

Tuesday, 16 January 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back as we resume our
4 evidence in relation to this chapter of the case study
5 looking into residential care of children in various
6 institutions. Including, at the moment, the ones that
7 were run by the De La Salle Order.

8 As we mentioned on Friday, we're going to start
9 today, I think, with a read in of a witness's evidence.
10 Is that right, Mr MacAulay?

11 MR MACAULAY: That is the case, my Lady.

12 This is an applicant who wants to remain anonymous
13 and wants to use the pseudonym 'Barry' when he's being
14 mentioned.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MACAULAY: His statement is at WIT.001.002.6983.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Barry' (read)

19 MR MACAULAY: 'Barry' was born in the year 1955. He begins
20 in his statement by describing his life before going
21 into care. In short, he had a relatively unhappy family
22 background. He was missing school because of bullying
23 and he ended up in the care system.

24 He sets out, from paragraph 9 through to
25 paragraph 49, different establishments that he was

1 accommodated in prior to going to St Joseph's at
2 Tranent.

3 I can perhaps pick that up at paragraph 49. He
4 tells us that he went to St Joseph's when he was about
5 12 years old. The records that the Inquiry have
6 recovered disclose that he went there on [REDACTED] 1968,
7 so he would have been 12.

8 He goes on to provide evidence about the layout of
9 St Joseph's and much of this has already been covered in
10 other evidence.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR MACAULAY: He also provides information about the
13 routine.

14 If I could just read paragraph 57:

15 'School was on site. It was mainly the Brothers who
16 taught us and I think there was only one civilian
17 teacher, who taught geography. School was all right
18 though the Brothers had a tendency of hitting us on the
19 back of the head or poking us with a pointer if they
20 thought we were stepping out of line. That really
21 hurt.'

22 He then goes on talking about the trips that
23 children were taken on. Leading up to this he has
24 described an episode where he was accused of breaking
25 and entering on weekend leave. At paragraph 62 he says:

1 'Due to the fact that the cells in the police office
2 were all full me and [REDACTED] were taken to Barlinnie.
3 I remember it clear as a day as we were put in D hall
4 and I remember having to scrub the floors.'

5 This is when he's only 12 years of age.

6 At 63 he says:

7 'Some of the Brothers in St Joseph's were good to us
8 and would do things like teach us how to play musical
9 instruments, but others weren't so nice and would hit
10 out at us for things like swearing, stealing sweets or
11 not doing a job properly.'

12 It appears to be the case that he was only in
13 St Joseph's for a short period of time, as he tells us
14 at paragraphs 64 and 65, and the reason why he was moved
15 from there to St Ninian's, he thinks, was because his
16 brother was at St Ninian's and wasn't eating properly.

17 He then goes on to describe St Ninian's at
18 paragraph 66. He makes reference to a Brother **GSU**,
19 I think he means a brother who is spelt **GSU**, and
20 if I can read that paragraph:

21 'St Ninian's was a big private house that looked
22 like Argyle Castle. It was a beautiful place with about
23 15 acres of grounds. Brother **GSU** I think that is his
24 name is spelt, was **SNR** and was a good guy.
25 Two of the other brothers were Brother **MBZ** and

1 Brother Benedict and they were brutal.

2 There were Brothers and civilian staff and
3 Mr McKinstry was the night watchman. There was also
4 Mr McKenna and Mr MCK .'

5 He then goes on to talk about the routine and if
6 I can move on to paragraph 76:

7 'Other than washing in the morning and before going
8 to bed, we also got a shower once a week on a Friday
9 night which was supervised by one of the Brothers being
10 nearby. Everybody was in the shower at the same time,
11 young and old, and it was always freezing.'

12 If I could read about what he says at the schooling
13 at paragraph 77:

14 'School in St Ninian's was a good education though
15 we didn't get any homework. There was a different
16 teacher for each subject, I liked geography and was
17 taught by Mr IAV who was a really nice bloke. He
18 used to tell us stories about where he had been in the
19 world.'

20 He goes on to say:

21 'Mr IAV also spoke up for us boys and would
22 speak to the Brothers about the beatings we were
23 receiving from them, though in the end there wasn't much
24 he could do about it.'

25 Then he talks about the routine, the leisure time,

1 the chores, healthcare, Christmas and birthdays and
2 other trips that they were taken on. Then at
3 paragraph 88 he says:

4 'Some people did run away but I didn't. I do recall
5 being part of a search party out looking for one of the
6 brothers.'

7 He names the brothers:

8 'It turned out he hadn't run away ...'

9 LADY SMITH: Those were brothers who were children at the
10 school, not religious Brothers.

11 MR MACAULAY: Yes:

12 'It turned out he hadn't run away but had fallen
13 asleep in a cupboard downstairs after being chased by
14 some of the older boys. He got battered for that,
15 knocked senseless by McKenna and Brother Benedict.'

16 I can then look at the section headed:

17 'Abuse at St Ninian's.'

18 Paragraph 89:

19 'St Ninian's was a dreadful place. Brother MBZ
20 and Brother Benedict were the worst for abuse.
21 Brother Benedict was about five feet ten, 20 stone and
22 would run at you and hit you with his two fists.

23 There was one occasion when one of the other boys
24 was unwell. He usually cleaned the toilets and the
25 showers so I had to do them. Mr McKenna, one of the

1 civilian staff, said I hadn't done it properly and
2 whacked me with a mop handle on the back. That left me
3 with a bruise.

4 There was another time one weekend when we were in
5 the dining room standing in a queue. Somebody was
6 talking and a boy told Brother Benedict that my brother
7 had said that Brother Benedict had one foot bigger than
8 the other.

9 Brother Benedict ran at my brother, grabbed him and
10 threw him like a ragdoll. I ran at Brother Benedict but
11 he just brushed me aside. I then heard a crack and
12 everybody was told to get out of the dining room. My
13 brother was taken to a nurse then to Stirling hospital
14 by Brother Benedict and Brother **GSU**.

15 I went along with them, with another boy, though
16 only after arguing with the Brothers, but we weren't
17 allowed into the hospital. Instead, Brother **GSU** took
18 us to the Wallace Monument for about two hours. My
19 brother told me later that they had told the hospital
20 that he had broken his arm and that it had happened
21 because he fell out of a tree.

22 My brother was scared of heights and would never
23 have been up a tree. Basically they just covered up
24 what had happened to him.

25 We used to go swimming in the Forth with

1 Brother MBZ . He and two of the civilian teachers,
2 Mr McKenna and Mr McKinstry used to try and get the
3 younger boys to sit on their knee and would touch them
4 in the groin area. Two of the boys they did this to
5 were certain brothers and another wee boy [and he names
6 him].

7 Brother MBZ used to batter me and my brother
8 because we would refuse his affections. He wanted us to
9 sit on his knee. If he saw you looking at him when he
10 was touching up the young kids he would batter you.

11 Brother MBZ used to make us kneel against the
12 classroom wall at night and if your head touched the
13 wall he would batter you over the back of the head with
14 something or punch and slap you. You would be kneeling
15 for half an hour or 40 minutes. That happened to me
16 three times.

17 If you had a fallout with somebody, the Brothers
18 used to make you box it out in the ring on a Sunday.
19 You wore boxing gloves when doing this but they never
20 had any laces. You would then fight it out and the
21 staff would referee it. I was actually quite good at
22 boxing.

23 We were taken to Kirkoswald in Ayrshire one time and
24 Brother MBZ was again in the water with the young
25 kids. We were in a school next to a police station.

1 There was a church just down the road. I found and let
2 off a flare which wouldn't go out even when I put it in
3 the water. When we got back from the beach I got
4 talking to some local boys and asked them to get me some
5 cigarettes. I had sixpence on me.

6 Myself and three other boys were smoking at the
7 toilet door when my brother walked by going to the
8 toilet. Brother MBZ came along and we ran off. As we
9 did, we saw Brother MBZ grab hold of my brother by the
10 hair and battered him in the toilet. He then dragged
11 him down to a bike shed.

12 Brother MBZ then kicked and punched and battered
13 lumps out of my brother for what seemed to be about
14 an hour. I could see this through the window of the
15 shed. I seriously thought he was going to kill him.
16 After that, me and the others that had been there were
17 dragged off and locked in the church overnight by
18 Brother MBZ, who battered lumps out of us with a mop
19 handle before leaving us there. We didn't even get any
20 supper.

21 The next morning we were taken up to get our meals
22 and I could see the police station and wanted to report
23 what Brother MBZ had done to my brother. However,
24 Brother MBZ must have realised what I was thinking and
25 said to me "don't even think about it", my brother was

1 black and blue and bleeding but wasn't given any
2 treatment.

3 A boy [and he names him] and another boy also told
4 me that on a separate occasion Brother MBZ stabbed my
5 brother in the stomach with a screwdriver and in the
6 hand with a pencil. He got a plaster on the wound on
7 his hand but nothing was done about the stomach wound.
8 My brother didn't tell me about this, it was the other
9 two boys.

10 Mr MCK, another civilian teacher, used to throw
11 dusters at us, hitting us on the head with them.
12 I remember he gave one of the boys a really bad kicking.
13 A boy who accused Mr MCK of being a paedo. MCK
14 battered him with the thick end of a pointer. He really
15 leathered into him. It was Mr IAV who dragged him
16 off.

17 We were constantly getting beaten by
18 Brother Benedict, who would grab hold of you and put you
19 over his knee. He would then pull your shorts right up
20 to your backside and smack you. He seemed to take his
21 time doing that and you could smell the alcohol off him.

22 Brother Benedict also had a machine which he used to
23 electrocute us. He would get us to hold on to two bits
24 of metal then wind up the machine. He would also make
25 groups of us hold hands and would make one of us touch

1 an electric fence, which meant that we all felt the
2 shock.

3 There was one night when I got up in the middle of
4 the night. I heard the young boy [he names him]
5 screaming. He had wet his bed and was in the toilet
6 with Mr McKinstry, McKinstry heard me and asked what
7 I was doing. When I told him I wanted to go to the
8 toilet he told me to stay where I was and closed the
9 door. I don't actually know what he was doing but the
10 boy was crying.'

11 He then tells us about leaving St Ninian's. He got
12 a job when he got home, but in 1972 or 1973 when he was
13 16 he was sent to Polmont.

14 Can I say, my Lady, that evidence and indeed other
15 parts of the statement, were read in on 14 November 2023
16 in the other chapter.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes, that was just before Christmas in the SPS
18 chapter.

19 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

20 If I take your Ladyship to paragraph 120, again that
21 was previously looked at and it deals with the time when
22 'Barry' left Polmont.

23 His life after being in care was also looked at in
24 quite a lot of detail actually when it was read in
25 previously. What wasn't looked at in any detail was

1 impact. He deals with the impact of being in care
2 beginning at paragraphs 124 through to 128. At 128 he
3 says:

4 'I constantly have flashbacks and nightmares about
5 my time in care and I feel it's had a massive impact on
6 me.'

7 There's then a section about reporting of abuse.
8 I'll perhaps just read that first paragraph, 129:

9 'I never told anybody about what happened to me in
10 the various places because nobody would have believed
11 me. In fact, I had forgotten all about this until
12 I read about it in the papers in 2002. My brother
13 contacted me and I went to the police office in Denny in
14 2004 and gave a lengthy statement.'

15 He tells us about the fact that Brother Benedict and
16 Mr McKinstry were prosecuted in the High Court and that
17 he gave evidence.

18 He goes on to say towards the top of the following
19 page that he received some compensation by way of
20 criminal injuries.

21 Then lessons to be learned at 133:

22 'I don't think all-boy schools are healthy. They
23 should be mixed. There should be more counselling for
24 kids, somebody they can trust and speak to. That's
25 something I never had. I'll be happy if the Inquiry can

1 bring some justice for what I and many others went
2 through and that those monsters who inflicted the
3 suffering on us get punished.'

4 He ends by saying:

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 He signed the statement on 3 July 2019.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I think the next thing is that

12 Ms MacLeod is also going to do a read-in.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is
15 that of an applicant who is going to use the pseudonym
16 'Bertie'. His statement can be found at
17 WIT.001.001.5008.

18 'Bertie' (read)

19 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Bertie'. I was born in 1950. My
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 I was brought up in the tenements in Glasgow by my
22 mum and my dad. Our family home was in Glasgow. It was
23 a single end and there was my granny, my mum, my dad,
24 me, my older brother and sister and I think one other
25 brother. It was just pure poverty.

1 It was a poverty background. My dad was a typical
2 labourer from those days and I remember it was just
3 about surviving. It wasn't the cleanest of family
4 homes. My mum and dad both liked a good drink but there
5 was love in the house. That was just the way we were
6 brought up.

7 We had practically the freedom to do what we want.
8 I think that was a lot to do with my mum and dad. Let's
9 say their parental skills weren't what I'm used to now.
10 We were still quite dirty and things like that.

11 I was intelligent but just lazy. I never really
12 listened at school. I had a good attendance because my
13 brothers went, so I went as well. Then we moved to
14 a bigger house. It was like a mansion compared to what
15 we'd had. I was never out of control, but I got in more
16 bother there. I did petty wee things. Breaking into
17 a shop or something like that. Nothing really bad.

18 The scheme was known as one of the worst in
19 Scotland. It was a tough community but we had good
20 neighbours and you stuck together.

21 There was a gang culture. We committed minor crime
22 and carried weapons.

23 I remember the social work but they were called the
24 cruelty people. I think an aunty through the wall maybe
25 reported us but we were no different from any other

1 family in the area. This man came and we ended up going
2 to a residential school in Port Glasgow.

3 I was about 10 or 12 then.

4 Between paragraphs 20 and 27 the witness speaks of
5 his experiences in that residential home, including
6 describing that he was treated horribly there.

7 The witness was then back at home with his family
8 and I'll read from paragraph 29:

9 'In 1964, when I was 14, the police charged me with
10 theft of scrap metal. I was set up because of where
11 I was from. I'll never forget the two policemen. They
12 made me load some scrap metal into the back of their
13 Land Rover then done me with it.

14 I was taken to Larchgrove Remand Centre. I was in
15 and out of there a few times. Then I was sent to
16 an Approved School for two years. That was St Mary's
17 List D school in Bishopbriggs.'

18 Between paragraph 31 and 46 of his statement the
19 witness speaks about his experiences in Larchgrove.

20 I will now move on to paragraph 47, where the
21 witness speaks of his arrival at St Mary's List D school
22 in Bishopbriggs. He was 14 when he arrived at
23 St Mary's:

24 'I was treated like I had scabies. I was stripped
25 naked by two staff members and all my clothes were

1 thrown in a bin. It was humiliating, very, very
2 humiliating.

3 We were put into different categories and told what
4 you could do and where you went. We were issued with
5 the St Mary's uniform. Different dorms had different
6 coloured jerseys.

7 When you went out, everybody in Bishopbriggs knew
8 where you came from.

9 We got up at 7.00 am, washed, had breakfast, went to
10 school on the premises. We had lunch, more school, then
11 changed into play clothes for so long. I remember that
12 we had showers. You always felt like you were getting
13 looked at. There was members of staff who were there to
14 stop you carrying on. I felt they were perverts and
15 were looking at you to see what you looked like. I may
16 be wrong, but that's what I thought.

17 I think there was about 20 or 30 in each dorm in
18 St Mary's. All the boys were aged between 13 and 16.
19 There was also St Ninian's in Stirling for boys aged 13
20 and under and St John's, which was next to Larchgrove on
21 the Edinburgh Road, for the older boys.

22 The place you didn't feel safe was the dormitory.
23 One thing was boys from other dorms coming in and
24 bullying you. Then there was staff coming in as well,
25 which was a different matter.

