

Friday, 12 January 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3

(Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.05 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome to the last day this
6 week of evidence in the second chapter of Phase 8 of our
7 case study looking into residential accommodation for
8 young offenders and children and young persons in need
9 of care and protection.

10 We have two witnesses in person today. I think the
11 first one is ready to give evidence, is that right,
12 Mr MacAulay?

13 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady, that is the case.
14 The first witness is an applicant and he wants to remain
15 anonymous and he wants to use the pseudonym 'Joseph'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Joseph' (sworn)

18 LADY SMITH: We do need to hear you through the sound
19 system, and particularly the stenographers listen to you
20 through the sound system so it's important that you keep
21 in the right position there.

22 A couple of other things before we start your
23 evidence, 'Joseph'.

24 You'll see there is a red folder on the desk there.
25 It has your statement in it, the one you signed. You

1 may find it helpful to refer to that at times, it's up
2 to you. We'll also bring it up on the screen. You'll
3 see it there on that screen on the desk in front of you,
4 so again if you want to use that feel free to do so.

5 Otherwise, 'Joseph', I want you to understand that
6 I need you to help me to do anything that will help you
7 to give your evidence as comfortably as you can. I know
8 the material we're going to talk about isn't easy and it
9 may be distressing.

10 And that's okay, I'm well used to that and I do
11 understand. You may just want to pause at some point,
12 you may want a break, if you do, let me know. I can
13 accommodate that. If it works for you, it will work for
14 me. Is that okay?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: If you have any questions, don't hesitate to
17 speak up. If, for example, you don't understand what
18 we're asking you, that's our fault not yours and we'll
19 try and explain it better.

20 If you're ready, 'Joseph', I'll hand over to
21 Mr MacAulay and he'll take it from there. Is that okay?

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

24 Questions from Mr MacAulay

25 MR MACAULAY: Good morning, 'Joseph'.

1 A. Good morning, Colin.

2 Q. The first thing I want you to do is to turn to the final
3 page of your statement, the last page. Can you confirm
4 that you have signed the statement?

5 A. Pardon?

6 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. If you look at the last paragraph, paragraph 113, do you
9 say there:

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

12 Is that correct?

13 A. That's correct, yeah.

14 Q. Do you go on to say:

15 'I believe the facts stated in this witness
16 statement are true.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. For the benefit of the transcript I want to give the
19 reference of the statement -- this doesn't concern
20 you -- it's WIT.001.003.0744.

21 'Joseph', because you want to remain anonymous
22 I don't want your date of birth, but to get a context
23 for your evidence, can you confirm that you were born in
24 the year 1951?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You begin in your statement by telling us about your
2 life before you went into care. In particular, you tell
3 us about your family background. You are from a large
4 family, is that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. I think you tell us that you were the oldest of nine
7 children?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You also tell us that your mother was Spanish --

10 A. Yes, correct, yes.

11 Q. -- and I think your father was of Italian descent?

12 A. The same, yes.

13 Q. You tell us in fact that you were born in Gibraltar?

14 A. I was born in Gibraltar.

15 Q. How did that come about?

16 A. My father was in the Royal Artillery and he met my
17 mother, my mother come from La Linea, that is just
18 across the border from Gibraltar in Spain and she worked
19 in Gibraltar, that is where my father met her. And
20 that's where I was born, in the military hospital.

21 Q. After your father was demobbed, did the family then come
22 back to Scotland?

23 A. Yeah, when I was nine months old.

24 Q. Can you tell me a little about your family as you were
25 growing up and you certainly say in your statement your

1 father was a heavy drinker?

2 A. Yes, he was.

3 Q. How did that impact upon his relationship with you in
4 particular?

5 A. It was very traumatic, because I was physically abused
6 by my father and my mother as well, you know, and my
7 mother couldn't speak English and I spoke Spanish until
8 I was about six years of age through my mother and when
9 I went to school I learnt how to speak English and from
10 that -- from what I can remember, when I was six years
11 of age I was just beaten all the time really, you know.

12 Q. You say that your mother also suffered?

13 A. Yeah, my mother suffered as well.

14 Q. Did the fact that you were speaking Spanish impact upon
15 that?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Your father wasn't happy with that?

18 A. I don't think he was very happy about that. But my dad
19 did speak Spanish to my mother, you know.

20 Q. Did he call you names?

21 A. Yeah, he called me 'the Gibraltarian bastard', that was
22 my name.

23 Q. When you went to school, did you also have some problems
24 at school?

25 A. Yeah, because through getting assaulted all the time,

1 you know, it affected my schooling. But I was pretty
2 clever in the junior school. I was about third in the
3 class most times, you know, through doing maths and
4 English. When it came to my Eleven Plus, you know,
5 I didn't manage to do that because of the abuse I was
6 receiving, you know, and the torment and things just
7 escalated from there.

8 Q. Was there a particular teacher that you had a problem
9 with?

10 A. Yeah, Mr [REDACTED].

11 Q. What was the problem there?

12 A. Well, he was ex-army and he lived just round the corner
13 from where I lived and I don't think he particularly
14 liked my dad, you know, and probably I was tarnished
15 with the same brush, you know. And I was always getting
16 the strap off him, you know, and things like that.

17 Q. You had the problems at home and you had the problems in
18 school?

19 A. Yes, and that's why I didn't go to school sometimes and
20 got up to mischief and things like that.

21 Q. You also tell us that because of your family
22 circumstances with such a large family, your father
23 wasn't able to provide for you all?

24 A. But he always made sure there was food on the table, you
25 know, and because he was a cook in the army really, you

1 know, and I always remember that.

2 Q. Did you in a sense also see yourself as a breadwinner
3 for the family?

4 A. Yes, I did, yeah.

5 Q. What did you do in that context?

6 A. Well, there used to be -- when I was young there used to
7 be a coal bin about two miles from where I lived and
8 I used to go there and bag coal up and sell it to my
9 neighbours and things like that, you know, try to make
10 ends meet and things like that and I was a milk boy, you
11 know, and I used to sell briquettes and things like
12 that, you know, I was always active in that sort of
13 sense, you know, trying to help my mother and things
14 like that, you know.

15 Q. You did get into trouble with the police?

16 A. Yeah, I got into trouble with the police. I got -- the
17 first conviction I got was a ten pound fine for throwing
18 a firework.

19 Q. The things that you are doing, the way you put it in
20 your statement in relation to the trouble you got into:
21 'it was never for violence, it was just for things
22 I did for survival.'

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. That is your position?

25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. Against that background, did you end up going to
2 Larchgrove Remand Home?

3 A. Yes, when I was about nine I think it was. I think
4 I've been there twice.

5 Q. You tell us that you went more than once. There may not
6 have been much of a gap between the two times?

7 A. No.

8 Q. In your statement, certainly what you tell us that you
9 may have been between seven and nine when you went to
10 Larchgrove?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. If that's the case then you are probably there around
13 1958/1959, does that fit in with your recollection?

14 A. Yeah, around about that time.

15 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about it? First of all,
16 you say it was all boys at Larchgrove.

17 A. It was all boys, sure.

18 Q. Can you say at the times you were there how many boys
19 might have been there?

20 A. I think there was about, I don't know, maybe 200 maybe.
21 I can't put a figure on that, you know.

22 Q. You were very young at the time, so that's
23 understandable.

24 A. I know there was about ten in the dorm or something like
25 that, you know.

1 Q. Were you one of the youngest?

2 A. No. I was very young.

3 Q. What was the age range then?

4 A. It was up to 12 or something like that, I'm not sure.

5 I think it was up to about 11 years of age or so.

6 Q. You tell us you can't remember the names of any of the

7 staff members?

8 A. Can't remember any of the names of the staff.

9 Q. Can you look at a photograph for me? Do you mind doing

10 that? Are you quite happy to look at photographs?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It will come on the screen and this one is

13 WIT-3-0000005605.

14 Do you recognise the building in the photograph?

15 No, you don't, because that's St Mary's that we are

16 going to come to. Sorry about that. I've jumped ahead

17 of myself.

18 You do recognise the building as St Mary's, do you?

19 A. Is that St Mary's? Yes.

20 Q. I'll come back to that.

21 A. I thought it was Larchgrove you were on about.

22 Q. We don't have a photograph of Larchgrove, unfortunately.

23 Can you tell me then about the routine? What was

24 the first thing that happened to you when you went to

25 Larchgrove?

1 A. The first thing that happened to me, well, they deloused
2 you.

3 Q. What did that involve?

4 A. They get some yellow solution and put it all over you to
5 delouse you and then when I first went there you got
6 your kits you know. And you were shown the dormitory
7 which you were -- things like that. You were shown
8 about the place. The square where we used to do our
9 exercise. It was like a prison yard, you know.

10 Q. Were you given any advice as to how you should behave?

11 A. No. The only advice they gave you was a clip around the
12 ear.

13 Q. What you say in your statement, at paragraph 14, if you
14 have that close to hand:

15 'The first thing [as you told us] you would be
16 deloused. You were then taken to the gym and told that
17 you only spoke when you are spoken to.'

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you remember being told that?

20 A. Yes. That happened in St Mary's as well. When you were
21 having your dinner and having your breakfast and things
22 like that.

23 Q. Was the regime much of a muchness every day?

24 A. It was just the same routine every day.

25 Q. In relation to the sleeping arrangements then, you have

1 talked about that already --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- you were in a dormitory, is that right?

4 A. In a dormitory, yeah.

5 Q. How many would be in your dormitory?

6 A. I think maybe 12 or so.

7 Q. Same age or different age range?

8 A. Different age.

9 Q. You also say that you had cleaning duties, you had

10 chores, you had to do some cleaning?

11 A. Yeah. We had to clean the hallways with the bumper,

12 like a sweeper that you bump the floors with. You know.

13 Q. You also had classes, you went to school?

14 A. Yeah, went to school, yeah.

15 Q. Are you able to say what impact you think --

16 A. In the classroom the first time I went to the classroom

17 there was a boy there and he jumped through the window.

18 It was one storey up, smashed right the window. That

19 was traumatising for a start. People tried to escape

20 all the time.

21 Q. Did you try to escape?

22 A. Yes, no, no, no, no.

23 Q. Looking back, what was your feelings at the time in

24 being there?

25 A. The feel of being there is being assaulted, because in

1 there it's the same as St Mary's and every institution,
2 there were different gangs from different areas of the
3 city, you know, put into a melting pot and some come
4 from Maryhill, some came from the Gorbals, some come
5 from different areas of the town. Some were rivals and
6 things like that and you had to be very wary what you
7 were doing, you know.

8 LADY SMITH: Did you consider yourself, 'Joseph', as part of
9 a gang or were you on the outside of the gangs?

10 A. I was never in a gang, Lady Smith.

11 LADY SMITH: What you are talking about is being aware of
12 among the other boys being some groups who were from
13 gangs in different parts of Glasgow?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: That was difficult?

16 A. Yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR MACAULAY: Just looking at the schooling aspects of it,
19 did you consider that being at Larchgrove interrupted
20 your schooling?

21 A. It definitely did, because it was like a stigma when
22 I went back to school.

23 Q. Insofar as visits were concerned, did your parents come
24 to visit you at Larchgrove?

25 A. I can't recall.

1 Q. Do you have any recollection of any inspectors coming to
2 the place?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Or any other officials?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You have talked about running away, did you think about
7 running away?

8 A. I think every child thought about running away from that
9 situation.

10 Q. What was the thinking process? What was the situation
11 that you wanted to run away from?

12 A. A regime, you know. I just wanted to -- freedom really,
13 you know. I was always a free-spirited boy when
14 I was -- you know and to be locked up, nobody wants
15 that, do they?

16 Q. What you say at paragraph 29 is that you thought about
17 running away but you never tried to do that?

18 A. No. It's pretty difficult to do it really, because
19 there were big, high walls you know and the only way you
20 could do it was like that lad done in the classroom, was
21 jump through and smash through the window, you know.

22 Q. What you say there is:

23 'I remember seeing kids who were traumatised ...'

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. '... trying to climb the walls or break windows because

1 boys were trying to escape.'.

2 So you witnessed that?

3 A. Yes. I didn't try do that.

4 Q. You saw that?

5 A. Yes, I did. That did traumatise me.

6 Q. The incident you tell us about the boy who I think you

7 tell us he was screaming and he threw himself out the

8 window?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did he actually go out the window?

11 A. Yes, he landed outside, yeah.

12 Q. Was this a window on the first floor?

13 A. First floor, yeah.

14 Q. Was he injured?

15 A. I don't know, because he ran away.

16 Q. You have a section in your statement, 'Joseph', at the

17 beginning of paragraph 31, and the heading here is

18 'Abuse'. You begin by telling us the discipline in

19 Larchgrove was strict?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that?

22 A. You had to go to the gym, you know, and play sorts of

23 different -- violent games like 'murder ball'. If

24 you've ever heard of that you know where --

25 LADY SMITH: I've heard quite a lot about 'murder ball',

1 tell me what your experience of it was.

2 A. You had like to fight for survival, you know, and you
3 had to -- if you didn't, you know -- if you were weak --
4 it was quite traumatic. You had to do it really, you
5 know.

6 LADY SMITH: What was the ball like?

7 A. It was like a medicine ball.

8 LADY SMITH: Really heavy?

9 A. Really heavy. You had to get it from one end to the
10 another end, you know, and you got children that side,
11 children that side and --

12 LADY SMITH: You've got two teams?

13 A. Yeah. You were actually fighting with each other, you
14 know, to get --

15 LADY SMITH: Did you run with the ball in your hands?

16 A. Yeah. You run with the ball. You get the ball and you
17 run with the ball and they all attack you to get the
18 ball.

19 LADY SMITH: And throw it to other boys in your team?

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Okay.

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: Were there any rules?

24 A. No rules at all, free for all.

25 LADY SMITH: Did people get hurt?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Were some people afraid of the game?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: What you say in paragraph 31 is that

6 Larchgrove was a place of dread and fear.

7 A. Yes. That was my assumption, yes.

8 Q. That was your sense at the time, was it?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Were you fearful when you were there?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Why was that?

13 A. When you are a child it's hard to explain, you know, and

14 you are taken away from your siblings, your mother and

15 that, and to go to a place like that and to be chastised

16 all the time, you know, and to be -- it's not right

17 really, you know.

18 Q. Were you yourself ever physically abused when you were

19 there?

20 A. Physically abused, yeah. You had to stand up for

21 yourself, you know.

22 Q. What happened to you?

23 A. It was just, you know, like a sort of bullying things,

24 like people slapping you and people sticking their head

25 in you and things like that, you know.

1 Q. You are talking there about other boys?

2 A. Yeah. Like I was saying to Lady Smith about this
3 'murder ball', things like that, perhaps you did get
4 your aggression out and things like that, you know.

5 Q. Were you ever physically abused by any member of staff?

6 A. Physically abused by -- no, not that I recall. I think,
7 you know, they did give you, you know, chastise you and
8 slapped you and pulled your ear and pulled your hair and
9 things like that if you did anything out of order, you
10 know.

11 Q. What about other boys?

12 A. I tried to keep myself to myself, you know, because it's
13 no use being rebellious about it, is there?

14 Q. What about other boys, did you see if other boys were
15 hit?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Can you tell us about that?

18 A. Some boys didn't conform to it, you know, and they just
19 got -- they just didn't like the regime really.

20 Q. What happened to them?

21 A. I couldn't -- I don't know. I don't know.

22 Q. What you say in your statement is, at paragraph 32:
23 'There was physical and emotional abuse though.
24 I remember seeing kids get hammered by staff.'

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. 'I saw kids being dragged about by their hair.'

2 You witnessed that?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Because it happened to me as well, you know.

5 Q. Pardon?

6 A. It happened to me, getting dragged by the hair and

7 slapped about and that, you know.

8 Q. What you say at paragraph 33, perhaps I should read this

9 out:

10 'By the time I started going to Larchgrove, I had

11 already got used to being traumatised because of the

12 experiences I was having at home.'

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You had that background?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. 'I was used to not speaking unless I was spoken to and

17 being battered by adults.'

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. 'I was used to blanking things out when things happened

20 to me.'

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Was that a sort of form of protection, if you like, when

23 you went to Larchgrove?

24 A. It was, you know. Another thing, my father was a boxer

25 in the army and he also -- he taught me how to box, you

1 know, well, I had to, you know, because he was always --
2 and so that did, you know, come in handy, gave me a bit
3 of self-confidence you know against the aggressors, you
4 know.

5 Q. I think you indicated that you had been to Larchgrove
6 more than once?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But was it the same regime on each occasion?

9 A. Yes, the same.

10 Q. You would spend about a month in Larchgrove?

11 A. Twenty-eight days' detention. It was the detention, it
12 says it all really, you know.

13 Q. When you had completed your stint in Larchgrove, did you
14 then go back home?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Again, did you go back to the same environment?

17 A. I went back to the same environment, yes.

18 Q. That's the same home environment?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What about school?

21 A. School, yeah. I went back to school, but in school, you
22 know, I was physically abused by the teacher.

23 Q. Is this the same teacher as before?

24 A. Same teacher.

25 Q. You end up going to St Mary's, Kenmure and I just want

1 to look at how that came to happen. Can you tell me
2 what happened that led to you going to St Mary's?

3 A. Well, what happened was through the abuse I got from my
4 father, you know, I got probation, I got into some
5 trouble. I can't recall it. But I got probation and
6 I must have broken the probation, you know, because
7 I actually -- how can I say it -- my home wasn't stable
8 enough for me really, you know, so I was always out
9 getting up to mischief, but I didn't do any serious
10 things. And then my mother went -- I went to court and
11 my mother -- she had a discussion with a boy or
12 something like that, she told a lawyer about my father
13 and things like that, you know, and he said it would be
14 better if I went away, you know.

15 Q. I'll come to that, 'Joseph', but there is an incident
16 I want to ask you about, because you talk about it in
17 your statement. I think we may have heard about this
18 before. It's in paragraph 38 of your statement, where
19 you are out I think cutting firewood with a hatchet?

20 A. Yeah, with my brother. My brother, he was cutting
21 firewood and -- with a hatchet, yeah, which we used
22 firewood to light the fire, so he was doing that and
23 I took it off him and there was this police officer who
24 was the beat officer in my area, took it off me and
25 blah, blah, and I went to court and that was it.

1 Q. Was that part of the background then to you being sent
2 to St Mary's?
3 A. I think it was.
4 Q. The Inquiry has some records in connection with that and
5 it would appear that you were admitted to St Mary's on
6 [REDACTED] 1965, which would mean you would be about
7 14. In statement I think you thought you may have been
8 12, but according to the records you may have been 14?
9 A. Yeah, could be.
10 Q. It's very difficult to remember these things.
11 A. Yes, it is.
12 Q. I think, as we know, the De La Salle Order was involved
13 with St Mary's?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Who ran the establishment?
16 A. De La Salle Brothers.
17 Q. Was it all boys who were there?
18 A. It was all boys, yeah.
19 Q. The age range of the boys here then?
20 A. The age range, I don't know, maybe 11 to 15.
21 Q. You describe it as a big mansion and this is when
22 I should put the photograph to you. That is the
23 photograph I mentioned before, WIT-3-0000005605. It
24 will come back on the screen. Just have a careful look
25 at it.

1 That's not the one, page 6.

2 A. It looks like the one.

3 Q. Do you recognise the building?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. It's a substantial building?

6 A. It is, yeah.

7 Q. Did that house the accommodation?

8 A. Yeah. It should be the dormitory there.

9 Q. Were the dormitories in the main building?

10 A. In the main building. It was very draconian really, if

11 that's the word, like going back to Victorian times.

12 Q. We don't know when that photograph was taking, or indeed

13 this next photograph that I want to put on screen,

14 page 7, if you just look at this photograph.

15 That is described as being a dormitory at St Mary's

16 School, does that ring any bells with you?

17 A. Yes, it does.

18 Q. Is that the sort of style of dormitory?

19 A. That was the style, yeah.

20 Q. We're looking at rows of beds?

21 A. Rows of beds.

22 Q. Quite a number?

23 A. Yes. Yeah it is, yes.

24 LADY SMITH: No other furniture at all? Just rows of beds,

25 tightly packed --

1 A. Tightly packed together, yes.

2 LADY SMITH: -- that was all you had?

3 A. That's all we had. There was no locker or anything like

4 that, you know.

5 LADY SMITH: What about your clothes, where were they?

6 A. Pardon.

7 LADY SMITH: Your clothes, where did you put them at night?

8 A. We hardly had any clothes, you know. Maybe under the

9 bed or something like that, I don't know.

10 MR MACAULAY: Can I ask you a little about those who ran

11 St Mary's?

12 Can you remember the names of any of the Brothers

13 who were there?

14 A. No. I think there was one Brother, Brother Fintan,

15 I think his name was.

16 Q. If we look at your statement, paragraph 43, you say that

17 you don't remember the headmaster's name:

18 'I hardly ever met the headmaster.'

19 A. No, I hardly ever met the headmaster. That's right.

20 Q. You mention three Brothers, Brother Thomas,

21 Brother Aloysius --

22 A. Yeah, and Brother Fintan, he was there.

23 Q. You go on to tell us about your first day at St Mary's?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You arrived in the evening?

1 A. In the evening.

2 Q. And you had your tea, you tell us and you were then sent
3 to the woodwork shop?

4 A. That's correct, yeah.

5 Q. And something happened there?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I'll come back to that in a moment.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You look at the daily routine. When you got up in the
10 morning, who supervised that?

11 A. You were just told to get up, it was --

12 Q. Who told you to get up?

13 A. I should remember this really.

14 Q. I don't need a name, was it a Brother --

15 A. It was a Brother sometimes, yeah, a Brother. It was all
16 Brothers, yeah.

17 Because I was always fearful during the night about
18 these Brothers, you know. They give me the horrors
19 really, you know what I'm saying, to be truthful.

20 Q. At night, when you went to bed, who was in charge of
21 that?

22 A. The Brothers.

23 Q. If we look at paragraph 50.

24 A. It ...

25 Q. Sorry?

1 A. I'm not too sure really.

2 Q. I'll take you to what you say in your statement and see
3 if that rings a bell, because your statement was
4 provided to the Inquiry in 2019.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What you say at paragraph 50:
7 'I think that there were two or three large
8 dormitories and one or two smaller dormitories.'
9 The photograph, that is one of the larger
10 dormitories?

