put in a remand home first, but we must
10 have went to court first to be put to the remand home.
11 I don't remember the actual procedure, how that
12 happened, but we got sent to the remand home first.

13 Q. Do you remember how old you were?

14 A. 11.

15 Q. What about your brother?

16 A. Well, he's a year older than me, so he would be 12, yes.

17 Q. That's indeed what you say in your statement, that you
18 were in the juvenile court in Dundee in 1965.

19 A. Yeah, that's right. I am sorry, we went to the court
20 first and then we were sentenced to the Approved School,
21 one to three years, and then we went to the remand home
22 to wait to be sent there.

23 Q. Do you have any recollection of the court itself, for
24 example, the process there? Were you asked any
25 questions?

1 A. I can't remember the actual -- the way the court hearing
2 went. I just remember being overwhelmed with, you know,
3 the size and the regalia and everything about it. It
4 meant to me, an 11-year-old, that I've done wrong and
5 this is the place that I'm in because of that.

6 Q. You say you were sentenced to between one to three years
7 in an Approved School.

8 A. I think that was the usual sentence for anybody that was
9 getting sent to Approved School. You had to do at least
10 one year and -- depending on your behaviour.

11 Q. How did you feel about that at the time, going to
12 an Approved School?

13 A. I just thought it was the thing to do at that time. If
14 you were a bad boy, you got sent to the bad boys' home.
15 We knew that when we went stealing but we just couldn't
16 help it. The family had to eat. As simple as that.

17 Q. You say that you were taken to St Ninian's in Gartmore.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Was your brother taken to St Joseph's in Tranent?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. If we can look at your time in St Ninian's then,
22 'Jimmy'.
23 You were 11 when you were taken to St Ninian's?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you remember the journey to St Ninian's, who took you

1 there?

2 A. No, I don't remember the journey. I'm trying to think

3 how we got there.

4 Q. Do you recall seeing the building for the first time?

5 A. The Approved School?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Oh, yes, yes.

8 Q. What is your memory of that?

9 A. The grandeur and the scariness of it, because I've never

10 seen a big building like this and it was up on the hill,

11 and it had lots of grounds round it. It just seemed: am

12 I ever going to get back from here? I just felt as if

13 I would be in there for -- without anybody helping me to

14 get out sort of thing.

15 Q. Would it be okay if I put a photograph of the building

16 on the screen?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can we please look at DLS.001.001.0151?

19 A. Yes, that is St Ninian's, yes.

20 Q. Is the main building the building to the front of the

21 photograph?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. At the bottom of the photograph?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. When you were there, were some of the buildings at the

1 back --

2 A. When was this photo taken? Because it looks -- there

3 looks more at the back there than there was when I was

4 there.

5 Q. There are more buildings at the back there, are there,

6 than when you were there?

7 A. I would say so, yeah.

8 Q. If we concentrate on the main building of St Ninian's,

9 the one in the bottom half of the photograph, is that

10 St Ninian's, the building, pretty much as you remember

11 it?

12 A. Yeah, it certainly looks like it, yeah. I remember you

13 came up to the main drive.

14 Q. Do you remember who the first person you met was when

15 you arrived at St Ninian's?

16 A. No, I don't. I'm sorry.

17 Q. Who was in charge of St Ninian's?

18 A. Brother MCA was SNR, but he was very

19 seldom seen, and if you were to get punished, you were

20 never taken in front of him. It was done singularly

21 from whoever Brother was there.

22 Q. We'll come to look at punishments in a few moments.

23 You mention Brother MCA. What was your

24 impression at the time of -- was there a particular

25 organisation or who ran St Ninian's?

1 A. It didn't look like there was anybody that actually ran
2 it, because two of the Brothers, particularly, were very
3 violent and so they didn't -- they maybe run on the side
4 sort of thing, you know, but Brother MCA was
5 supposed to be SNR . But, as I say,
6 I can't remember. I can't remember him speaking to any
7 of the boys for any wrongdoing or speaking to any of the
8 Brothers that they were too heavy-handed, so I think he
9 was just SNR by name.

10 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me that officially he seemed to
11 be SNR of everybody else working there,
12 but it was the everybody else that was doing the work?

13 A. Sorry, no, he wasn't even SNR of any work
14 party or anything, he was seen wandering the grounds now
15 and again, but I don't think I ever spoke to him.

16 LADY SMITH: What made you think he was SNR ?

17 A. Just the other Brothers and the boys knew it. They said
18 that Brother MCA was SNR . I know certainly
19 none of the other Brothers were.

20 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

21 MS MACLEOD: How many boys roughly were at St Ninian's when
22 you were there?

23 A. Well, there were four houses, De La Salle, Andrew's,
24 I think it was George -- anyway, there was about 25 in
25 each house, so 100/120 people.