1 I'll be perfectly honest and say I never witnessed
2 anything sexual but I did hear things. The staff would
3 pick on boys, take some away out the dorm and get them
4 to do things. You would hear them saying, "Come on,
5 you're coming with me, son, how are you?" Things like
6 that. Being very nice and that.

7 Then the boys would come back and you would hear
8 them crying and they wouldn't say anything. They were
9 being abused.

10 I think the older boys and the staff targeted boys
11 who were from a different background, boys who were
12 softer and/or from a better-off background and didn't
13 know how to look after themselves.

14 Most of the time, I just wanted to pull the cover
15 over my head. You couldn't tell anyone because you
16 would still be kept there.

17 We sometimes had showers at night, then it was into
18 our jammies and bed. We sometimes got to read in bed.

19 The food wasn't too bad at St Mary's. It was all
20 right. Probably better than I would have had at home.

21 I think SNR [REDACTED] was Brother GTQ [REDACTED]. I could
22 be wrong, but whoever SNR [REDACTED] was, I hated him
23 with a vengeance. There were four or five other
24 teachers and then a few civilians who were also
25 teachers.

1 I was once kept in for the weekend for carrying on.
2 That was Mr KCCQ . He was a layman, not a Brother.
3 I called him an old bastard for that and he gave me hell
4 from that moment on.

5 That man kicked me, skelped me and slapped me all
6 over. Even in front of people he would do that. He
7 battered hell out of us.

8 I was 14 and I was smoking and I would get tobacco
9 from my dad. He would ask me what was wrong.
10 I couldn't tell him anything as I would only have got
11 worse.

12 I remember Mr Kennedy, who was a good teacher. He
13 was not an abuser. I went to Dundee with him once to
14 pick up a new boy and bring him back. That was no
15 problem.

16 Others I remember from the school are
17 Brother Fintan, who was retired and Brother Hendry.
18 I can't remember any more just now. We had a song about
19 them. If I remember the words the names will come back.
20 I think they were okay.

21 The priests that came in for mass and confession
22 were okay. I've never had a problem with a Catholic
23 priest but the Brothers are a completely different
24 kettle of fish.

25 I liked my football and I remember Brother Thomas.

1 He was fantastic and loved football too. He was good
2 and looked after us. No one showed any violence towards
3 us when he was about. We played football matches in the
4 local league and got buses to the matches.

5 It was more lax at weekends at St Mary's and I'd get
6 my single bed. I'd no have to share a bed with my
7 brothers. Mum and dad would sometimes visit. I'd get
8 tobacco from my dad.

9 We had Christmas dinner and a selection box and
10 things like that. Your mum and dad would bring you
11 something as well at Christmas.

12 We would also be allowed home at weekends if you
13 didn't do anything silly and that sometimes happened at
14 Christmas too. I done some silly things so I would be
15 kept in, but it didn't bother me that much.

16 I had my probation officer, Mr Wilson, but not
17 a social worker or any social care visits or anything
18 like that. I don't remember many visits at St Mary's.
19 Maybe Mr Wilson visited but I would never have told him
20 anything about what was happening.

21 My dad did come up quite a lot, but it was probably
22 so he could come and have a drink at Quins. He would
23 give me tobacco if I wasn't getting home.

24 I don't remember any inspections of the residence or
25 anything like that.

1 Now and again in the gym they treated our heads for
2 nits and things like that. There were doctors and
3 nurses who you would get to see if you hurt yourself.
4 We got medicals from doctors at all the places I stayed.

5 Mr **KCQ** was the main perpetrator. I told you he
6 kicked and skelped me all the time. I hated that man,
7 I really hated him.

8 I also have this things about **SNR**, who
9 might have been Brother **GTQ**. As far as I was
10 concerned, he was the evil, evil man. An dirty, evil
11 man.

12 He was a paedophile, but I was never sexually abused
13 by him. Nobody would be able to do that to me unless
14 they tied me down.

15 Boys told me **SNR** had touched them
16 inappropriately and that he would get them to sit on his
17 knee.

18 I once ran away for about four days. I went in
19 front of **SNR** to get the strap. He told me
20 not to worry about it, as after he'd done it he would
21 soothe it all for me. I told him he wasn't doing that
22 to me and he said he could do what he wanted. I told
23 him no way you're touching me. This was after what
24 other boys had told me. I ran out of there.

25 I got caught and he took me in and said I was

1 getting 12 lashes with the belt. He gave me three, then
2 said he would give me the rest whenever he wanted to do
3 it. I wouldn't know when.

4 Sometimes he would strap your bare backside and
5 sometimes with your clothes on. I wasn't letting him
6 strap my bare backside though.

7 He told other staff to give me a hard time and I was
8 petrified of someone giving me the belt after that,
9 because he had told them to. I only felt safe when
10 I was around Brother Thomas at the football. He never
11 did anything inappropriate.

12 As far as I was concerned, the staff were working
13 under the command of SNR [REDACTED] and were being told
14 to take it out on me. When you went into the
15 SNR [REDACTED] room I will always remember the picture on
16 the wall behind him. It was a flamenco dancer and
17 I could never understand why it wasn't of Jesus or Mary
18 or something religious. It stuck in my head and if
19 I ever see a flamenco dancer I can be up all night
20 thinking about it.

21 I was on holiday in Majorca and the Spanish dancers
22 came on and I had to stay to my wife, "I'm away".
23 I couldn't sit through it. There was that picture and
24 a big jar of Vaseline on the table underneath it.
25 I can't have that in the house.

1 He would sit with it and say it would help you after
2 he'd strapped you. He would say that to me but I told
3 him he wasn't coming near me with it. He would strap me
4 on my wrists and hands as he knew he wouldn't get to
5 strap me anywhere else. He would belt me for anything,
6 misdemeanors, swearing, anything like that.

7 He would say it could be a lot easier if I accepted
8 his punishment and let him strap my bare backside, but
9 I said no. I knew what he was meaning. I was 14.

10 When I was strapped like that I would always wet the
11 bed so I would never get home that weekend.

12 Two of the staff that used to come into the dorms
13 and pick on the boys were **LYT** and **KDB**. They
14 were farm workers and worked nightshifts at the school
15 as well. I'm not sure about **LYT**. I wouldn't
16 make any allegations about him. He may have been good
17 to the boys. Nearer the end I just didn't trust any of
18 them, except Brother Thomas who was good.

19 They picked on kids who couldn't look after
20 themselves. Kids that had not had such a tough
21 upbringing. That was staff and the older boys that did
22 that. Definitely **KDB** on a nightshift.

23 Bed wetting happened and you would get punished with
24 the strap. You would get called a dirty wee whatever.
25 I honestly don't think I was wetting the bed at that

1 time. That came later for me.

2 After I'd been at St Mary's over a year, they got me
3 a job in warehouse in Glasgow. I would have been 15 or
4 16. That was when I got my first suit. St Mary's
5 arranged all that. I was at St Mary's less than
6 two years then I was back home.

7 Things were beginning to get better at home. Me and
8 my siblings were working hard and we had money. Then
9 I started drinking, which even then was like
10 self-destruction for me. I was on the cheap wine and
11 cider. I see that now but not then.

12 I'd say St Mary's drove me to drink. I had my own
13 bed in the house and I'd started wetting the bed then.
14 That was after St Mary's. I was getting drunk and
15 getting into bother with the gangs and I ended up in
16 Polmont.'

17 My Lady, between paragraphs 103 and 110 the witness
18 speaks about his experiences at Polmont Young Offenders
19 Institution. That was read in during the SPS chapter on
20 3 November, Day 384.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: I will continue from paragraph 111:

23 'There was no reporting of the abuse at any places
24 I stayed. You were too scared to say a word. You
25 didn't know what might happen to you.

1 After being in care, I worked in the pits, the
2 hospitals and I was a bus conductor. I couldn't get
3 into the army at first because of my record and my
4 height.

5 When I was 19 though they accepted me. I was in the
6 army for 12 years and I reached sergeant. I was very
7 proud of myself for that and my family were very proud
8 of me.

9 I met my wife when I was in the military.'

10 From paragraph 115 onwards the witness speaks of the
11 impact on him that his time in care had and I will read
12 some paragraphs from that part of the statement:

13 'I was drinking from the age of about 13. My
14 flashbacks were mixed. In one I was in my jocks uniform
15 patrolling the streets at Kenmure House outside
16 St Mary's. It was like I was patrolling the streets
17 looking for the Brothers or something. Next thing I was
18 in Londonderry or Belfast and I'd see priests. It was
19 like all these things were joined together.

20 I had no self-confidence and I kept having
21 nightmares and flashbacks, from St Mary's mostly.
22 I think there was a cell or a room at St Mary's for kids
23 that went mad and wrecked everything, a special room
24 that was padded. I've never really shared anything
25 about my abuse in care, not to the extent that I am now.

1 I shared little bits about my upbringing as a child
2 and about the military but never a lot about St Mary's
3 and my trouble. Even with my wife, I've shared very
4 little. I have been and I was a bit strict with my son.
5 I didn't want him to have the same poverty and
6 deprivation that I had. I made sure he was never
7 wanting.

8 I can never visit my brother as he stays near
9 St Mary's and I couldn't go near Kenmure Avenue. I just
10 couldn't handle it. I have no records from my time in
11 care and have never considered applying for any.
12 I'm not bothered. They're of no interest to me. And
13 might just bring back bad memories.

14 I was contacted by Ross Harper Solicitors about ten
15 years ago. They phoned me and asked me about St Mary's.
16 I have no idea how they knew I had been there. They
17 told me to inform the police about my abuse. I filled
18 in paperwork for them. A sergeant from the CID came and
19 spoke to me. Ross Harper seemed to deal with it and
20 they told me it was time-barred so nothing could be
21 done.

22 I'm sure Ross Harper wouldn't have been in it for
23 nothing but I want to make it clear this time I'm not
24 here for any financial gain or anything like that.

25 I think there should be a lot more inspections at

1 places of care. Actually listening to the children as
2 well. Even eight- or nine-year-olds are able to tell
3 you things. It's the same with vulnerable adults.
4 I've worked with them and I know you can get to know
5 them and understand what they need.

6 If I look at all the experiences I went through and
7 look at it sensibly it was for my own good. The fact is
8 I was a very small-time crook who didn't really want to
9 do all that stuff. I suffered that way but then
10 I joined the army and it changed me completely.

11 It changed my outlook on life completely. I just
12 wish something had been done years and years ago about
13 the vile people that were at St Mary's. If it is his
14 name, Brother **GTQ**, I believe that if there is a God
15 he'll get his justice. However, with a place like
16 St Mary's all I can remember is the bad things.

17 I have no objection to my witness statement being
18 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
19 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
20 true.'

21 The witness statement was signed by 'Bertie' on
22 31 October 2017.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I think we'll now turn to another
25 read-in.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, please.

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is also an applicant who wants
3 to remain anonymous and he wants to be known as 'Terry'
4 in the Inquiry.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Terry' (read)

7 MR MACAULAY: The witness statement is at WIT-1-000000319.

8 'Terry' tells us that the year of his birth was
9 1954. He begins his statement by providing us with some
10 information about his family. He was a member of
11 a large family. It appears that his growing up was
12 relatively disruptive. It was a disruptive family
13 background. His parents split up when he was about
14 eight --

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, you said '1954'. Is it 1954 or
16 1964, his date of birth?

17 MR MACAULAY: It's 1954 ...

18 LADY SMITH: Can we just double check. I think it might be
19 1964.

20 MR MACAULAY: The statement certainly has the date 1954 on
21 it.

22 LADY SMITH: It may be a glitch on my copy. If we can just
23 note to double check that, please.

24 MR MACAULAY: That is relevant to the various dates.

25 LADY SMITH: Of course.

1 MR MACAULAY: Shall we have a very short break to check this
2 or shall I continue?

3 LADY SMITH: I'll correct it on my copy.

4 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, he provides information about his
5 life before care, large family and a somewhat disruptive
6 family background.

7 He wasn't settling at school is one things he tells
8 us. That is at paragraph 6.

9 He wasn't attending school, he tells us that at
10 paragraph 7.

11 In paragraph 8 he tells us:

12 '... nobody explained to me why I was going to
13 St Ninian's or for so long. I was just told how great
14 it would be in the car on the way there. I didn't speak
15 to my mum about what was happening.'

16 He was taken to St Ninian's by a social worker.

17 LADY SMITH: Let me interject, I was looking at the wrong
18 'Terry'. We have another person in these read-ins who
19 has chosen the pseudonym 'Terry'. That is where it
20 arose.

21 MR MACAULAY: That explains it, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MR MACAULAY: Then he describes his time at St Ninian's.

24 He begins by saying at paragraph 9:

25 'I went to St Ninian's when I was ten years old.'

1 He tells us that was quite close to his 11th
2 birthday in 1965. So that gives us the year as to when
3 he went there. He says:

4 'I was there for about a year ...'

5 It's apparent from the statement that in fact he was
6 at St Ninian's, went home and then went back shortly
7 after that, so a little bit of a gap. He goes on to
8 say:

9 'I did get home for a while but I was taken back.'

10 He then describes the accommodation and says:

11 'The basement was different from the ground floor.
12 It had concrete floors with big pipes running along the
13 top. In the basement, there was a wee tuck shop. There
14 was a door that took you into the dining hall area.
15 Brother Benedict's office was down there.'.

16 Then at 11, I'll just read a couple of sentences:

17 'When I first arrived, SNR [REDACTED] was
18 Brother MCA [REDACTED]. Not long after, Brother GSU [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]
19 SNR [REDACTED]. All the staff were Brothers, apart from civilian
20 teachers. I knew they were religious Brothers but
21 I didn't know what type of Brothers they were at the
22 time. The Brothers wore big, black cloaks with white
23 collars and a tooth coming down. Brother Benedict was
24 in charge of discipline. He was known as Bootsie. He
25 looked after meal times and supervised when you're out

1 playing. He was also in charge of the boots, shoes and
2 things like that. I remember some of the teachers.
3 Mr MCK taught things like making mosaics, Mr McKenna
4 taught metalwork and woodwork. Mr McDermott lived in
5 a lodge at the start of the driveway, he taught
6 technical drawing.'

7 He then goes on to provide some information about
8 the set up. He looks at the routine from paragraphs 13
9 onwards.

10 If I could read part of paragraph 15:

11 'The dormitories went right along the first floor of
12 the building. I think there were usually two Brothers
13 supervising the dormitories.'

14 Then, at 16:

15 'We got up early. I think one of the Brothers just
16 came round and shouted at us to get up. We got washed
17 and put our clothes on and went down for breakfast. We
18 would then go outside for a wee while before going to
19 school.'

20 Then he talks about bedtime and goes on to say:

21 'There would be a Brother around at bedtime, whoever
22 was there at the time. You would see him and you
23 wouldn't see him because he'd be looking after so many
24 dormitories.'

25 He talks about getting washed in the morning and

1 says 'there was always a Brother there when we got
2 washed'.

3 Then at 19:

4 'Whichever brother was on duty would check your
5 underwear when we put it in the basket. It was usually
6 Brother Benedict supervising the basement area. He was
7 looking to see whether there were marks on our
8 underwear. If there were, we had to go and wash them
9 out by hand in the sinks. It happened regularly, so
10 I don't think anybody really got embarrassed by it.
11 A Brother would stand at the door of the toilet when you
12 needed to go. He would give you two or three squares of
13 toilet paper and that was all you were allowed, hence
14 why some boys dirtied their pants.'