11 A. Right, yeah.

12 Q. 'They were all upstairs in the main building. I think
13 the smaller dormitories were for the older boys.'

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. 'I think there were two or three beds in those
16 dormitories and you only got there if you were
17 privileged.'

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You then say:
20 'There were maybe between 30 and 40 boys in my dorm,
21 they were all boys of different age.'
22 Is that correct?

23 A. That's correct, I just see the bed situation there.

24 Q. Then you say:
25 'The Brothers supervised the dorms during night

1 time.'

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was that the case?

4 A. That would be the case, yes.

5 Q. You go on to say:

6 'I think there was a night watchman who helped out

7 with that.'

8 Do you remember that?

9 A. I think what?

10 Q. What you say there is:

11 'I think there was a night watchman who helped out

12 ...'

13 LADY SMITH: If you look at the text, bottom of

14 paragraph 50.

15 A. Yeah, that's in the back of my mind, yeah. There was

16 some different changes to that really, you know. There

17 could be a night watchman because they had people in

18 there for you know -- civilians in there, you know,

19 tailors and bakery and cobblers and things like that,

20 they did have civilians. They may have used civilians

21 at that time. I'm not too sure really.

22 Q. As far as washing and bathing is concerned, at

23 paragraph 51 you describe a big shower room, do you

24 remember that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did all the boys --

2 A. All the boys having showers and all that.

3 Q. How was that organised?

4 A. You just -- by Brothers really, you know. You were just

5 thrown in there like cattle really, you know, and there

6 was a lot of banter and the Brothers used to -- I don't

7 know. They used to go mad. Really slap you about and

8 things like that and you always -- you know, we were

9 young children, you know, and there was always a bit

10 of -- I don't know what you call it, banter and ... and

11 things like that, you know.

12 Q. The showering arrangements, that was organised by the

13 Brothers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In relation to meal times, you talk about that at

16 paragraphs 52 and 53. Did anything happen to boys who

17 wouldn't eat the food?

18 A. Yeah, they would get -- they would have their food taken

19 off them. They wouldn't eat their food, they were

20 forced really. Like myself, you know, if you are even

21 caught talking, you know, you were chastised. I was put

22 outside in the snow I recall on one particular time and

23 the door locked, you know, and I was out there in short

24 trousers for about a couple of hours in the freezing

25 cold and things like that and they always knew how to

1 control the children really, you know.

2 Q. You also tell us that you had chores to do, you had work
3 to do. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. I worked in the bakery for about a year or so.

5 Q. What about cleaning duties?

6 A. Cleaning duties, aye. The same as I done at Larchgrove,
7 we used to bumper the hallways and things like that.

8 Q. Were there any other cleaners there?

9 A. No, they would just use the boys and that, you know.

10 Q. Let's look at the schooling set-up. At paragraph 57 you
11 say there weren't any classrooms in St Mary's. There
12 wasn't any formal education?

13 A. I didn't get any education in there.

14 Q. What was the set-up then? Were you being taught skills?

15 A. Say that again?

16 Q. What were you being taught?

17 A. Let's say basic skills like, you know -- as I say,
18 cobblers, tailors, bakery and maintenance of the
19 building, things like that, you know and we did have
20 sports and things like that. As I say, I was in the
21 pipe band there at one particular time.

22 Q. Did you run away?

23 A. I didn't run away, no.

24 Q. Were there boys who did run away?

25 A. The boys that ran away -- yeah, I seen some boys run

1 away and they come back after a few months and they
2 seemed very strange, very traumatised, very quiet. They
3 didn't, you know, mix as they did before, you know so
4 I don't know what happened to the boys. I felt sorry
5 for quite a lot of them, because some of them were
6 orphans, you know and I didn't know why they were put
7 there.

8 Q. As far as bed wetting was concerned, that wasn't
9 a problem for you, I think you tell us, but was it
10 a problem for other boys?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What happened to these boys?

13 A. They were just, I don't know, I can't recall.

14 Q. Was there any sort of stigma attached to bed wetting?

15 A. I just can't remember.

16 Q. As far as discipline at St Mary's was concerned, can you
17 tell me about that? How would a boy be disciplined by
18 the Brothers?

19 A. How they would be disciplined? He'd be sent to the
20 governor or the headmaster and they would be caned or
21 strapped or whatever.

22 Q. Did that happen to you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me about it?

25 A. I had an incident with one of the Brothers and my

1 father -- I can't remember what the incident was, but my
2 father came up to the school.

3 Q. I'll come back to that.

4 A. Have you got that down there?

5 Q. Just generally if you were sent to the headmaster to be
6 disciplined, what happened generally?

7 A. Well, you were guilty right away and you just got
8 punished.

9 Q. What was the punishment?

10 A. Punishment was a cane or a belt. I got the cane.

11 Q. On what part of the body?

12 A. On the bottom.

13 Q. Did you get one stroke or more than one stroke?

14 A. I think it was six or something like that.

15 Q. Was that on your trousers?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did --

18 A. Because there was a joke about it, make sure you go in
19 there and put some books down your pants.

20 Q. Did that happen to you on more than one occasion?

21 A. I think -- I can't recall that.

22 Q. Would Brothers slap you?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. For what reason?

25 A. For talking. Freedom of speech in there was, you know,

1 not allowed.

2 Q. You then have a section in your statement, 'Joseph',
3 beginning at paragraph 76, where it is headed 'Abuse at
4 St Mary's'.

5 What you say at the beginning there, and you can
6 look at it on the screen or in the statement:

7 'You see pictures of Oliver Twist and it was all
8 like that. It was a brutal regime that they ran. When
9 I think back, it was really like prison. Most of the
10 time I was there I felt threatened. It was as if you
11 were living in terror.'

12 Is that the way you are looking at it as to how you
13 felt at that time?

14 A. Yes, that is the way I felt just now, yeah.

15 Q. I want to go back to what happened --

16 A. It's like a concentration camp for children, that's what
17 I believe.

18 Q. Can I go back then to your first day and what happened
19 to you on your first day, because I think you touched
20 upon that already. Can you tell me what happened when
21 you first went to St Mary's?

22 A. When I first went into the -- into the wood workshop you
23 know, you are newbie, you know.

24 Q. Did somebody take you to the woodwork shop?

25 A. Yeah, the Brothers took me there.

1 Q. How many Brothers were involved in that?

2 A. I think there were about two.

3 Q. What happened?

4 A. This boy, you know, just started fighting with me, you
5 know. I think it was tradition, if you are new you go
6 in there to see how you will react and it's like you are
7 new and they just want to pick a fight with you, you
8 know. So I started fighting back, you know, and then
9 the Brothers separated us and you know it was just
10 a brutal fight really and that was my first night.
11 That's what I recall.

12 Then I was a target all the time for the Brothers,
13 like being a troublemaker, you know what I'm saying.

14 Q. Once the fight between you and the other boy had
15 stopped, what happened with the Brothers?

16 A. They separated us. The Brothers -- they came and
17 separated us.

18 Q. Did they do anything to you?

19 A. Yeah. They just dragged me out and -- I just lost it,
20 do you know what I mean, I don't know. I can't
21 remember.

22 Q. If --

23 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', don't worry, please, we don't want
24 you to feel under pressure. If you can remember any
25 snippets about it now --

1 A. I just remember it was a brutal fight.

2 LADY SMITH: You have a memory of something that was
3 horrible, that first night?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Did anybody help you, anybody show any care for
6 you?

7 A. No, no, not at all.

8 LADY SMITH: And this fight was caused by other boys?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: You say the Brothers intervened at some point?

11 A. Yes, they did.

12 LADY SMITH: Do you have any memory of whether they got you
13 out of the place or whether you were punished, whether
14 the other boys were punished or what?

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: That is absolutely fine. Don't worry about it.
17 If you can't remember, it's very honest of you to say
18 that.

19 I know we took this statement from you over four
20 years ago now, so I appreciate it's asking a lot to --

21 A. Sometimes you recall some things and you say, oh,
22 I remember that and sometimes you don't.

23 LADY SMITH: That's okay. You just say.

24 A. Maybe I want to blank it out, you know.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. What you have is a memory of something

1 nasty that night?

2 A. Yes, the first day I was in there really.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MACAULAY: You did mention earlier, 'Joseph', an incident

5 where you were outside in the snow, I think. You

6 mentioned earlier in your evidence an incident where you

7 were put out and the door was locked?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can I just look at that and see what you can remember

10 about that. What led up to that, can you tell me?

11 A. Well, we were having breakfast and just -- you are not

12 allowed to talk during your meals or anything like that.

13 You are not allowed to talk in the dining hall at all,

14 you know. So obviously I got caught talking and dragged

15 out by the hair and the ear and thrown out the door, it

16 was snowing and it was really, really -- the snow was

17 about that deep, you know.

18 Q. A foot deep?

19 A. Yeah. Thrown out there and you got shorts on and shiver

20 in the corner for a couple of hours. I think I ended up

21 with a bad, bad cold after that.

22 Q. You tell us about that incident in paragraph 80, if

23 I can just take you to paragraph 80. As you've just

24 been telling us, there was an occasion when you spoke to

25 somebody during a meal time in the dinner hall:

1 'I was dragged out of the dining hall by a Brother.
2 I don't remember anything about the Brother who did
3 that. I can't remember his name or describe him. The
4 Brother battered me all over my body with a bunch of
5 keys in the corridor.'

6 Do you remember that?

7 A. Yeah. They hit me with the keys on the top of the head.
8 They always had a big bunch of keys and they would slap
9 you about. I remember that, yes.

10 Q. Was this something you told your father about?

11 A. I think it was, I think it was that incident.

12 Q. Did he come and speak to --

13 A. He came and -- yeah, he came up there and like my dad he
14 threatened them, you know, 'If anything ever happens to
15 my son again', which I think any father would do, you
16 know.

17 Q. In any event, you took it upon yourself to report this
18 to your father?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. He did respond?

21 A. Yeah. He did -- he was a human being really. He did
22 care for you sometimes, you know. I remember that
23 incident.

24 Q. How did that affect then your life thereafter in
25 St Mary's?

1 A. How did it affect my life?

2 Q. Were the Brothers better behaved towards you?

3 A. Yeah, better, yeah, yeah, yeah.

4 First, I was getting older, you know, and I knew all
5 the ins and outs and you learn these things, don't you.

6 Q. Another thing you tell us in your statement, 'Joseph',
7 and this is at paragraph 81, is that at night Brothers
8 would come into the dormitory --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and check on the boys. Can you tell me anything
11 about that?

12 A. Yeah. They would just check. Maybe it was a roll check
13 or something like that, but they're always in your face,
14 you know what I'm saying.

15 Q. Did you see boys being taken out of their beds?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you help me with that? What did you see?

18 A. I seen some maybe going -- but being that young and
19 maybe naive I didn't really understand if anything was
20 going on, you know. It never happened to me. It did
21 happen to me a couple of times, yeah, yeah, it did.

22 Q. Where were you taken?

23 A. Just outside in the corridor. There is a big corridor
24 down there. You stand against the wall and all that and
25 maybe looking for contrabands and things like that.

1 I can't remember.

2 Q. Were you frightened in your bed at night?

3 A. Oh, yes, yeah.

4 Q. Why was that?

5 A. Could you imagine you're a child and you have got people
6 in black robes running about, you know -- and it was
7 just like terror to me.

8 Q. You have told us about the dormitory that you were in
9 when you went to St Mary's, were you moved to a smaller
10 dormitory later on?

11 A. Yeah, yeah. When I was sick, I think it was. I did get
12 moved to -- as you got older you got moved, you know as
13 well and I went to this other dormitory when I was --
14 where there was about six of us in there, you know.
15 I recall that very well.

16 Q. Was that dormitory a dormitory -- there were also older
17 boys in the dormitory?

18 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

19 Q. Did anything happen to you in that dormitory?

20 A. Yeah. It used to be the likes of play fighting and
21 things like that and, you know, but they always -- like
22 bullied you, you know, because you were younger, which
23 I was at that particular time. They used to get you and
24 wrestle with you and put their arms round across your
25 chest and make you breathe out and breathe out and you

1 would end up fainting and things like that, I don't
2 know. That was a party trick, really, getting you by
3 chest and holding you round the chest and making
4 compressions so you fainted so you don't know what's
5 happened, you know.

6 Q. Did you have any injuries because of the way you were
7 being treated in that dormitory by the older boys?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What injuries did you have? Were you injured in any way
10 in --

11 A. No, no, no, no, just mentally injured.

12 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', can I just take you back to the
13 incident when you were battered with the keys and put
14 outside. You told your dad and he went to St Mary's to
15 talk to the head about it.

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: I noticed from paragraph 88, you said when you
18 gave your statement that your dad warned the headmaster
19 that there would be consequences if the Brothers didn't
20 leave you alone.

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 LADY SMITH: What I'm interested in exploring with you is:
23 was your dad a strong-looking man?

24 A. A strong man?

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 A. Yeah, he was a boxer in the army.

2 LADY SMITH: So he's ex-army, a boxer and he worked on the
3 land, I think, did he?

4 A. He was a landscape gardener.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes. So would he have presented as somebody
6 that you wouldn't want to cross, if I could put it that
7 way?

8 A. Yes, exactly.

9 LADY SMITH: So when somebody stood up to the headmaster --

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: -- things changed for the better for you?

12 A. Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MACAULAY: Can you tell me how close to the time you came
15 to leave St Mary's that that happened?

16 A. I think it was about a year before, I think about a year
17 before.

18 Q. Coming to when you left St Mary's, the date that we can
19 see from the records that we have, the Inquiry has, was
20 [REDACTED] 1966, when you would be 15?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Were you 15 when you left?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us in your statement that after you left
25 St Mary's you got a job in a bakery; is that correct?

1 A. Yeah, because I learnt how to bake -- because I was in
2 the bakery in St Mary's. Also my father was a cook in
3 the army, he baked a lot as well.

4 Q. You moved on from that to having a job in a brickworks?
5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. I think that was cut short because you ended up in
7 Longriggend?
8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Did you get into trouble at some point?
10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What you tell us is you were in Longriggend for about
12 a fortnight when you were about 16?
13 A. Of course, yeah.

14 Q. After that, were you transferred to Glenochil?
15 A. Glenochil.

16 Q. Can I take you to paragraph 92, which is now on the
17 screen, because what you say is that you were in
18 Glenochil for about eight weeks?
19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. It was a regimented place; is that correct?
21 A. Yes, very regimental.

22 Q. You say Glenochil was tough:
23 '... but in my mind, by that stage, I was an adult.'
24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were you able to cope better with the regime?

1 A. Yes, there were different grades in there. There was no
2 grade, yellow grade and red grade, which is very good
3 and I was red grade.

4 Q. After leaving care, you say there was no support from
5 the social work?

6 A. No support at all. I went back to my house and there
7 was nobody there.

8 Q. Do you know -- well, you can tell us, why was that?

9 A. Why was I in Glenochil?

10 Q. Why was there nobody there?

11 A. Because they had moved down to Coventry.

12 Q. And nobody had told you that?

13 A. Nobody told me. I think I was 16 at the time.

14 Q. Where did you live then for a period of time?

15 A. With my friends, sofa surfed if what they call it these
16 days.

17 Q. Did it occur to you that your father had in the past
18 taken you to Coventry to visit an aunt?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did that lead you to going down to Coventry?

21 A. That was my -- that's what I thought, yeah, go down see
22 my aunty and find out where my mother was.

23 Q. When you got there and got to the house, were you
24 welcomed?

25 A. No, no. My mother welcomed me. My mother was so

1 pleased to see me, but my father, 'What do you want here
2 you ...' I don't want to say that word again.

3 Q. What then did you do?

4 A. I got myself a job, I persisted to stay there because my
5 father was always in the pub, you know, and sneaking in
6 and out the house, and I got a job and --

7 Q. You do tell us in your statement that you did work in
8 hotels as a baker?

9 A. Yes, I travelled -- I went to Scarborough and got a job
10 as a baker in hotels and things like that.

11 Q. You ended up working for Jaguar and indeed you worked
12 there until you retired?

13 A. Yes -- until I got cancer and I had to leave.

14 Q. You also tell us that you met your wife in Coventry; is
15 that correct?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. You got married in 1972 and you've been together ever
18 since?

19 A. Ever since, yes.

20 Q. You have provided us with some insight into the impact
21 being in care had on you. What you say at paragraph 98
22 is:

23 'I did learn skills whilst I was at St Mary's.
24 However, looking back, those weren't the skills I wanted
25 to learn about. I knew I was clever and that I wanted

1 more of a formal education.'

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you just tell me about that? I think you thought
4 you would be clever enough to go to university, for
5 example?

6 A. Yes, because I was always third in the class and before
7 my Eleven Plus but through the traumatic -- through my
8 father and not going to school at that particular time,
9 because you only had one shot at that, you know, your
10 Eleven Plus to go to grammar school, you only had one
11 shot, you didn't have another shot to revise and to do
12 it again, you know. So ended up working in the
13 brickworks, working anywhere I could get a job, you
14 know, different things like that.

15 Then I ended up getting a good job in Jaguar cars in
16 Coventry, and that was very interesting.

17 Q. At paragraph 101 of the statement, what you tell us:

18 'Sometimes I get nightmares and flashbacks about the
19 Brothers.'

20 A. Yes, I do.

21 Q. Does that happen to you?

22 A. Yes, it does. I'm on anti-depressants.

23 Q. You say it doesn't happen very often, but you do
24 sometimes think back on what had happened to you with
25 the Brothers?

1 A. Yeah. I always wanted to be an architect when I was
2 younger, you know, and I developed the skill for art,
3 which I still do now.

4 Q. There is a section in your statement that's headed
5 'Reporting of abuse after leaving care', that is
6 paragraph 105. I'll just read that out:
7 'Speaking to the Inquiry is really the first time
8 I have ever spoken to anybody about my time in care.'
9 Is that the case?

10 A. Yes, that's the case. I never even spoke to my children
11 about these things, you know, and they are in their 40s
12 now. I haven't even spoken to them about it.

13 Q. You have a section also headed 'Lessons to be learned'.
14 I'll just read that first paragraph, 107:
15 'I don't understand why they thought they should
16 lock children up. The places I was in had people from
17 all over the place locked up together. Some were
18 orphans and some weren't.'
19 That was your experience?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. 'Looking back at my time in St Mary's, there were so
22 many boys from so many different gangs that the place
23 fomented boys into getting involved in harder crime when
24 they left.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. From what you have told us, your life path after you
2 left care was really quite different, in that you got
3 married and held real employment?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Then at the section headed 'Hopes for the Inquiry', can
6 I just look with you at that. I'll just read some of
7 this. At paragraph 110 what you say is:

8 'I look at it from the perspective of someone taking
9 my own children away. That would have been the worst
10 nightmare if that happened. If the things that happened
11 to me had still carried on, they wouldn't have been
12 covered up. I would have hoped that I would have been
13 made aware of what was happening so that something could
14 be done.'

15 That is one of your thoughts?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Then, at 111:

18 'Looking forward, children need to be educated about
19 the way things were in past. They have to be made aware
20 that things can get better.'

21 That is your hope?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You go on to say:

24 'That was really why I got in touch with the
25 Inquiry. I wanted the things that happened to me and

1 the people who were involved to be brought out into the
2 open.'

3 That is you explaining why you came to see us?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. At 112:

6 'I'm sure that there are a hell of a lot of people
7 who went through worse experiences than what I went
8 through in care. I don't know why children were treated
9 the way I was when I was in care. Maybe it was just
10 what it was like at that period in time. However, to
11 me, all children are precious.'

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You end by saying:

14 'I hope this Inquiry stops anything that happened to
15 me happening to children in care in the future.'

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. That is your hope?

18 A. That's my hope.

19 MR MACAULAY: These are all the questions I have for you,
20 'Joseph'. Is there anything you would like to say to
21 the Inquiry?

22 A. No, I think you've said it. I think I've said it all
23 really in the statement.

24 MR MACAULAY: Very well, 'Joseph'. Thank you for coming to
25 give your evidence.

1 My Lady, I can confirm that I haven't received any
2 questions to put to 'Joseph'.

3 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', can I add my thanks to those that
4 Mr MacAulay has just given to you. I'm really grateful
5 to you for engaging as you did in 2019 to give us your
6 written statement, which is part of your evidence.
7 I'm sorry it's taken over four years for you to be able
8 to come to talk to us in person. I hope you understand
9 it's to do with the scheduling of our case study
10 evidence. We have a lot of evidence we have been
11 hearing in the meantime, work we've been doing in the
12 meantime and it wasn't until this year that we were able
13 to get to this evidence.

14 It doesn't mean that it's any less important, any
15 less important than other evidence or indeed any less
16 important than it would have been if we'd be able to
17 bring you to a hearing in 2019.

18 Thank you for your patience. Thank you for bearing
19 with us. Thank you for coming here today to make parts
20 of your evidence come alive and being so straightforward
21 about what is still clear in your mind and what's not.
22 I'm grateful to you for doing that.

23 You are free to go now, 'Joseph', and I hope the
24 rest of your day is less stressful than this part has
25 been.

1 A. Thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MACAULAY: Perhaps we should have the break a bit earlier

6 this morning. The other witness may be here, so we can

7 check on that.

8 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

9 We can take the break now, move on to the next

10 witness, maybe by 11.30 am, and then hear that evidence

11 at that point. Thank you.

12 (11.10 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (11.36 am)

15 LADY SMITH: Just before we turn to the next witness, there

16 was mention of three of the De La Salle Brothers before

17 the break and they're not to be identified outside this

18 room. Those were Brothers Thomas, Aloysius and Fintan.

19 Ms MacLeod, we have a witness here who is ready to

20 give evidence, am I right?

21 MS MACLEOD: You are right, my Lady.

22 The next witness is an applicant who will give

23 evidence using the pseudonym 'John M'.

24 'John M' (affirmed)

25 LADY SMITH: A couple of things before we turn to your

1 evidence.