1 Q. You were 11. What was the age range of the boys?
2 A. Up to 15, 11 to 15.
3 Q. You have mentioned Brother MCA. Can you remember
4 the names of any of the other Brothers who were there?
5 A. Yes, there was Brother MCN, Brother HGB,
6 Brother MBU, Brother MBZ, Brother Anthony,
7 Brother MCA, who was SNR, Brother --
8 there was a French Brother, Brother MCP, that came on
9 later in my time, but I never knew much of him.
10 There has got to be other Brothers.
11 Brother MCT as well.
12 Q. If we just look at some of these Brothers and see if you
13 can remember what their role was. If not, that's
14 absolutely fine.
15 Brother MBU, what was his role?
16 A. He was the teacher in senior A, he was my teacher.
17 Q. Brother MCN?
18 A. I can't remember if he was actually in one of the
19 classes. I don't think so. He was -- sort of his role
20 was maybe taking the boys out or watching them at play
21 and mealtimes, stuff like that.
22 Q. Brother HGB?
23 A. I think he was the teacher in inter B, but he also done
24 what Brother MCN done, you know, showers and all
25 that stuff. There 24 hours anyway.

1 Q. They were what, sorry?

2 A. I'm saying all the Brothers were there 24 hours, so they
3 would take things on at night as well.

4 Q. Okay. Brother MCT ?

5 A. He was a teacher in senior B, and again he probably
6 would be watching the kids at recreation or whatever.
7 They all done that. They all took turns.

8 Q. Brother MBZ ?

9 A. Brother MBZ , I think was inter A. I can't be certain
10 about that, but I think he was. I think he was
11 a teacher in inter A, which is just up from the juniors.

12 Q. You mentioned Brother MCP as well.

13 A. He just came quite shortly before I left, so I never
14 seen him actually doing anything apart from walking
15 about the grounds and maybe recreation. I think he was
16 just on a loan period or a transfer period.

17 Q. You have mentioned the Brothers being there 24/7. Were
18 the Brothers involved in things, for example, like
19 making sure the boys went to bed at night?

20 A. Oh, yeah. There were Brothers there all night. There
21 was always a Brother coming in and out of the dormitory.

22 Q. During the night?

23 A. Oh, yes.

24 Q. What about the morning, getting boys up and ready in the
25 morning, were the Brothers involved in supervising that

1 kind of thing?

2 A. Yeah, there were no civilians at all apart from one,
3 Mr MCK .

4 Q. What was his role?

5 A. He was -- he owned ponies and he was basically the pony
6 ... but he also was a teacher in the juniors.

7 Q. You mention in your statement that there were two
8 Brothers who stuck out for you as being both cruel and
9 violent Brothers.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you tell me who those Brothers were?

12 A. Brother MCN and Brother HGB .

13 Q. Indeed, you say they were responsible for most of the
14 beatings that you remember.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If we look at Brother MCN first of all, can you
17 tell me a little about him and what leads you to the
18 description of him as cruel and violent?

19 A. Well, he was just a very violent man and the school was
20 supposed to be about recreation -- no, sorry, not
21 recreation, but rehabilitation and, you know, but it was
22 just domination and subjugation. All they done was --
23 MCN was ideal for that, so if anybody spoke out of
24 turn in a simple setting, even just coming out for the
25 football or something, he would immediately lash into

1 them physically and make sure that it just wasn't done.
2 That was regularly all the time.

3 Q. When you say 'lash into them physically', what were the
4 sort of things that he did?

5 A. He didn't kick or physically punch you or anything, it
6 was just like put you down completely until you were --
7 you couldn't move and ...

8 Q. You are raising your hand there, 'Jimmy'. Can you
9 describe for me what he was doing?

10 A. Well, he just hit you over the face or anything. You
11 felt the pain and you went down and he'd keep on hitting
12 you.

13 Q. With his hand?

14 A. No, with the belt or a cane.

15 Brother **HGB** used the cane rather than the belt.

16 Q. Brother **MCN**, did he carry a belt?

17 A. Oh, yeah. I don't know if they all carried the belt but
18 **MCN** certainly did.

19 Q. Which part of the body would he --

20 A. The nearest part, anywhere.

21 Q. Was this something that happened to you?

22 A. Oh, yeah. I think I was probably making a joke or
23 something, (inaudible), you know, just speaking and
24 laughing and he spotted it and just came over and
25 started lashing out as well. He done it quite often in

1 the dining room. You weren't allowed to give away food
2 at the table or accept food. It could have been because
3 of the case of bullying, you know, because a bigger guy
4 could say, 'I want that', but if you were caught doing
5 that, immediately you got banged (inaudible), wherever
6 it was. I hated blancmange and I had to put it in my
7 pocket every time that we got blancmange, things like
8 that. Even the mealtimes were scary because you didn't
9 know who -- and he wouldn't care if he smacked the
10 person next to you innocently, he would just wade in
11 and ...