15 If I look at paragraph 22, what he says about the
16 food, about halfway into that paragraph:

17 'The food was pretty poor. For breakfast it was
18 usually porridge. I never liked porridge. I had to eat
19 it. We were forced to eat it by Brother Benedict who
20 was usually in charge of the dining area. I would force
21 the porridge down or slip it to my pal when
22 Brother Benedict wasn't watching. Occasionally another
23 Brother would also be supervising the meals. I can't
24 remember his name but he had red, thinning hair and
25 a lot of freckles on his face.'

1 He then talks about the school and it's apparent
2 that the new school building, I think we have seen from
3 the photographs, was now in situ, because he talks about
4 the school rooms were across from the big mansion in
5 a new building.

6 He talks about chores at paragraph 26 and makes the
7 point that they had rather a lot of free time.

8 Then if I go through to paragraph 38, where he talks
9 about visits and inspections:

10 'I didn't get any visits from my family. It was
11 just too far away. I think visits were allowed maybe on
12 a Sunday. I just never got any. I never saw the
13 social worker again. I had only seen her twice, once
14 before I went to St Ninian's and once when she took me
15 there.

16 I didn't see any inspections or anything like
17 that.'

18 Then at paragraph 39/40 he talks about family
19 contact and healthcare.

20 Then at 41:

21 'I started wetting the bed when it dawned on me
22 where I was. I didn't know how long I was there for or
23 what was going to happen next. I was moved to the bed
24 wetting dormitory, which was right at the end of the
25 building. The Brothers would come round and feel under

1 your covers every night when you were in bed. If you
2 had wet the bed you got a slap about the head and
3 shouted at. I can't remember the name of the Brother
4 who did that, but I only saw him at night. The Brother
5 put me out into a long, stony corridor. I remember
6 standing there in a nightshirt. I hadn't long been in
7 the place. I was shivering. I think I was left there
8 for half the night. The Brother came back a long time
9 later with another nightshirt and fresh bedding. He
10 told me to put the nightshirt on and I went back to bed.

11 If we swore, we had to stand with soap in our
12 mouths. It felt like it was for about an hour. Whoever
13 was in charge would make us do that, but nine times out
14 of ten it was Brother Benedict. We would get
15 disciplined for being out of line. We would get a slap
16 over the head. It was what was happening at the time
17 and to be expected. It was usually Brother Benedict but
18 often another Brother would be there.

19 In the school Mr MCK was pretty fierce. You
20 didn't step out of line with him or you got the belt.
21 He would give you the belt for talking in class. It was
22 a normal belt, split down the middle. He would belt you
23 on your hand four to six times, whatever he thought you
24 needed. It was painful. That didn't happen every day,
25 but it was pretty regular.

1 The first time I was at St Ninian's I was scared of
2 that place and everything about it. They let me out
3 after a while, but I was brought back. My mum got
4 a house in Blackburn. It had three bedrooms so we were
5 all there and things were okay. I just didn't settle at
6 school. I went to St Kentigern's in Blackburn.
7 I sometimes went to school but I didn't go often enough
8 so I was taken back to the Approved School.'

9 In paragraph 45 he says:

10 'I didn't run away during my first period at
11 St Ninian's. I was too afraid. I was getting a bit
12 wiser when I went back for the second time. I knew the
13 wee tricks to avoid getting into bother. I hated the
14 place. I must have absconded about six times the second
15 time I was there. We played next to the woods. I would
16 just jump the fence, go through the wood and I'd be
17 away. That was enjoyable because I was away from the
18 place. It was fun until I got hungry.'

19 At 48 he tells us about the furthest he got away was
20 Stirling and then he goes on to say that the police
21 caught him:

22 'The police didn't speak to me about why I had run
23 away. They just told me to get in the car. I would be
24 taken back and slapped. Nobody asked me why I was
25 running away.'

1 At 47:

2 'I was bullied by some of the older boys. They
3 would pull me about, knock me, punch me, slap me, kick
4 me, basically bullying for any reason. It happened in
5 the first period that I was there. I don't remember the
6 names of the bullies. There was one in particular who
7 came from Glasgow. He was older and he was big built.
8 A year made a big difference at that age. He bullied
9 most folk. The bullying could happen anywhere. It
10 happened when you were walking from class to the dining
11 room. You would walk down a leafy lane from the
12 classrooms to the dining room and a bit of bullying
13 happened there. There was also a lot of bullying when
14 you were at play. Brother Benedict supervised play
15 times. He was bound to have seen the bullying but he
16 never interfered. I think the other Brothers would also
17 have seen bullying going on. Nobody ever spoke about
18 it.

19 Mr MCK would take us for walks through the
20 Queen Elizabeth Forest near Aberfoyle. We would walk
21 through all these glens and things. I think it was
22 a way to kill time because we seemed to walk for hours.
23 He would have his riding crop and he would whack us over
24 the back of our legs with it. He did that if we fell
25 behind or were carrying on. It would leave big, red

1 marks on your leg. He did that to me and to other
2 children.

3 Most days somebody got a slap about the head or
4 a knuckle to the head. Brother Benedict was the main
5 man for that kind of thing. He was a stocky man. When
6 I attended court as an adult, I found out he could only
7 have been in his 20s but I thought he was a lot older at
8 the time. Children would be slapped about if they
9 refused to eat the food given to them. Brother Benedict
10 would stand over us with his big, red face and
11 black-rimmed glasses. You could see it in his face when
12 he became angry. He would slap us about the head. He
13 was a terrifying man to a kid.

14 We were forced to eat and that was it. There were
15 children who were actually sick. They still had to eat
16 what was put down to them. On one occasion, we were
17 given semolina for our dinner. I never like semolina
18 but it had big lumps of powder in it. I just spat it
19 straight back out. I was slapped over the head and
20 forced to eat it by Benedict. That was the done thing.
21 You didn't get a warning. He just came straight for you
22 and slapped you. The Brother who had red hair and
23 freckles was sometimes present when Brother Benedict was
24 violent in the dining room. He certainly saw that
25 plenty of times, but he never reacted to it.

1 I didn't like the fish because it always smelt off
2 to me. I used to put it in my hanky and smuggle it out
3 of the dining room. When we got out to play I would
4 throw it away for the birds. Brother Benedict caught me
5 doing that one day and I got leathered for it. He was
6 slapping me about the place and kicking me all over my
7 body.

8 Brother Benedict knocked lumps out of me on another
9 occasion. I was in the smaller dining room. I was just
10 looking out the window. I heard the table screeching
11 along the concrete floor. I saw Brother Benedict coming
12 running at me and he slapped me right over the head. He
13 whacked me again and I went down. The table had metal
14 legs and I went under the table. He was kicking me all
15 over my body. He was furious because I hadn't been
16 mouthing the prayer that I was supposed to be saying.

17 After he knocked me under the table, I had a big
18 lump on my head. The skin wasn't broken but there was
19 a big bump. Brother Benedict told me to go and sit and
20 wait for the nurse. I was terrified in case he was
21 going to come back. I wet myself. The nurse looked at
22 my lump and I got sent to my bed. She never commented
23 on the fact that I'd wet myself. I had to have a shower
24 first and it was sore. I was in my bed for the rest of
25 the day. I was brought food when I was in bed. The

1 nurse didn't ask what had happened but she knew what was
2 going on. It was just par for the course. There was
3 always some crying or something like that.

4 We played football out in the play area.
5 Brother Benedict would slap me about the head because
6 I kept falling over, my balance wasn't that great.
7 I just tried to avoid kicking the ball. That sort of
8 thing happened all the time to me and to other children.
9 I don't know how often it happened to me. It seemed
10 like it was every day, although it wasn't every day.
11 I just took it because I thought that was the done
12 thing. I thought that was what you got when you got
13 sent to St Ninian's, that it was part of the punishment.

14 After I had run away, I would be taken back to
15 St Ninian's by the police. I would get the belt on my
16 hands from Brother **GSU** until I was crying. There were
17 times when he would lose the rag with me and he would
18 slap me whenever he got me. He was a calm-looking guy,
19 but when he lost the head he would go mental with me.
20 I'd be very sore afterwards because I was getting the
21 belt and then he would belt me again wherever he could
22 hit me. He would aim at my bum, but it just hit
23 wherever he got me. I would then go back into the
24 routine and have Bootsie to deal with after that.
25 Brother Benedict wasn't happy about it either because

1 I was running away from the play area where he was in
2 charge. He would leather me and slap me over the head.
3 He would shout and bawl in my face. He was terrifying.

4 Mr McKenna was a civilian teacher, who taught
5 woodwork and metalwork. He used to wear a big brown
6 linen-type coat. He sexually abused me and others kids.
7 He would pick on someone at random and said he had been
8 chatting. He would put the boy over his knee. We had
9 little short trousers. He would pull them up to the
10 crevice of your buttocks. He would rest his hand on
11 your buttocks, stroking it and slap you. He would pull
12 you into his groin and you could feel that he had
13 an erection at the time. That happened to me quite
14 a lot when I was first went to St Ninian's. I saw the
15 same thing happening to other kids.

16 If you had a piece of wood in the vice, Mr McKenna
17 would come up behind you and pull you in tight. He
18 would tell you that you were doing it wrong and hold the
19 plane with you and teach you how to do it. You would
20 always be pulled in against him too close. I could feel
21 that he was aroused when he did that. He did that to me
22 and I saw him do it to other children. It was a daily
23 occurrence.

24 I was in a play when I was at St Ninian's.
25 Mr McKenna built the stage and did the electrics. When

1 we were getting fitted for our outfits he was always
2 touching you roundabout your private parts. I remember
3 him saying to me once, "What side do you dress to?"
4 I didn't understand what he was talking about. He said
5 "This is what I mean", he then started messing about
6 with my private parts and saying, "Left, right, left,
7 right". His hand was on top of my pants but he was
8 moving my bits. That only happened once to me. I knew
9 what he was about and I tried to avoid him. I saw it
10 happen to other kids who were in the play with me. But
11 I couldn't always hear what he was saying. Nobody ever
12 spoke about what was going on. These things didn't
13 happen to me during my second spell at St Ninian's.
14 I tried to stay out of McKenna's road and out of the
15 way.'

16 At paragraph 59 he says:

17 'When the nurse treated me for the lump on my head,
18 I didn't tell her what had happened to me, it wouldn't
19 have made a difference. I wasn't allowed to speak to
20 her, I just had to do what I was told to do. I didn't
21 tell anybody about the sexual abuse by Mr McKenna.
22 There was nobody to talk to.

23 I wasn't in contact with anybody. I was writing to
24 my mother but I never received anything from her and
25 I wasn't in phone contact with her. I was aware that

1 the Brothers read our letters home because they
2 intercepted my letter to my former teacher. I didn't
3 see a social worker. I didn't feel able to tell any of
4 the staff. I thought I'd get into trouble. It was
5 a them and us thing. We just wouldn't report anything
6 to anybody else. There was nobody there who was
7 actually approachable.'

8 Then he describes how he came to leave St Ninian's
9 and he was being sent to St Mary's. He thought that was
10 because he had been running away.

11 He tells us at paragraph 62 that he went to
12 St Mary's when he was 13 or 14 and the records that the
13 Inquiry has seen suggest that he went there on
14 [REDACTED] 1968, which would mean he was 14 at the time.
15 That means that this is in the post-De La Salle era,
16 when it was being run by civilian staff. He thought he
17 was there for about a year or a little more than a year.
18 He goes on to describe what the premises were like.

19 He goes on, in paragraph 64 onwards, to describe the
20 routine at St Mary's.

21 At 75 what he says is:

22 'I never got any visits from my family. Some people
23 did get visits and that was allowed. I never got visits
24 from social workers, but Mr Hughes was the social worker
25 within St Mary's.'

1 He goes on to tell us that his father died not long
2 after he had been sent to St Mary's.

3 At paragraph 77 he tells us that he absconded many
4 times from St Mary's.

5 At paragraph 78 he tells us that on one of these
6 occasions, when he had run away, he and a friend had
7 broken into a shop and they were remanded to
8 Craiginches Prison in Aberdeen. He says:

9 'I always knew that was totally wrong. We were
10 actually in the prison for about two weeks. We were
11 only 14. It was an adult prison and it was for older
12 prisoners.'

13 If we move on to paragraph 81, where he says:

14 'St Mary's was bad for bullying. It was worse in
15 St Mary's than it had been at St Ninian's because the
16 boys were a lot older. If you weren't from Glasgow you
17 were a "Teuchter". The older boys would hit you and
18 throw their weight around just for the fun of it. You
19 learned to stay out of their way. I remember I was
20 sleeping one night in the dormitory. I woke up and this
21 bully was peeing on me. I can't remember his name, he
22 was a big red-haired boy, he was a lot older than me.
23 He would get out of the school to go on a work
24 placement. I didn't see him much during the day because
25 he was out. But he liked to throw his weight about at

1 night-time and he had a nickname which meant that he was
2 the best fighter in the school.

3 After ' [REDACTED] and I were remanded to Craiginches, we
4 were taken back to St Mary's, LNI [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED]
5 SNR [REDACTED]. He told us to get in the showers. We
6 thought that was it. We'd just get a shower and that
7 would be it. LNI [REDACTED] came in with the belt and he
8 leathered us while we were in the showers. He hit us
9 anywhere and everywhere. That's the only time I can
10 remember being hit all over my body at St Mary's and the
11 only time I was abused by a staff member. The rest of
12 the time, I was hit on the hands but that was normal.
13 The belt was used quite a lot at St Mary's. We'd get
14 the belt for fighting or if we'd done something stupid.
15 I can't remember there being any other form of
16 discipline at St Mary's.

17 To my knowledge, the bullies were never dealt with
18 at St Mary's, the staff would have been aware that it
19 was happening, I never told anybody about the bullying.
20 It wasn't the done thing and you knew yourself that it
21 would just get worse. I didn't think I would be
22 believed if I did report anything. It was just the
23 situation we were in and if we reported it we were more
24 likely to get into bother. I never even told my mum
25 about it because I didn't want to worry her. I just

1 tried to keep myself to myself and stayed with my
2 friend.'

3 He then talks about leaving St Mary's at 14 or 15,
4 which would be about 1968.

5 He then spends time at Gilmerton Remand Centre and
6 ends up at the age of 15 in St John's in Edinburgh Road
7 in Glasgow. That is beginning at paragraph 89.

8 He does provide evidence about St John's, this is in
9 the post-De La Salle era and this is essentially
10 therefore a secondary establishment for these purposes.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: At paragraph 107, if we move on to there, he
13 says that he went to Polmont and he was there for about
14 a year. He tells us about the routine. One thing he
15 does say about Polmont, at paragraph 119, is:

16 'There was bullying wherever I went, including at
17 Polmont. I wasn't bullied there. The staff were like
18 army officers. They were never physical towards me and
19 I didn't see any abuse at Polmont.'

20 That is his position.

21 LADY SMITH: This is about 1970, I think?

22 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 MR MACAULAY: He then has a section dealing with his life
25 after leaving care.

1 At paragraph 121 he says that he was in and out of
2 prison right up until the age of 26 and it would appear
3 that thereafter he was in regular employment.

4 Then if I look at what he says in relation to impact
5 at paragraph 126:

6 'I feel that my experiences in care wasted my
7 chances. If I hadn't gone to St Ninian's in the first
8 place I don't think I would have ended up in prison.
9 It's not in my nature. It just seemed to snowball and
10 I went from one place to the next. The education I got
11 could have been better. I only ever worked in manual
12 labour. I'm not saying that I'm super intelligent or
13 anything like that, but I believe that I could have done
14 better if I'd had the chance.'