2 A. Can I take my jacket off?

3 LADY SMITH: Absolutely. Make yourself comfortable, feel
4 free to do that.

5 (Pause)

6 I hope you find the temperature in here comfortable
7 for you.

8 A. Aye, fine.

9 LADY SMITH: If you now get cold, feel free to get up and
10 put it back on again.

11 The red folder on the desk there, you'll see has the
12 statement in it that you signed. You might be referred
13 to that in a moment. If you want to use it at any time
14 feel free to do so, but we'll also bring sections of
15 your statement up on that screen that's on the desk,
16 which might help you as well. You don't have to use
17 them, but they're there if you want to.

18 Otherwise, if there's anything I can do to make the
19 whole process of you giving evidence comfortable for
20 you, let me know. I know this isn't easy, you are in
21 public and you're talking about your childhood and
22 you're talking about difficult things that happened in
23 your childhood. Just speak up if for example you want
24 a break or you have any questions. Will you do that?

25 A. Aye.

1 LADY SMITH: Feel free.

2 If you're ready I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and
3 she'll take it from there?

4 Is that all right?

5 Ms MacLeod.

6 Questions from Ms MacLeod

7 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

8 I don't need your full date of birth, but can you
9 confirm that you were born in the year 1950?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you now 73?

12 A. 73, yes.

13 Q. You've provided a statement for the Inquiry and there is
14 a copy in the folder in front of you. I'm just going to
15 give the reference of that for the transcript. It's
16 WIT-1-000000959.

17 Could you possibly turn to the very last page of the
18 statement. Have you signed the statement?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In the last paragraph do you say:

21 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
22 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
23 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
24 true.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Going back to the time before you went into care,
2 'John M', I would just like to ask you a little bit
3 about that. I think you tell us in your written
4 statement that you were brought up in Tranent.
5 Is that right?
6 A. That's correct.
7 Q. Were you the eldest in quite a large family?
8 A. I was.
9 Q. You say that you had six brothers and sisters?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. What you tell us in your statement is 'life was all
12 right, even although we didn't have much'?
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. Did there come a time, when you were quite young, when
15 you got into some trouble?
16 A. Yes, there was, aye.
17 Q. Can you tell me about that?
18 A. I was taken to the local Burgh Court for breaking
19 windows, vandalism, 1958.
20 Q. Were you around eight years old then?
21 A. I was eight, aye.
22 Q. A little bit later on, did you get into some trouble
23 again, I think along with two friends?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. Can you tell me about that?

1 A. We were taken to the Sheriff Court in Haddington. It
2 was for breaking and entering into -- it was a creamery
3 we broke into and other offences like that, you know,
4 minor, petty theft.

5 Q. Was that in around [REDACTED] 1963?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. Did you spend, at that time, around two weeks in
8 Gilmerton Assessment Centre?

9 A. Uh-huh, yes.

10 Q. Was that to see if a suitable Approved School could be
11 found? Was that the reason?

12 A. Yes, uh-huh.

13 Q. Did anything happen to you while you were in that
14 assessment centre? Did something happen with a member
15 of staff?

16 A. Yes, I fell out with a member of staff. My mother
17 brought in a bag of sweets and I refused to give some
18 other -- some of the other inmates and he took some of
19 my sweets and gave them to the inmates and I complained
20 about it and he just gave me a -- he kicked me. He
21 kicked me in the side and then the face, you know. So
22 I just lost my temper and threatened -- I explained --
23 I used to see him bringing his car in, in the morning,
24 and I regarded myself as a wee streetwise guy, so I told
25 him, I says:

1 'hit me again and I'm going to tell my dad your
2 registration, he'll get you, he'll kick you up and down
3 the street.'

4 Which my dad would have done, you know, if anybody
5 had hit me, you know, but that was all right, that was
6 ...

7 Q. Did you have any more trouble with that staff member?

8 A. No.

9 Q. After around two weeks then were you placed in
10 St Joseph's in Tranent?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Were you 13 at that time, in 1963?

13 A. I was coming up for 13. I was 13 in the [REDACTED]. We
14 were taken into the remand home [REDACTED], you know,
15 it was just before my 13th birthday. There is a wee bit
16 mix-up with the date about that, but I know the dates,
17 you know.

18 Q. In fact, you tell us that you spent two periods of time
19 in St Joseph's?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us that you went in initially in the [REDACTED] of
22 1963 and got out in [REDACTED] 1964?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Then you were back in, in [REDACTED] 1964 until the
25 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] 1965?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. If I can just take you back first of all to the first
3 time that you were going to St Joseph's, when you were
4 age 13.

5 Is it the case that the boys were actually away from
6 St Joseph's at that time and when you arrived it was
7 actually to the camp that the boys were at?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Where were you taken?

10 A. I was taken to a farm camp at Aberlemno, which is just
11 outside Forfar.

12 Q. Who was in charge of the camp, who was running the camp?

13 A. It belonged to the farmer that had the farm, you know,
14 Turin Home Farm. These were -- it was like
15 a prisoner-of-war camp, you know, during the war, it was
16 all big long dormitories, it was run by -- I take it to
17 be the De La Salle Brothers.

18 Q. How many boys were at the camp?

19 A. Oh, 100/120.

20 Q. You tell us that you weren't happy with the surroundings
21 there at the camp?

22 A. No. It was like -- the mattresses weren't modern, they
23 were like the old straw palliasse mattresses, you know,
24 and there was no hot water, electricity, you know, it
25 was just gas lights at night and cold water in the

1 mornings. So it was just a case of brushing your teeth
2 and just tap your eyes with the cold water and get out,
3 you know.

4 Q. How many Brothers were there?

5 A. I think there was four, I think.

6 Q. You say you were there from [REDACTED] until around the
7 [REDACTED] 1963?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. In fact, did you have your 13th birthday while you were
10 at that camp?

11 A. Yes, I did, aye.

12 Q. When [REDACTED] came, did you then go to St Joseph's
13 itself?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Would you be okay to look at a photograph of the
16 building of St Joseph's?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. I'll put that on the screen. WIT-3-0000005605, at
19 page 15. Is that St Joseph's?

20 A. That's St Joseph's, uh-huh.

21 Q. The front of the building?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. Who was SNR [REDACTED] at St Joseph's when you got
24 there?

25 A. Brother PAF [REDACTED], his own name is PAF [REDACTED].

1 Q. In terms of boys, what was the number of boys that you
2 recall being there?

3 A. I would say 100. The layout -- there were four houses,
4 so there was 30 to a house, so the maximum would be 120.
5 Each house you went to you all had a number. I was in
6 St Andrew's house, I was [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED] in my second
7 time, but --

8 Q. What about the age range of the boys? You were 13.
9 What was the age range of the boys?

10 A. All about 11/12 up to -- you got kept until you were 15.

11 Q. You have told me about Brother PAF, SNR [REDACTED].
12 Were all the Brothers who were at St Joseph's, was your
13 understanding that they were De La Salle Brothers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it the De La Salle Brothers who ran St Joseph's at
16 that time?

17 A. I was -- well, I was aware it was the
18 De La Salle Brothers that run it, uh-huh.

19 Q. Which other Brothers can you remember by name?

20 A. Brother MJJ, he was SNR [REDACTED],
21 Brother HHT, Brother HYK, Brother LUJ and
22 Brother GWM.

23 Q. Brother HHT, what was his role?

24 A. He was a teacher. There was four classes in the
25 Education Department. He was class 4, that was the

1 highest, I was in his class.

2 Q. And Brother **HYK** ?

3 A. Brother **HYK** was another teacher, he took class 3.

4 Q. Brother **LUU** ?

5 A. Brother **LUU**, he was just an older -- the oldest of

6 the Brothers. He was just put out to pasture. He just

7 took care of the dining room and arts and crafts at

8 night, you know. He didn't really -- I wouldn't say he

9 had a role as such, you know, he was just put out to

10 pasture, I think.

11 Q. Brother **GWM** ?

12 A. He was in charge of the maintenance of the building.

13 Every morning after your breakfast you all had --

14 everyone in the school had a duty or a task to carry

15 out, whether it was scrubbing stairs or washing down the

16 toilets or shower rooms or dusting, everybody had a duty

17 to do. He was in charge of that and he gave out the

18 sports equipment, what have you, you know.

19 Q. Were there civilian staff at the school as well?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You mention some of these in your statement. Can you

22 recall their names?

23 A. Uh-huh. We had the woodwork teacher was

24 Mr **GVX**, the metalwork was

25 Mr **MJK**, the tailoring was Mr **GW** and we

1 had Mr MJL, he was the secretary, and Mr David Byrne,
2 he was an electrician and handyman.

3 Then we had Mr Sweeney, he was a wee Irish guy, he
4 was the head gardener and his son-in-law, what was his
5 name, Mr Mulrooney, he was the gardener as well, you
6 know.

7 Then we had two matrons, Mrs Spence was one and
8 Ms Malone was the other.

9 Then we had domestic staff, you know, people who
10 worked in the kitchens. Eileen O'Shea from Tranent and
11 Margaret Gilmour from Tranent and a mother and daughter
12 who worked in the laundry, they were -- the two of them
13 were Mrs Pender. And we had another couple that I just
14 can't remember their names. They were in charge of
15 the -- they used to darn your socks and when have you
16 and put labels in the back of your shirts, this type of
17 thing, it was like a sewing room type thing, you know.

18 Q. Thank you for that.

19 In the morning, 'John M', who was involved in
20 getting boys up and making sure that they were out of
21 their beds and that sort of thing?

22 A. It was -- every Brother took a rota, I take it, you
23 know.

24 Q. It was Brothers who were involved in that?

25 A. It was Brothers that woke you up. You had a civilian

1 night watchman at night going round and inside the
2 building and round the perimeter of the building, you
3 know, just checking it.

4 Q. The Brothers were involved in getting boys up in the
5 morning. What about putting boys to bed at night, who
6 would do that?

7 A. You just -- the Brothers would just go round the
8 dormitories just checking on you and then maybe
9 10 o'clock they just put the lights out and that was it.

10 Q. Was there anybody involved in coming into the
11 dormitories to check during the night or anything like
12 that?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Who would that be?

15 A. The night watchman, Mr Gilmour. I mentioned his
16 daughter, she worked in the kitchen.

17 Q. What were Mr Gilmour's duties during the night?

18 A. He was just for security and we had a dormitory,
19 dormitory 3, that was for pupils that wet the bed, so he
20 had to wake them up every two or three hours, you know,
21 on a rota basis, to take them to the toilet in case they
22 wet the bed, you know.

23 Q. You tell us about the showering arrangements at
24 St Joseph's and you tell us that there were 28 showers?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Was that for all the boys to use?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. You say that with 100 boys there were four rounds of

4 showers?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And that the first round got the hot water?

7 A. Uh-huh, aye.

8 Q. Were you asked to wear anything in particular when you

9 showered?

10 A. Yes. I thought it was funny -- I thought it was

11 unusual, but you had to -- before you went into the

12 shower you had to clean your shoes, everybody had to

13 clean their shoes with polish and what have you, then

14 you took your shirt and pullover off and your shoes off,

15 put them in your wee compartment, went through to the

16 shower room and then you took your pants and trousers

17 off, your vest off and you had to put swimming trunks

18 on, and each house had a different colour of swimming

19 trunks, you know, and you had to go into the showers

20 with the swimming trunks, you know.

21 Q. Did you ever shower without any clothes on?

22 A. Yes. I done it once, we were out for a cross-country

23 run, I loved running, went out for a cross-country run

24 with Brother HHT and when we got back to the school

25 rather than strip off and then put shorts on, he said

1 just jump in and that was the only one and only time
2 that I got a shower naked, which to me was the norm --
3 it would have been the normal thing.

4 Q. How was the schooling at St Joseph's, the education?

5 A. Education. It was far, far superior than what I had in
6 my school at Tranent.

7 Q. Was Brother HHT your teacher?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. You say in your statement that you were shown how to do
10 things?

11 A. Like what?

12 Q. For example, that you were shown how to make clothing
13 and that kind of thing?

14 A. Aye. You had to make your own -- in the winter time you
15 wore short trousers most of the time, but winter time
16 you made your own trousers out of corduroy, so you
17 were -- you took instructions in tailor work, you know,
18 you had to work the machines and you also made vestments
19 for the church. There was a monastery along at
20 Prestonpans and the priests that used to serve mass
21 every day, we used to make vestments for them, which
22 was -- you were told it was an honour and privilege
23 which I took to be -- I thought it was a privilege as
24 well because I was a very pious and strong Catholic at
25 the time.

1 Q. In terms of subjects like maths and English, you say in
2 your statement that Brother HHT showed you how to
3 do these things?

4 A. Yeah, aye. I was very slow at mathematics and algebra
5 and geometry and this type of thing. I couldn't see the
6 sense in it, but he was patient and I ended up -- at
7 that time we were -- there was a changeover from
8 fractions into decimals and how to convert one into
9 another. He took his time with that so I learnt that.
10 Then we ended up with logarithms, I learnt the
11 logarithms and I was grateful to him for showing me,
12 because I don't know if I was just slow or just stupid,
13 you know, but he taught me.

14 Q. One thing I think you say is that you paid more
15 attention in school at St Joseph's that you had before
16 perhaps?

17 A. Yes, if you didn't pay attention you were punished, you
18 know.

19 Q. Indeed, you say that the fear made you pay attention?

20 A. In my case, yes, I was frightened, you know.

21 Q. Can you just explain to me, in the classroom setting and
22 in terms of ... what fear did you have?

23 A. Fear of being punished because it wasn't a verbal rebuke
24 you got. You got taken in front of the class or they
25 would walk up to you and whatever, slap you about the

1 head. Brother HHT would take you out and you had
2 to put your hand out and he would hit you over the
3 fingers with a drumstick, which was really painful.
4 I would have preferred the tawse, the old belt, you
5 know, which they all had. They all had a tawse in their
6 classroom, but he used to give you a punishment by
7 hitting you over the fingers with this drumstick, you
8 know, which was painful, really painful.

9 LADY SMITH: What would you get punished for in the
10 classroom?

11 A. Inattention. On one occasion I was looking -- at the
12 time there were building the power station down at
13 Cockenzie and they were putting up the pylons and then
14 one time they were putting the cables on to the pylons
15 and I was daydreaming, I was looking out the window.
16 It's a big window, you know, and I'm looking at this guy
17 going along the cradle and Brother HHT spoke to me
18 and I saw this guy had fell. He was in a harness but
19 he'd fell and I says to him, 'The guy's fell'. He says,
20 'It's nothing to do with you, nothing to do with you'.

21 I thought, well, phone up somebody, you know.

22 I thought maybe the guy had been hurt. I had to go out
23 and get my hand hit with the drumstick, you know.

24 LADY SMITH: When you say 'go out', was that to the front of
25 the classroom?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS MACLEOD: When you were hit with the drumstick how many
4 times would you tend to be hit?

5 A. Usually about two or three.

6 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'John M', about some
7 positive aspects of your time at St Joseph's and you
8 mention things like sports and being taken on trips. Do
9 you have some good memories of being there?

10 A. Aye. When we first went in, as I say, we went to
11 Aberlemno to start with. We used to get taken to the
12 swimming pool on a Saturday, which was good,
13 an hour-and-a-half in the swimming pool, just all the
14 pupils, you know. They hired the swimming pool for us.
15 Then we got taken to the pictures after that.

16 When we came back from the summer camp we were taken
17 up to the pictures at Edinburgh. I remember that, 1963.
18 To see 'Cleopatra', Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.
19 We got taken up to see that and then 'Lawrence of
20 Arabia'. We got taken up to -- I remember getting taken
21 up to Nunraw, it's an abbey, out the other side of
22 Gifford, Garvald, and we were shown the monks building
23 the new abbey, you know, and I still visit that place,
24 60 years on.

25 Q. Was there a particular Brother you could speak to if you

1 had any issues you wanted to raise or anything you
2 wanted to speak to someone about?

3 A. Yes. SNR [REDACTED], Brother PAF [REDACTED].

4 Q. Did boys go to speak to Brother PAF [REDACTED] about things?

5 A. Yeah, every night.

6 Q. In fact, I think you tell us there was a queue down the
7 stairs waiting to see him?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Did you ever go to see him?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What sort of things were you telling Brother PAF [REDACTED] on
12 these visits?

13 A. Sometimes you went down to hand a postal order in. If
14 you got one sent in the post they took it out, you know,
15 and put it in your bank account, their account. But if
16 someone -- if you brought a postal order back from your
17 leave at the weekend, you would hand that in.

18 Basically, it was just things like, 'How long do you
19 think I've got -- my time left in here? Is there any
20 date for me getting out?' This type of thing, you know.

21 Q. If anything was concerning you about how you were being
22 treated at school, by pupils, Brothers or staff, is that
23 something you would speak to him about?

24 A. No, you wouldn't speak about it. Even though there was
25 a lot of young gang members from Glasgow, they --

1 I think most of them gave themselves a wee bit poetic
2 licence, you know. If you fell out with some of these
3 guys they would all stick together, you know, like
4 a mini gang and GWM, he was the most violent
5 Brother, he used to hate these guys. He used to pick on
6 them, deliberately pick on them, you know, and call them
7 'Wee tickets', you know.

8 These guys -- you had to watch what you were doing
9 with these guys. I'm not saying they were bullies.
10 I never got bullied. I stuck up for myself. You had to
11 learn to take care of yourself in the playground. It
12 was -- it was certainly -- it was reminiscent of seeing
13 the big penitentiaries in America where all the
14 prisoners are walking round. Well, you walked round
15 this playground three or four times a day, you know,
16 after meals or before meals, before you got into the
17 dining room, you know.

18 Q. What was the purpose of that?

19 A. Just to waste time. Just to -- the only other place
20 they could put you was in the main hall, you know.

21 Q. You mentioned earlier in your evidence that

22 Brother GWM was in charge of chores and housework
23 and that boys were given specific tasks to do?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. What was your chore?

1 A. My chore was -- I done the stairs, I scrubbed the stairs
2 from the headmaster's office down to the next landing.
3 Q. Would your work be checked?
4 A. Oh, it's checked -- it's checked, everything.
5 Q. Brother **GWM** ?
6 A. Uh-huh.
7 Q. What would happen if the work wasn't up to his standard?
8 A. You go back and do it again.
9 Q. You say the place was immaculate?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. Was that because of the work done by the boys?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. Did you have visits from family while you were at
14 St Joseph's?
15 A. No. I think I just got one, my dad came down one time
16 to -- with the family, it was the summer time and he
17 came down to ask permission to take me out to go across
18 to Fife to Silver Sands.
19 Q. What about social work visits, did you have anyone from
20 the Social Work Department or probation officer or
21 anybody like that come to see you?
22 A. No.
23 Q. I think you mention you may have seen a psychologist
24 while you were at St Joseph's?
25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that, how did that come about?

2 A. I think when you were nearing your release date, I don't
3 know the exact set-up, but the boys that were getting
4 released went to see a psychologist first, you know,
5 because a lot of the pupils in there were, I don't know,
6 we were all from different circumstances. There was
7 a lot of youngsters in there that I felt sorry for, you
8 know, because as I say there were different
9 circumstances, but some of them suffered a lot worse
10 than me, verbal, you know, from other guys, Glasgow
11 pupils, you know.

12 Q. These are things that were going on between the boys?

13 A. Yeah, aye.

14 Q. What you say in your statement is you were guarded or
15 quite guarded in what you said to the psychologist?

16 A. Yeah. Well, at that age I had no contact with anybody
17 like that and these older pupils used to kid you on and
18 say the guy was African, you know, and he'd have a spear
19 at the side of his chair, you know, they were just
20 winding you up, ken, before you went in, but the guy
21 just more or less asked how you're feeling and if you're
22 looking forward to going home and do you get on with
23 your mum and dad, you know.

24 Q. Do you remember any inspections or visits from boards of
25 managers or governors or anything like that?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Who do you remember coming to visit the school?

3 A. I don't know their names, but I knew one because it was
4 a doctor in Tranent, a Dr Stark. He was a member of the
5 management board or directors. I don't know what it
6 was, but they used to come every -- maybe every six
7 month or three month. I just can't remember --

8 Q. You have mentioned one person, Dr Stark there, would he
9 come on his own, would there be a group of people?

10 A. No, there would be at least half a dozen, because at the
11 front of the school they used to park their cars right
12 in the front of the pillars. There was no car park
13 really for them, so they just drove up to the front
14 gates and up the front steps into the -- I take it they
15 met in the headmaster's office.

16 Q. At the time, were you told anything about these visits
17 or what they were for?

18 A. No, nothing to do with us.

19 Q. Did you have any understanding of what Dr Stark or
20 others were coming to look at?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did anyone, like that, coming to look at the school,
23 speak to you?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you know if they spoke to any of the other boys?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Can I move on to the section of your statement,
3 'John M', where you tell us about discipline and some
4 abuse that you suffered while you were at St Joseph's.

5 To begin with, I think you say that you were
6 terrified of the Brothers?

7 A. Yeah, each Brother had their own MO of punishment, you
8 know. You knew right away if say Brother HHT
9 pulled you up in the playground, you knew what he was
10 going to do. We used to have short haircuts -- not as
11 short as this -- but he would grab your hair at the
12 sides and lift you up by the side of your hair and then
13 he would flick his hand so you were going like this
14 (indicating). You didn't know if he was going to slap
15 you with this hand or that hand, but he used to lift you
16 up by the hair on the side of your head and slap your
17 face.

18 Q. Would your feet be off the ground?

19 A. No, you were on your tiptoes, he would pull you right up
20 so you were on your tiptoes and then when you're about
21 ready to cry he would just slap you, it was just -- to
22 me it was just mental torture, you know.

23 Q. Sticking with Brother HHT then, did he sometimes
24 kick you?

25 A. Yes, oh, aye he kicked me a few times.

1 Q. What would lead to Brother HHT kicking you?

2 A. Well, to let you understand, if they saw you doing
3 something wrong in the playground, like hitting another
4 pupil or shouting or swearing, right, there was a lot of
5 shouting and swearing there, they would just ignore it
6 until you came near them. Then if you came in range,
7 rather than them shouting at you and you going across
8 and you were expecting, you get a sort of warning, they
9 would just wait until you were near them or they would
10 just amble across towards you and just thump you or kick
11 you, you know.