12 Q. Again, was that the belt he was using there?

13 A. Leather tawse, yeah.

14 Q. Was it usually over people's clothes that he hit them
15 with the belt?

16 A. Yes, I've got to say that, but we had shorts on all the
17 time, so your neck and your face and your legs were
18 uncovered and ...

19 Q. Did you have bruises as a result?

20 A. Oh, yeah.

21 Q. What about Brother HGB?

22 A. He was very sadistic. If he picked on a boy, that was
23 it, he would just keep going until he had taken all his
24 thingy away.

25 Q. If Brother HGB was going to pick on a boy, what did

1 he do to the boy?

2 A. Straight away he would bring them out and ridicule them
3 right down, and then again it would be the cane, and if
4 for any reason he felt you weren't getting enough, he
5 would then again lay into the boy. Not original, you
6 know, but if he thought he was getting any cheek or
7 anything, he would just lash out as well.

8 Q. Was that with the cane?

9 A. With a cane, yeah.

10 Q. Did he carry a cane?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did Brother HGB use the cane on you?

13 A. No, I don't think so. He may have. I really can't
14 remember if he did on me, but I don't think so.
15 Certainly close and roundabout.

16 Q. How often did he use the cane? Was it on a daily basis?

17 A. Oh, yes, definitely, on a daily basis. Brother HGB
18 and Brother MCN were assaulting boys every day.

19 Q. You tell us in your statement that both of these
20 Brothers would randomly lay into someone for no reason.

21 A. Yes, sometimes, just to keep the position going that
22 they were above us and you were less than them.

23 Q. What you say is it was all about having absolute
24 control, it was such a brutal regime.

25 A. Yes, that's exactly what it was for.

1 Q. What are your memories of the atmosphere in St Ninian's
2 then?

3 A. Well, the boys that were there, they came from bleak
4 environments and poor households, so they were very
5 strong, you know, they had their own kind of strength,
6 and between the boys there was the same fun, laughter
7 and conversation that you would have in any other
8 school. But as soon as the Brothers appeared, it was
9 just -- you know, there was no life or anything in the
10 boys, just head down and quietly.

11 Q. You have told us in particular about those two Brothers,
12 MCN and HGB. You mention in your statement
13 there were some Brothers who were nice and kind.

14 A. Absolutely, yeah.

15 Q. Which Brothers are you thinking of there, 'Jimmy'?

16 A. Well, my Brother -- my teacher in senior A,
17 Brother MBU, he was a very gentle man and he gave me
18 a lot of education. He taught me a lot before I went to
19 the secondary school.

20 And Brother MBZ, he was only a young man. When he
21 would take us out on the expedition on a Sunday, he
22 would sing Irish rebel songs in the front of the bus,
23 but he was cheery and joyful, he took us out for walks
24 up the hill and that. There were certainly some good
25 points in the place.

1 But what annoys me is that these Brothers witnessed
2 this and didn't go forward to help, so to me they're
3 equally as guilty as the cruel Brothers.

4 Q. You are referring there to the Brothers who were kind
5 and nice, that they witnessed what the other Brothers
6 were doing to boys?

7 A. Oh, yes, definitely, and they never done anything about
8 it. So you lost a bit of respect for them, even
9 although they were kind to us.

10 Q. You mentioned the teaching from Brother MBU there
11 and you do talk about the education at St Ninian's in
12 your statement. How did you find the education that you
13 got there?

14 A. Very minimal. Especially for the boys that weren't that
15 well educated before they went in.

16 For instance, juniors, inter B and maybe inter A,
17 they weren't getting taught much, they weren't getting
18 put any further forward because they never had the
19 capability of moving up. If they were stuck there, it
20 was very basic education. I don't think they got much.

21 Up in senior A, the boys that were -- a bit more
22 chance of learning, they got a good education, or
23 educated well.

24 Q. Is that the class you were in?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Speaking personally from your own education, how did you
2 find the schooling at St Ninian's for yourself?

3 A. Certainly adequate, yes.

4 Q. Did you have any visits from social workers, probation
5 officers, anything like that --

6 A. Not one.

7 Q. -- coming to you see you?

8 A. Not one, not even my parents, never had a visit.

9 Q. More generally, do you recall anyone coming to visit or
10 inspect the school as a whole?

11 A. No, I can't. There may have been inspections, but
12 I can't remember one. It may have been when the boys
13 weren't there or whatever.

14 Q. Did some boys at St Ninian's wet the bed?

15 A. Oh, yes.

16 Q. Did you wet the bed?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Those boys who did wet the bed, how were they treated?

19 A. Treated like criminals. They were made to stand up in
20 front of all the other boys and the Brother would make
21 a big stinging conversation about how weak they are and
22 stuff like that, and basically it was such a shame, even
23 for people that didn't wet the bed. They knew that same
24 guy was going to get pulled up every single morning.
25 And he did every morning.

1 Q. Was there a particular Brother who was involved in that
2 practice?

3 A. Again, it would be HGB or MCN, because I never
4 really seen a lot of the Brothers being so violent.
5 I never remember Brother MBU lifting his belt to
6 anybody, certainly not in the classroom.