15 At paragraph 133 he says:

16 'I've never spoken to anybody about what happened
17 when I was in care, apart from the Inquiry and the
18 police. Before I phoned the police, I thought about it
19 and thought about it and thought about what happened
20 couldn't be right. I contacted the police about
21 15 years ago. The police didn't say anything at the
22 time.'

23 Then he tells us he was in fact at some point cited
24 to give evidence at the High Court.

25 At 135 he says:

1 'I saw Brother Benedict at the High Court. He
2 wasn't that terrifying. When I was a child he was big
3 and fat and he had rosy cheeks. He had lost a lot of
4 weight. He was kind of frail looking and I wondered
5 what I had been afraid of him for.'

6 If I can turn to the penultimate paragraph at 139.
7 What he says is this in relation to lessons to be
8 learned:

9 'I think nowadays things have changed. More people
10 are interested in children's physical and mental
11 well-being. Back then, you were dumped and that was it.
12 Children should have someone they can go and talk to.
13 Somebody needs to explain to them what's happening and
14 that it's not going to be forever. I hope that things
15 will get better for children in care.

16 I have no objection to my witness statement being
17 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
18 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
19 true.'

20 He has signed the statement on 13 February 2020.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we do have time I think before the
23 break for another read-in.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR MACAULAY: We'll move on to that.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is
3 that of an applicant who is going to use the pseudonym
4 'Dinkey'. His statement is to be found at
5 WIT.001.002.7778.

6 LADY SMITH: I don't think we have multiple 'Dinkeys', I am
7 only aware of one.

8 MS MACLEOD: I don't think so, my Lady, no.
9 'Dinkey' (read)

10 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Dinkey', I was born in 1950, my
11 contact details are known to the Inquiry. I was born
12 near Livingston and stayed there until I was five or six
13 when I moved to Edinburgh.

14 Life at home was good until my dad left when I was
15 nine. He was a good piano player who used to play in
16 all the pubs and I think he met another woman doing
17 that. After my dad left, my mum struggled financially
18 and me and my brother would scavenge for lemonade
19 bottles for the deposit return money you could get for
20 them.

21 I started getting into a wee bit of trouble fighting
22 with others. In 1962, not long before I turned 12,
23 I was part of a crowd throwing stones and we smashed
24 some windows, though we hadn't actually been aiming at
25 them. Some painters working nearby chased us and I was

1 the only one caught.

2 The police got involved and despite the fact that my
3 mother paid for the broken windows, I was charged and
4 taken to the Burgh Court. My mother was there and
5 I appeared in front of the bench.

6 I went to Gilmartin Holding Centre, where I was held
7 for a couple of weeks, before going back to court where
8 they told me I was a bad influence to my brothers and
9 too much for my mum to handle. They said I was going to
10 be sent to an Approved School. There were four people
11 on the bench at the hearing and I assume they were
12 counsellors.

13 I was returning to Gilmartin Holding Centre for
14 about four days before I was taken in a car to
15 St Joseph's, Tranent, where a space became available for
16 me. If they had simply let me out after I had been in
17 Gilmartin I doubt I would every have been in trouble
18 again. It wasn't a bad place, but the lack of freedom
19 was dreadful.

20 Prior to me appearing in front of the Burgh Court,
21 there had never been any social work involvement in our
22 family, or whatever the equivalent was in those days.

23 I don't recall who drove me to St Joseph's but when
24 we got there I was taken to Brother PAF room. He
25 was SNR . After that, I was taken to a place

1 where my clothes were taken off me and put on a rack
2 downstairs and I was given a school uniform.

3 St Joseph's was an all-boys' place, all aged between
4 10 and 15 and we were split into four houses, called
5 St Andrew's, St Patrick's, De La Salle and St Joseph's.
6 Each house wore a different coloured uniform and those
7 in St Joseph's wore maroon. I was put into this house,
8 so that was my colour of uniform.

9 I was allocated a number, which was the number that
10 had to be sewed into each item clothing so we could
11 identify what belonged to whom. After I got my uniform,
12 I was taken to the dorm that I was to be in. It was
13 near tea time and a boy, a big lump of a boy, was told
14 to show me where everything was. I was terrified and
15 I didn't know what was happening.

16 St Joseph's School was a big U-shaped building with
17 a big yard in the middle, it had three levels and there
18 were two dorms on the top floor and another two on the
19 middle floor. When you entered the front door there was
20 a corridor that ran the full length of the building.

21 Brother PAF office was on the left as you went
22 through the front door, then you had various admin
23 offices. Above the offices were the rooms where the
24 staff slept. Each of the houses that the boys were
25 allocated to had a dorm and each dorm held about

1 30 boys.

2 My dorm, St Joseph's, and St Patrick's were on the
3 top floor and I recall St Andrew's and De La Salle were
4 on the first floor. There was also a smaller dorm on
5 the first floor called "the wet room", which had six or
6 eight mattresses with rubber sheets therein and this was
7 where boys who wet the bed slept.

8 On the ground floor there was a canteen, a kitchen,
9 an assembly room and changing rooms, which was where you
10 changed out of your uniform if you were going home for
11 the weekend and you would be give be a suit and a shirt
12 and tie. There were also big playing fields in the
13 grounds

14 As well as SNR [REDACTED], Brother PAF [REDACTED], other
15 Brothers I recall were Brother PAG [REDACTED], Brother LUU [REDACTED],
16 Brother GWM [REDACTED] and Brother Andrew, who was one of the
17 best Brothers. They were all of the De La Salle Order
18 and wore black habits. There were also outside staff
19 who came in.

20 Brother PAF [REDACTED] was maybe in his 50s, quite chubby
21 with grey hair and an English accent. Brother PAG [REDACTED] was
22 a nightmare in that he would batter you then give you
23 a sweet after it. It was very confusing. He was also
24 about 50, tall and thin. Brother LUU [REDACTED] was 40 or 50
25 and had a broad Irish accent. Brother GWM [REDACTED] was the

1 sports master and was quite young, maybe 30, with red
2 hair and an English accent. Brother Andrew was in his
3 late 20s or early 30s.'

4 Between paragraphs 20 and 23 the witness speaks
5 about the routine and the food and we can read that for
6 ourselves.

7 I'll move on to paragraph 24, where he looks at
8 washing and bathing:

9 'Wash basins were on the ground floor with showers.
10 There were four rows of six showers. They were
11 individual cubicles that didn't have doors. You didn't
12 control the water and you would sometimes be told to
13 stay in the shower while they turned it cold. This was
14 done as a punishment and happened to me four or five
15 times.

16 We cleaned a lot, especially on a Sunday, when we
17 would get out the big buffers and polish the floors.
18 This was also the case if visitors were coming and we
19 had to make sure the place was spick and span.

20 As well as normal classes, we also did things like
21 tailoring, carpentry and working as blacksmiths. When
22 we were doing the tailoring it sometimes felt that we
23 were being used as slaves as what we were doing was
24 sewing the vestments for the priests and stitching
25 crosses on to the back of the vestments which the school

1 then sold.

2 Brother **PAG** taught English and music. The Brothers
3 tended to teach the normal school subjects while outside
4 staff tended to teach the work classes.'

5 In paragraphs 29 and 30 the witness speaks about
6 trips and holidays, birthdays and Christmases.

7 I'll read from paragraph 31, where he discusses
8 visits:

9 'We didn't get visitors often as we went home at the
10 weekend once you had proved trustworthy to do so. My
11 mum came to see me on one of the open days when I was
12 playing in the pipe band. My brother also wanted to
13 visit but my mum said that the school wouldn't allow him
14 to come. My mum was the only visitor I ever got.
15 Certainly no social worker or anything like that visited
16 me.'

17 In paragraphs 32 and 33 the witness speaks about
18 healthcare and religion and I'll read from paragraph 34
19 onwards:

20 'I was 13 or 14 when I decided to run away with
21 another boy. We jumped over the wall, but landed beside
22 two gardeners and were taken to Brother **PAF** office
23 and then into a dorm adjacent to the office. He told us
24 to strip off down to our underpants and to bend over the
25 bed.

1 Brother LUU and Brother PAG were also present.
2 The other boy was present when Brother PAF gave me
3 three or four hits of the belt on my buttocks but I then
4 left the room and didn't actually see the other boy get
5 the belt, though I know he did as I saw him after it.
6 The belt was incredibly painful and I never tried to
7 abscond again.

8 The small dorm called the wet room was where you
9 went to sleep for a week if you wet the bed. One of the
10 Brothers checked your bed every morning if it was likely
11 that you had wet the bed. The smell in the room was
12 revolting. I remember there were two twins from Glasgow
13 that were there regularly.

14 Brother LUU sent me there once as a punishment
15 when he caught me listening to my radio. He was just
16 being vindictive as I hadn't actually wet the bed.

17 If you were in the wet room a Brother would be
18 watching over you during the night, the boys in the wet
19 room were sent for a shower in the morning if they had
20 wet their bed. Cleaners would collect the wet sheets
21 and take them to the laundry. There was no physical
22 punishment for those who wet the bed.

23 The boy who showed me around when I first arrived
24 had told me that I should simply do as I was told. If
25 you misbehaved in class you got sent to Brother PAF

1 with a note. He would perhaps stop you playing football
2 for a week or stop you having recreation time. I only
3 got belted the once when I absconded. I know others got
4 the belt but I wasn't present. It was always
5 Brother PAF who administered the belt.

6 Brother LUU used to pull your hair. He would
7 call you out of the line and grab the hair at the side
8 of your head, lift you up, then smack your ears. It was
9 agony and he did this to me several times and he did it
10 regularly to others. He used to also hit me and others
11 regularly on the head with his knuckles. This was
12 painful. The older boys used to tell us to stay away
13 from him.

14 There was one time when I had been playing football
15 and on the way back to the changing room I spat on the
16 courtyard. Brother LUU saw me do this and called me
17 over to the store room. There he gave me a toothbrush
18 and a tin of tooth powder. He took me back to the
19 courtyard and told me I would have to clean the whole
20 courtyard using just the toothbrush and powder.

21 I was to do this every day during my recreation
22 time, after school and before tea, which was between
23 3.30 pm and 5.00 pm. Every day he would mark off what
24 I had done with a piece of yellow chalk and where he had
25 marked was where I would start the next day. At the end

1 of each day I also had to wash away the marks left by
2 the tooth powder.

3 I was able to clean an area of about two square feet
4 every day and the courtyard was roughly the size of half
5 a football park. It took me almost a year and
6 I probably went through about 200 toothbrushes. I was
7 just over 12 years old when I started doing it and it
8 was agony on my knees.

9 I had to do this regardless of the weather. Hail,
10 rain or shine I just had to get on with it. It was
11 particularly bad doing it in the winter when I would
12 first have to wipe away the snow, then clear the ice
13 before I could even start. The only time I got any
14 reprieve from it was when Brother LUU went on
15 a two-week break to Ireland. I told my mother about it
16 when I went home but she said there was nothing else she
17 could do about it.

18 Brother PAG had a habit of slapping you on the face
19 once or twice if you had carried on in class, but the
20 strange thing was that he always gave you a sweet after
21 he had done it and said sorry. He did this to me once
22 when I was 13. I can't say for sure if he did it to
23 others.

24 Another time, after playing cricket, I was getting
25 a drink out of the water fountain which we weren't

1 supposed to do. The next thing I knew Brother GWM
2 booted me as hard as he could up my backside. I nearly
3 swallowed the tap and it felt as if I had cracked
4 a tooth, though luckily I didn't. That was the only
5 time he was vicious to me.

6 I was in St Joseph's between 1963 and 1965. Two
7 weeks before I left, I got told by Brother PAF that
8 the next time I went home it would be for good.
9 I remember as I was leaving I was expecting about £26
10 for all the berry picking I had done, but was only given
11 £2 and 10 shillings, I was too scared to complain in
12 case they changed their minds about allowing me to
13 leave.

14 I was delighted to be back home. It was a great
15 feeling to go out and simply go for a walk without
16 somebody shouting your surname. My dad appeared back on
17 the scene and gave me two choices. I was either to be
18 an apprentice mechanic or join the army, so I decided to
19 become an apprentice. I didn't want to go into the army
20 as it would have been like going back into another
21 institution.

22 My time in St Joseph's is rarely out of my mind and
23 I probably think about it two or three times a week.
24 I went back about a year ago to show my son but I just
25 felt numb being there, the memories were horrible,

1 especially the memory of a pair of twins from Glasgow
2 sitting cowering and crying in a corner.

3 I wouldn't say that it affected my thoughts on
4 religion, as when I look back on it the cruelty that
5 went on in St Joseph's was simply an example of man's
6 inhumanity to man. I have never suffered from
7 depression. I do feel low sometimes, but that's really
8 to do with health issues.

9 I spoke to the police about a year ago about what
10 happened to me at St Joseph's. A policewoman came to my
11 house and took a statement and I later received a letter
12 from the Procurator Fiscal's office in Edinburgh saying
13 that Michael John Murphy had been sentenced to seven
14 years. I believe he may have been Brother LUU and
15 I'm led to believe there may have been other charges
16 pending against him. I don't know if these charges
17 concern what happened to me.

18 I have never sought my records and I am not sure
19 I would know how to go about it. I know the
20 De La Salle Brothers have their headquarters in England
21 somewhere. However, I doubt if they kept records that
22 speak of me being battered or having to spend a year
23 cleaning the courtyard with a toothbrush.

24 There should be better supervision of those who are
25 looking after children. There should be some authority

1 to bring them to heel when things go wrong. Not
2 everybody who has looked after children are bad, but
3 there are always those who slip through the net.

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 'Dinkey' on
9 15 August 2019.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

11 I think we'll take the morning break early. We've
12 made good progress with the read-ins, as there is a lot
13 of material there to absorb.

14 Before I rise for the morning break, a number of
15 names that we have mentioned in the room, that at this
16 stage are not to be identified outside it, brothers
17 **GSU**, **GTQ**, Fintan, Hendry, **MCA**, **LUU**,
18 **GWM** and **PAG** and lay staff, including Mr **MCK**,
19 Mr McKinnon, Mr McKenna, Mr **KCQ**, Mr Kennedy,
20 **LYT**, **KDB** and **LNI**.

21 Thank you. We'll take the break now and the next
22 witness should be ready by 11.45 am?

23 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady, they should be.

24 (11.23 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.45 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

3 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. We'll now hear from an applicant who
4 wishes to be remain anonymous and he'll use the name
5 'Anderson' when giving his evidence.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 'Anderson' (affirmed)

8 LADY SMITH: I see you have your glasses with you,
9 'Anderson'. You might want them because that red folder
10 has the typed version of your statement that you signed
11 in it. You can refer to that, if you want to.

12 We'll also bring it up on screen, slightly larger
13 text, if that helps as well.

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Other than those practicalities, 'Anderson',
16 please be aware that I want to do anything I can to make
17 giving evidence as comfortable an experience for you as
18 possible. I know it's not easy to come along and talk
19 in public about the things that we're going to ask you
20 about, but if there's anything that would make it easier
21 for you, a break, a pause, or us explaining things in
22 a different way, please don't hesitate to speak up.
23 Will you do that?

24 A. I will. Thank you very much.

25 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, it will work for me,

1 whatever it is.

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

4 A. Thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Ms MacLeod.

7 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

8 Questions from Ms MacLeod

9 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, 'Anderson'.

10 A. Good morning.

11 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but could you confirm
12 you were born in 1960?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Are you now 63?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You have provided a statement for the Inquiry and there
17 is a copy of the statement in the folder on your desk.
18 I'll just give the reference now for the transcript, it
19 is WIT-1-000000954.