12 Q. Was there a particular part of the body that he would
13 kick?

14 A. Kick you in the buttocks or the upper legs.

15 Q. Looking at Brother PAF then, is he somebody who made
16 physical contact with you?

17 A. I got the strap once from him and he punched me about
18 the head and body one time, because I was all worked
19 up -- I was getting taken to the pictures on the
20 Saturday afternoon and we were all ready to go. You put
21 a suit on to go to the pictures at Tranent and you
22 walked into the shower room and you were all given
23 a penny each, you know, and there is a machine for
24 putting Brylcreem and I put the Brylcreem on my hair and
25 I was shaping it back, you know, and the style at the

1 back at the time was you pulled your comb down the back
2 of your hair, they called it the 'DA', you know --
3 anyway that was the style and he didn't like this and he
4 kept sending me back to the shower room to go to the
5 mirrors and change my hairstyle and I was -- I didn't
6 know what he was talking about, 'Sort your hair, sort
7 your hair'.

8 Then eventually he just lost his temper and thumped
9 me on the head two or three times, told me to get my
10 clothes off, I wasn't going to the pictures. So I had
11 to go back and put my shorts and jerkin and that on and
12 the physical assault wasn't so bad, but when I came back
13 into the main hall he started verbally abusing me,
14 saying:

15 'Who do you think you are? You're nothing but a wee
16 tramp from Tranent.'

17 You know, and in front of all -- in front -- there
18 were other boys that weren't going to be pictures and
19 they were there and they're all looking, but they
20 weren't laughing at me or anything like that, you know,
21 but it hurt me to get called a 'tramp', you know.

22 Q. If we look at Brother HYK now, who you mentioned
23 earlier. You speak in your statement about a practice
24 that he may have had involving blackboard dusters?

25 A. Aye. The eraser. They used to have a blackboard

1 duster, it was about say nine inches long, it was for
2 taking the chalk off the board, rather than if somebody
3 was misbehaving ... rather than walk up the classroom he
4 would just throw the duster at them, you know.

5 Q. Was there a wooden part on the duster?

6 A. Aye. That is what he held on to, the wooden part, to
7 get a grip.

8 Q. Were you ever hit with that duster?

9 A. Aye. It was just a normal thing in his class. You knew
10 if you were a bit disobedient or misbehaving that that's
11 what you get, you get the duster, you know.

12 Q. Did he target any part of --

13 A. Your head.

14 Q. Brother [REDACTED], you have told me about before. Can you
15 just tell me a little bit more about him? You describe
16 him in your statement as being mentally unstable?

17 A. Yeah. He was -- I find it hard to describe. I don't
18 think he should have been charged with looking after
19 children. He was an old guy. As I say, he took night
20 classes for making baskets, letter bins, this type of
21 thing, you know, and he looked after the chapel, you
22 know, but he used to come up and have a fist like that
23 (indicating) and hit you right in the -- come here --

24 Q. You are clenching your fist?

25 A. With his middle knuckle, he used to hit you right on the

1 forehead, come up and hit you like that. Or he would
2 hit you on the back of the head with -- in their robes,
3 they had pockets inside their robes, it was a brush
4 about that length, a clothes brush, a flat-handled
5 clothes brush, and hit you on the back of the head with
6 that.

7 Q. Was it a wooden brush?

8 A. Aye, aye. I can assure you it was painful in the back
9 of the head, but if you got it on the side of the face
10 it was worse. Sometimes you got that, you know.

11 Q. If he didn't have his brush, was there something else he
12 used?

13 A. A Coca-Cola bottle.

14 Q. A glass bottle?

15 A. A glass bottle, a Coca-Cola bottle.

16 Q. Where on your body would he hit you with a Coca-Cola
17 bottle?

18 A. You got in the head. We used to be able to buy
19 Coca-Cola out of the tuck shop. There was a tuck shop
20 inside the main hall. We got pocket money to buy sweets
21 and you could buy sweets or a bottle of Coca-Cola or
22 other juice. He used to carry an empty Coca-Cola
23 bottle, ken.

24 Q. On how many occasions do you think he hit you with
25 a Coca-Cola bottle?

1 A. He used it on a daily basis. Not on me, but that was
2 his tool for punishment.

3 Q. Were you hit with the bottle?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. You saw the boys being hit with the bottle?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Were these the small Coca-Cola bottles?

8 A. Aye. It was a wee one, aye.

9 LADY SMITH: With the curved shape?

10 A. Aye the curved one, aye.

11 LADY SMITH: Quite easy to get hold of?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 LADY SMITH: As I recall they were made of quite heavy
14 glass.

15 A. Really thick glass. He wouldn't draw his hand a way
16 back to do it, but he would just come along and click
17 you on the back of the head. It was sore, it was sore.

18 LADY SMITH: Were the bottles empty or did they still have
19 Coca-Cola in them?

20 A. No, they were empty, it was an empty bottle.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: In your statement, you say he was brutal and
23 you never got any warning when he assaulted you.

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did Brother LUU kick you?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Did he kick other boys?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Did he punch you?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And used his knuckle the way you've shown me to hit you
7 on the forehead?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. In your statement you mention an incident involving the
10 heel of a loaf of bread in the dining room. You said
11 that the boys took turns to have this?

12 A. Aye. You got a loaf of bread -- there were four at
13 a table and you got a loaf of bread in the morning and
14 a loaf at night among the four of you. What we used to
15 do was we called it a 'heel', that was the outside
16 slice, the Glasgow people called it an 'outsider'. It
17 was a big, thick -- it was like two slices of bread
18 stuck together and we used to take turns with that,
19 because it was a privilege to get this, you know.

20 One day there was -- we were just saying grace and
21 while we were saying grace Brother LUU was looking
22 away from me and I put my finger in my mouth and then
23 stuck it in the heel to say that's mine and this guy,
24 the guy that was entitled to the heel, when we sat down
25 he kicked me on the shin. I wasn't expecting it, so my

1 knee came up and hit the table, and obviously all the
2 cutlery rattled and what have you.

3 Brother LUU took me out and says what's wrong?
4 I said nothing. He looked at my leg and my leg was
5 bleeding, you know, because it was big heavy duty shoes
6 we wore and he says what happened? I said I hit my leg
7 off the side of the table. He knew I was lying, you
8 know, because you could see the black mark on my shin
9 from the rubber. So he gave me a slap for telling lies.
10 Told me to sit down and the child that kicked me, he was
11 sitting opposite me there and Brother LUU was behind
12 him and he came behind him and you could see the guy
13 going like this (indicated), it was like a tortoise
14 putting his head inside the shell, he was trying to get
15 his head away because he knew he was going to get
16 a thump.

17 He didn't know it was going to be with the brush, so
18 Brother LUU just stood until he put his head back to
19 normal and slapped him over the head two or three times
20 and --

21 Q. What did he use to slap him over the head?

22 A. A clothes brush and the guy couldn't take it. It was
23 too painful. He couldn't take it, so he ran for the
24 door, from the dining room, which takes you out to the
25 playground. He ran for that, so he just -- the door

1 opened and went to get out and Brother LUU jammed
2 the door with his foot. I know it was barbaric and what
3 have you, but we couldn't help but laugh. We couldn't
4 laugh though, because our stomach was obviously trying
5 to hold the laughter in, but Brother -- all you seen was
6 this hand flapping about and the guy is outside
7 screaming. This guy, his hand is inside the dining room
8 and Brother LUU just kept hitting him on the hand
9 and the rest and what have you, you know, and eventually
10 just let his foot go, take the pressure off the door and
11 you just seen the hand sliding down and this guy was
12 outside sobbing uncontrollably. He just let him stay
13 out there, you know.

14 Q. What you say is after that, the rest of the boys had
15 their tea as normal?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. You say the other Brothers knew this was happening?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Were there other Brothers there?

20 A. No, no. There was just one Brother -- when you had your
21 meals, there was just one Brother in charge.

22 Q. Are you referring there to the generality that Brothers
23 knew what other Brothers were doing?

24 A. Yeah, aye.

25 Q. You say there were six Brothers and they ran the place?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. You go on to say the civilian staff that were there had
3 nothing to do with it.

4 By that, do you mean that the civilian staff had
5 nothing to do with what was going on?

6 A. No, they just had their allocated jobs, their place of
7 work, but they couldn't -- they didn't have an authority
8 over the Brothers. They couldn't say, 'Stop hitting
9 that pupil', because if you think about it, some of the
10 staff that were there, they were tied to cottages, there
11 were six cottages just next to the school, they stayed
12 in them, so they were tied with the job and tied with
13 the cottages you know, so they've got to think about
14 their family, you know, so they wouldn't complain or
15 back you up.

16 Q. The Brothers were in charge?

17 A. Oh, aye, definitely.

18 Q. Staying with Brother LUU [REDACTED] for a little while longer,
19 you tell us in your statement about an occasion where
20 you were serving the altar and you needed to go to the
21 toilet?

22 A. Yeah, yeah. Aye. I had to -- I got dressed for the
23 altar. You had to put -- it was a long robe, you know.
24 A top vestment. So before I went to the altar I was
25 standing with the other altar boys with a couple of

1 minutes to go in and I went to the toilet just down the
2 staircase and while I was in the toilet Brother LUU
3 came out of the dormitory to lead us into the chapel and
4 he seen -- it's a red -- white top and the red vestment,
5 you know, he'd seen me in the toilet through the glass.

6 When I came out I never thought anything of it.
7 Just closed the door and came up and just went to go
8 into the queue with the other altar boys. He just says,
9 'You can't go -- serve on the altar, you've desecrated
10 the sacred vestments by going into a toilet'. He says,
11 'Take them off'. He just grabbed me and just started
12 punching me about the head and I woke up -- he had
13 knocked me unconscious.

14 Straight across from the chapel was the library,
15 where I ended up working in eventually. I woke up on
16 the floor there and I didn't know where I was. My face
17 was really sore and he's still slapping us, 'Get them
18 off, get them off'. So I had to take my vestments off
19 and then go into the chapel and wait -- well, just
20 didn't serve in the chapel but attend the mass, you
21 know.

22 Q. You say in your statement your face was swollen black
23 and blue?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Did you get any medical attention afterwards?

1 A. No, no, no.

2 Q. Moving now on to Brother GWM, 'John M', and looking
3 first of all to physical abuse that you may have
4 experienced or witnessed in relation to
5 Brother GWM.

6 You say that he was the most brutal of them all?

7 A. Yes, he was, aye.

8 Q. What made him the most brutal of them all?

9 A. I don't know, he came from Glasgow. As I said
10 a bit earlier, he didn't like these young guys that were
11 members of the young gangs, like in the 1960s and even
12 still now, you still got gangs in Glasgow. Some like
13 they are called the 'Young Cumbie', that was the
14 Cumberland Street Gang and some of the guys that were in
15 St Joseph's were members of the Young Cumbie, that's the
16 Young Cumberland Street Gang, different tiers of gangs.

17 They would hear different pupils shouting at each
18 other, 'Cumbie' and other ones would shout out another
19 gang, you know, and sometimes they would have mock
20 fights in the playground.

21 He used to hate that and he used to wind them up and
22 he used to wade into them with his hands, punch them and
23 kick them, you know, and call them 'wee tickets'. He
24 would say:

25 'You're just nothing but a ticket, and you know what

1 happens to tickets? They get punched.'

2 You know. He was absolutely -- he was the youngest
3 of the Brothers. I would say he would just be in his
4 early 30s, a great football fan. He was a Celtic fan.
5 He used to go on about Jimmy Johnstone, the wee winger,
6 you know, at that time.

7 I got a few run-ins with him. When I first went to
8 St Joseph's at Aberlemno he was there, but he didn't
9 have the robes on, he was just in khaki.

10 Q. Was this at the camp?

11 A. Aye. When I first went into the home. He was just
12 there. I just thought he was a civilian member of staff
13 and I asked one of the boys, 'Who's that?' And he says,
14 'That's Brother GWM. Don't go near him. Don't go
15 near him'. He looked all right. He was friendly, ken,
16 curly-headed guy, ken, wavy curly headed. He looked
17 a nice guy and he seemed a nice guy, but when you fell
18 out with him it wasn't a case of just getting the strap
19 with him. He would just punch and kick you anyway, you
20 know.

21 Q. You speak about a particular incident, which you
22 describe as a 'hammering', that you saw Brother GWM
23 give a boy when he took him out into the hall?

24 A. Yeah, that was [REDACTED] from Perth, he was the
25 hardest boy in the school.

1 He would be about 14-and-a-half/15 at the time and
2 he used to always go into the corner of the playground,
3 in the kitchen, because it was one of the kitchen
4 assistants, Eileen O'Shea, she would be 18 or 19 and
5 they used to have conversations at the door or the
6 window. He fancied her as a girlfriend and she was just
7 kidding him on, ken.

8 He got warned about speaking to this member of staff
9 on numerous occasions, so eventually he cracked up and
10 he got a ball, a hard ball and this guy was in the
11 corner so he started kicking the ball, aiming at the
12 guy, so the ball was going to hit him, you know, so he
13 was getting hit in the body and the legs and what have
14 you, because Brother GWM was a good footballer and
15 a strong guy so he kept kicking him and kicking the ball
16 at him.

17 The boy in question just said -- he cracked up and
18 says, 'You want a square go?' We were all mesmerised,
19 you're asking a member of staff for a square go:

20 'I'll give you a square go, but I'll take my
21 vestments off.'

22 He tore his -- all the school seen it, he tore his
23 collar off, it's a collar that comes down there,
24 a rectangular white collar. He tore the collar off and
25 then tore the robes off, threw them to the side in the

1 playground and the two of them went into the main hall
2 to have -- we thought a square go, but I ran into the
3 main toilets, there was an adjoining door into the hall
4 and I heard him -- I heard the noise and I looked at the
5 side and Brother GWM had this guy on a bench, the
6 benches ran right along the length of the wall, he had
7 him on top of the bench like that and his face was all
8 bloodied but he ran him along the bench, slid him right
9 along the bench, and in the middle was a radiator. He
10 bashed his head wide open -- he ran him straight along
11 and bashed his head off the radiator and just -- the guy
12 was -- the blood was gushing out his head.

13 Brother GWM had seen me and I just shut the
14 door and I got out the road quick in case I got it, you
15 know. When he seen somebody opening the door, it
16 stopped. But this guy, he never got taken to hospital
17 or nothing. He just got cleaned up.

18 Q. You mention that on one occasion you saw

19 Brother GWM playing classical music on the piano?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that?

22 A. I was nearing the end of my time, in the second time,
23 1965, and I got a job as a library assistant, you know,
24 which was -- I really enjoyed it. I was in the library
25 all day, you know, just typing with two fingers, you

1 know, putting tickets in the books and what have you.

2 It was an easy, wee job.

3 I got sent down with the key to the tuck shop to get
4 myself a Mars bar and a bottle of juice. It was paid
5 for by Brother **HHT**. I went down to the hall and as
6 I walked in he was sitting at the piano and we used to
7 get hymns every morning before we went to school.

8 He was playing the piano and I was mesmerised.
9 I says how can a man be that violent and play that
10 lovely music, you know, because I loved music. I loved
11 piano music, you know. I've got loads of CDs of
12 classical stuff, you know. It chills me out, you know,
13 and I asked, 'Is it okay if I sit down for a couple of
14 minutes?' He just kept playing away and he was away in
15 another world, you know, playing this music. I admired
16 him for what he was doing.

17 At the same time, I was surprised how could a person
18 be that violent and then two different spectrums
19 altogether, you know.

20 Q. I want to go on to the section of your statement,
21 'John M', where you speak about sexual abuse.

22 I just want to start by asking you -- you mention in
23 your statement that there came a time when
24 Brother **GWM** asked you if he could borrow your
25 radio?

1 A. No, it was Brother MJJ .

2 Q. Sorry, Brother MJJ asked you?

3 A. Aye, my mum brought me a radio. Before I went to the
4 school I was working seven days a week on a farm outside
5 Tranent and I used to hand the wages over to my mum and
6 she bought me a wee radio, a Eumig, I can remember that,
7 and it had different buttons on it. It was just
8 a wee -- I got to take it back to school and you got to
9 play at night Radio Luxembourg, you know, for the pop
10 songs and that. But this Brother MJJ, he noticed
11 I had the radio and he asked if he could borrow it.

12 I says there's not much battery life left. I didn't
13 want to give it to him. He says, 'I'll buy you
14 a battery', so I says, 'Fair enough'.

15 The understanding was at lights out I would put the
16 wireless off, and it suited me really because I knew it
17 was safe, if I left it in my locker it could have went
18 missing, you know, and you need to search the place for
19 it. He would take it and his room is just from here to
20 where Lady Smith is sitting, in the corridor outside my
21 dormitory.

22 At night-time I had permission to go into his room
23 and just take my radio back and play it, you know.

24 Q. What you tell us is that this is how he got you into his
25 room?

1 A. Yeah. He got me -- we used -- he ran the pipe band as
2 well. We used to sometimes go and a couple of practice
3 chanters, he was trying to say it was what he learned to
4 play scales in.

5 Q. Did Brother MJJ run the pipe band but was there
6 also a teacher who taught drums and chanter?

7 A. Yes, there were two teachers --

8 Q. Brother MJJ himself wasn't involved in teaching in
9 relation to pipe band?

10 A. No, he would just sit there and oversee it.

11 Q. Indeed, did he ask you if you would help him learn the
12 chanter?

13 A. Aye, aye, aye, because it was two civilians that taught
14 us the piping and drumming, you know, but it was -- my
15 first spell -- he was always cuddling me and kissing me
16 on the face and that, you know, and I was always
17 apprehensive. I was get -- then -- you had your pyjamas
18 on at night-time.

19 Q. This was in his room, 'John M'?

20 A. Aye, aye.

21 Q. Was this when you were going in and he was asking you to
22 help him with the chanter?

23 A. Aye. Sometimes it would be to get the radio and other
24 times it was to show him how to play the scales or what
25 have you.

1 Other times, if Brother PAF was on holiday, he
2 would take over the role of Brother PAF in the office
3 at night. So if we went down with my problems, you
4 know, you went to SNR's office, he was always
5 fondling your buttocks and rubbing his hand up the
6 inside your thighs, which -- I wasn't happy with it, you
7 know.

8 In hindsight I'm saying to myself, 'What did I do
9 wrong here? I didn't give him any encouragement'.

10 Q. On these occasions you are talking about, was it just
11 you and Brother MJJ in the room?

12 A. Aye, aye.

13 Q. Were you wearing your pyjamas on these occasions?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. Did there come a night where he took things further and
16 where he was holding you and something happened?

17 A. Yeah. What I was doing, I thought I was being clever,
18 I was stealing money off him. I was going into his room
19 at night to get my radio and he had a set of drawers,
20 the top drawer, he used to put loose change in the top
21 of the drawers and some in the drawers, you know, and he
22 knew to the exact penny what was there. He was just
23 feeling you out, you know.

24 I would help myself maybe to a thruppenny bit or
25 a sixpence or something to buy sweets down the tuck

1 shop, but he knew this was going on and eventually two
2 or three weeks later he asked me to come into his room
3 and I never thought nothing of it. Sat down on the bed
4 and questioned me about the missing money and you've got
5 to remember, I'm sitting on the bed and I was only a wee
6 totie guy. He was six feet-odd. I was terrified.

7 He says that he could get me charged with theft and
8 that would add time on to my time in the home, you know,
9 and this was the second time I was in there, aye, the
10 second time. I was -- I don't know, I was crying, I was
11 sobbing and then next thing I know he asked me to
12 masturbate him. He took his penis out and I had never
13 done that. I didn't know what to do. So he put my hand
14 on his penis and I had to masturbate him, he told me not
15 to say anything to anybody.

16 When he ejaculated I felt dirty, I felt really
17 sullied. I don't know how to explain it, but I'm saying
18 to myself, this is all wrong. I wanted to just jump out
19 the window and get away from him, you know, but he had
20 tissues and I wiped my hands and everything. I thought
21 I'll have to tell somebody this. I can't take this.
22 I'll have to tell somebody.

23 I thought at that time, Mr **GVX** was the
24 woodwork teacher, he was my housemaster and he stayed at
25 Macmerry, so I said I'll speak to him about it, but

1 I was embarrassed and didn't know how to approach him,
2 you know, because I'm saying to myself what if he goes
3 back and tells the headmaster, I might -- they'll not
4 believe me. They'll not believe me and I can't write
5 home, because they read your letters.

6 If I told my dad when I went home on leave he would
7 have been straight down to the school. Honestly, my dad
8 was a violent man, ken, he was a hard man. He would
9 have punched this guy up and down, honestly. I was
10 terrified. I am saying I can't tell my dad, I can't go
11 to the police -- I never even thought about going to the
12 police. I thought I'd tell Mr **GVX**, but prior to
13 that, before I got to speak to Mr **GVX**, there was
14 another occasion when I went in and we were sitting with
15 the chanter, blah, blah, blah, and I didn't know what
16 was happening. He had gone over and locked the door,
17 came with the key. I didn't see him doing that.
18 I didn't hear it. He said, right we'll go with this.

19 Then he took his robes off and asked me to
20 masturbate -- to masturbate him again and I says, no,
21 no, no and he was getting angry. Anyway, I was -- I had
22 to masturbate him and then he pushed me on to the bed,
23 he was trying to rape me, but I had my pyjamas tied in
24 a reef knot, in a bow and he was pulling at them, the
25 strand at the top and it came out, so it was in a reef

1 knot, he couldn't get into my ... he was pulling at my
2 pyjamas and he's got us on this bed and I'm -- I was
3 screaming the place down. It didn't last long, but it
4 seemed to last for a long, long time. He was forcing my
5 head in the mattress.

6 As I say, I was shouting and bawling and screaming
7 and I can only assume that he was masturbating himself
8 when he was lying on top of me, rubbing himself against
9 my body.

10 Anyway, I got up to the door and I got the door
11 open. I was pulling the handle and everything ...

12 I'll take a drink of water.

13 LADY SMITH: 'John M', just take your time. As long as it
14 takes.

15 A. I'm all right. I'm all right. Better getting it out
16 than keeping it in.

17 Anyway, I got out the door and there were other
18 pupils heard me shouting and bawling. This corridor
19 goes right along. You went to a dormitory, climbed
20 upstairs to this next landing, it was like extensions,
21 you know, and this corridor runs straight along and
22 there was my dormitory and then number 3 dormitory for
23 the wet-the-beds along there, all these people had heard
24 me screaming. And when I got into the corridor my mate
25 from Glasgow said, 'What's wrong? What's wrong?' And

1 I told him, I just says, 'He's tried to shag me'. And

2 MJJ never came out to see what was wrong.

3 So I went to my bed and I'm only here to there from

4 MJJ's bedroom. I was terrified. So I went along

5 to dormitory 4 and one of my pals and I says --

6 I explained what happened and I said, 'Do us a favour,

7 take my bed for the night'. I was fearing in case he

8 would come in during the night and do something to me.