7 Q. You say the food at St Ninian's was fine, you found it
8 okay.

9 A. It was all right, yeah.

10 Q. Did you ever see incidents in the dining room that
11 concerned you?

12 A. Yes. There was a boy at my table that couldn't eat
13 porridge. He just couldn't eat it. So usually got away
14 with -- what I done, put it in my pocket in a hanky, but
15 he got caught one morning and Brother MCN said,
16 'Eat it'. And he said, 'I can't eat it. I'll be sick'.
17 He said, 'I don't care, eat it'.

18 So the boy tried to eat it and vomited on to his
19 plate, and he said ... the Brother said, 'Eat it', and
20 he had to eat every bit of porridge and the vomit, and
21 he kept on vomiting, but he was made to eat everything
22 on the plate.

23 Q. Did you ever run away from St Ninian's?

24 A. Yes. We ran -- we just hid -- we didn't know where we
25 were going, myself and three other boys, and we headed

1 towards Glasgow, and we had no food or anything, you
2 know, and the age we were, it was going to take us
3 a long time to walk to Glasgow. So we were living on
4 just water from nearby streams and turnips. It was
5 wintertime, so there were turnips in the fields and
6 stuff like that.

7 When we got there, it was quite dark and we were
8 starving, so there was a wee shop, and there was -- it
9 was like a wee grocer's shop, so we put a brick through
10 the window and got a packet of Jaffa Cakes, that's what
11 we got, we got two-and-a-half Jaffa Cakes each, and very
12 shortly after we found a builder's lorry, just because
13 it was cold, and we got a shelter for the night, and
14 once we were there about two hours, the police shone the
15 torch in and took us to some police station in Glasgow.

16 Q. So you got to Glasgow?

17 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. We got to Glasgow and smashed the shop
18 and stole a packet of biscuits, and then we went into
19 a builder's lorry and very soon the police found us.

20 Q. Did the police ask you why you had run away from
21 St Ninian's?

22 A. No, no. They were never interested in anything. It was
23 quite common for the boys from any Approved Schools to
24 go missing. To them it was just a regular thing.

25 Q. Were you taken back to St Ninian's?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did anything happen on your return?

3 A. Well, I was told by a couple of the older boys -- there
4 wasn't much absconding. I would have thought they'd be
5 away all the time, but one of the older boys told me
6 that the penalty for absconding was quite horrendous.
7 I said, 'What like?'
8 He says, 'They'll come and see you in the middle of
9 the night.'
10 So months later, I would say two or three months --
11 and he also says, 'You'll never know when it's coming.
12 It might be tomorrow night. It might be six months from
13 now'. It's just to keep you aware.
14 One night the Brothers came in and said, 'Come on,
15 HGA, come with us ...'
16 Q. Which Brother was that, do you remember?
17 A. I really don't remember. I was still half sleeping and
18 I just seen the Brother leaning over. But when he took
19 me out, there was a big sort of -- there was a second
20 floor and there was a big sort of passage. You could
21 look down to the whole floor below, so it was just
22 round -- and there was a big throne at the side of it,
23 and the Brothers all had their faces covered. There
24 were about four or five of them.
25 They pulled my nightshirt up, you know, just so my

1 bare buttocks were showing, and they made me lie like
2 that on the chair, and two Brothers held my hand to the
3 chair and the other three Brothers just took a line and
4 kept running at me until basically I just went
5 unconscious. I just keeled over. I can't remember it
6 finishing, but I went unconscious and they put me into
7 bed and basically that was it. I was not taken to the
8 matron or anything. Just put back into bed.

9 Q. So, 'Jimmy', you were taken out of bed by a Brother --
10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- and taken to somewhere else on the same floor where
12 there was a chair like a throne?
13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were you asked to lean forward on the chair?
15 A. Yes. Put my body on the chair and sort of lie forward
16 with my buttocks in the air, you know, with my back end
17 up in the air.

18 Q. And you were held down?
19 A. Yes, with two hands.

20 Q. Then --
21 A. The other Brothers took a line and they would run up and
22 give you an almighty skelp and then go to the back --
23 Q. With a belt?
24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Were they taking turns about to belt you?

1 A. Yes, until I went unconscious. It must have been about
2 three or four times each of them had a turn and then it
3 was too much.

4 Q. What was the next thing you remember then?

5 A. Getting wakened up the next morning.

6 Q. In bed?

7 A. Yeah. They had taken me back to bed obviously.

8 Q. I think you tell us there were marks all over your legs
9 and backside after that.

10 A. Oh, yeah. But that was nothing unusual because a lot of
11 the boys, a good percentage of them, had either old belt
12 marks or new ones on their legs. It was quite common.

13 Q. That experience you have told us about there, did that
14 happen once or more than once to you?

15 A. More than once, because I ran away three times. I was
16 just against the whole system and I would have kept
17 running away until they had to send me home.