20 Could you please turn to the very last page of the
21 statement. Have you signed the statement?

22 A. I have.

23 Q. In the very last paragraph do you say:

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

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

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Thank you. We can put the statement to one side now.
5 I would like to begin, 'Anderson', by asking you
6 a little about your life before care and I'll ask you
7 some questions about that.
8 I think you tell us in your statement that you were
9 born in Glasgow; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You had four brothers and three sisters?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You tell us that you moved house a number of times when
14 you were a young child?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What you say at paragraph 5 of your statement is:
17 'We were very poor ...'
18 You explain a little bit about that, that you used
19 army blankets and jackets and that a number of siblings
20 shared a bed?

21 A. Yes, that's true.

22 Q. One thing you say is that you noticed that your brothers
23 and sisters, or some of them, started to disappear?

24 A. Yes.

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

1 A. Originally I was obviously quite young and I didn't
2 understand. It was only as I started to get a bit
3 older, my siblings were put into different convalescence
4 homes and it was to give my mum and dad respite and one
5 of the reasons for that is because the houses we were in
6 slums, maybe one or two bedrooms, all sharing that and
7 I can only presume that social work got involved in that
8 to dish the kids out to different places to give our
9 parents some respite.

10 Q. I think you say that when you were five you went to
11 a local primary school; is that right?

12 A. I did, yes.

13 Q. I think you share with us that that wasn't a happy time
14 for you?

15 A. No, it wasn't a happy time.

16 Q. Were you bullied at school?

17 A. Every day.

18 Q. Did you move schools after a while?

19 A. Numerous times.

20 Q. Each time, did the bullying start again?

21 A. I think the reason for that was when I went to my first
22 primary I was quite small, I was like a wee runt, and
23 a lot of the people there were a lot bigger so I was
24 getting bullied there, so I started running out the
25 school and running back home. So I missed out on a lot

1 of my education and when we moved again it would be
2 a different school, different circumstances, so I never
3 really got the chance to build up friendships, and
4 because I was quite timid I got bullied most of the time
5 and that continued through all the primary schools
6 I went to. And I think that is one of the reasons that
7 maybe the education and the Social Work Department
8 stepped in to do something else.

9 Q. You do say that there came a time that you and your
10 brother were taken to a panel?

11 A. We were, yes.

12 Q. What you say is that you don't remember too much about
13 that yourself but that your brother remembers a little
14 bit more, that he's shared with you?

15 A. Yeah, he's two years older than me.

16 Q. Do you recall anything about being at the panel?

17 A. I didn't understand most of what they were talking
18 about, but at the end of it I remember my dad and my mum
19 saying 'cheerio' and walking out, and that's when we got
20 took away.

21 Q. How old were you at that time, 'Anderson'?

22 A. I can't remember.

23 Q. You mention in your statement that may have been around
24 seven?

25 A. Seven or eight, yeah.

1 Q. Your brother perhaps around nine?

2 A. Two years older, yes.

3 Q. You were very young?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. After that appearing at the panel, was it then that you
6 were taken to St Ninian's?

7 A. It was, yes.

8 Q. Do you remember who took you to St Ninian's?

9 A. Yes. His name was Mr GZI [REDACTED]. I can't remember his
10 first name. You were always told to care them by their
11 surnames.

12 Q. Who was he, what was his role?

13 A. I thought he was just a worker, but apparently he was
14 my -- going to be my social worker while I was in that
15 place. He was the main one that was meant to be looking
16 after me.

17 Q. Indeed, you tell that you were taken to St Ninian's and
18 that it was around [REDACTED], that that was the time of year
19 that you were taken into St Ninian's?

20 A. I can only remember that due to the fact it was coming
21 up to the [REDACTED] holidays and when we got took in there
22 there were a lot of people leaving for the holidays.

23 Q. 'Anderson', we don't need to be too concerned about
24 dates but if you were around seven it may have been
25 [REDACTED] 1970 or thereabouts?

1 A. Possibly.

2 Q. It was coming up, you say, for the [REDACTED] holidays. Did
3 you remain at St Ninian's during the [REDACTED] holidays?

4 A. Yeah. I think, if I remember right, my brother said to
5 me we weren't allowed to get home for that weekend
6 because we were just there. We'd only been there about
7 four or five weeks or something.

8 Q. Were you and your brother together taken to St Ninian's?

9 A. We were in St Ninian's together until he left.

10 Q. What were your initial thoughts on arrival at
11 St Ninian's? Can you share your first recollections
12 with me?

13 A. Just terrified in this weird place that none of my
14 family was there.

15 Q. Would you be okay if I put a photograph of the building
16 on the screen?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Could we look at DLS.001.001.0151?

19 The main building in the photograph, towards the
20 bottom half of the page, is that St Ninian's?

21 A. Yeah, the other one is the outbuildings in the school.

22 Q. The buildings at the back, were these buildings there
23 when you were there?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You mentioned that when you arrived you were in awe of

1 the place because it was so big?

2 A. Yeah. It was -- I mean, we stayed in a wee single end.

3 This place was like a big estate, a big park, it was

4 just --

5 LADY SMITH: As you say, you were a wee boy about seven

6 years old at that time, were you?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Because you were born in 1960.

9 A. I was born in 1960.

10 LADY SMITH: And by 1967 or so you were being taken to this

11 place, is that right?

12 A. I'd say seven or eight, yeah. I can't remember.

13 LADY SMITH: I don't need a precise date but it gives me

14 a clear indication of where you were at in your own

15 development. Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: SNR St Ninian's when you arrived there?

17 Who was SNR ?

18 A. Well, I thought Mr GZI was SNR , but there was

19 a man called Brother MJP and he was -- seemed to

20 be SNR . He was SNR of the schooling and

21 also in the big building, but everyone was sort of SNR

22 SNR because sometimes they were off and there would

23 be other ones on.

24 Q. Did you get a sense of whether there was an organisation

25 or a particular order that was SNR of the school?

1 A. Both, to be quite honest. I wasn't too sure, I was too
2 confused. Somebody told you to do something you had to
3 do it, you didn't know who had the authority and who
4 didn't.

5 Q. Were there Brothers at the school?

6 A. Yeah. There were quite a few Brothers there.

7 Q. Were there lay staff?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You mention a Brother **MJP** in your statement?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What was his role?

12 A. He seemed to be **SNR** of everybody else, but also he
13 was in the school most days, in his office. Very seldom
14 he come round and pop into the classrooms to see what
15 you were doing.

16 Q. Brother **HJS** is somebody else you mention?

17 A. Yeah, he was more involved in the recreation, like if we
18 were out playing at football or in the snooker room or
19 the table tennis room he was sort of there all the time,
20 and the dining room too.

21 Q. Brother **GZQ** you mention, what was his role?

22 A. He was my teacher.

23 Q. You do say that there were other brothers as well, but
24 you can't quite recall their names and that's fine.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. How many boys were at the school when you were arrived?

2 A. I'd say about -- well, when I arrived there were only

3 a few, because the rest had gone home for [REDACTED], but

4 when everybody was there there must have been between 30

5 and 40.

6 Q. What about the age range of the boys? You were seven.

7 A. Up to 16, I think it was.

8 Q. When you got there, 'Anderson', or when you were going

9 there, what was your understanding of why you were going

10 there?

11 A. I didn't understand.

12 Q. Did anybody that you recall explain to you why you were

13 there?

14 A. I thought I was just going to be there for a few weeks'

15 holiday or something, or just a wee discipline or

16 something like that. I didn't really know quite

17 honestly. I never got any inclination how long I would

18 be there.

19 Q. We'll come to look at this, but in fact I think you tell

20 us you were there around three years?

21 A. I don't think it was as much as that.

22 Q. How long do you think you may have been there?

23 A. I think it was about two years.

24 Q. About two years?

25 A. I can't honestly remember.

1 Q. In your statement you provide some evidence about the
2 food at St Ninian's. You say that in general the food
3 was fine, but that if there was something you didn't
4 want to eat, that that was dealt with in a certain way?

5 A. Yes, it was.

6 Q. Was there some foods that you didn't like or want to
7 eat?

8 A. Quite a lot, for the fact we'd been on a staple plate of
9 mince and tatties most of my life, so a lot of the food
10 was quite alien to us, but it was a case of, eat it or
11 leave it.

12 Q. If you didn't eat the food, did anything happen to you?

13 A. You could get a slap on the leg. It was always shorts
14 you wore and they would pull it up and it was with
15 a hand.

16 Q. Who gave you a slap on the leg?

17 A. [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED]. Brother HJS [REDACTED] virtually
18 everybody who was near you.

19 Q. Mr [REDACTED], what was his role in the school?

20 A. There are things I've not said in my statement, so
21 I suppose I shouldn't even mention it, but I thought he
22 was a bit of a social worker, but he was generally just
23 supervising in the playgrounds and in the school
24 playgrounds.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Anderson', can I just reassure you, if there

1 are things that come to your mind now that you didn't
2 cover in your statement, please tell me.

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: Don't feel you have to hold back on what's in
5 your mind now as having happened.

6 A. Thank you.

7 While I was in there with my brother, my brother was
8 seriously assaulted and he decided he was going to go to
9 the local police station in Gartmore, which is about
10 a mile from St Ninian's, and when he went to it, it was
11 Mr [REDACTED] who was on the desk and he told Mr [REDACTED]
12 what happened and he said I'll deal with that.

13 LADY SMITH: Was this a desk in the hallway of St Ninian's?

14 A. No, this was when he went to Gartmore to the local
15 police station, which is probably very, very, very, very
16 small.

17 LADY SMITH: Mr [REDACTED] was at the desk at the police
18 station?

19 A. Yes. I think it was -- because it's such a small place,
20 he was probably multi-tasking.

21 LADY SMITH: Ah. Thank you.

22 How did that feel when you discovered him there?

23 A. I didn't know that until recently, my brother told me
24 about it. And it shocked me to be quite honest.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 A. So basically we had nobody to turn to if anything
2 happened.

3 MS MACLEOD: Were there Brothers involved, 'Anderson', in
4 getting boys up out of their beds in the morning?

5 A. Yes. It wasn't the Brothers. It would be the night
6 watchman or one of the other staff, but, yeah, they'd
7 come in at certain times and say, 'Right, everybody up'.

8 Q. Who would do that? Who would come in in the mornings,
9 would it be staff?

10 A. That could be Mr GZI, it could have been any members
11 of staff, but it was only one or two night staff and
12 I think they done that and I think that was their job.

13 Q. What about putting boys to bed in the evening and
14 supervising that process?

15 A. Oh, definitely, yeah.

16 Q. Who was involved in that?

17 A. It wasn't a Brother, it was a worker, his name was
18 Jimmy McKinstry.

19 Q. Focusing on the washing facilities and the showering,
20 you tell us about that in your statement and I just want
21 to ask you about that. You tell us it was a communal
22 arrangement for showering?

23 A. Yes, because it was all boys, it was like a big yard or
24 tiled and concrete floor with a drain on it and there
25 was about seven or eight shower heads round it and there

1 was cubicles and you would go in there and you'd put
2 your clothes in and then you would go into the showers
3 and get washed and a couple of the staff would stand
4 there supervising it.

5 Q. Were you naked in the showers?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were you showering with boys your own age or was it
8 a range of ages?

9 A. A range of ages.

10 Q. Which Brothers were involved in the showering process?

11 A. It could be different ones. There was different staff
12 all the time. You got one or two regulars that would
13 come round and follow you into your cubicle and stare at
14 you while you were getting dried and putting your
15 clothes on, but in general there was different Brothers
16 and members of staff. It just depended on what day it
17 was, whether we'd been playing football or rugby and
18 obviously with the mud and things like that and there
19 would be different staff.

20 Q. Were staff or Brothers involved in controlling the
21 temperature of the water?

22 A. Oh, yes.

23 Q. Was that Brothers or staff or did that depend on who was
24 on?

25 A. It was depending who was there, but what they would do,

1 they'd be standing and you'd be getting showered and
2 then when they felt comfortable they would say, right,
3 everybody stay under four five minutes and they would
4 just turn the water ice cold and you had to stand under
5 it and if you didn't stand under it you had stand under
6 it again until you'd done it for five minutes.

7 Q. If you came out of the shower before you were supposed
8 to, what would happen?

9 A. You could get a slap.

10 Q. If you got a slap in those circumstances, was it
11 a particular part of your body?

12 A. Yes, side, your cheek, your bum, your leg.

13 Q. The education at the school, 'Anderson', when you
14 arrived aged around seven or eight, as you've told us,
15 which class were you put into?

16 A. Just -- I think there were about four classes, but most
17 of the time it was just the one same class I was in.

18 Q. Was there a class for boys your age?

19 A. Various ages, right up to 15/16.

20 Q. How would you describe the education?

21 A. It was gobbledygook to me, because they've given me the
22 same curriculum as everybody and I couldn't grasp it,
23 simply because it was too complicated. I didn't get
24 one-on-one help, so sometimes I would just be sitting
25 doodling and I could get a slap for that.

1 LADY SMITH: You explained, 'Anderson', before you went
2 there, you kept bunking off school because of being
3 bullied?
4 A. Absolutely, yes.
5 LADY SMITH: So you hadn't had consistent education before
6 you went there?
7 A. That was the problem most of my life, that I was
8 chasing, chasing trying to catch up and I just couldn't
9 catch up.
10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
11 MS MACLEOD: Were you sometimes taken out of the classroom
12 and asked to do other tasks or jobs?
13 A. Many, many, many times.
14 Q. Who would take you out of the classroom?
15 A. Either Brother HJS or Jimmy McKinstry.
16 Q. What sort of things would you be asked to do when you
17 were taken out of the classroom?
18 A. I didn't cut the grass, but I cut hedges. I don't know
19 how I managed it, but I did, I raked up leaves, I raked
20 up grass, I raked up all the twigs and then he'd send me
21 down into the deep, about 12 steps, to get the coal
22 bunker, scuttle and fill that with coal and take it up
23 and put it in the main hall, but I couldn't do that.
24 I had to leave the scuttle at the top and run up and
25 down with the coal because when I filled it I just

1 couldn't lift it at all so I had to empty it and just
2 run up and down, and that happened quite a lot in the
3 winter.

4 Q. When you were really supposed to be in the class
5 learning, you were taken out and asked to do those
6 various other jobs?

7 A. I think that was the case, yeah, for the fact that
8 I wasn't getting anything education wise in there, so
9 they just used me to work in the garden.

10 Q. You talk about a time where you recall your brother
11 being asked questions about a map in the classroom?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Can you tell me about that?

14 A. We were in class and it was Brother **GZQ** and he was
15 talking about the capitals and cities, well, like say
16 London and Glasgow, Wales and he was asking what was the
17 capital of these things and he asked me for England and
18 I says 'London' and then he asked another couple of
19 people and then he asked my brother, , who was
20 quite illiterate too, and my brother said 'Scotland' and
21 Mr **GZQ** jumped up in the air and come down on his head
22 full force and hurt his face too and he punched him
23 full and I was crying. It was like a nightmare, and it
24 wasn't the first time he'd lifted his hand to other
25 pupils.

1 Q. In your statement you say he virtually knocked your
2 brother out?

3 A. Yeah. I actually think that's when my brother went to
4 Mr [REDACTED], not realising that he was in the police
5 office.

6 Q. You think as a result of that your brother may have gone
7 to the police station and that is where Mr [REDACTED] was
8 at the desk?

9 A. That's when he went and told them and he says to me that
10 he says he'll get it sorted.

11 Q. Is your understanding that your brother reported at the
12 police station what had happened?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How were boys who wet the bed dealt with at
15 St Ninian's?.