9 So I went and slept in his bed that night in

10 dormitory 4, which was a big dormitory, the dormitory

11 I was in, there were only 16 and it was split new beds

12 and covers and that, you know, but after that I got

13 moved out -- I was moved out of -- the best dormitory,

14 along to this big one, which I was glad to get away from

15 this. Every time I saw him -- and I wanted to get out

16 the pipe band. I didn't want any contact with this guy.

17 I concocted a wee story with my woodwork teacher,

18 who was my housemaster.

19 Q. Did you go and speak to Mr GVX, your woodwork

20 teacher, about what had happened with Brother MJJ?

21 A. I told him what happened, aye. I told him.

22 Q. Did you tell him everything that you have told us today?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. How did he respond to that?

25 A. He started crying and we were in the back room of the

1 woodwork department and he says, 'Is this the truth?'

2 I says, 'aye'. I says:

3 'Can we not just say that rather than go to the pipe
4 band I want to be a joiner when I leave school and
5 I need extra woodwork at nights, for night school.'

6 Which you could do, and that's what we did. I gave
7 up the pipe band to get away with contact from
8 MJJ. I went to night school at night for
9 woodwork.

10 I thought Mr GVX would have done something
11 about it, but in hindsight I'm thinking he's got a job
12 to think about. If he makes trouble they might pay him
13 off.

14 Q. Am I understanding from what you're saying that

15 Mr GVX assisted you in that he helped you with the
16 story to get you out of the pipe band?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. But as far as you know, he didn't do anything else in
19 terms of reporting what you'd told him?

20 A. It was never mentioned again. I kept it to myself all
21 the years. I just stuck it to the corner of my mind,
22 until I went to tell the police in 2001.

23 Q. Did Brother MJJ ever approach you again or ask you
24 to come to his room or anything like that?

25 A. He never asked me to go to his room again and I took my

1 wireless, I took it home, I told him it was broken.
2 I took it home. He hid it in his room at one time and
3 he slapped me in the face because I was going home for
4 a Saturday at 12 o'clock. You got to go home by
5 12 o'clock to 6 o'clock at night.

6 I went to his room without his knowledge. I took my
7 wireless back and I took it home and left it in the
8 house, so he had no excuse to come near me. When he
9 found out I'd been in his room uninvited he slapped me
10 in the face and then when I was leaving the second time
11 he took me aside and told me that if I mentioned
12 anything about what had happened he would deny it and
13 see that I got put through to Glasgow to another
14 Approved School, I would get put to St Mary's or
15 St John's.

16 Q. You tell us that just after you had turned 15 in
17 [REDACTED] 1965 that you left St Joseph's?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. In your statement you tell us some things about your
20 life after care?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. You tell us that you were an apprentice grocer for
23 a time and then signed up with the army?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Did you spend quite a number of years with the army?

1 A. Five.

2 Q. I think you tell us that you were drinking alcohol at
3 times?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. Particularly at night. And that after the army you were
6 in fact looking for jobs that would allow you to drink
7 at night?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Did there come a time thereafter when you met your wife
10 and had two children?

11 You tell us about the impact that you consider your
12 time at St Joseph's has had on your life, 'John M', and
13 that's from paragraph 162 of your statement.

14 Indeed, you tell us that you had started drinking
15 and abusing substances while you were at St Joseph's?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. And that the motivation for that was to blank out the
18 things that were happening to you?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You say that you drank from the age of 14 up until about
21 six or seven years ago?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that you stopped drinking ultimately because of your
24 grandson?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And your daughter telling you that you had to stop?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You say that there are always things that take you back
4 to St Joseph's?

5 A. Yeah.

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

7 A. Well, it's only just down the road from Tranent, you
8 know. Actually I was there last week. I was trying to
9 remember the stained glass window, I was looking with
10 the binoculars trying to remember what was in the
11 stained glass window, but what I try and do is I try and
12 test myself to see if I'm getting worked up, you know.

13 What I do is I pray every day and I meditate every
14 day due to taking -- when I first started drinking I was
15 stealing it from the school. I was taking it out the
16 chapel, the wine, the consecration wine. I was taking
17 that, which was -- it affected my conscience, because
18 I'm stealing wine, you know.

19 I was sniffing the glue. I was getting the glue at
20 night in the night school in the woodwork, Evo-Stik, me
21 and another guy used to take it and take it before we
22 left the class at night.

23 And I used to drink the wine before I went to bed in
24 the school and then when I left there I used to get
25 bottles of sherry for 50 pence, or 10 shillings, out of

1 a licensed grocers and when I was in the army I used to
2 get sherry, buy it at night, or port and just drink
3 that, you know.

4 Eventually, over the years, it doesn't just happen
5 overnight, it's not like a switch, but I was alcohol
6 dependent and I found it difficult to sleep. I couldn't
7 sleep. Couldn't switch off. Nightmares were
8 horrendous. My wife used to say what's wrong? What's
9 wrong? I never told anybody what was wrong. I used to
10 wake up covered with sweat, which is a combination of
11 fear and alcohol coming through my system, you know.

12 I went to the doctor for help. Twice I've been
13 treated for depression. Luckily -- I got prescribed
14 Temazepam. It relaxes the muscles. It's like a pre-med
15 medication, you know, they give it to you before
16 an operation just to calm you down. I got addicted to
17 that for many years and I started swapping it for other
18 medication. I was driving a taxi in Edinburgh and I was
19 swapping it with people I came into contact with, you
20 know, so I could sleep and try and forget things.

21 I got to a stage where my wife didn't know nothing
22 about it, my children knew nothing about my past.
23 Eventually my wife, she just clicked. She says, "that's
24 what's wrong with you". We were at the pictures and we
25 had seen a film, 'Sleepers', about four New York

1 adolescents get put in a home and then they get sexually
2 abused and what have you and I burst into tears.
3 I didn't know what it was about and I was in the middle
4 of the picture house. I couldn't get out. The wife
5 advised me to go and see the police. That's what I did.
6 I got in touch with the police.

7 Q. Was that in 2001 that you saw that film --

8 A. Roughly.

9 Q. -- and saw the police?

10 Something you say is:

11 'All my life has been fear, anger and hatred.'

12 You say:

13 'The rage has come from the monks and the way they
14 treated us as St Joseph's.'

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You have already mentioned music and you mention that
17 you like poetry and sketching also to take your mind off
18 some of these things?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. In relation to when you did come to speak to the police,
21 did you tell them about the physical abuse?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Did you tell them about the sexual abuse?

24 A. I did, but it was -- there was a young police constable
25 there, she was a lady. To me -- I was embarrassed

1 actually to speak -- the detective sergeant was okay,
2 but I didn't go into detail about the masturbation or
3 attempted rape by this Brother.

4 I left that out and then eventually -- I didn't know
5 that the detective sergeant was going to make a report
6 and apply for criminal injuries on my behalf. I didn't
7 know that. So when I got notified of this, I got
8 a lawyer in Glasgow and I wrote another statement out
9 telling them about the attempted rape and the
10 masturbation, so they took it from there.

11 Then I told -- last year I put in for -- sorry,
12 I put in for Redress with the Scottish Government.
13 I told them about the other sexual abuse that happened.

14 Q. As a result of speaking to the police, were you cited as
15 a witness for a case in 2003?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Who was that case against?

18 A. That was against Brother GWM .

19 Q. Did that case go ahead?

20 A. No. His name is GWM , that is his
21 right name, GWM , Brother GWM .

22 Q. You say your understanding was -- well, you were told he
23 was too old and too frail to attend court?

24 A. Aye, he got a sick note. He stays down in in in
25 a rest and recuperation home. I think it's in ,

1 it's in [REDACTED], it's a rest and recuperation home for
2 the De La Salle Brothers.

3 Q. In relation to lessons that could be learned, 'John M',
4 you suggest that there should be an independent body in
5 place to keep in touch with people who are in care?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. That maybe every six months or so people in care should
8 be asked how they are?

9 A. Well, maybe not in that context, but they should be --
10 I don't think that young people put into care, let's say
11 for a period of time, say they get sentenced to
12 a period, a year, they shouldn't just get put into
13 an institution for a year without back-up and then
14 checking up on them, saying, 'Right, you're in there for
15 a year, we'll see you when you get out'. There should
16 be checks on this, like what you have with inspectorates
17 for the prisons, you have unannounced inspections for
18 care homes where they go in and see if everything is
19 clean and they're getting the right food and medication
20 and the right treatment, you know, the right type of
21 care they're getting.

22 You've got to remember some of these youngsters --
23 I'm lucky, I'm extremely lucky. I've got a great wife
24 and family who have supported me, and I've had help from
25 a trauma counsellor this year, that was supplied by the

1 West End -- I just forgot what it was.

2 LADY SMITH: It doesn't matter. Don't worry. Trauma
3 counselling services.

4 A. Health in Mind, that is the name of it, Health in Mind.
5 Future Pathways, they put it on, they have helped me and
6 I've had a lot of support from Alcoholics Anonymous.
7 I've been sober and substance free coming up eight years
8 this month.

9 I go to CA meetings and AA meetings just to keep on
10 top of it, because the temptation is still there to go,
11 when you feel when things are getting on top of you,
12 maybe take a drink. That's all in the head, so
13 I've learnt how to take care of that. Use the tools
14 I've that have been supplied to me and one of the best
15 organisations that I came across was INCAS, I don't know
16 if you have heard of it?

17 LADY SMITH: Oh, yes.

18 A. In Care Abuse Survivors, well I'm glad to say
19 I'm a member of that, because the guy that started it,
20 Frank Docherty from Glasgow, he was a member -- he was
21 a pupil at Smyllum House in Lanarkshire and he's sadly
22 passed away, but what the normal person on the street,
23 just if they're looking at my case, whether they can see
24 my name or not or my photograph or not they can see my
25 story, but what they didn't understand some of these

1 youngsters were flawed, they were fragile people in
2 St Joseph's. There was one chap running about the
3 playground all day, just round and round like this. He
4 thought he was an aeroplane. He was in for attempted
5 murder. He had hanged a guy with a noose.

6 I'm saying this guy shouldn't be beside us, the
7 man's loopy, but some of these Glasgow pupils they would
8 turn round and they would get another pupil in tears and
9 I used to say, 'What you doing?'

10 'His mum's on the game.'

11 It would transpire some of these pupils they were
12 put into care, they never done nothing wrong. They
13 hadn't committed a crime, but I'm just saying the father
14 is maybe in the jail, the mother can't cope with a large
15 family, so she's away, she's working the streets as
16 a prostitute to bring money in, which is really sad.

17 This happened and he's put into care aside --
18 I deserved to get put in okay, I put my hands up.
19 I committed crime and so the law -- they were entitled
20 to incarcerate me in an Approved School, that was the
21 system at the time. But being punched and kicked up and
22 down and trying to get raped, that's not punishment,
23 that's not right.

24 Q. Indeed, 'John M', at the very end of your statement you
25 say that you hope revelations might help to stamp out

1 barbaric behaviour in remaining establishments?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You say that that is your motivation for coming forward
4 to the Inquiry?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. 'John M', I've been asking you a lot of questions today
7 and before we finish I just wondered if there was
8 anything that you wanted to add before we complete your
9 evidence?

10 A. Not really, no. I'm quite happy to --

11 The only thing is you mentioned fear, anger and
12 hatred. I've had it most of my life. I'm learning to
13 cope with that. I can't truthfully sit here and say
14 that I'm not -- that I don't possess hatred. I still
15 hate the Catholic Church. I hate it for the hypocrisy
16 they've shown. I'm still waiting on an apology from the
17 Catholic Church, because the De La Salle Brothers have
18 changed their name to the Christian Brothers. I can't
19 get any contact with them.

20 Anyway, what I found was these Brothers they're
21 bound to know within themselves they are doing wrong,
22 their fellow Brothers have done wrong, why not come
23 through and report them? The Catholic Church has got
24 that much a hold on them psychologically they don't want
25 their mother church to be tarnished, you know.

1 I've got nothing against practising Catholics. All
2 my family is Catholic. I don't attend myself.
3 I'll never go -- I'll never take part in Catholic masses
4 or what have you. I want nothing to do with it. It's
5 not for me.

6 But at the end of the day -- we live in a society
7 I'm afraid that ... I think in Scotland what's wrong
8 with Scotland from a religious point of view, there's
9 too many Catholics, too many Protestants, not enough
10 Christians. That's what is wrong with it, you know.
11 People hide behind it. It's my church or it's my
12 church, don't try and embarrass me by criticising my
13 church because we do it a wee bit different. That's up
14 to them, you know.

15 It's up to the individual, but I'm quite happy with
16 what I've got now. I've got through attending AA --
17 I don't know if you are familiar with the workings of AA
18 and CA, there is a 12-step programme and you can choose
19 the God of your choosing or whatever form you want to be
20 and they encourage you through prayer and meditation to
21 get a clearer conscience with God, and that's what I do.

22 When I feel really down I jump in the car and I
23 travel 12 mile up the road to the Lammermuir Hills and
24 I go to Garvald, where I was taken when I was 13 with
25 the home, St Joseph's. I got in there and I have

1 a great conversation with Father Leonard, a man who is
2 87. Great. I've told him my history and he says,
3 'I'm sorry' and it calms me down.

4 MS MACLEOD: Thank you very much, 'John M', for those final
5 thoughts and also for the evidence that you have
6 provided in your statement and today.

7 My Lady, I haven't received any applications for
8 questions of this witness.

9 LADY SMITH: 'John M', before I let you go, I just want to
10 add my grateful thanks for all you've contributed to the
11 work we're doing here, both in terms of your written
12 statement and coming along to talk to us today, so
13 openly and frankly. I'm sorry we've had to ask you
14 about these difficult things. I can see it's not been
15 easy, but I'm delighted to say you are now able to go
16 and please have a restful time for the rest of today.

17 Thank you.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: I'm about to stop for the lunch break, but some
20 names before we do that of Brothers PAF, who was
21 referred to as PAF, MJJ, HHT,
22 HYK, LUU, GWM, also referred to as
23 GWM and then staff, MJK,
24 Mr GVV, Mr MJL and Mr Byrne, Mr Sweeney, Mr Mill
25 and Mrs Pender, I think it was, Ms Malone, Ms O'Shea,

1 Ms Gilmour and a Mr Gilmour and also another boy whose
2 surname was [REDACTED] was referred to. None of these
3 people are to be identified outside this room, I'm sure
4 you will all remember that.

5 If I pause now for the lunch break and sit again at
6 2.15 pm, then we can move to some read-ins.

7 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 (1.16 pm)

10 (The luncheon adjournment)

11 (2.15 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. We now turn to read-ins, as
13 promised. Our first read-in.

14 MR MACAULAY: The first read-in is 'Jamie', who was
15 an applicant, and the reference for the statement is
16 WIT.001.001.0962.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Jamie' (read)

19 MR MACAULAY: 'Jamie' is deceased.

20 Your Ladyship may have noted that he was one of the
21 first applicants to come to the Inquiry, having provided
22 a statement in June 2016.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: As far as his year of birth is concerned, he
25 was born in 1943.

1 He begins by setting out the background and the
2 events leading up to his being sent to St Ninian's. In
3 paragraph 7 he explains how he got into trouble when he
4 was collecting coal spillage at the railway line, in
5 order to assist his mother, and he was sent to
6 St Ninian's probably in 1953/1954.

7 At paragraph 9 he begins to describe aspects of
8 St Ninian's, the routine and the accommodation.

9 If I can go to paragraph 18 and just look at what he
10 says about the mornings. He says:

11 'We got up at 6 am and had a wash. We went to mass
12 every morning, seven days a week. We went there from
13 6.30 to 7.15 am.

14 After that we had breakfast and finished about
15 7.45 am. Then we cleaned up the house, dormitories,
16 landings and stairs. We would have drill and if your
17 bed was not made correctly your blankets would be thrown
18 on the floor. If there was a crease in the blankets,
19 you would have to make it again and again and you would
20 get a doing. After drill, we would go to school at
21 9 am.'

22 Then he talks about the evenings.

23 Then at 21 he says:

24 'The food was not that good. If you didn't eat your
25 meal then you'd starve. I remember that there were boys

1 who came from Govan. They were at the school for care
2 and protection. They were frail and would be sick. If
3 they were sick at the table then Brother MJO would
4 make them eat their vomit. I saw it happen. It didn't
5 happen to me. It happened to them fairly often.'

6 Going on:

7 'SNR of the school was Brother GEC.
8 He didn't keep very well. The SNR was
9 Brother MCA, who was also a teacher.
10 Brother GEC died when I was there and
11 Brother MCA as SNR. Another
12 Brother was brought in, but I can't remember his name.
13 Brother MJO was the discipline Brother. He was
14 a big, heavy man. I think he was English, but he did
15 not have an English accent. Brother Michael was
16 a teacher in the intermediate class. He was all right.
17 Brother Anthony was older. He was a decent man. He
18 looked after the office and was in charge of our boots.
19 Brother Ambrose used to take the choir and was always
20 singing. He was decent too. When we went berry picking
21 in the summer another brother used to come, but I'm not
22 sure where he came from. The brothers wore black
23 cassocks and a white collar with a split in the middle.
24 They lived on the premises in the main house.'

25 He goes on in the next paragraph:

1 'There were also lay staff. They lived in the
2 building above the stables. The building was across the
3 road from the school house. There was a teacher there
4 called MCK [REDACTED]. He was the teacher of the junior
5 class. He was a sadist. I think he was about 25 years
6 old. He had red hair and was not a big man.
7 Mr Charles McKenna was the woodwork teacher, he was also
8 a sadist. They both lived at the stables. At the
9 weekends, Mr Hutchison, the gardener, disciplined us.
10 So did Mr McKenzie, who was also a gardener. They came
11 to the home on every sixth weekend.

12 There were kitchen staff who were mostly from the
13 Outer Hebrides. They also lived over the stables and so
14 did the priest. The maids and cooks stayed round the
15 corner.'

16 Then there is a section looking at Brother MCA [REDACTED],
17 I'll read that:

18 'Brother MCA [REDACTED] was also in charge of the pipe
19 band, I was a drummer, and I was also learning to play
20 the pipes and the chanter. If I missed notes, he would
21 hit me on the hand with a drumstick. He did this on
22 about four different occasions. My hand was swollen and
23 painful and I couldn't write in the classroom.

24 I think Brother MCA [REDACTED] had been in the army or
25 a commando previously. He used to poke us in the

1 stomach and it was sore. He would take ten boys into
2 the woods and play commandos. You'd see him then next
3 minute he would be behind your back. He'd touch you
4 with a stick. It meant you were dead. It was a game.

5 Brother MCA had a golf ball. He would hit the
6 boys on the head with it. This happened to me several
7 times.'

8 Then he looks at Brother MJO :

9 'Brother MJO was a sadist. Since the day I went
10 to the home, he was on my case. He slapped me because
11 I had caused him to come back early from his holidays.
12 He would hit me with a wooden roller from a towel
13 holder. He would hold me by the hair and hit me all
14 over the body when I was in the boot room. I would be
15 bruised all over.

16 He would physically abuse me all the time. He did
17 not sexually abuse me nor did any of the other Brothers.
18 Brother MJO would take me to the boot room and he'd
19 batter me all over with the wooden roller. I wouldn't
20 have done anything wrong. He would be hitting me just
21 because of my first day there. The beatings in the boot
22 room took place at least every month.

23 He would stand at the door and tell me to wipe my
24 face on a towel. I would then go out and get into line
25 as it was time to go to bed. I would be in pain.

1 I would be bruised on my legs and arms.'

2 Then, between paragraphs 31 and 34, he provides some
3 further evidence about Brother MJO and what work he
4 required him to do, particularly in connection with the
5 garden.

6 At 34 he says:

7 'Brother MJO also occasionally bullied other
8 boys and took them into the boot room. He never hit us
9 in public except when we were cutting the grass.
10 Everyone was terrified of him. He was a big man. He
11 was maybe 35 to 40 years of age.'

12 He then looks at Mr MCK:

13 'Mr MCK and Brother MJO sometimes used to take
14 us out at weekends. We would put our suits and boots
15 on. They would make us walk for miles. This was down
16 by the Rob Roy Hotel. We would turn left into Aberfoyle
17 and then right to the Lake of Menteith. The walk was
18 a good four or five miles. We would get five minutes'
19 rest and then it was about turn. Then we had to run
20 back to the school. We were young children. We had to
21 get back and changed. We were told that if we were late
22 for tea, then we wouldn't get any. Some boys collapsed
23 with exhaustion. I collapsed a couple of times.

24 Brother MJO kicked me and told me to get up.

25 Mr MCK told me to "fucking get up". I was lagging

1 behind because I was exhausted. I think two other boys
2 collapsed. I was a good 20 minutes to half an hour
3 late. I was hit by Brother MJO in the boot room.
4 He hit me with a wooden roller. I did get my dinner
5 that day but it was cold. This happened to me more than
6 once. It maybe happened four times.'

7 Then with specific reference to MCK he
8 says, at paragraph 36:

9 'When I first went to the classroom, Mr MCK was in
10 charge of it. We addressed him as "Mr MCK". He had
11 a blackboard which could be moved about. It was kept
12 near the door. There were about 20 boys in the class.
13 You had to write letters and numbers the way he taught
14 you. We did that for six weeks. He said we had to
15 write "the MCK way" before we could join the class.
16 This was when I first started at St Ninian's.

17 If you did not write properly, Mr MCK would hit
18 you on the hand with a ruler and told you to "fucking
19 write properly". He would also sometimes say: "do it
20 the MCK way or don't fucking do it at all". There was
21 another blackboard in the class which he would move so
22 that no one could see me behind it. He would sometimes
23 lean on my back. His penis would be hard and he would
24 rub it upon me. That was the start of it. Mr MCK
25 would then go out to the toilet and come back in again.