18 Q. For each of the times you ran away, did that happen?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you remember any of the Brothers' names that were
21 involved in that, on any occasion?

22 A. If I said I do, it would be wrong, because their faces
23 were covered.

24 Q. That's fine.

25 A. I would say it's probably the general Brothers that were

1 there, because they wouldn't bring anybody else in.

2 It's probably a good proportion of the Brothers that
3 were actually there, because five Brothers came in.

4 LADY SMITH: Were you able to tell what it was they had over
5 their faces?

6 A. It was just -- not like a hood thing, it was -- they
7 could see through it, but it wasn't nothing special.
8 I don't know why they would even do that, because to me
9 they wouldn't be able -- it would be exactly the same if
10 you had made a complaint about the Brothers doing
11 anything. There was nobody -- who are you going to
12 tell? You couldn't tell any of the other Brothers,
13 because they are not interested. The police, I had told
14 the police why we ran away in Glasgow. Not interested.
15 And basically that was it, nobody would listen to us.

16 Even if I said it to my mum and dad -- I never ever
17 got home leave, but if I had have, they would have just
18 said, 'You're a bad boy, that's why you're in the bad
19 boys' school, it might make you a bit better'.

20 So that was just the environment and society at the
21 time.

22 MS MACLEOD: Was there a woodwork teacher at St Ninian's?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was that a Mr McKerna?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You tell us that he had a practice that concerned you.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. When any boy done something wrong, it wouldn't have to

5 be anything serious, you know, just laughing or maybe

6 lifting a tool the wrong way or something like that, he

7 would say, 'Come out to the front', and he would have

8 you bent over a chair -- well, over his knee. He was in

9 the chair and bent over his knee. We had shorts on, you

10 know, and usually loose, baggy khaki shorts. You would

11 pull the leg down to cover your bum, but then even at

12 that time your Y fronts and that would come through and

13 sometimes your penis would show, but he thought it was

14 better if he got that because then he would start

15 smacking your bum until it was really red, but you seen

16 his face getting redder and redder, and it was really

17 uncomfortable, even me at 11 year old, I knew there was

18 something wrong. He would keep going and then

19 eventually he would just stop, you know, and go -- his

20 face would go all flushed, and then, 'Go back to your

21 thing'. So this happened a lot to other boys as well.

22 He had really bulging eyes like he had Graves'

23 disease or something like that. He was quite scary.

24 But the woodwork part he was all right, but just that,

25 what he done, that was definitely -- I felt it was

1 wrong, even at 11 year old.

2 Q. You say in your statement that he was getting really
3 intimate.

4 A. Oh, yes. When his hand's at you, his fingers would go
5 where they shouldn't go. It wasn't sort of direct. It
6 would just get more and more sort of --

7 Q. Where would his fingers go?

8 A. Right up your shorts, you know.

9 Q. Was there a Brother Benedict at St Ninian's when you
10 were there?

11 A. Yes. He was always laughing and a jolly man. I never
12 seen him hitting anybody, but he always -- anybody --
13 boy that worked in the boot room was always the
14 youngest, most babyish looking boy. There were some
15 kids in there, nine/ten, so he always had a young boy,
16 and every time you seen him with anybody, he had the boy
17 sitting on his knee and he was always, you know,
18 laughing and joking and playing him up on the knee.

19 Then again it was very like Mr McKenna, you know, he
20 just went red in the face and eventually stopped doing
21 it, but everybody that worked for Brother Benedict had
22 said that he was dodgy. I don't know.

23 Q. When you say everybody who had worked for him, what does
24 that --

25 A. Anybody that had been the boot boy before. I could only

1 remember one young boy that was there while I was there.

2 Q. When you say the 'boot boy', can you explain what that
3 was?

4 A. Well, just helping Brother Benedict. Brother Benedict
5 ran the boot store for everybody's boots for going out
6 and that and he done it -- so there was a younger boy
7 usually to do all the labouring, moving the stuff about
8 and that.

9 Q. So was there a boy assigned to do that?

10 A. Oh, yes, yeah. I remember he was smaller than me. He
11 was only about nine/ten, and he wasn't definitely old
12 enough to understand stuff and he probably shouldn't
13 have even been there at that age.

14 Q. Was that a boy that you saw sitting on
15 Brother Benedict's knee?

16 A. Oh, yeah. If you would walk through the boot room you
17 would see him sitting there quite a lot, just dandling
18 him on his knee.

19 Q. You mentioned there that some of the boys who had worked
20 for him in the boot room -- did you hear things?

21 A. It was only hearsay, you know, that a lot of the guys
22 say that Brother Benedict -- we called him 'Bootsie'
23 because he worked in the boot room -- was dodgy and that
24 he would be -- if you worked there -- don't go near him
25 individually with nobody else there, because he would

1 probably interfere with you.