16 A. It depended who was on at night-time, if it was
17 McKinstry he would be screaming, so he would, but the
18 boys at night-time -- Mr McKinstry would go down the
19 stair and have his tea and the boys knew when he was not
20 going to be up for half an hour, whatever, and they'd
21 all be running riot. In one instance -- I was always
22 quite terrified. I would always stay under the cover
23 and they'd all be running about.

24 Q. Were you one of the boys who wet the bed?

25 A. No, that's the problem. I never, ever wet the bed but

1 when somebody did wet their bed they would push me out
2 of my bed, take my mattress and give me the soiled one,
3 because it was all uniform, it was all the same things
4 and then I had to take the blame for wetting the bed,
5 when I hadn't done it.

6 Q. If you were found to have wet the bed or it appeared
7 that you had wet the bed, what happened?

8 A. I would be given a slap, told to go down, take the
9 sheets down to the laundry and leave them down there and
10 then get back up and put on fresh pyjamas and go to bed.

11 Q. Was there an occasion where the night watchman came
12 round with a stick?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. Was that something that happened regularly?

15 A. Mainly the night watchman was on at weekends. Because
16 a lot of people go home for the week and there were
17 other ones that had been -- say had been a bad boy and
18 they'd lose their privilege of going home at weekends
19 and sometimes I would not get home, because my bed was
20 wet and it wasn't my fault, but you couldn't tell
21 anybody, because you would be called a grass and you
22 would just get more kicks and punches, so, yeah, that
23 did happen but he used to come round with a pole and
24 balance it on his chin and he'd be walking about like
25 that and he would think everybody was laughing at him,

1 thinking it was good, but we were all terrified of him.

2 Q. What kind of stick did he have?

3 A. It was like a stick -- a bit like a brush pole, but it
4 was more like made up -- maybe with branches on it and
5 it had been cut down into a crook-type thing.

6 Q. If the night watchman was going round the dorm with the
7 stick, and you, for example, was found to be in a bed
8 that was wet, what happened?

9 A. Well, one night when he come up I was at the very end
10 and my brother, [REDACTED] is about six or seven beds down
11 and he says to me, 'GKY up for the toilet', I said,
12 'I don't need the toilet', and he says, 'Up for the
13 toilet'. I said, 'Sir, I don't need the toilet' and he
14 started dragging me out the bed and my brother, [REDACTED],
15 screamed, 'Leave him alone. He doesn't pee the bed',
16 and he went racing down and he pulled my brother out the
17 bed by the hair of his head and it was like spars -- it
18 was like hospital beds, and my brother caught his leg in
19 it and he was still pulling him and the bed was coming
20 with it and he got all bruised, and as he was pulling
21 him, his pyjamas come right off him and then he dragged
22 my brother away and I just put my head under the covers
23 and just cried.

24 Q. When your brother was dragged away, do you know if
25 anything happened to your brother?

1 A. Not at that time, no.

2 Q. Do you recall the name of the night watchman?

3 A. Jimmy McKinstry.

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

6 A. Not one.

7 Q. Did you have any visits from social workers or in
8 particular the social worker you mentioned had taken you
9 to St Ninian's.

10 A. He was part of the staff, but, no.

11 Q. In paragraph 47 of your statement you speak about this,
12 and I might just read that out:

13 'Social workers never visited me. This is what has
14 always concerned me. Why was I there? Who put me
15 there? Was it my parents? Was it the school board?
16 Was I such a bad boy that I had to be there for three
17 years?'

18 In your statement at various points, 'Anderson', you
19 do come back to this and that this is something that has
20 really, really stayed with you, wondering why you were
21 there and why nobody was coming to see you?

22 A. Yes. I couldn't understand it. I tried my best to find
23 out if my parents just didn't want me or was I such
24 a bad person that I had to be kept in there.

25 LADY SMITH: Of course, you had your brother with you there,

1 the one you have talked about.

2 A. But they took him away after six months and I was left
3 to fend for myself and that's when the bullies really
4 got into me.

5 LADY SMITH: He was a wee bit older than you, is that right?

6 A. Two years.

7 LADY SMITH: He looked out for you. So you had his
8 protection or his efforts at protection --

9 A. He was my soul mate.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

11 MS MACLEOD: In relation to your brother, 'Anderson', you
12 say that you were together virtually all the time while
13 he was there?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Indeed, you describe him as your hero?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. And tell us he would fight boys much older to protect
18 you?

19 A. Aye. I seen him get quite a lot of kickings.

20 Q. How long after you arrived at St Ninian's did your
21 brother leave roughly?

22 A. I think he was only there about six months and then he
23 got home and not long after that he got put into
24 St Andrew's.

25 Q. Once your brother left, how did that change things for

1 you?

2 A. Well, when you looked at that mansion, there was a set
3 of steps on one side and a set of steps on the other and
4 if I come in from out playing I always went to one end
5 and listened to see who I could hear and if I could hear
6 some of the boys I would go to the other side and if
7 that was quiet that's how I would go up to my dorm, so
8 as I could avoid them. A lot of my life was trying to
9 avoid them.

10 I did get a lot of bullying.

11 Q. In your statement you describe when your brother left,
12 you say:

13 'My life was a living hell from the bullies and the
14 Brothers and the teachers.'

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Was bullying, was that a constant thing for you at
17 St Ninian's?

18 A. That was pandemic, it was on a daily basis.

19 Q. Was that bullying from other boys or staff or both?

20 A. Mainly the other boys, but staff now and again, yeah,
21 definitely.

22 Q. Were you bullied by some of the boys in your dorm?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. To what extent was there supervision by staff or
25 Brothers in the dormitories?

1 A. Again, I don't know, maybe they were running it on
2 a shoestring. There was not a lot of staff. There was
3 only maybe one or two night staff and obviously they
4 couldn't sit and watch you all night. They would go
5 down to the bothy or whatever, the kitchen, and sit
6 there and make tea and whatever, and they could probably
7 hear the noise, but they just thought it is just
8 boisterous, but it was kicks and punches, jumping on top
9 of you, kicking you out of your bed, raiding your
10 locker, stealing your wee tin of Creamola Foam and your
11 couple of sweeties, things like that, even taking your
12 clothes.

13 Q. Looking back to that time, how did you feel?

14 A. Probably, thinking back, like a wee zombie. Just trying
15 to hide in a wee corner, anywhere I could.

16 Q. Was that possible, could you hide?

17 A. Sometimes you could, sometimes you could. When we were
18 coming out for the school for play time, I would always
19 linger back, try and stay in the classroom so that
20 I wouldn't get bullied outside. I know if I was in the
21 classroom, with the other boys, then there would be
22 a teacher there. It was just fight or flight all the
23 time. Just avoidance.

24 Q. Brother HJS is someone you talk about in the
25 context of being in the TV room at St Ninian's.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was there a particular time of day when boys would be in
3 the TV room?

4 A. Yeah. Mainly at weekends and if the weather was bad
5 they would take you in there, they called it the games
6 room, there was a snooker table, a table tennis table
7 and a TV with chairs and some chess sets, things like
8 that.

9 Q. What was Brother HJS role in relation to that
10 set-up?

11 A. Basically just supervise the people that were in there
12 and make sure they weren't throwing the billiard balls
13 at one another and things like that, but he basically
14 just sat in the TV section watching TV.

15 Q. Did he ask you to approach him in any way while you were
16 in the TV room?

17 A. Yeah. What happened was there was football coming on
18 and he wanted everybody to come in and sit, because he
19 wanted to watch it. So everybody started going in and
20 he says to me, GKY ...'

21 Q. That's okay, don't worry about that.

22 A. '... you tidy up, put all the snooker balls away, put
23 the cover on, put the cues on the racks and tidy all the
24 games.'

25 And when I done that, I come back in and there were

1 no seats, so there were boys sitting along the bottom,
2 so he just said, 'You just sit on my knee, you can sit
3 there'. And I was sitting on his knee and he sort of
4 had his hand on the side of me and I was starting to
5 feel uncomfortable. I could feel him getting
6 an erection and I tried to move away from him and he
7 pulled me back and I started -- and I done that and
8 I started screaming and he pushed me and he said,
9 'Right, everybody up to bed'.

10 And that traumatised me.

11 Q. How old were you?

12 A. I can't remember.

13 Q. You say that it was quite horrific?

14 A. Aye, yeah.

15 Q. Is that something that happened once or more than once?

16 A. With him it was just the once.

17 Q. Did you see other boys sitting on Brother HJS's
18 knee?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, quite a lot, quite a lot.

20 Q. Mr GZI is somebody else you tell us about?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. He was somebody you say who 'always seemed to manage to
23 get me by myself'?

24 A. Whenever he had the opportunity, yes.

25 Q. What would happen when Mr GZI got you by yourself?

1 A. He would always take a few people out in his car, three
2 or four of us, always in the car and then we'd come back
3 and the kitchen staff had left food for us to eat.
4 Obviously it was cold. Again, take it or leave it. But
5 for some reason he always managed to say, 'Right, you
6 can just wait here **GKY** and help me fix this or do that'
7 and he'd just tell the other three or four boys to go
8 back to the playground or the dorms and it was this one
9 day he says to me, 'Do you think I'm strong?' I said
10 aye, I mean he was a big man, he was a big man. He
11 said, 'I could lift you up like Superman'. I said,
12 'Aye', he said, 'Come on, I'll try it'. And he got me
13 by the neck and the groin and he lifted me up like that
14 and kept me there --

15 Q. Above his head?

16 A. -- for a couple of minutes, and he would go, 'Oh', but
17 I was not comfortable because he was touching my groin
18 and that happened on quite a lot of occasions and I was
19 vulnerable, I was scared to say no.

20 Q. What you say is that you didn't realise at the time but
21 you think he was clearly engineering opportunities?

22 A. Initially, when he held me up a couple of times I wasn't
23 thinking anything, but the more he done it, it was more
24 grappling and I started to feel really uncomfortable
25 about it.

1 Q. Did you ever report what was happening at St Ninian's to
2 your family when you were at home for a weekend or
3 anything like that?
4 A. Never talked to anybody about it.
5 Q. What you say is you saw no point in telling them?
6 A. Basically, yeah.
7 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I think it may be appropriate to have
8 a short break at the moment.
9 LADY SMITH: Let's have a break.
10 Would that help if we have a break now?
11 A. No, I'm okay.
12 LADY SMITH: Are you sure?
13 A. Yeah, yeah.
14 LADY SMITH: Don't hesitate to say, we can do breaks if that
15 makes life easier for you.
16 A. No, it's okay. It's okay.
17 LADY SMITH: It's fine.
18 MS MACLEOD: There came a time when you left St Ninian's.
19 How did that come about? What are your memories of the
20 time you left and what you were told about that?
21 A. Honestly, it was a bit weird, because I had no
22 inclination that I was going to go on the bus and not
23 come back and I just packed my wee bag and believe it or
24 not Buchanan Street Bus Station was only about a quarter
25 of a mile where I stayed in Townhead in Glasgow and

1 I just got off the bus and I said 'cheerio'.

2 Q. Was there any preparation or information given to you
3 about --

4 A. I don't know. I felt as if I was running away, you
5 know. It was so, so weird, but I was feeling so happy.
6 When I got to where we stayed, it was an old tenement
7 one bedroom, the windows were all smashed, the doors
8 were all smashed and I didn't know where they were.

9 My sister stayed about three miles away in
10 Possilpark and I walked up there and that's where my mum
11 and dad had moved to, to stay with my sister and
12 brother-in-law, and I walked in the door and went
13 'hiya', and that was it.

14 LADY SMITH: Nobody back at St Ninian's had told you that
15 your family had moved house?

16 A. Nothing. Didn't have phones. My parents didn't have
17 anything. They were a bit illiterate, as I said, they
18 hadn't even contacted -- saying that, they had never
19 come to visit me anyway, so ...

20 There was a bit of paper saying they could come as
21 long as they gave notice and they would even pay the bus
22 fares and I don't know, maybe they got some of the bus
23 fares, but they certainly didn't come to see me.

24 MS MACLEOD: You say in your statement, 'Anderson', that
25 quite often it was your older siblings by this time who

1 were looking after you and that you were quite far
2 behind in school by now, is what you say.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Did you end up before another panel?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Your recollection at the time you gave your statement
7 anyway was that that may have been about a year being in
8 St Ninian's?

9 A. It might have been less, I really can't remember.

10 Q. Did you go to Larchgrove?

11 A. Yeah --

12 Q. For a short time?

13 A. I was in Larchgrove. I think the reason I got put in
14 there is maybe there wasn't a space to go somewhere else
15 at the time. I think I was in there for about three or
16 four weeks.

17 Q. From Larchgrove, did you then go to St Joseph's?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In Tranent?

20 A. I don't know if I told you, but it was Mr GZI that
21 took me there.

22 Q. Mr GZI, although he hadn't been on the scene while
23 you were in St Ninian's, it was him who took you to
24 St Joseph's?

25 A. No, Mr GZI had been on the scene.

1 Q. Oh, Mr GZI [REDACTED] sorry. Not your social worker --

2 A. He was the social worker.

3 Q. From outside?

4 A. Well, he worked ... but I didn't know he went from

5 St Ninian's to St Joseph's and I didn't know I was going

6 to St Joseph's until I went to the panel.

7 Q. Okay, if we look at your time in Larchgrove,

8 I understand you were there only for a short time, but

9 what are your memories of Larchgrove, 'Anderson'?

10 A. There was a big like gymnasium and all the boys would

11 just sit all the way round it and there was this big

12 chap and if you were sort of horse playing he had this

13 big elastic band and he would just, right off your leg

14 and my goodness it was very, very painful. Sometimes

15 they would make you play the baseball with the nets and

16 I would just get bounced about and whacked about and

17 then we got put into the wards, well, the rooms, again

18 just bullying, bullying, no supervision.

19 Q. Were the boys in Larchgrove quite a bit older than you,

20 some of them?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. I would say -- I didn't have a friend, put

22 it that way, at my age.

23 Q. How did the staff in Larchgrove respond to this sort of

24 thing?

25 A. I don't know. Really didn't see staff getting involved

1 unless they seen a proper fight.

2 Q. After a number of weeks in Larchgrove, you then went to

3 St Joseph's --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- in Tranent?

6 Would you be okay looking at a photograph of the

7 building at St Joseph's?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we could look at WIT-3-0000005605, page 15. Is that

10 the building?

11 A. No, it doesn't look like it.

12 LADY SMITH: You don't think it looked like that?

13 A. Not with the pillars. I must have been round at the

14 other side, the private bit, we never ever got near

15 that. I can't remember that.

16 LADY SMITH: If you look at what is written below the

17 photograph, we're told that this is St Joseph's, it's

18 from the south side.

19 A. Sorry, I'm seeing that. It says 'exterior view', we

20 never really got to see that, we were always at the

21 back.

22 MS MACLEOD: You used the other side of the building?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. For how long were you at St Joseph's, 'Anderson'?

25 A. I think it must have been about 18-month.

1 Q. What was the age range of boys there?

2 A. I'd say about nine or ten, up to 16. I didn't see
3 any -- many younger than me.

4 Q. The number of boys, do you have a recollection of that?

5 A. Again, about 30/40, to my recollection.

6 Q. Were the De La Salle Brothers involved in St Joseph's as
7 well?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you recall the names of any of the Brothers?

10 A. I can't remember the top ones, but I think it was
11 Brother **GWM**. I could be wrong. I can't remember.

12 Q. Was there a brother **SNR** the school?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Various other Brothers in different roles?

15 A. Yes, and outside staff.

16 Q. How did you find the schooling, the education at
17 St Joseph's?

18 A. I think I was in classes that were more my age, but it
19 was still an eclectic mixture, you know, different rooms
20 you get put to for different subjects.