1 Then he'd talk to the rest of the class.

2 He would give the class spelling books. We'd have
3 to find the number of the page and the position of
4 a particular word. Mr MCK was a cruel man. If I was
5 wrong he would slap me and others who got it wrong.

6 Mr MCK was also in charge of the ponies at the
7 school. He asked if I wanted to be a pony boy. I used
8 to go to the farms on Cochno Road in Clydebank to ride
9 horses, so I said yes. The school had three male
10 horses, three female horses and there were foals. The
11 horses were wild. After the horses were broken in,
12 reins could be put on them and they could be ridden
13 properly by the boys at the school.

14 Mr MCK brought harnesses for the horses. He would
15 get us to jump on the ponies' bare backs and hold on to
16 their manes. This was to try and break the ponies in.
17 The ponies used to run under the trees and try to get us
18 off. We would be scratched and bruised. We would fall
19 off and get cuts on our arms and body. Mr MCK would
20 try and make us get on the ponies again. I didn't want
21 to and he would hit me with the reins and swear at me.
22 I once told Brother MJO about being made to ride the
23 ponies and that I was all cut. He said that he didn't
24 want to see anything.

25 He would kick us and tell us we were "no fucking

1 good". At times when I was on a horse and I wasn't
2 riding it correctly, Mr MCK would hit me on the back
3 with the reins and tell me that I was "a fucking idiot"
4 and "not worthy of being a pony boy". He would take me
5 off being a pony boy for two weeks and then brought me
6 back in again. When I was hit with the reins I would be
7 bruised on the back, backside and thighs.

8 There were three or four pony boys. One was a boy
9 named [REDACTED], who was from Govan. His sister's boyfriend had
10 a motorbike and his sister and her boyfriend used to
11 come and visit him at night. Another boy was from Govan
12 too. There were also two younger boys, who used to
13 clean out the troughs and fill them with water.

14 I remember once going on a horse called Queenie. It
15 was from a ranch near the school. It used to take me
16 under the tree to get me off and I would get cuts and
17 bruises on my arms, legs and body. Mr MCK wouldn't
18 let us go to the nurse. I had to do this with horses
19 lots of times over the two years I was there.

20 After working with the horses we had to take
21 a shower. There were three lots of six showers. There
22 were no curtains. The showers were in a U-shape. I had
23 swimming trunks on. Mr MCK was in the shower too. He
24 told me to remove my trunks and to wash between my legs
25 and thighs. He used to open up my buttocks and take

1 photographs of me. He used to touch my private parts
2 and backside. He took out his penis and would rub
3 himself against me. He would try to put his penis in
4 me. It was very painful. I didn't like it. He would
5 masturbate and ejaculate all over me and told me to wash
6 it off. He said if I told anyone I would get sent to
7 borstal on a big ship and would never see my family
8 again. I believed him. The first time this happened
9 I had only been in the home for a few months. It
10 happened to me many times when I was there. It also
11 sometimes happened when I was out in the field with the
12 horses.

13 There would sometimes be least two other pony boys
14 in the showers. Mr MCK used to tell the other boys to
15 take their trunks off too and wash between their legs
16 and backsides. Sometimes he used to rub the boys with
17 a cloth. He never rubbed me with a cloth. He would
18 tell me to turn round and face the wall. He said if
19 I turned around then he would put me under the cold
20 shower for ten minutes. I saw him with the cloth
21 touching the boys' backsides, the boys accepted it. We
22 never told anyone. I saw him take photos of other boys
23 in the shower. Some boys were younger than me, about
24 seven or eight years of age. Mr MCK knew what he was
25 doing. He was a pervert.

1 When we were in the shower, Mr MCK wore dress
2 trousers and wellies. He'd tell us to turn the shower
3 off. The water would be off when he was abusing me or
4 the others.

5 There was also a dog at the home. It was a mongrel.
6 It was a gold colour. It looked part Labrador. It
7 belong to Mr Hutchison. Mr MCK would masturbate the
8 dog and he would tell me to do things to the dog too.
9 The dog would stand there. This happened many times.
10 There were trees in the field. This took place behind
11 the trees. Mr MCK would make me suck his private
12 parts. It was terrible. Mr MCK would also penetrate
13 me when we were outside too. He took my pants down and
14 took photos of me. I was always thinking about my
15 family. If I told them then I would be sent on the
16 borstal ship and never see them again. It terrified me.
17 The incidents in the showers and the field took place
18 over the whole two years I was there.

19 Many times I wanted to run away but if you did, you
20 were sent to St Joseph's Approved School in Tranent,
21 which was supposed to be a stricter regime. I was asked
22 to run away with other boys. Some did run away but they
23 were brought back. I never tried to run away. I was
24 afraid of the consequences.

25 Some other terrible things happened to me. I am

1 embarrassed about it. I have never told anyone. When
2 we were in the fields with the ponies, Mr MCK told me
3 to touch the horse's penis. He took photos of me doing
4 that. I felt that if I had a hammer I would hit him
5 over the head. He was really a pervert. I haven't even
6 told my wife about this. This happened several other
7 times when I was there. The first time it happened
8 I had been at the school for maybe six months. He made
9 me do this to different horses. Mr MCK was an awful
10 man.

11 When Mr MCK was in the classroom, he would tell us
12 to take off our trousers and put on our PT pants. We
13 wore them over our underpants. When we were doing
14 spelling work, Mr MCK would move the blackboards so
15 that no one could see and put you over the table and
16 spank you for nothing. I knew I had gotten the spelling
17 correct, but he would say the answer was wrong and he
18 spanked me. He'd touch your backside when he was
19 spanking you. Others were spanked too.

20 Mr MCK also used to take me into the classroom to
21 show me things. He would lock the door and move the
22 blackboard so no one could see us. This was in summer
23 at night-time and he would penetrate me.

24 Mr MCK would also skelp me on the backside with
25 a rule. He would feel me and skelp me. He always kept

1 the rule in his pocket. This happened in the classroom,
2 in the shower or in the field with the ponies. He would
3 hit me hard and it would be painful. It would leave red
4 marks. He was a bully and a pervert.

5 Mr MCK had a camera. It was like a square box and
6 looked like it was made of cardboard. He also took
7 photos of me and would take my pants down. He told me
8 to open up my buttocks and he would take photos. He
9 would also take photos of my private parts too. It was
10 really terrible. He usually took photos of me before
11 the abuse, but he sometimes took them afterwards. This
12 happened often. I never saw any of the photos and
13 I don't know what happened to them.'

14 He then makes some comments about Charles McKenna at
15 paragraph 54:

16 'Mr McKenna was a real pervert. He taught us
17 woodwork class in the morning one week and the next week
18 he taught us in the afternoon. He was also in charge of
19 football. I played football. The first time he abused
20 me he asked me to stay behind after class. He said he
21 wanted wood from the wood store. I don't know why
22 Mr McKenna picked on me. I remember I was making a fish
23 slice out of aluminium. We had to cut out three grooves
24 and shaped it, a handle had to be put on it, with
25 a rivet to go in the middle. He said, "Stay behind.

1 I want you to help me take some wood out of the store".

2 He took me over to the wood store. This was very
3 early on when I was at St Ninian's. The wood store was
4 opposite the building where the staff lived. He locked
5 the door and put a piece of wood up against it. If
6 someone came in with a key he'd hear the piece of wood
7 fall. That never happened. We were round the corner of
8 the wood store. Mr McKenna told me to take my trousers
9 down. There was a small bench and he told me to bend
10 over it. He told me to open my buttocks and started
11 penetrating me. It was terrible. I didn't know that
12 this was going to happen to me. He told me it was our
13 secret and that I was not to tell anyone or I'd go to
14 borstal.

15 He used to have a rule. He would get me to part my
16 buttocks and hit me on the side of them. He then
17 penetrated me with his penis. It was very painful. He
18 would masturbate. He would ejaculate over me and rub it
19 on my chest. He would have a damp cloth to wipe and
20 a dry cloth.

21 This abuse happened to me every other week for the
22 whole time I was at St Ninian's. Mr McKenna abused
23 other boys. He was convicted of it. I think he got
24 two years' in prison. I wasn't involved in that case.
25 A De La Salle Brother at the home was also convicted of

1 abuse. So was a night watchman. It was in the
2 newspaper. The night watchman who was there when I was,
3 was okay. He had a wooden leg. He would check the
4 dormitories at night.

5 Mr McKenna took photos of me in the store. He had
6 a dark room next to the wood store. I was never in the
7 dark room. I saw it one day when I came out of the wood
8 store and the door was open.'

9 He then goes on from paragraph 59 onwards to
10 describe aspects of the medical care and holidays that
11 took place when he was St Ninian's.

12 At paragraph 65 he talks about other boys who had
13 been there.

14 Then he says at 66 that he did disclose to another
15 boy the abuse that he had suffered, but he was too
16 scared to tell family members about that.

17 At 67 he does say that he got home leave, but he was
18 too scared to tell his family what was happening to him.

19 Moving on to paragraph 70, he also says:

20 'I have never spoken to the police about my
21 treatment at St Ninian's. I would want to go to the
22 police about these people.'

23 If I go on to 71:

24 'There were boys who were being physically and
25 sexually abused. The Brothers did not abuse me

1 sexually. They must have known what they were doing to
2 us and that they could have been caught. They
3 threatened us. They put up a front to allow them to do
4 what they did to us.

5 No one asked me how I was getting on at St Ninian's.
6 I understand that once an inspector came to the school
7 when I was there. We weren't told. I found out
8 afterwards that he or she had been shown around. The
9 inspector never spoke to us. That is the only time
10 I know about and I never saw the person.'.

11 Then he is complimentary of the schooling, he deals
12 with that at paragraph 73.

13 He then moves on to look at the time when he left
14 St Ninian's and what life was like thereafter at 75.

15 At 76 he says:

16 'I was in one other institution after I left school.
17 I was hanging around with the wrong crowd. There was
18 a [REDACTED] in Clydebank called [REDACTED]. There
19 were six or eight of us. Someone opened up the fire
20 exit of the [REDACTED] house. There was a room for lost
21 property and one of the boys set it on fire. It wasn't
22 me.'.

23 The upshot was that he was charged with wilful fire
24 raising and sent to St John's Boys' Approved School,
25 which again was run by the De La Salle Brothers.

1 It would appear that he was well treated there, in
2 the sense that before he had gone to St John's he had
3 managed to obtain an apprenticeship and Brother PAM ,
4 who I think may have been SNR , allowed him to
5 continue with that, albeit having to return to the
6 school on a nightly basis.

7 In due course, as we see in paragraph 78, he was
8 allowed to go home and he was not in any further trouble
9 after that.

10 He goes on in the rest of his statement to describe
11 what can be described as a successful working career.

12 If I move on to paragraph 89, that career culminates
13 in him becoming a community worker:

14 'I went to Strathclyde Law School to do courses on
15 social security law. I was giving benefits advice.
16 I won a few cases before the Social Security Appeal
17 Tribunals.'

18 Looking at the impact, he tells us at paragraph 90
19 that he gets flashbacks and he can't sleep at night.

20 His flashbacks, he tells us at 91, relate to what
21 happened to him at St Ninian's and in particular the
22 beatings that he was subjected to by Brother MJO .

23 He goes on to say, at 92:

24 'I am Catholic and I am still religious. My
25 treatment at St Ninian's has not affected my faith.'

1 He tells us about the support and assistance that he
2 has had from his family, which has been very beneficial
3 to him. And that at some point he was referred to
4 a psychiatrist -- that's at paragraph 99 -- to deal with
5 his depression. At the time of giving his statement he
6 was still seeing the psychiatrist from time to time.

7 Can I then move on to the last two paragraphs of his
8 statement, beginning at 103:

9 'I would like the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to
10 see how people like me have been abused and bring to
11 light what happened. I don't want this to ever happen
12 to anyone else.'

13 Finally he says:

14 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
15 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
16 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
17 true.'

18 'Jamie' has signed the statement.

19 LADY SMITH: I see he also pays tribute to a number of
20 members of INCAS. Some, such as Frank Docherty, who are
21 with us no longer, but were all instrumental in the hard
22 work done to establish this Inquiry that we heard about
23 during the Scottish Government case study.

24 MR MACAULAY: Yes. He mentioned Helen Holland and
25 Frank McCue as well.

1 LADY SMITH: I see that.

2 MR MACAULAY: I think Ms MacLeod is now ready to --

3 LADY SMITH: The next one.

4 While you are getting yourselves organised,
5 Ms MacLeod, many of these names have been mentioned
6 already, but for completeness I should do it again,
7 Brothers **MJO**, Anthony, **GEC**, **MCA**, Ambrose
8 and Michael and Mr **MCK**, McKenna, Hutchison and
9 McKenzie mustn't be identified outside this room.

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next read-in is one of
11 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use
12 the pseudonym 'Jack'.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 'Jack' (read)

15 MS MACLEOD: 'Jack' is unwell and unable to give evidence in
16 person at the Inquiry. His witness statement is at
17 WIT-1-000000807:

18 'My name is 'Jack', I was born in 1946. My contact
19 details are known to the Inquiry. I was born in Renton,
20 near Dumbarton.

21 We stayed in Renton for a number of years, then
22 moved to nearby Alexandria for a time before returning
23 to Renton. My mum was a housewife and died age 39, when
24 I was 14. Dad worked as a steel erector in England and
25 I only saw him every three months.

1 We didn't have much money and struggled financially.
2 We tended to live on tick and used the pawn shop often.
3 We had a lot of relatives who lived nearby who would
4 help us out if we were desperate.

5 I went to a local primary school in Renton and then
6 to a different school when we moved to Alexandria.
7 School was all right, but nobody from the schools went
8 on to university.

9 When I reached the age of secondary school I went to
10 St Patrick's in Dumbarton, but only for about three or
11 four weeks, before ending up in remand homes. When
12 I was about 10 or 11 years old I broke into a shop with
13 my brother and we got probation.

14 I think I then broke probation and got sent to
15 a remand home in Dumbarton for 14 days and ended up
16 going there twice, roughly four years apart. When
17 I broke probation the police gave me a doing, knocked
18 hell out of me to stop me doing it again and then took
19 me to court.

20 I'm sure we broke into the shop to get sweets and
21 were taken to the juvenile court in Dumbarton Sheriff
22 Court. That was the way it was set up in those days.
23 You got two years' probation, then sent a remand home if
24 you broke it or re-offended and then got sent to
25 an Approved School.

1 There was no social worker in court and everything
2 we got was on automatic sentence from a Justice of the
3 Peace. When myself and my brother broke our probation
4 it was about six months into it and we were then back to
5 the same court where this time they sent us to a remand
6 home in Dumbarton and the police took us straight there
7 from court.'

8 My Lady, between paragraph 9 and 35 of his statement
9 the witness speaks of his experiences in the remand home
10 in Dumbarton during two periods of time he spent there,
11 including describing physical abuse he suffered.

12 I will read on from paragraph 36, on page 7:

13 'A few weeks after getting out of the remand home,
14 I broke into another shop and was caught and sent back
15 to Dumbarton Sheriff Court. I was sentenced to one to
16 three years at St Joseph's and taken straight there from
17 the court by a probation officer, whose name I don't
18 recall. I was 12 years old. I was sent to St Joseph's
19 because I was from a Catholic family.

20 The second time I left the remand home, about four
21 years later, I was again taken to court then sent to
22 St John's, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow.

23 St Joseph's was about ten miles outside Edinburgh
24 and I was taken there by car and we got there at
25 lunchtime. I was handed in at the front door and taken

1 into the dining room where everybody was having dinner.

2 I was taken there by the lady who did the laundry.

3 St Joseph's had big pillars outside it. It had been
4 a country house with a lot of grounds. The boys there
5 were split into houses called St Joseph's, St Andrew's,
6 Bruce and De La Salle and there were about 100 boys
7 there, split into two dorms. Each house had a different
8 colour and when you lined up you lined up in your
9 houses. St Joseph's house wore red.

10 St Joseph's was run by the De La Salle Brothers and
11 I think there were eight to ten Brothers who worked
12 there. The ones I recall are Brother GEC [REDACTED], who was
13 SNR [REDACTED] until he died about nine months later,
14 then Brother PAF [REDACTED]. There was also
15 Brother GRE [REDACTED], Brother MJE [REDACTED] and Brother Benedict,
16 who may be the Brother Benedict who recently got eight
17 years in prison, and Brother LAA [REDACTED] who assaulted me
18 twice a week. Brother LVD [REDACTED] and Brother GWM [REDACTED]
19 arrived later, maybe in my last year. They all wore
20 black cassocks.

21 When I was taken to the dining room just after
22 I arrived I was sitting at a table with three other
23 boys. As I sat there, Brother GEC [REDACTED] slapped me on the
24 back of the head and said "haircut". The boys at the
25 table told me that meant I had to get a haircut. I then

1 got a plate of potatoes, cabbage and meat with a lot of
2 fat and I couldn't eat it.

3 Brother GEC smacked me on the head again,
4 forcing me to eat it. I was sick on the plate and I was
5 forced to eat that too. This continued until I ate most
6 of it. Thereafter, I always had a hanky with me to put
7 food into that I didn't like, as you always had to clear
8 the plate. Many a boy was smacked on the head until
9 they ate their food but most got wise to it and would
10 hide the food they didn't like.'

11 Between paragraphs 44 and 49 the witness speaks to
12 a number of aspects of the routine, including the daily
13 timings, healthcare, clothing, work and pocket money.

14 I'll move to paragraph 50:

15 'Because I was quite clever I went to St Martin's in
16 Tranent after the first few months. Three other boys
17 also went there and I went to that school for
18 two-and-a-half years. In St Joseph's, Brother GRE
19 had tried to teach me but the education was very poor
20 and he just wasn't interested in teaching us. He was
21 more interested in teaching the pipe band.

22 While I was at St Martin's the gym teacher sent me
23 to see the headmaster a few times because of bruises he
24 saw on me. However, we were always told to say that the
25 bruises had been caused by us playing football and the

1 headmaster seemed to accept this. The bruises had
2 usually been caused by Brother LAA, who would punch me
3 near the green door. He would punch me until I cried,
4 which was when he thought I had learned my lesson.

5 Most of the teachers at St Martin's were all right,
6 but some didn't approve of us being there. ██████████
7 ██████████ at St Martin's was the niece of Mr Mulgrew, the
8 night watchman and gardener at St Joseph's. She would
9 often bring me in something to eat and ask me if I had
10 any more bruises today.

11 My mother died while I was in St Joseph's and they
12 allowed me and my Brother home for the funeral. I just
13 remember them telling us that our mum had died, there
14 was no sympathy or anything like that. We were supposed
15 to be home for three days but my sister was getting
16 married shortly after so they allowed us to stay home
17 for a couple of weeks. However, because we had been
18 home for this length of time we weren't allowed home at
19 Christmas.

20 I didn't receive any visitors while I was at
21 St Joseph's, as it was too far away. I don't remember
22 seeing any of the boys getting visitors and have no
23 recollection of seeing any official visitors. No social
24 worker ever came to see me. The place was supposedly
25 run by East Lothian Council but nobody from there ever

1 inspected the place as far as I was aware.

2 I never ran away. I enjoyed going to St Martin's
3 and knew that they would stop me going there if I ran
4 away, so I never did. My brother did run away and he
5 got sent to St John's because of it.

6 I think that three of the Brothers, LAA, Benedict
7 and MJE, who was in charge of the chapel and was
8 a teacher, were retarded and were only there to stay out
9 of the army or to stay out of an asylum. All three
10 would be care in the community cases if it was these
11 days.

12 Brother LAA was at the school full-time and would
13 be on duty at night twice or three times a week.
14 I wouldn't see him if he was working during the day, but
15 in the evening he would force me to clean the toilets.
16 He would grab me by the hair and tweak my nipples. He
17 was maybe in his 40s. This happened twice a week for
18 two-and-a-half years. He said I was a weed in his
19 garden. This was because he didn't like me going to
20 an outside school.

21 Brother LAA also made me scrub the yard with
22 a toothbrush and a pail of water. One of the other
23 Brothers, Brother GWM, saw me doing this, but when
24 I told him Brother LAA had told me to do it he just
25 shook his head and walked away. The Brothers never

1 seemed to speak to each other.

2 Brother MJE would shout at a boy simply because
3 his shirt was hanging out the back of his trousers. He
4 would then tuck the shirt back into the boy's trousers,
5 touching the boy's bum as he did so.

6 Brother MJE would also sometimes grope a boy at
7 night, on the pretence of checking whether or not they
8 had wet the bed. I saw him do this several times.
9 Sometimes a boy would be taken away from the dorm in the
10 middle of the night for about 30 minutes. We all knew
11 something was amiss but nobody ever talked about what
12 happened.

13 This never happened to me and that might have been
14 because I went to a school outside of St Joseph's and
15 they might have been worried that I would say something
16 to somebody outside of St Joseph's.

17 The boys it did happen to had, I think, mental
18 disorders and I don't think anybody ever reported what
19 was going on. There were no social workers or outside
20 visitors so it was only the De La Salle Brothers who
21 dealt with everything.

22 About a year after I went to St Joseph's, my brother
23 arrived having been sent there for not attending school.
24 He was 13 years old. One day I came back from school
25 and I got told my brother was in hospital.

1 Brother Benedict had beaten him up badly with a board
2 pointer and broken his cheekbone and collarbone. I saw
3 him next day and he had two big black eyes and a bandage
4 on his collarbone. I was going to kill
5 Brother Benedict.

6 My brother said that he had told the nurse that the
7 injuries had been caused when he was playing football.
8 She apparently didn't believe him but nothing was ever
9 done about it. The assault played on my brother's mind
10 for a long time.

11 The brothers all lived in their own sections of the
12 school and I was only ever in there once. I was leaving
13 the school at the Easter break and Brother PAF called
14 for me. I went up to his room and saw five or six small
15 well-dressed children between seven and eight years old.
16 As I went in, Brother PAF called me my first name for
17 the first time ever. He always called me by my surname.

18 There was a wee blued-eyed boy standing in the
19 middle of the room staring at me, as if he was asking
20 for help. I had no idea why the children were there as
21 they were too young to be at the school, though they
22 were just sitting on the carpet playing with cars and
23 did seem happy enough. I was only 15 and didn't know
24 what was going on, but I've remembered that wee boy to
25 this day.