2 As I say, that was only hearsay, but we seen it sort
3 of -- not absolutely seen the whole thing, but you just
4 knew, even at that age, what was going on. I can't say
5 I ever witnessed it personally, but I've no doubt that
6 that's what happened.

7 Q. Was there a punishment at St Ninian's whereby boys were
8 asked to stand outside?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In the cold?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you explain that to me?

13 A. In the pictures, you see down on the lawn there was
14 a sort of big field and there was trees and that, and if
15 you had run away as well, they would -- this would be
16 after you had just come back. The other punishment, you
17 had to wait on it. Well, yes, they would stand you in
18 the field with just your underpants on when the other
19 boys were doing their recreation in the outside yard.

20 But if it started raining, the boys would maybe go
21 in, but you would still be left there with one Brother
22 underneath the tree just watching you. And it was
23 really so wrong, you know, physically for young kids,
24 most of them were half starved anyway, and standing out
25 there in the rain could have affected them for life.

1 I think it affected me, anyway.

2 Q. That was going to be my next question: did you have to
3 stand out there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. On how many occasions do you think you had to stand out
6 there in the cold?

7 A. Three times, each time I absconded.

8 Q. For roughly how long each time?

9 A. Normally it would be the length of recreation time,
10 maybe half an hour or an hour, but it depended on maybe
11 how the Brother felt or -- it could be longer, it could
12 be an afternoon standing there, it depended. But the
13 rain didn't stop them. You could stand there in the
14 rain naked ... almost naked.

15 Q. Did you ever report to anyone while you were at
16 St Ninian's the things that were happening in the
17 school?

18 A. No.

19 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', who gave that punishment where boys
20 had to stand outside in the cold and rain?

21 A. Sorry, who gave it?

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 A. We don't know. We don't know who gave the order,
24 because whoever was in charge of the recreation at the
25 time, he would tell you to go and stand there, but

1 I don't know if it was the school's policy or what.

2 LADY SMITH: So you don't remember it just being one of them
3 who punished boys that way?

4 A. Oh, no. It would be whoever -- yeah, it was just
5 something like -- whoever was in charge at the time
6 would carry out the punishment.

7 LADY SMITH: I suppose from where you have told me it took
8 place, anybody and everybody there would be able to see
9 it; is that right?

10 A. Oh, yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 A. It was like you were being made a point of principle:
13 don't run away because that's what you get.

14 MS MACLEOD: After about a year-and-a-half or so of being in
15 St Ninian's, did you get sick, 'Jimmy'?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you get sick quite suddenly?

18 A. Yes, fairly suddenly, yeah.

19 Q. Were you in the sick room or the sick bay at
20 St Ninian's?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. After some time, were you told that you could go home?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you say this was the first time you had been
25 released since you'd been at St Ninian's.

1 A. Yeah, never had a home visit or anything.

2 Q. While you were at home, did you in fact collapse?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you then become very ill and have to go into
5 hospital?

6 A. Yes, with rheumatic fever, and I became paralysed from
7 the waist down, and it was months and months in
8 Maryfield Hospital to sort of be able to walk again. It
9 was quite a while.

10 Q. While you were in hospital you tell us that St Ninian's
11 released you from their care.

12 A. Yes, for no reason. Not for being a good scholar or
13 anything like that. It was just sort of: right, you can
14 go home now.

15 Q. You were about 12-and-a-half at that time?

16 A. Yeah, 12-and-a-half, nearly 13, somewhere about there.

17 Q. That illness and time in your life, do you wonder about
18 attributing that to any of the treatment that you
19 received while you were at St Ninian's?

20 A. Absolutely. I've got to say that when I was five I had
21 rheumatic fever and I was in Dundee Royal Infirmary for
22 a good six months, maybe longer, but they must have
23 known my medical history, so to put me out in the rain,
24 with a nearly bare body, was absolutely culpable. Just
25 terrible. Because I had been out in the rain I think

1 I had contracted rheumatic fever again and it paralysed
2 me.

3 So, yes, I blame them, because they must have known.
4 They must have your medical records. But there was no
5 exclusion for anybody. It doesn't matter how ill you
6 were. If you ran away, you were down in the field.

7 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'm now moving on to a different part
8 of 'Jimmy's' evidence, so it may be a convenient time to
9 break.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', if it would work for you, I'll take
11 the afternoon break now, we will have five or ten
12 minutes, and then finish your evidence after that. Is
13 that okay?

14 A. Yes. Thank you.

15 (3.24 pm)

16 (A short break)

17 (3.35 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Jimmy'. Is it okay if we carry
19 on with the questions?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Ms MacLeod, when you're ready.

23 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

24 Hello, 'Jimmy'.

25 You told us earlier that when you went to

1 St Ninian's your brother, who was a couple of years
2 older than you, went to St Joseph's?

3 A. Yes, saying that, why would they send two brothers
4 separate places, you know? We were the same age, we
5 would have been allowed in the same -- obviously their
6 practice, but it's strange.