21 Q. Were you learning while you were there?

22 A. A little, but, again, because of what had happened to me
23 I really was quite illiterate, it was still very
24 difficult to catch up and you didn't get one on one, so
25 I sort of tried to skip my way through it the best

1 I could.

2 Q. You tell us in your statement that you loved wildlife
3 and that that was something that helped you?

4 A. Oh, yes.

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

6 A. To this day, David Attenborough, I've just watched every
7 programme he's ever done, I just -- I like nature and
8 I just love animals.

9 Q. How did that help you when you were at St Joseph's?

10 A. Peace and quiet, wee bit of me time.

11 Q. Was that something that was encouraged by the Brothers
12 or were you --

13 A. I think it was just natural, because of the area we were
14 in.

15 Q. Did you have chores or jobs to do?

16 A. Oh, yes.

17 Q. Was there a particular chore that you had?

18 A. We had -- we were sort of put in houses. The big main
19 building would mainly be the schooling and the play
20 time, but we got put in houses. I was in
21 Mrs MacDonald's house and there were about ten people in
22 there, so it was not the same environment that
23 St Ninian's was. Therefore, we did get a bit of
24 respite, but, again, weekends, and out in the
25 playgrounds, there was still quite a lot of bullying.

1 Again, it was very seldom I was allowed to go home
2 and I think some part of that was that my parents -- the
3 other kids were getting older and they had no room, so
4 it was a case of, 'No, we've not got space' or some
5 excuse, so I wouldn't get home.

6 Q. Were you involved in cleaning the school?

7 A. Yeah. We would be brushing the likes of the yards and
8 the toilets, cleaning the toilets, the shower rooms
9 sometimes, even the classrooms. At MacDonald House you
10 had to make sure you had tidied up after you, and if you
11 had wet the bed you took your stuff down and things like
12 that, whereas, as I said, I never ever done that, thank
13 goodness. But there was a wee bit of regimen there,
14 there was a wee bit of comfort with Mrs MacDonald, she
15 made nice meals and things like that, wee specialities
16 and that was nice. I certainly wasn't severely bullied
17 the way I was in St Ninian's.

18 Q. Did you have visitors when you were at St Joseph's?

19 A. Never.

20 Q. Do I take it from that that that you had no visits from
21 social work or probation officers?

22 A. Well, Mr GZI [REDACTED] was there, so he was obviously doing
23 reports on me probably, because he was meant to be my
24 social worker.

25 I remember, if it's okay to say so, I was only back

1 there two days and Mr GZI [REDACTED] got myself and he says, 'Do
2 you still think I can still do Superman?' And I says 'F
3 off' and he never ever come near me again.

4 Q. Was your understanding that he had moved from
5 St Ninian's?

6 A. Not until I went to the panel and he was the one that
7 was picking me up.

8 Q. He had been at St Ninian's and then you went back to the
9 panel he was the person who came to pick you up and took
10 you to St Joseph's?

11 A. Obviously in the interim he had moved to that
12 establishment.

13 Q. Then he was at St Joseph's when you were there?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Were you able to get letters or communicate with your
16 family by letter?

17 A. My sister, [REDACTED] my older sister, she used to send me
18 some letters. Again, she was a wee bit illiterate too,
19 but she did send me some letters and sometimes a wee
20 postal order for 50 pence or whatever.

21 Q. When letters were sent to you, did they come to you
22 directly?

23 A. No.

24 Q. What happened to the letters?

25 A. Whoever got them, they would open them up and see what

1 was in it and then give you it.

2 Q. They were opened by the time you got them?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. At paragraph 110 of your statement, 'Anderson', you say:

5 'At no time did a social worker or anybody else ever
6 sit down with me to discuss my progress at St Joseph's
7 or what my future would be. There were never any
8 reports, never any praise for any good work I had done.'

9 A. The only thing they praised me on was I learnt to play
10 the guitar and I got pretty good at it, obviously it was
11 a key thing in my life because it gave me something that
12 was mine and I actually taught a few of the boys the
13 basic chords.

14 LADY SMITH: Did you say you felt it was something that was
15 nice?

16 A. It was, I still play guitar to this day.

17 MS MACLEOD: How was discipline dealt with at St Joseph's?

18 If it was felt that a boy required to be disciplined,
19 how was that managed?

20 A. Well, like any Approved School a lot of the boys managed
21 to sneak in cigarettes and/or the staff would just flick
22 their cigarette away and the boys would steal the stub.
23 I remember this one day when I was behind the wall, one
24 said, 'Come on, take a shot of this'. And to be one of
25 the boys I did, and one of the staff looked over the

1 wall, 'All right, smoking'. The other boy denied any --
2 because I -- and, 'Right, you can't get home this
3 weekend'. I says, 'My sister is getting married this
4 weekend' to -- obviously -- my brother-in-law, future
5 brother-in-law, 'Nope'. And for the one puff of a fag
6 they didn't let me go and see my sister get married.

7 Q. You missed the wedding?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. How was bed wetting dealt with at St Joseph's?

10 A. They had to parade down, so they were sort of ashamed,
11 get all your blankets, all your pillow slips and
12 everything and take it down to the laundry and ask the
13 laundry staff to give you fresh and then go up and spray
14 your bed or wipe it, whatever it was, make your bed.
15 Sort of a shameful thing.

16 Q. You explain that you weren't a bed wetter but you
17 describe that there was a boy who was a prolific bed
18 wetter?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Was that in your dorm?

21 A. Yeah, he would basically say 'get out your bed' and he
22 would take my mattress and give me his wet one and his
23 wet clothes.

24 Q. In St Joseph's, when that happened, and you were found
25 to be in a wet bed, who would discover that? Who would

1 discover that in terms of staff? Who could come in to
2 discover you in a wet bed?

3 A. Well, they wouldn't really come to you, because if you
4 wanted to lie in your own wet they would just let you.
5 So obviously I had to take mine down, I didn't want to
6 lie in a wet bed, but I would get the blame and
7 I couldn't tell who it was.

8 Q. Were there any repercussions for you?

9 A. If I had have told, yeah, there would have been.

10 Q. You tell us a bit about the manner in which the Brothers
11 spoke to you. At 116 you say that that they spoke to
12 you as if you were a piece of shit?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you develop that for me? Was that something that
15 was the case for most of the time or --

16 A. It was for most of the time for the fact that boys would
17 come and boys would go. So a lot of the boys that come
18 in could be quite rough and they just ran riot and they
19 weren't as scared of the staff. So they done whatever
20 they wanted. So they would get screamed at. The staff
21 couldn't say, 'Aye, don't do that'. It was F and C and
22 this and that, and that's how they spoke to you.
23 I didn't get much of that sort of verbal, but now and
24 again I did.

25 Q. Was physical punishment ever used at St Joseph's?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Who physically punished boys?

3 A. There was one of the teachers and I got the belt a few
4 times, and it was painful.

5 Q. What sort of thing led you to getting the belt? What
6 would merit --

7 A. Talking to somebody else in class, smoking.

8 Q. Who, on those occasions, administered the belt?

9 A. I think it was Mr HPS . He was a very good teacher
10 and he was strict, but you couldn't cross his path.

11 Q. Something you do say in your statement is that there was
12 no sexual abuse at St Joseph's as far as you were aware?

13 A. Apart from, as I said when I went to St Joseph's,
14 Mr GZI asking if he could lift me and I told him no,
15 but apart from that, no.

16 LADY SMITH: When you went to St Joseph's Mr GZI asked
17 you -- was this about the Superman again?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS MACLEOD: What are your memories of the atmosphere at
21 St Joseph's?

22 A. Again, it's -- you just got to have your guard up all
23 the time. You can just be standing talking to somebody
24 and, whack, you got it on the back of the head with
25 a ball and it was like a tinder -- in those days there

1 were a lot of boys from different areas of Glasgow, all
2 similar ages and they were all in gangs, so because of
3 that you would see quite a lot of fights. Mainly at the
4 weekends, because during the week they didn't want to
5 lose their weekend. So the ones that did lose it,
6 that's the weekends, that's usually the nasties, as we
7 called them.

8 You knew you were going to be in trouble with them,
9 because that was a bad crowd that lost their weekend due
10 to bad behaviour.

11 Q. You do tell us in your statement, you say you were on
12 the edge every single day?

13 A. Absolutely.

14 Q. You say there wasn't a single day went by when you
15 didn't receive a remark or a punch?

16 A. I had a couple of boys that were sort of the same ilk.
17 I did make a few friends there, but again we were the
18 ones that were picked on.

19 Q. Was there anybody you could have reported the bullying
20 to, while you were there?

21 A. You could have, but you would have been in trouble off
22 the boys.

23 Q. Did you report the bullying while you were there?

24 A. There was no point. Nothing was done and if one of the
25 staff had a word in somebody's ear, then that person

1 would know exactly that it was me or someone else who
2 had said it.

3 Q. When it came time for you to leave St Joseph's,
4 'Anderson', what are your memories around that?

5 A. That's quite funny, because I wasn't expecting it. And
6 a member of staff says to me, 'Do you want to go home?'
7 I says, 'Yes', they says, 'Do you think you'll be back?'
8 I says, 'I hope not', but I didn't get out right away.

9 Apparently I read a bit in my statement that he said
10 I said I didn't want to go home because I would return,
11 as if I'd have wanted to return to that again.

12 So I think it was another couple of months or
13 something before I got released.

14 Q. When you were released, was there any preparation at
15 that time for you going home?

16 A. The only preparation there was my sister and her husband
17 stayed in a scheme called Easterhouse, which is a very,
18 very rough scheme, but they were happy to take me in and
19 put me to the local school, which was called
20 St Leonard's, and I only had about four or five months
21 left and I was told if I didn't go to school I would be
22 put back in again, so I gave it a chance. I went to the
23 school and they spoke to me and they said, 'We heard you
24 like playing the guitar, **GKY** ... and I said, 'Yes,
25 I do', and basically they said, 'Well, you're not going

1 to catch up with your education here'. I said, 'I know
2 that'.

3 They said, 'So what we'd like to do is you come in
4 two or three days a week and you go into the games room
5 and then the music room and you can teach two or three
6 of the boys how to play the guitar'.

7 I done that for about two months and then none of
8 the boys come back again and I just didn't go back and
9 that was the last authority I ever had.

10 Q. You say that you did end up before another panel, but
11 that it was agreed you could go and live with your
12 brother and sister-in-law?

13 A. Yeah, my mum and dad were at the panel and they said,
14 'No, we want him put back in care'.

15 LADY SMITH: They did want you put back in care or they
16 didn't?

17 A. They did. No, they said we want him put back in care
18 but my brother and his wife, said, 'We are responsible,
19 we both work hard, we've got our own home and we'd like
20 him to stay with us until he finds his feet'.

21 MS MACLEOD: You tell us your brother had told the panel
22 that you had done nothing wrong --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- and that you could stay with him?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. After spending some time living with your brother and
2 sister-in-law, you tell us that you then went through
3 a difficult time and that you were sleeping rough?

4 A. Well, what it was is my sister-in-law was lovely and she
5 worked hard and so did my brother and then my
6 sister-in-law fell pregnant and they only had one
7 bedroom and there was a wee recess in the kitchen where
8 I slept and I thought I can't do this. It's not fair on
9 them. They're not long married, she's pregnant, and
10 I left. My brother was crying. My sister-in-law was
11 crying.

12 Q. In your statement you tell us that there came a time
13 when you were remanded in Longriggend?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. My Lady, that part of 'Anderson's' statement was read in
16 during the SPS chapter at the end of last year, that's
17 paragraph 140 to 143, where 'Anderson' talks about being
18 in Longriggend, being in Barlinnie for a short period of
19 time and then about a month in Glenochil.

20 That has already been read into the transcript,
21 'Anderson'.

22 Towards the end of your statement you provide some
23 evidence about your life after care.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Including giving information about your family life and

1 jobs that you've had during your life and we don't need
2 to go through that in detail, but we have that in your
3 written statement.

4 You also provide evidence about the impact,
5 'Anderson', that you believe your time in care has had
6 on your life. I just want to ask you a little bit about
7 that.

8 You say that you think it impacted your children and
9 that while they don't know the detail of your childhood,
10 that they know you had a hard childhood. I just want to
11 ask you a little about how you feel that's impacted
12 yourself as a parent and therefore your children.

13 A. I feel very blessed to start with. I married at a very
14 young age. I was 18, my wife was 20. And together
15 about a year or so and then we split up. Just too
16 young. Then my wife came to me with my three daughters
17 and said, 'I want you to take the kids. If you don't
18 take the kids I'm going to put them into care'. I said,
19 'You can't do that'. She said, 'Aye, I can'. I said,
20 'I'll take the kids'.

21 I went to court and I got custody, full custody, and
22 I got my divorce and it's the best thing that ever
23 happened to me. It gave me focus in my life. My kids
24 are now 42, 44 and 47 and they're still daddy's kids.
25 So it made a big impact on my life.

1 But I struggled. I struggled. I didn't have the
2 parenting needs, training, but we got there.

3 Q. You tell us that you had dreams and aspirations as a wee
4 boy and that you feel these have been affected by the
5 childhood you had?

6 A. Absolutely. Completely. I didn't really get a chance
7 in life to better myself and get a good career, but
8 eventually I've done quite well. The kids are up now.
9 But the impact is I still can't sleep at night, for the
10 last 20/30 years. Wake up in a puddle of sweat almost
11 every night. Flashbacks. Don't want to be in company.
12 Not got any friends because I don't want any friends
13 because I don't trust them. The only friends is my
14 family. It still impacts me. I walk into a pub to go
15 for a pint I'm looking about me. I've always got my
16 back to the wall in case somebody hits me. I've also
17 got that fear somebody might even kill me and my kids
18 will be left without me.

19 Q. Have you ever reported what happened to you at either
20 St Ninian's or St Joseph's to the police?

21 A. No, I went to see these people in Aberdeen. It was
22 something on the paper or somebody. I phoned it.
23 I think that was in 1993, something like that. I went
24 to Aberdeen and this big building and there was a chap
25 and two women:

1 'Are you here about St Ninian's?'

2 'Aye, yes.'

3 'How are you feeling now?'

4 'Obviously I'm feeling a lot better than I did.'

5 'And are you working?'

6 I said, 'Yes'.

7 They said:

8 'Okay, GKY, goodbye.'

9 And I walked outside and I just burst out crying.

10 I thought, what was that? I'm not one for arguing,

11 I just accepted what they said.

12 Q. You say in your statement, 'Anderson', that you've never

13 received nor sought compensation?

14 A. No, no. Then at that time, no, never, no, I didn't.

15 Q. You say:

16 'I have only wanted answers.'

17 A. That's all I ever wanted was answers and the biggest

18 answer I wanted was: was it my parents that kept putting

19 me in there and kept me in there or was it the system?

20 I think I got the answers. I think it's my parents.

21 Q. In terms of lessons that you think should be learned,

22 you say:

23 'If people are going to be put in institutions they

24 have to be given a structure and given a goal to aim

25 for.'

1 A. Absolutely, yes.

2 Q. In terms of hopes for the Inquiry, you say that you want
3 to find your records?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You say that you would like to see praise and compassion
6 for people in such places?

7 A. Yeah. Just getting off the subject, I'm a taxi driver
8 for 22 years and I hear every single day people sitting
9 in my car telling their stories and I say, 'Why
10 don't you get help?'.
11 'Nowhere to turn to. Nowhere to turn.'
12 That's up to this current date. Inverness -- the
13 mental health is bad up there. There's not enough
14 people to help them.