1 Looking back, the fact that Brother PAF called me
2 by my first name that night makes me think that he was
3 asking me for help that night. Though what he was
4 asking help for I don't know. Years later I wondered to
5 myself if that night had something to do with
6 paedophiles. There was definitely something wrong with
7 Brother PAF but it wasn't caused by alcohol. I think
8 I was in the room for about half an hour.

9 I ended up leaving St Joseph's the very next day,
10 which was a week earlier than I was supposed to.
11 I don't know why I was allowed to leave early and
12 I never did find out why I had been called to
13 Brother PAF's room.

14 There's not much to say about St John's, where I was
15 sent after breaking into another shop and being sent
16 there by Dumbarton Sheriff Court. I was about 15 years
17 old. It was also run by the De La Salle Brothers. It
18 was similar to St Joseph's, Tranent though it was more
19 like a prison, with most of the doors being locked.
20 However, I was bigger by then and could look after
21 myself, which you had to do to survive. All the boys
22 there were about 15 years old. Brother PAM was
23 supposedly SNR but a new man took over and all the
24 staff changed and I was let out along with most of the
25 other boys. I think the new guy wanted a complete

1 change of regime and that included the boys who were in
2 the school. I was only there a year.

3 When it came to leaving St John's at the age of 16,
4 they basically just kicked me out. There was no support
5 from social workers or anything like that. After
6 leaving St John's I went home. My mum had died when
7 I was 14 and my sisters had gone to America. I then
8 lived in the house myself, as it had been kept on by my
9 dad. I got married at 28 and had three children, I now
10 have eight grandchildren. My working life was spent
11 running bookies for a while and I eventually owned my
12 own bookies.

13 St Joseph's was a terrible place and those brothers
14 should never have been in a place supervising children.
15 Thinking about the young boy in Brother PAF's room has
16 been with me for about 28 years and it often puts me in
17 mind of the film "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas".
18 I don't have any friends except those in my family and
19 I think a lot of people who went through the schools
20 I went to became loners after spending so much time
21 trying to avoid the Brothers.

22 I also found it difficult to trust people and was
23 often quick tempered. I've no time for cheeky people,
24 but how much that has to do with my time in care,
25 I don't know. It also affected my eating habits and

1 mince is about the only thing I eat these days.

2 I have never sought or thought that I required any
3 treatment or support regarding my time in care.

4 I have never reported anything that happened to me
5 in the various places I was in to the police or to any
6 other person of authority and at the time nobody would
7 listen to you.

8 I contacted the De La Salle Brothers, but they told
9 me they didn't keep records as it was actually East
10 Lothian Council who ran St Joseph's in Tranent.
11 I emailed the council five times without reply.
12 However, I contacted St Martin's School in Tranent and
13 they confirmed that St Joseph's Tranent was given as my
14 home address when I attended St Martin's.

15 Those who ran St Joseph's should be held to account,
16 though I have heard the place has long since been pulled
17 down and those involved will all be dead and gone. The
18 De La Salle Brothers should be held to account and those
19 responsible should be named and shamed.

20 I left St Joseph's Tranent some time before my
21 brother. Thereafter, my dad would give me 17 shillings
22 and sixpence that I had to take to an office in
23 Alexandria. I would take a piece of paper with me that
24 the staff there would either stamp or sign, which would
25 be the receipt to show the money was paid. My dad said

1 this was what he had to contribute to my brother being
2 in St Joseph's. I assume he had to do the same for me
3 when I was there.

4 I have no objection to my witness statement being
5 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
7 true.'

8 The statement was signed by 'Jack' on
9 10 September 2021.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I don't know if now might be
12 a convenient time.

13 LADY SMITH: We should probably take a five-minute break and
14 we have at least one more we could do after the break,
15 if not two. We'll see how we get on.

16 Names again, GEC, PAF, GRE, MJI,
17 LVD, GWM, LAA and MJE, they were all
18 named as Brothers in the Order and can be named and
19 identified within this room, but at this stage certainly
20 not beyond it.

21 Thank you.

22 (3.03 pm)

23 (A short break)

24 (3.12 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

1 'Patrick' (read)

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness, who is
3 an applicant, takes the pseudonym 'Patrick' and the
4 statement is at WIT.001.001.6681.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MACAULAY: 'Patrick' was born in the year 1949. He
7 begins in his statement by providing some family
8 background. He then moves on to life before care. He
9 was the youngest of six children and, as he put it,
10 spoiled rotten.

11 He says, at paragraph 4, that at the time he had no
12 understanding why he went in to care, but he knew that
13 he was in trouble for not going to school.

14 Later on, he discovered that, this is at
15 paragraph 7, he may have been put into care because he
16 was out of parental control.

17 LADY SMITH: The two reasons often were recorded together in
18 the documents about somebody going to Approved School,
19 they're bunking off the school they should be going to
20 and it seems their parents aren't capable of getting
21 them to go to school, therefore they are out of control.

22 MR MACAULAY: That seems to be the logic.

23 He goes to St Joseph's School and he begins telling
24 us about that at paragraph 8. As far as dates are
25 concerned, it appears that he may have gone there in

1 1960 when he was aged about 11 and he left in 1962, when
2 he was aged about 13.

3 He provides a description of St Joseph's.

4 Moving on to paragraph 10 onwards, he then looks at
5 the routine of St Joseph's.

6 He thought, at paragraph 11, that there were over
7 100 boys there at the time.

8 At 15 he describes St Joseph's as a place where they
9 were locked in. It was like a concentration camp. The
10 windows and doors were locked all the time. That at
11 least is his description of it.

12 As far as wetting the bed is concerned, if I go to
13 paragraph 17, a couple of sentences there that talk
14 about that. In relation to wetting the bed, he says:

15 'The Brothers would kick you or slap you if you wet
16 the bed. They would say it was just laziness. They
17 wouldn't go near Jimmy though, he was a hardened
18 criminal even then.'

19 It is clear that there may have been some selection
20 in whom the Brothers would criticise for that practice.

21 From 18 onwards he describes other aspects of the
22 routine, including leisure, what happened on birthdays
23 and Christmas.

24 At 31 he says:

25 'I think you got a visit every week at the weekend.

1 I had my brothers and sisters who would come sometimes
2 and my mum came a few times. My dad didn't. He was
3 a bit of an alcoholic and he would be in the pub on
4 a Saturday.'

5 At paragraph 33 he says:

6 'I didn't see anybody from the social work in all my
7 time in these places. I cannot remember any.'

8 As we heard in other evidence, at paragraph 37, he
9 talks about a gang culture:

10 'There were three wee Glasgow gangs at St Joseph's.
11 There was about 8 to 12 boys in the bunch. They used to
12 try to bully people but they couldn't bully us.'

13 He goes on to describe one or two of these
14 individuals.

15 Then if I go on to paragraph 38, just to describe
16 what happened here:

17 'When I was 13 or 14, just before I got transferred
18 to St John's, some of the Glasgow boys decided to tie
19 the Brother up and escape through a window. They
20 smacked him over the head with snooker balls in a sock
21 and knocked him out and tied him up. They then put
22 a bench through the window and escaped. Me and another
23 guy untied him. I never seen the three of them again at
24 St Joseph's. One of the three [he is named] he was
25 a man compared to us. He was huge big hairy arms,

1 muscly, towered above us. These guys were wild.'

2 Running away:

3 'There were always boys running away. I ran away
4 three times. Usually the furthest I got was
5 Edinburgh Road. They had this set up with the police
6 where there were fields on one side and a road in front
7 of you. We would head for the road and the police were
8 waiting there. I got to Edinburgh once and got caught
9 in the bus station. But you'd get the tartan pants from
10 the headmaster when you returned or the Brothers would
11 kick you.'

12 Then there is the heading relating to abuse, and
13 I'll read that:

14 'St Joseph's was by far the most abusive of the two
15 schools. I never cottoned on to this until a month of
16 being there.'

17 LADY SMITH: When he says 'the two' he means St Joseph's and
18 St John's.

19 MR MACAULAY: There was a reception in the middle of the
20 four dormitories and two Brothers on nightshift were in
21 the middle and all they would do was walk in and out of
22 the dorms on the ground floor. There were four
23 corridors, with a dormitory at the end of each. About
24 25 to 30 to each dorm. They were all bunk beds and it
25 was mixed age groups.

1 The first experience I had was with a wee guy who
2 slept across from me. I woke up and this guy was next
3 to my bed. He pulled the covers back. It was a guy
4 called Brother GWM . I lashed out. At the time
5 I didn't realise what he was up to. I'd been in about
6 three weeks. He walked away. I tried to get back to
7 sleep.

8 I woke up about ten minutes later and I heard
9 a noise from the other corner and I saw this
10 Brother GWM picking up this little guy out of a top
11 bunk and taking him away. said to me, "Look at
12 that". I just heard this wee guy crying and screaming.
13 I asked what was happening and he told me he was
14 sexually abusing him.

15 They picked on the wee kids who didn't have
16 a family, who didn't get visits. I don't know where he
17 took him but I could hear the boy screaming and crying.
18 I saw him at breakfast the next day. I asked the wee
19 kid what happened and he said he'd tampered with him and
20 raped him and that he was sore. I told him to go to the
21 nurse and get cream on it. I asked , "What's
22 this?" And he told me it happened all the time.

23 It happened three or four times, the same boy with
24 the same Brother GWM . They never went willingly.
25 He had to grab them. He tried it with me, but I lashed

1 out and started shouting. He tried it with me a couple
2 of times but ██████ shouted "Hey you" and the Brother
3 took off. ██████ was a year older and bigger, a bit of
4 a rebel. It happened on a regular basis. He took two
5 or three boys out of my dormitory. You could hear the
6 screams from all angles. That first wee guy he took
7 left pretty quick. I don't know where he went. There
8 were rumours that there were bodies there, just hearsay.

9 I would suggest that they dig up the grounds at
10 St Joseph's. There were rumours that the children that
11 went missing were buried there.

12 I didn't ask the other boys what happened to them.
13 I knew by then. The ones they picked on had no family,
14 no visits, no letters, no pocket money sent in. They
15 were targeted. I saw this happening dozens of times
16 over the two-and-a-half years I was there. There was
17 Brother GWM ██████ and Brother GYZ ██████. I saw
18 Brother GYZ ██████ doing it once or twice as well. There
19 were other Brothers involved and where they took them
20 I don't know.

21 Brother GYZ ██████ approached ██████ one night and ██████
22 headbutted him. He was on the bottom bunk and he took
23 off. They never bothered us again, my group of four or
24 five boys, but it never stopped with other boys. They
25 were two big men.

1 I don't know what happened in other dormitories. We
2 spoke to other boys but they wouldn't admit it. One or
3 two were taken to hospital. Hopefully they'd have it in
4 hospital records, to get stitched, because of the
5 penetration. They told me they had been to Edinburgh
6 Royal Infirmary.

7 The showers were another favourite place. They were
8 just cubicles, no doors. There were the four
9 dormitories, a shower block, a gym and the classrooms.
10 The Brothers wore big cassocks with pockets. When going
11 to the showers, you all went downstairs in your
12 underpants with a towel. When you took your underpants
13 off, turned your shower on you'd hear "fuck off, you".
14 **GWM** was a regular at the showers. His hands were
15 in his pockets and he was playing with himself. He'd
16 try to grab your hand and put it in his pocket. He
17 wasn't the only one to do that.

18 Brother **GYZ** used to walk the showers. He used to
19 make the boys turn around and he'd touch their private
20 parts from behind.

21 Brother **LUU** did it too, he was six foot six
22 inches and built like a brick shithouse. He had boys
23 masturbating him. I saw him do it two or three times.
24 He tried it with me half a dozen times but I screamed in
25 his face to "fuck off". He used to pick you up by your

1 sideburns, right off the ground. It was excruciatingly
2 painful. Brother GYZ came in the showers too. You
3 only got one shower a week. There were 20 cubicles, so
4 there would be 20 of us in there. A lot of kids
5 wouldn't talk about it. They were too embarrassed. You
6 could see the Brothers were erect under their cassocks.
7 They would try to come into the showers. I smacked
8 Brother GYZ with a bar of soap. Some of the kids
9 masturbated him or gave them oral sex. We were from
10 Kirkton, we had to fight in our area, we were wilder.

11 We started getting letters and visits and home
12 visits. I got visits from my brothers and sisters and
13 because of this they left me alone. It was the kids who
14 had no one. I didn't realise that until later on.
15 Every week in the showers something happened. Every
16 single week.

17 The Brothers used to tie boys' hands together and
18 make them stand on a milk crate in the yard. It didn't
19 matter what the weather was like. If you spoke in the
20 dining room that's the kind of thing they did to you.
21 had to stand on the milk crate sometimes. All the
22 Brothers did it, whoever was on duty. They'd have to do
23 this until dinner was finished. I didn't have to stand
24 on the milk crate.

25 If you spoke in the dining hall, Brother LUJ,

1 who was a big man and had huge hands, hit you on the top
2 of the head with his knuckles. You'd see stars. It
3 happened to me a few times. There wasn't a clock in
4 this place. You never knew what time of day it was.
5 They'd also rap your knuckles with a big spoon if you
6 spoke in the dining hall. Very, very strict.

7 It took me a couple of months to realise what was
8 happening to me personally. Two or three times I'd be
9 sleeping and I woke up with Brother GWM or
10 Brother GYZ with their hands under my sheets trying
11 to masturbate me. I only remember the three names
12 because they were the main culprits. This happened
13 about a dozen times but I'd lash out with my feet. They
14 got away with it a couple of times but if they didn't,
15 they would move on to one of the boys who had no one.

16 They know what's going on. They read that wee lad's
17 file, knew he had no one.

18 They would smack your hands with metal spoons if you
19 got caught doing something wrong. If you got caught
20 twice you got sent to the headmaster and you got what
21 was called the tartan pants. I only got it once. I had
22 thrown a bit of wood at a guy. He threw it at me first
23 but didn't get caught, but I did.

24 You had to take your shoes, socks, trousers and
25 underpants off and put on a little tight pair of tartan

1 underpants. Then the headmaster beat you with a leather
2 strap. Your wrists were are held by another Brother.
3 I screamed like a banshee. It was really excruciating.
4 I didn't know why you wore the pants until I got back to
5 the dorm. The beating left the imprint of the tartan
6 pants on your backside. You couldn't sit down for
7 a week. It happened to loads of kids.

8 Over the two-and-a-half years it was a regular thing
9 to abuse the kids there. Mental, physical and sexual
10 abuse a regular occurrence. The mental abuse was that
11 they bullied you every day. You would walk past them
12 and they'd boot you up the arse for nothing or smack you
13 on the back of the head. Brother LUU hit you with
14 his knuckles not just in the dining room, everywhere.
15 I think he's dead now anyway.

16 They all had their own way of dealing with you.
17 They would maybe slap you about or drag you along the
18 corridor by your hair. There was a wee room at the end
19 of a corridor. I think there was a desk and maybe
20 a chair. It was a room we didn't want to go in.
21 I think it was the room where the younger boys were
22 abused. If you got out of hand they would give you
23 a right doing. I had black eyes having had a doing from
24 the Brothers. Some guys had burst lips. The Brothers
25 were never shy in lifting their hands. You never saw

1 much of the headmaster. You only saw him when he was
2 dishing out punishments. I can't remember his name.

3 The Brothers had their cassocks on all the time.
4 They carried these keys, and some of the Brothers would
5 hit you over the head with them. They were wicked,
6 cruel people.

7 It's still in my head to this day, hearing those
8 kids screaming. I sometimes still lie and think about
9 them. One or two disappeared and people always wondered
10 where they had went. Maybe transferred to another home.

11 I get angry with these people for sending me there
12 in the first place for supposedly not going to school.
13 My life was ruined from then on.'

14 He then moves on to tell us about when he came to
15 leave St Joseph's and that would be -- I think he says
16 he was aged 14, which would take us perhaps to about
17 1962. Leaving St Joseph's simply meant he was
18 transferred to St John's.

19 At paragraph 66 he says:

20 'I went to St John's when I was 14 or 15. St John's
21 is a senior Approved School. I got out of there three
22 months before my 16th birthday.'

23 He was 15 when he left.

24 St John's was a lot easier than St Joseph's. It was
25 run by the Marist Brothers.'

1 Clearly that's an error, we know it was the

2 De La Salle Brothers:

3 'They were stringent with religion but not as bad as
4 St Joseph's.'

5 He goes on to describe aspects of the routine and
6 the building.

7 At paragraph 70 he says that bed wetting was dealt
8 with in the same way as St Joseph's and you got a shower
9 once a week too, but the showers had half doors on them.
10 You are getting older.'

11 If I move on to aspects of the routine. He looks at
12 mornings and bedtime.

13 He says as far as schooling was concerned,
14 paragraph 75, that there were about eight to ten
15 Brothers at St John's:

16 'One or two would be in the classroom now and again.
17 Maybe more than that. I can't remember the civilians in
18 the class. I started to learn things at St John's and
19 learnt how to cook and sew. I liked cooking. I carried
20 that on in my life. I did a bit of painting.'

21 He describes other aspects of the education and what
22 happened at leisure times. Under the heading
23 'Visits/inspections', at paragraph 81 he says:

24 'I didn't see a social worker and can't recall any
25 inspections. How they got us sent to these places,

1 I don't know. Somebody didn't do their homework.

2 I didn't see anybody inspecting them or checking up on
3 them. I had no visits asking me how I was doing.'

4 Then there is a section headed 'Abuse at St John's',
5 beginning at paragraph 83, I'll read that:

6 'There was a lot of mental abuse. They had the
7 tartan pants in there too, but they were dark-coloured
8 pants there. In St Joseph's [I think that should be
9 "St John's"] you got three or four of the lashes ...'.

10 Sorry, in St Joseph's --

11 LADY SMITH: The point is you get more at St John's,
12 a senior Approved School.

13 MR MACAULAY: Yes, indeed:

14 '... but in St John's you got six to eight. I got
15 it about three times for fighting. It was done the same
16 way. A Brother would hold your wrists while another
17 belted you. The belt was an inch-and-a-half thick with
18 a split in it. You got it in the headmaster's office.
19 It was a thick, leather belt.

20 There was a swimming pool there. It wasn't big.
21 There were 18 to 20 guys swimming together. You could
22 see the Brothers eyeing up the wee guys. Grooming them.
23 Then you'd hear a Brother was away for two hours with
24 a certain boy. I never saw that. It was just spoken
25 of. By this time we were 15, so boys wouldn't tell

1 about it. They'd get a bad name. I thought they were
2 grooming these boys.

3 There were a lot of wee guys in there as well who
4 had nobody. The Brothers would give them a bar of
5 chocolate or a bar of toffee. They'd take them away for
6 an hour or so and did what they wanted to them. But the
7 boys wouldn't say what happened to them. It was
8 definitely going on.

9 They would say things just to demean you "your mum
10 and dad don't want you" or "you're going to come to
11 nothing". They'd slap you, kick your arse, punch you.
12 They never tried anything with us. They never tried to
13 sexually abuse us.

14 There were bullies in there but I didn't get
15 bullied. One guy tried it. I met him again in
16 St John's. He used to steal everybody's chips. He
17 stole my chips and I stuck my fork right through his
18 hand and the fork stuck in the table. I ran. This was
19 a big lad, screaming like a banshee. He got taken to
20 the hospital and came back three days later. There were
21 no repercussions for me.

22 There was a lot of bullying going on between the
23 boys. When I first went to St Joseph's I wouldn't say
24 boo to a goose. But three-and-a-half years later I was
25 sticking forks in people's hands. That's the way it

1 gets to you.

2 There were big gates and a barbed wire fence around
3 the roof and the pipes, it was secure all round, in and
4 out. I ran away from St John's once. The second week
5 I was there I went to a house in Shettleston. I got
6 caught the next day by the police going to get rolls.
7 They were watching the house. When I went back I got
8 put in the segregation box. It was like a wee shed.
9 There were three of them next to the gym. They were
10 like the sentry boxes outside Buckingham Palace. You
11 couldn't lie down in them. We were put in there after
12 we ran away. We were in there from 11.00 am until the
13 next morning. It was locked. They called them "dog
14 boxes". They gave you a potty when you were in there.

15 If you were fighting in the dining hall both of you
16 would be put in the dog boxes for a couple of hours
17 until you calmed down. There was no light in the place.
18 It only happened to me the once. I swore it wouldn't
19 happen again.

20 These kids were older and there were a lot of them,
21 so at times they were hard to control. It had to be
22 easier going. The Brothers wouldn't get involved in
23 sorting that out. These Brothers weren't capable of
24 handling violence of boys of that age. They couldn't
25 handle them if they ran riot.

1 I looked after myself. If you couldn't handle
2 yourself you got bullied. It happens in prison today.
3 Prison officers can't stop it happening. I was a young
4 kid from Kirkton and got sent away for not going to
5 school and it ruined my whole life.'

6 He then talks about leaving St John's, three months
7 before he was aged 16. What he says was that he was
8 thrown out and given a bus ticket to get back to Dundee.
9 But when he got back, as he tells us at paragraph 95:

10 'I should have told them because when I got home my
11 mum and dad's house door was always left open but
12 I tried it and it was locked. I looked in the window
13 and this couple and a kid were there. The guy came to
14 the door and told me they'd moved. He told the address
15 and told me where this was.

16 I went there and my mum said she thought she'd wrote
17 to me and told me. My dad was sitting there half drunk.
18 He asked me what I was doing there. I said, "I'm not
19 here long, when I'm 16 I'm away". He was a bad man.'

20 If I can move on to life after care, which is at
21 paragraph 102:

22 'I think it ruined my whole life. I don't know in
23 what way, but according to my brothers and sisters I was
24 supposed to be a nice wee lad. But because I didn't go
25 to school for a few days here and there they sent me to

1 St Joseph's. That's how my life changed. I met these
2 guys I've mentioned earlier. I went there to St John's.
3 I had a couple of years' grace and then ended up in HMP
4 Barlinnie when I was 18.'

5 LADY SMITH: The guys he mentioned were notorious criminals
6 in Glasgow.

7 MR MACAULAY: I haven't named them, but they're set out in
8 the statement:

9 'By this time I was into criminality, because I had
10 been mixed up with these people for years at such
11 an early age. It wasn't just a fortnight or a month, it
12 was years. With them and the rest of them, the wrong
13 type of people.'