7 Q. So there were boys at St Ninian's who were your
8 brother's age?

9 A. Oh, yes, because it was 11 until about maybe 14 or 15,
10 you know.

11 Q. You say in your statement that your brother told you
12 some things about St Joseph's.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Are you able to tell me any of that?

15 A. I know that they done the thing with going down in the
16 rain, down naked, if you had run away, but generally it
17 was very similar, I would say. He never told me too
18 much about it, but when I told him about St Ninian's, he
19 says it was much the same at St Joseph's. That's all
20 I could say about that.

21 Q. Before the break you gave evidence about when you were
22 unwell and you were in hospital.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Once you got better and were again at home, did there
25 come a time when you were again caught doing something

1 that you shouldn't have been and ended up being taken in
2 by the police?

3 A. Yes, because when I was released from St Ninian's, my
4 father was getting worse. He wasn't able to work, and
5 my mum had been drinking and that again. Just basically
6 started the same thing, you know, stealing purses or
7 whatever, just to feed the family and, yes, I got sent
8 to a senior Approved School. I think that would be
9 about 1969, so maybe two years/a year-and-a-half after
10 I had been released from St Ninian's.

11 Q. Was the school you were taken to at that time called
12 St John's?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Where was St John's?

15 A. In Springboig in Glasgow, Springboig Road.

16 Q. Who **SNR** St John's?

17 A. Mr **HGC**, he was an Englishman, ex-rugby player.

18 Q. Were the De La Salle Brothers involved in St John's?

19 A. No, they were civilians.

20 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement, 'Jimmy', is
21 that apart from one incident, which you do tell us
22 about, you weren't abused at St John's.

23 A. As I said, if you acted like a young man, you would be
24 treated accordingly, you know, so there was that. And
25 I never seen a lot of violence at all at that school.

1 Q. That single incident you tell us about, did that relate
2 to the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1970?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did something happen at the Commonwealth Games?

5 A. Yes. There was a bus full of us went to the
6 Commonwealth Games and it was really enjoyable, I liked
7 it. At the end, when they played the National Anthem,
8 I've always been anti-monarchist, I don't know whether
9 it's a Catholic thing or no, but I refused to stand up,
10 and I wanted -- it was deliberate, because I wanted to
11 invoke a debate about the monarchy and about should it
12 still be here. But when we got back home Mr HGC
13 says, 'HGA', come here', and he took me into this
14 room I had never seen, like a cell, and he just -- I was
15 7.5 stone, and he must have been about 18 stone,
16 ex-rugby player, and he absolutely battered me round the
17 room. Not with a belt, just physically, just punching
18 us and kicking us and just -- until he says, 'You never
19 ever embarrass me like that again'. That was it.

20 Never got any medical treatment or anything.

21 Q. In terms of the teaching at St John's, I think you tell
22 us that was good.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Indeed, you tell us that you asked if you could sit
25 O-Levels while you were at St John's.

1 A. Yes, and they said it had never been done in an Approved
2 School, and I said, 'Well, we could write to the
3 Scottish Education Service and ask if it could be done',
4 and they did and we got it.

5 Q. You tell us that you think you were one of the first, if
6 not the first, to sit O-Levels in an Approved School?

7 A. I think so, because if the headmaster had said it's not
8 been done, I accepted that. I'm not absolutely sure,
9 but, yeah.

10 Q. Did you pass your O-Levels?

11 A. There were four of us that sat them, it was English and
12 arithmetic, and I passed both. The other three boys
13 I think passed one each. They never got the two, but,
14 yeah.

15 Q. Indeed, you say you were very proud of achieving your
16 O-Levels they way you did.

17 A. Yes, absolutely. I wasn't going to get them at
18 secondary school in Dundee, so at least I got that.

19 Q. I would now like to move on, 'Jimmy', to your life after
20 care, and I think you tell us that you left St John's
21 when you were 15; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You tell us that by that time your father had died.

24 A. Yes, just after I got home, yeah.

25 Q. And that your mother was still drinking at that time.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. You say that you got some work and spent some time in
3 borstal training and then had various jobs, and then got
4 married and had children.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you now have grandchildren as well.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Moving on then to the impact you tell us that your time
9 in care has had on you. One thing you say, 'Jimmy', is
10 you still have nightmares about St Ninian's?

11 A. Yes. It's just random. Maybe if I'm having money
12 worries or family worries or anything, and then
13 I'm lying at night, and the wife says to me, 'You are
14 waking up screaming about Brothers and stuff like that',
15 so it's obviously dreaming about St Ninian's. It
16 doesn't happen regularly, but it still does happen.

17 Q. And you say that you have problems with authority.

18 A. Oh, yes, because of that. This was supposed to be
19 authority helping you, and right through until I was 15,
20 it's never been that. It's caused me to be very aware
21 of authority. I'm not anti-authority, but I don't just
22 take authority as its name, as what it stands for. It's
23 the person I want to know first before I'll accept
24 anything like that.

25 Q. You reflect that your own experiences as a child, it

1 keeps your own family closer now.

2 A. Yes. It also -- I never know whether to be too severe
3 with them, because I don't want them to get into
4 trouble, or because I was treated badly, I want to be
5 really good to them and spoil them. So it's always in
6 between there. So the kids really don't know which
7 'Jimmy' they're going to see, you know what I mean.

8 Q. In terms of education, 'Jimmy', you have told us about
9 some of the education at St Ninian's and St John's, but
10 you feel that, in general, your education was completely
11 broken up, including your time in hospital.

12 A. Oh, yes. I think I would have went on to further
13 education if I'd stayed in Dundee, definitely, but it
14 wasn't to be.

15 Q. In terms of lessons that you think could possibly be
16 learnt, towards the end of your statement you say that
17 having an adviser involved from a place outwith where
18 the children are staying.

19 A. Absolutely. Somebody that's neutral, you know. Not
20 having to answer to the Catholic Church.

21 Q. And that supervision from an outside --

22 A. Yes. There was nobody that came in there that asked
23 about any problems or anything. There may have been
24 visitors once a year looking about, but I can't remember
25 anybody coming to speak to the boys or anything.

1 Q. You say that they were getting away with obscene cruelty
2 at St Ninian's.

3 A. Absolutely.

4 Q. And that a lot of people suffered needlessly and never
5 heard an explanation.

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. At the very end of your statement you make some comments
8 about religious people looking after children.

9 A. Yes. I would say generally it should -- certainly no
10 people that are unmarried or don't know anything about
11 children, they've no real experience with children --
12 I'm not just saying every teacher should be married, but
13 certainly it was so wrong, you know, that all these
14 Brothers that really didn't understand the world, they
15 didn't, and were in charge of all these unruly, wild
16 kids.

17 Q. 'Jimmy', I've been asking you a lot of questions this
18 afternoon. I just want to give you the opportunity to
19 ask you if there's anything you would like to add to
20 what we have been talking about?

21 A. It's just that -- it's just not being able to understand
22 it at the time. Really, kids like me that were just
23 trying to do the best they can for their family, it made
24 it worse, you know. It just put everybody -- people
25 that were in there -- against the whole system, and it

1 just seems to be taking so long to work it out, to
2 actually -- somebody asking questions about it. It's
3 strange to me that, I don't know, the establishment
4 didn't bother at that time, you know.

5 Because people did complain, but it was never ever
6 found out or somebody looking into it. They just didn't
7 do it. And, again, it has changed my ways of bringing
8 up my children as well. As I say, it's topsy-turvy,
9 I never know what to do.

10 It will certainly stay with me, you know, as long as
11 I live. But I believe that I'm not guilty, you know, so
12 it is the people that are guilty should be ashamed and
13 embarrassed, but not me. Basically, that is it.

14 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Jimmy', for those comments and for
15 coming to give your evidence today.

16 My Lady, I don't have any questions I've received to
17 put to 'Jimmy'.

18 LADY SMITH: Could I add my thanks. I'm really grateful to
19 you for coming along this afternoon. Of course I have
20 your statement already and that is evidence from you,
21 but you've made so much of it come alive by being here
22 and helping me really understand what it felt like in
23 that time that you were just a child getting into
24 trouble for understandable reasons at the time, and you
25 ended up, as you have explained, in a terrible

1 situation.

2 I hope you can now go feeling that you have
3 contributed something very important to the work of this
4 Inquiry, because I can assure you you have.

5 A. I'm absolutely over the moon that it's being looked into
6 now. I never thought it would be in my lifetime, so
7 I'm glad to at least change the future of the people who
8 are in care homes or whatever.

9 LADY SMITH: Good.

10 Go home, safe journey, and I hope you have a more
11 relaxing evening that you have had a day.

12 Thank you very much.

13 A. Thank you very much.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 LADY SMITH: Just before I forget, names again, some of them
16 you've heard already, the names of people with
17 identities who cannot be disclosed outside this room as
18 having been referred to in our evidence, and we have
19 Brothers MCA, MBU, MCN, HGB,
20 MCT, MBZ, Anthony, MCP, Mr MCK, Mr McKenna
21 and Mr HGC. I think that's everybody from this
22 afternoon.

23 Ms MacLeod.

24 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the oral evidence for
25 today. We do have a read-in that we could read in. It

1 will take about half an hour to read it into the
2 transcript, or we could hold it over for tomorrow. We
3 have two oral witnesses tomorrow.

4 LADY SMITH: I think we should hold it over for tomorrow, we
5 may have time to do it then. Thank you very much.

6 I'll rise until tomorrow morning, when we'll sit at
7 10 o'clock for the first oral evidence from a witness
8 who will be here in person, I think.

9 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 (3.50 pm)

12 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
13 on Friday, 12 January 2024)

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