14 He then tells us, at 104:

15 'I met the same people in Barlinnie again.'

16 He goes on to tell us about his life in crime.

17 At paragraph 107 he says that when he was 26 he was
18 back in Perth Prison.

19 At 108 he says that he was back in Barlinnie, and
20 again he makes the point:

21 'I met them all again.'

22 It would appear that on his journey through the
23 various prisons he meets those people who he had met in
24 care.

25 At 109 he says:

1 'I came out of HMP Perth in 1977 or 1978 and I went
2 to Aberdeen. I got a job on the oil rigs. I blagged my
3 way through the interview and before I knew it I was
4 standing on an oil rig in the North Sea. The money was
5 unbelievable. I had done a bit of painting when I was
6 in these places so I knew a bit about painting. But
7 this job consisted of going into the tanks on the rig
8 and shot blasting them and we went and cleaned them
9 out.'

10 He says at 111:

11 'That was me for ten-and-a-half years. That's what
12 got me out of the criminal life or I could have been
13 doing ten years.'

14 He tells us that he's been married three times and,
15 'I think it's had a big effect on my personal life'.

16 He then talks about the impact on him and indeed on
17 his family and his own children.

18 At 119 he says:

19 'My five brothers and sisters were all stand-up
20 citizens. They had responsible jobs. One of my
21 brothers was a Justice of the Peace. The other one had
22 his own heating engineering company. None of them were
23 ever involved with a policeman all their lives. Just
24 me. And I put it down to them putting me in these
25 places in the first place.'

1 If I can go on to paragraph 125:

2 'Before they send kids to these places, they should
3 check them out thoroughly. Checked that there's no
4 history of sexual abuse or any kind of abuse so that the
5 same things don't happen to them as happened to me.
6 This is why I am quite hard on my grandsons and I have
7 been for a long time. I say to them, "You cannot get
8 into trouble. You must behave, because if you don't
9 they'll put you in a home and you don't want to go into
10 a home believe you me".

11 I have 16 grandchildren and seven great
12 grandchildren and none of them have been in trouble. My
13 own kids, yes, but none of my grandchildren. I kept it
14 away from them because there's no reason for them to
15 know anything.

16 I have managed to live with it, but I've had my ups
17 and downs. I have been a loner for the last 20 years.'

18 At the very end of his statement he says:

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

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

23 He has signed the statement on 7 July 2017, I think
24 that is.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 Is there time for one more or not?

2 MR MACAULAY: I understand that 20 minutes would probably
3 cover it.

4 LADY SMITH: Let's do it, thank you.

5 'Mel' (read)

6 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is by
7 an applicant who will remain anonymous and use the
8 pseudonym 'Mel'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: The statement is at WIT-1-000000611:

11 'My name is 'Mel'. I was born in 1949. My contact
12 details are known to the Inquiry. We were a big family
13 and we were a poor family. We lived in a small
14 prefabricated house in West Pilton in the north end of
15 Edinburgh and life was difficult. At times there were
16 three or four of us sharing a bed. It wasn't a happy
17 childhood, insofar as we didn't have a lot and we were
18 impoverished. My dad worked in a chemist and then in
19 a mill, but he was constantly in and out of hospital
20 because of his pleurisy, so he didn't have much income.
21 My dad was the biggest sticking point to a happy
22 childhood because of his illnesses, which he had
23 contracted during the war, but more so because of his
24 wickedness. He was possessive of my mother and very
25 controlling. He was extremely violent towards her.

1 I witnessed my father doing terrible things to my
2 mother. It was unforgivable.

3 We were poor and we didn't get the things that other
4 children got. It was hard just to feed ourselves.
5 Money was always tight. We used to go to the National
6 Assistance Board at Gorgie to get money to help feed the
7 family and we got two shillings. We went to the woods
8 to chop down trees and filled up a big Silver Cross pram
9 with logs. I stole coal to put in the fire because we
10 were freezing.

11 I was about six when my mum went into hospital and
12 some of my siblings and I were put into a home for the
13 first time. So there must have been social care
14 intervention at that time. We all went into care but my
15 older brothers were in a different home. I was in
16 a home on two or three occasions and I grew to like it.
17 We went whenever my mum was having a baby or when my
18 father was ill.'

19 Between paragraphs 6 and 23 of his statement, 'Mel'
20 speaks of his time in a home in Haddington, **Secondary Institutions**

21 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
22
23

24 I'll read from paragraph 27:

25 'I was involved in petty crime, like stealing

1 apples, from about age seven and I had a juvenile police
2 record. I was about 11 when I broke into a car and then
3 I was sent to a remand home. I may have been involved
4 in a shop break in as well. When I appeared in front of
5 the juvenile panel my dad was questioned. I was
6 considered to be a risk so I was remanded in custody at
7 Gilmerton.'

8 Between paragraphs 28 and 47 the witness speaks of
9 his time in a remand home in Edinburgh, including
10 describing sexual abuse by a staff member there.

11 I'll read from paragraph 48, on page 9:

12 'After leaving the remand home I went to a juvenile
13 court. They read out the statements from the Social
14 Work Department to the judge. When my dad was
15 questioned about my behaviour he said that I was out of
16 control, so the writing was on the wall for me and
17 I hated him for that.

18 I was only 11 and I was frightened so I was only
19 taking in about 30 per cent of what was happening around
20 me. I was never asked for my opinion in court. There
21 were several discussions and I can't remember if I was
22 given the sentence at that point or sent back to the
23 remand home for reports.'

24 Ultimately the witness went to St John's Approved
25 School and he speaks of that from paragraph 50:

1 'St John's Approved School was on the Edinburgh Road
2 towards Shettleston. You went down a lane off the Great
3 Western Approach and there was a big house surrounded by
4 a wall. There were three parts to it, with a courtyard
5 at the centre. At the end of the wall was the
6 outbuildings. You went through a double green gate to
7 the courtyard and the ablutions, shower room and toilets
8 were on the extreme left.

9 The western elevation had classrooms on the lower
10 level and dormitories on the upper level. The Brothers'
11 accommodation was above the south wing on the facing
12 elevation. All the wings were connected. The eastern
13 elevation had a dining room, a laundry room, a tailors
14 and the outside farm workers' room, where all your
15 equipment was kept. Back through the gate at the top of
16 the yard you had the joiners, the cobblers and then you
17 had the playing fields. Round the side of the eastern
18 elevation was where they cultivated turnips and other
19 vegetables.

20 Two of the groups shared the same dormitory,
21 a south-west wing and north-west wing had two corridors
22 where the dormitories were and each group would have
23 their own side of the dormitory. De La Salle on one
24 side, St Patrick were on the other.

25 The whole system was run by the Irish Catholic

1 order. Four Brothers ran the school and they had
2 several female members of staff to assist them, who
3 lived in and who did things like laundry and cooked.
4 The majority of these women were Irish. They very
5 rarely had anything to do with the boys. You only saw
6 them if you were collecting laundry.

7 There were four halls, each of the four brothers was
8 in charge of their own hall. St Patrick's was run by
9 Brother MDC. I was in De La Salle, where
10 Brother HOZ was in charge. The brothers called you
11 by your surname. There were about 60 or 70 in
12 De La Salle and a similar number in other groups. The
13 school could hold 180 to 200. The staffing levels were
14 low, considering the number of boys in the home.

15 I was one of the youngest boys, they usually started
16 at age 12 and went up to 16. Some of the older boys had
17 been in List D schools and other Approved Schools all
18 their lives so they were institutionalised and that was
19 all they knew. That was their home and these boys
20 committed crimes because they didn't know anything else.
21 I tried to keep a low profile but they would threaten
22 you for cigarettes or toothpaste and they would steal
23 from you.

24 The brothers sold you tobacco. You got a flint and
25 you had a bit of lead to strike it on. You had

1 a tinderbox. The tuck shop was on a Saturday morning
2 before the weekend. I was underage, but I was still
3 allowed to spend my wages on tobacco.'

4 My Lady, between paragraphs 57 and 84 the witness
5 provides evidence in relation to the routine, morning
6 and bedtime, meal times, food, washing and bathing,
7 clothing, uniform, school, holidays, leisure time and
8 healthcare. We can read that for ourselves and
9 I propose to pick up the statement from paragraph 85:

10 'Boys used to go home at the weekend and not come
11 back. When they came back they were disciplined and
12 their time at St John's would be extended. If you were
13 well behaved you could get out on licence in
14 a year-and-a-half. I was told I would be in St John's
15 for between one and three years, so I knew if I ran away
16 that my time there would be extended. If you were
17 habitually trying to abscond you would have time added
18 on to your sentence.

19 I was under constant watch for the first couple of
20 months and after about ten months I was allowed out on
21 my own on a Saturday and I worked on the pig farm. They
22 knew I wasn't going to run away after that, because
23 I was getting near the end of my time there.

24 One of the brothers would be on nightshift so they
25 would come round during the night checking that the

1 watchman was okay. When I first went I was terrified to
2 tell anybody that I had wet the bed. I wet the bed one
3 night when Brother LAA was on duty. He sat on the
4 bottom of my bed and asked me if I had wet it. He then
5 touched me inappropriately. At that time you were
6 allowed to get up if he was still on duty and go for
7 a shower and you would get your bedclothes changed.
8 I was terrified when I was in the shower because of what
9 he had done and I was worried he might return and do it
10 again.

11 Because we slept in bunk beds the boy in the other
12 bunk could smell when I had wet the bed and would call
13 me names. I was afraid to go to sleep in case I wet the
14 bed and I had to face the repercussions of that. We
15 were called "piss the beds" and pushed away by the other
16 inmates because we were smelly. I had no medical help
17 for bed wetting. I was given a rubber sheet and I was
18 humiliated loads of times. I had to get up during the
19 night, go down to the shower block, have a shower and
20 change my bed, so everybody knew I had wet the bed.

21 The morning was the most embarrassing time of the
22 lot, because when you got up in the morning you stood by
23 your bedside and I couldn't put my pyjamas on the rack
24 as they were wet. So I had to stand there naked and the
25 night watchman would shout 'Mel', have you wet the bed

1 this morning? And I would have to say yes.

2 For punishment you could lose privileges like
3 weekend leave and leisure time like the cinema or going
4 to the pig farm. You could lose pocket money as well,
5 so you couldn't go to the tuck shop or buy toothpaste or
6 other things.

7 A common name for getting the belt was the 'pants'.
8 This happened to me in St John's. Pants was the most
9 severe punishment. A tawse was used and it would hit
10 your legs as well as your backside. You would be left
11 with welts on your bottom and your legs. The pants was
12 the belt on your bum with the trousers on, but sometimes
13 they made you wear wet swimming trunks. They sent you
14 to the swimming pool to get your swimming trunks wet and
15 then they would leather your backside. Apparently this
16 was much sorer.

17 When I got the pants it was over my short trousers
18 and that was for fighting. It wasn't even me who
19 started the fight. I was struck six times. This was
20 done by Brother Celeste, who was the headmaster,
21 Brother **HOZ** was the **SNR** and he would belt
22 too. Occasionally Brother **MDC** would do it. You would
23 be pulled up on a discipline report and you would end up
24 going to the headmaster's office and they would tell you
25 that you were going to be punished. They told you how

1 many strokes of the belt you got. It was normally six,
2 but sometimes it was only two or three. You were leant
3 over the desk and they belted you.

4 On a Saturday and Sunday a large percentage of the
5 boys were on release. A number of the staff were away
6 so a lot of the perpetration took place then. You were
7 at more risk at the weekends. My biggest problems was
8 during the week and at night. Summer nights were all
9 right, but winter nights were difficult because it was
10 dark. I spent most of my time trying to avoid being in
11 the school because I was terrified of what might happen
12 to me and I volunteered to get away when I could.

13 It didn't happen to me until I was at the school
14 about three months. I was at swimming lessons on
15 a Saturday morning. It started with Brother LAA
16 handing me my towel when I got out of the shower and he
17 patted my bum. This continued for some time. He would
18 also put an arm round me when I was coming out the
19 cubicle. I saw him masturbating under his robes while
20 he was watching the boys in the shower area. He knew
21 that I knew because he smiled at me. He was Irish.
22 I think Brother LAA was late 30s or early 40s.

23 Every time Brother LAA was supervising the showers
24 something would happen, but I think he got the message
25 after a couple of months that it wasn't going to be easy

1 with me. It continued to happen until I got the job in
2 the pig farm and then I was away from him most of the
3 time. I was very quick to learn to try and avoid
4 certain places and certain people for my own safety and
5 also because you got a bit of stick from the other boys
6 if you were seen with these people.

7 In St John's it wasn't just your carers you had to
8 watch, it was the inmates as well. I never understood
9 until I became a mature adult why they had guys like
10 that in those places. Most of them weren't homosexual
11 but they probably had it done to them. In fact it got
12 worse in St John's because you were older and you were
13 in the company of older kids. There was also bullying
14 if you had a disability.

15 We used to go to the cinema in Shettleston. They
16 marched you down the road on a Saturday, there was a
17 matinee, so some boys would go in the morning and some
18 would go in the afternoon. A lot of things happened in
19 the cinema. Boys were abused by other boys. I could
20 hear it and they would talk about it when we were
21 walking back to the home. Fortunately for me, I never
22 got propositioned in the cinema but I know one of the
23 other boys used to get the life of hell and this
24 happened to another couple of boys as well.

25 I was up against it in both the tailors and the

1 cobbler. The tailor that taught us was about 70. He
2 taught us in a small room and there were about ten boys
3 in it learning various skills. The boy who tried to
4 abuse me was two or three years older than me. He
5 pulled his penis out and wanted me to touch him and
6 masturbate him. He would cover himself with material.
7 I think he tried to do this twice. I don't know whether
8 he knew about the Brother and that is why he tried to
9 abuse me, but he clearly tried to make me do things.
10 The tailor sat elevated on a big chair, so I don't know
11 how he didn't see what was happening. There was a big
12 Irish boy and he was a bit of a protector. He stopped
13 the other boy on a few occasions. This boy was in the
14 cobbler's class as well, so I tried to avoid him there
15 too. I made one pair of shoes and got out of there.
16 That took me five weeks. I think the boy who abused me
17 knew that if he continued that I was going to tell, but
18 I was reluctant to do that because you were creating
19 a stigma for yourself right away so you tried to avoid
20 the situation. He didn't try to do anything to me
21 anywhere else and he was in a different house to me.

22 The boy who abused me was one of Brother LAA's
23 proteges. He was an inmate who preyed on inmates and he
24 was preyed on by Brother LAA. There was another
25 inmate who was preyed on by Brother LAA. That boy was

1 around the same age as me. I felt sorry for that guy,
2 because he got preyed on quite a lot. Everybody knew he
3 was being abused by Brother LAA, who was a little
4 snake. The English class was near the swimming pool and
5 the toilets were nearby. This boy was always kept back
6 after the English class by Brother LAA and he would
7 come back about three-quarters of an hour later.
8 Everybody else was lined up and marched up to the hall.
9 I suspect that the other Brothers knew what
10 Brother LAA was doing.

11 The boy would get pushed when he was in the queue
12 for supper and called a "wee poof". The boys would say,
13 "Brother LAA is on tonight so you'll get two buns" and
14 things like that. It was every man for himself in these
15 places. Every though the other boys knew it wasn't your
16 fault that you were getting abused, they still saw you
17 as Brother LAA's wee bum boy, so you tried to avoid
18 the stigma as well.

19 You don't know who was your friend and who was your
20 enemy, and that was within your own group. You dare not
21 get yourself the reputation for being a grass or you
22 would have a life of total misery. If I got into
23 a fight I couldn't grass the person I was in a fight
24 with or if I got a beating, because I would get more
25 than my share of beatings after that.

1 Two sleeping blocks were off one corridor, so the
2 night watchman sat at the entrance to each house and he
3 knew nobody could come in or go out. Somebody came into
4 the dorms at night. I don't know who it was but I could
5 hear them moving about. I took ages to get to sleep
6 because I was so terrified about wetting my bed. You
7 could hear boys saying, "No, don't". The night watchman
8 would have seen someone come in. Who it was, so I can
9 only imagine it was someone within the dorm doing it to
10 someone else within the dorm. You had to watch out for
11 the other boys doing things to you as well.

12 When my mother visited I told her about what
13 Brother LAA had done to me and she obviously told my
14 dad. He said I was trying to cause trouble. I was
15 initially reluctant to tell my mum what was going on
16 after my experience with my dad, but I did. It was
17 never going to be an easy thing for me to do because
18 I knew my dad would give her a life of misery.

19 Prior to leaving St John's you would be given tasks
20 to do which were unsupervised, in an attempt to prepare
21 you for life after you left. I left St John's when
22 I was 14. My family were still living in Edinburgh.

23 My sole intention was never to get into trouble
24 again after I left, but I did.

25 I left home when I was 15 because my dad threw

1 a penny at me and it hit me on the ear. I was afraid
2 that I was going to be violent towards him so I tried to
3 get into the army, but they refused me because I wet the
4 bed and because I had a criminal record, so I went to
5 the trawlers.

6 I was told to apply to the army again when I was 17,
7 so I went to sea for two-and-a-half years. I think the
8 farming job at St John's prepared me for later life, but
9 trawling was no life for somebody my age so I joined the
10 army a couple of years later.

11 I was conscious when I joined the army that I was
12 institutionalised, because I had been in homes for most
13 of my life.'

14 Moving on to paragraph 113, the witness explains
15 that after he left the army he met his first wife and
16 that they later separated. He then moved back to
17 Scotland and met his current wife, who he has been
18 married to for well over 40 years. They have four
19 children and six grandchildren. He then gives some
20 information about jobs that he held prior to his
21 retirement.

22 From paragraph 114 onwards the witness speaks of the
23 impact on him of the abuse he suffered as a child.

24 I will read a little bit from that, starting with
25 paragraph 117:

1 'Throughout my whole life people have tried to abuse
2 me in various ways. Because of what happened and
3 because of how my father treated me when I tried to get
4 help from him, I have put up barriers which I couldn't
5 take down. I saw counsellors in the past but I felt
6 I was going over the same things again and again and it
7 was upsetting me so I stopped. It was exhausting.

8 I have buried my memories for a long time.
9 I purposely didn't want to think about them. I kept
10 things under wraps for so long and then I had a mental
11 breakdown at the end of 2018. A mental health nurse was
12 doing an assessment with me and she told me it was never
13 too late to speak to somebody about the abuse I had
14 suffered. She said I had buried it and it was causing
15 my mental health situation. The nurse said I couldn't
16 get help unless I let them help me.

17 It is the hardest thing to let somebody know that
18 you have been abused. Certain things which I wouldn't
19 have seen as abuse came to my mind afterwards, like the
20 repercussions of wetting the bed which I now know were
21 abuse. I suffered sexual and physical abuse and
22 I didn't even think about mental abuse and then it all
23 fell into place.

24 For 60 years I have felt that I have not had the
25 justice I deserved and I will never forget the names of

1 the sexual perverts.

2 I wouldn't piss on a member of the Catholic Church
3 if they were on fire, but I know they are not all like
4 that, that is the sad part. The establishment has got
5 such a rotten twist in it now that it is difficult for
6 anybody within the establishment to clear themselves.
7 My education was very poor because I was moved around
8 different establishments when I was at school, but
9 I excelled in the army. I got my education in the army.

10 Going by what I have done in my life and what I have
11 achieved by pure drive, if I had a more academic
12 background I would probably have been a lot better off,
13 even now my spelling is atrocious.

14 People are picked on because they are different, but
15 you have to be who you are. I still can't talk about
16 certain things, which I will probably take to my grave
17 and I know I am not alone. What I tell the Inquiry will
18 not help mend the broken part of society. Perpetrators
19 have always been able to wheedle themselves into society
20 and ply their trade, but that is what human beings are.

21 I have never spoken to the police about the abuse
22 that I suffered whilst in care.'

23 I move on to the very last part of the statement,
24 which is lessons to be learned. I will pick that up at
25 paragraph 139:

1 'Children need to be listened to. When I asked for
2 help my own father kicked me into touch. I wouldn't
3 have been in care if my father hadn't wanted me there.
4 He had to sign me into care. If I couldn't trust him,
5 who could I trust? Children have to be punished for
6 their crimes but you need to look at the severity of the
7 crime.

8 There have to be people that children can talk to.
9 What does society do with a child that is difficult to
10 manage? They have to get to the root of the problem,
11 but they rarely do. Maybe my problem when I was growing
12 up was that I wanted things I couldn't have. Children
13 growing up in poverty is a recipe for trouble. You
14 start off stealing apples and it is a progression after
15 that. The more you do it and the more you get away it,
16 the more criminalised it becomes.

17 You can't stop poverty. There are always going to
18 be differences in society. If you get rid of poverty
19 you would get rid of some of the other problems.
20 I don't think this will ever happen, but we could make
21 it better. I got the short straw but not everybody did.
22 I had to pay the penance I was put in these places for,
23 but I shouldn't have been abused. The establishments
24 were rotten to the core. The Inquiry has to let the
25 public know how bad it was and probably still is in

1 a lot of cases. Children and society are more educated
2 nowadays and less tolerant of abuses, but this won't
3 help me. My problems are too deep rooted. My bogeyman
4 will only go when I die.

5 I have no objection to my witness statement being
6 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
7 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
8 true.'

9 The statement was signed by 'Mel' on
10 28 January 2021.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today
13 and indeed for the week.

14 On Tuesday, we have two oral witnesses and also time
15 set for more read-ins.

16 LADY SMITH: Good.

17 Names again, the only new one was Celeste, but
18 GWM, GYZ, PAF and LAA, all Brothers, were
19 mentioned in that last statement.

20 As I say, at this stage they're not to be identified
21 outside this room.

22 Thank you all for your attendance and attention to
23 the evidence this week. I wish you all a good weekend
24 and we will resume at 10 o'clock on Tuesday.

25 MS MACLEOD: I should probably add that on Tuesday at

1 10 o'clock the plan is to start with some read-ins and
2 the first witness will be here around the time of the
3 morning break.

4 LADY SMITH: That's fine. Thank you very much indeed.

5 Thank you.

6 (4.08 pm)

7 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
8 Tuesday, 16 January 2024)

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