15 Q. At the end of your statement you say:
16 'These places were described as in care but care
17 never came into it and was a word that was completely
18 redundant when I was in those places.'

19 A. Absolutely. The Brothers, the De La Salle Brothers,
20 none of them were qualified teachers. There was no
21 structure for me being so young and most people -- in
22 there it was just put them away out the road and shut
23 the door.

24 MS MACLEOD: 'Anderson' I've been asking you a lot of
25 questions today and I now want to give you the

1 opportunity to add anything or say anything that you
2 feel you would like to at this stage.

3 A. Well, I would like to say when my kids grew up and
4 I moved to Inverness, in fact before that, I became
5 a driving instructor. I went to college and I worked
6 hard and I done that for eight years and then in
7 Inverness I had a convenience store. I had a removal
8 company. I had two ice-cream vans. I was a [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] in B&Q over the last 30-odd years. I've fought
10 back for me and I feel fortunate, but a lot of people
11 don't return. My only saving grace was my kids and my
12 grandkids, that kept me going.

13 And that's all I would like to say and thank you for
14 hearing me.

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I can confirm that I haven't received
16 any questions for 'Anderson'.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Anderson', it's me who wants to say thank you
18 to you for what you have contributed both in terms of
19 your written statement and in coming here today. I said
20 at the beginning that I did realise that it was
21 difficult to do what we were asking you to do and it has
22 been difficult, I can see that, because of what you have
23 been talking about.

24 But it's added enormous value to the work of this
25 Inquiry and enhanced my learning. You have obviously

1 worked hard, really hard, to get where you are. Well
2 done for that.

3 A. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you for being here and I'm now delighted
5 to say you are free to go and I hope you have a safe
6 journey back home.

7 A. Thank you.

8 LADY SMITH: It's a bit tough out there today, but however
9 far you're going this afternoon, I hope it goes safely.
10 Thank you.

11 A. Thank you so much.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: Just a few more names to add to the list of
14 those who are not at the moment to be identified outside
15 this room, Brothers MJP, HJS, GZQ and
16 GWM. Mr [REDACTED], Mr McKinstry, Mr GZI and
17 Mr HPS and at times the witness actually used his
18 own name or parts of his own name, but he has opted to
19 be anonymous, as he's entitled to do, and his name's not
20 to be repeated outside this room either.

21 It's 1.05 pm, so I'll rise now for about an hour and
22 then we'll get to the next witness in person after that.

23 Thank you.

24 (1.07 pm)

25 (The luncheon adjournment)

1 (2.05 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. The next witness is going to
3 give evidence by video link and it looks like everything
4 is set up satisfactorily, is that right, Mr MacAulay?

5 MR MACAULAY: That is the case, my Lady.

6 The next witness is an applicant, he wants to remain
7 anonymous and use the pseudonym 'Alexander' in giving
8 evidence.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 'Alexander', good afternoon, thank you for joining
11 us over the link today, I'm grateful to you for being
12 prepared to give evidence this afternoon.

13 'Alexander' (affirmed)

14 (Via videolink)

15 LADY SMITH: 'Alexander', thank you.

16 Before I hand over to Mr MacAulay, I know that you
17 have some assistance with you there, but if you have any
18 queries at any time, please don't hesitate to speak up.
19 If the link doesn't seem to be working for you, tell us.
20 If you want a break at any time, don't feel under
21 special pressure because you are giving evidence over
22 the link. We can do a break if that's necessary,
23 because I know it's not easy to give evidence about what
24 happened in your childhood when the events are difficult
25 and stressful.

1 Don't hesitate to let me know if there's anything
2 I can do to help.

3 A. Okay, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay
5 and he'll take it from there.

6 Mr MacAulay.

7 Questions from Mr MacAulay

8 MR MACAULAY: Hello, 'Alexander'.

9 The first thing I would like you to do to me is to
10 turn to the final page of your statement. Could you do
11 that?

12 A. I have it in front of me.

13 Q. Can you confirm you have signed your statement?

14 A. Yes, I can, sir.

15 Q. If you look at the final paragraph of the statement, do
16 you say:

17 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
18 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
19 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
20 true.'

21 Is that correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. I'm quite happy for you to call me 'Colin', 'Alexander',
24 and I'll call you 'Alexander' if you wish.

25 A. Okay, Colin.

1 Q. It's entirely up to you.

2 I'm just going to give the reference of the
3 statement for the benefit of the transcript, that is
4 WIT.001.002.0090.

5 I don't want your date of birth, because you want to
6 be anonymous. I just want to put to you the year of
7 your birth so we can get a context for your evidence.
8 Can you confirm you were born in 1956?

9 A. That's correct, sir.

10 Q. You begin your statement, 'Alexander', by telling us
11 a little bit about your life before you went into care.
12 In reading that, it does appear that life was quite
13 difficult for you before you went into care?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Can you perhaps just elaborate upon that for me?

16 A. Well, my father was in and out of prison, an alcoholic.
17 Not really much else to tell you. I don't really know
18 a great deal about the man, other than that.

19 Q. Your mother at the time?

20 A. Separated. Separated when I was very young.

21 Q. Were you staying with your father?

22 A. I stayed with my father, yeah.

23 Q. In paragraph 2 of your statement, you do describe what
24 looks like a very significant incident when your father
25 beat you quite badly?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. You go on to tell us, in paragraph 4, that one moment
3 you were sitting having your breakfast and then you were
4 taken in front of a Children's Panel in Paisley, is that
5 right?

6 A. Out of the blue, Colin, out of the blue. I knew nothing
7 about this.

8 Q. Do you have a clue now as to why you went to the
9 Children's Panel?

10 A. I'll be quite frank, I'm not too sure myself. I was
11 just eating breakfast, I'm there, same day I'm at
12 St Ninian's. That's all I can tell you. I think maybe
13 it was a bit -- I was a bit of a rough kid. A bit hard
14 to handle, if you like.

15 Q. Anyway, that is the background, as you know it, for you
16 ending up in St Ninian's.

17 In the statement you tell us that you were
18 a nine-year-old boy when you were sent to St Ninian's?

19 A. Could you repeat that, Colin?

20 Q. You were nine years of age when you went to St Ninian's?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. The Inquiry has seen a record that suggests that that
23 may have been in [REDACTED] 1966, which would confirm that
24 you would be aged nine at that time?

25 A. Between 1965 and 1968.

1 Q. You tell us a little bit about your first day. What was
2 your immediate impression of the establishment?

3 A. My first impression was the appearance, the
4 surroundings, they're absolutely stunning. That was my
5 first impression. And I still have the same image in my
6 mind of what it was like on arrival. It was a wonderful
7 place. I believe it was in the afternoon. It was
8 a pretty sunny day and the thing I always remember, as
9 well as the surroundings, was the smell of the pine. It
10 is surrounded by forest.

11 Q. You tell us that when you arrived you came across
12 a monk, who you describe as SNR, being carried
13 down the stairs by two other monks?

14 A. That is correct, sir, that is correct.

15 Q. Did you find out who that was?

16 A. No. I did, but I can't remember the names.

17 Q. Did you understand that the monk who was being carried,
18 who I think you describe as rather frail, may have been
19 SNR at the time?

20 A. He was SNR of St Ninian's, as far as I'm aware.

21 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the accommodation.
22 You talk about the dormitories and clearly you would
23 have been allocated to a particular dormitory, is that
24 right?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. How many dormitories were there?

2 A. I think there was -- if I remember correctly there were
3 three rather on the biggish side and two smaller ones.

4 Q. Just looking at the routine. Let's focus on the
5 mornings, first of all. In the morning, how would you
6 be woken up?

7 A. They just come round. They'd come into the dormitory.
8 On occasion they would have rang a bell. But basically
9 that was it. They'd come in, 'Right, out of bed, make
10 your beds up', that type of thing and you would go about
11 your ablutions.

12 Q. When you say 'they', who are you talking about?

13 A. The monks. The Brothers, if you like.

14 Q. What were the arrangements at bedtime?

15 A. That was it, you just went to bed. Simple as. Lights
16 out and that was it.

17 Q. Who supervised you for that?

18 A. The monks. The monks took care of everything.

19 Q. From your perspective, did the De La Salle Order run the
20 establishment?

21 A. In my mind, yes.

22 Q. One thing you do tell us is you came across your brother
23 when you were at St Ninian's?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Did you know he was there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Insofar as the Brothers are concerned, can you just tell
3 me if you can remember the names of any of the brothers?

4 A. Well, Brother MCT, Brother MJP,
5 Brother LUE, there was a civilian also called
6 Mr MCK. he was a teacher.

7 Q. In your statement you mention two other Brothers, that's
8 Brother Benedict and Brother MBZ?

9 A. Brother MBZ and Brother Benedict, ie 'Bootsie', as he
10 was known. I found out -- we referred to him by Bootsie
11 behind his back. I never called him as
12 'Brother Benedict'. In fact I called all the Brothers
13 simply 'brother', that is --

14 LADY SMITH: Why did you call him Bootsie?

15 A. That's a funny thing, my Lady. He just -- I don't know.
16 He wore these particular boots that just looked --
17 I don't know -- there was just something odd about the
18 boots, that was all, so we just called him Bootsie.
19 I can't explain further than that.

20 MR MACAULAY: Was he called Bootsie before you arrived at
21 St Ninian's?

22 A. Aye, yes, absolutely.

23 Q. You also tell us about meal times. That is at
24 paragraph 13. You say it was ladies from the village
25 who came in to do the cooking?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. You also say that you had a problem with certain foods,
3 can you just tell me about that?

4 A. Yeah. It's mainly cheese, milk and butter.

5 Q. Did that cause problems for you when you were at
6 St Ninian's?

7 A. On occasions it did cause a great many problems for me.

8 Q. Can you describe it?

9 A. I was force fed at times.

10 Q. By who?

11 A. The monks.

12 Q. How did they react to the fact that you couldn't eat
13 these particular types of food?

14 A. They couldn't care less.

15 Q. In relation to schooling, I think what you tell us at
16 paragraph 16 is that you couldn't read or write?

17 A. That's correct, sir.

18 Q. Did that change, did it, over the period?

19 A. It certainly did, sir, yes.

20 Q. How did that come about?

21 A. I've no idea in my mind at the time. I just thought
22 I've got to learn to read and write and that is exactly
23 what I did. I learnt to read and write. In fact, as
24 far as I'm aware, I was actually top of the class within
25 a year in all subjects.

1 Q. Insofar as birthdays were concerned, I think you do tell
2 us you spent three of your birthdays at St Ninian's.
3 Were they acknowledged in any way?
4 A. No.
5 Q. What about visits from others?
6 A. My father came once, on one occasion, and he came with
7 a few of his friends and to say the least he was heavily
8 intoxicated. To be honest, he was -- he was just
9 a disappointment.
10 Q. What about social workers, did any social worker come to
11 see you?
12 A. No, not once so ever, no. Not once.
13 Q. Were you aware of any inspections being carried out?
14 A. Can you break that down in detail?
15 Q. An inspection of the establishment. Did you see anybody
16 who might have been inspecting the premises?
17 A. No, absolutely not.
18 Q. What about school managers, because we understand the
19 school might have been run by a board of managers, did
20 you see anyone who might have been a school manager
21 visiting the premises?
22 A. Not that I'm aware of.
23 Q. In relation to healthcare, you do tell us that a dentist
24 was brought in to St Ninian's to deal with matters such
25 as dental care, is that correct?

1 A. Yeah. On one occasion for me, yes.

2 Q. You say in your statement, I just wanted to understand
3 what you meant by this, this is at paragraph 23:
4 'He wasn't too nice either.'

5 A. He certainly wasn't.

6 Q. What do you mean by that?

7 A. I was more or less held down in the chair just about,
8 whilst they took my tooth out. It wasn't nice. It
9 wasn't a nice experience.

10 Q. Can I ask you about religion, because I do say something
11 about that in your statement. This is at paragraph 25,
12 where you say:
13 'When I look back, I don't know why the monks
14 bothered teaching religion. It was an absolute
15 disgrace.'

16 I just wanted to understand what did you mean by
17 that?

18 A. It was.

19 Q. Can you explain that?

20 A. Well, the way they treated people. You don't treat
21 children like that. They were nasty people. They were
22 nasty -- no, no, let's have it right, they were nasty
23 people.

24 Q. Can you elaborate upon that, in what way were they
25 nasty?

1 A. Physically, sexually abusive. They basically -- for me,
2 I speak on my behalf, I was tortured many times, yeah,
3 tortured. Electrocuted. I know all about it. Cold
4 showers and scrubbed down with a yard broom in winter
5 and whatever. Starved for days on end.

6 I'm not a happy man sitting here talking to you,
7 Colin, but -- I'm keeping this in control, but
8 I am very, very angry with these people.

9 Q. What you tell us in your statement, at paragraph 27, is
10 that your protagonist, Brother Benedict, is in prison
11 today, he was known as Bootsie and then you say this:

12 'If ever the devil walked the earth, there's your
13 man.'

14 A. Oh, yes, he certainly was. He's only part of the
15 devils.

16 Q. There were others?

17 A. Oh, absolutely.

18 Q. Can I ask you about what you say at paragraph 28, you
19 say:

20 'Brother Benedict often took me down to the
21 cellars.'

22 I just want to understand the layout of the
23 premises. When you talk about the cellars, are you
24 talking about a basement area. What is it you are
25 trying to convey?

1 A. Just the cellars per se, and different passageways. You
2 have to remember, St Ninian's the actual building itself
3 is rather extensive and there are many of these little
4 corridors that go around the place underground. He had
5 an interest at the time, if I remember correctly, is it
6 Bakelite phones and all that type of thing? He had
7 a great interest in all those sort of things and just
8 about anything electric, which I was to find out in
9 a bad way.

10 Q. Are you saying that there was an area or areas in the
11 lower part of the building where Brother Benedict had
12 this equipment?

13 A. Yes. That's correct, sir, yes.

14 Q. The first time that you were taken down to wherever you
15 were taken to, can you tell me what happened?

16 A. Yes, he put two wires up the side of my legs and on my
17 testicles. Nearly blew my head apart.

18 Q. Were you given an electric shock or electric shocks?

19 LADY SMITH: Just a moment, we'll have to just go back we
20 lost the connection.

21 Mr MacAulay, can you go back and pick up?

22 MR MACAULAY: You are telling us that you had two wires put
23 up your legs on to your testicles.

24 Did you hear me there?

25 A. Repeat yourself, Colin?

1 Q. I think I heard you say that two wires were put up your
2 legs on to your testicles, do I have that right?
3 We keep losing you, 'Alexander'. I'll try again.
4 A. It's okay.
5 Q. You did say to me that on the occasion I'm asking you
6 about --
7 LADY SMITH: I'm going to rise for five minutes.
8 I don't know if you can hear me, 'Alexander'.
9 I'm just going to rise for five minutes and we're going
10 to look at this connection to see if we can make it
11 stronger, because we keep losing you.
12 (2.28 pm)
13 (A short break)
14 (2.35 pm)
15 LADY SMITH: 'Alexander', I'm sorry about that, but I gather
16 that the connection is now a bit better than it was
17 before and I hope that's right, because this isn't easy
18 for you and I'd rather it wasn't happening.
19 A. Okay, my Lady.
20 LADY SMITH: We'll see if we can move forward.
21 Mr MacAulay.
22 MR MACAULAY: I think before the interruption, 'Alexander',
23 you had described how Brother Benedict had put two wires
24 up your legs and did these wires make contact with your
25 testicles?

1 A. Yes, they did, sir.

2 Q. What happened?

3 A. Well, I can't remember a great deal, to be honest with
4 you. I just suddenly came to and he was standing there
5 laughing.

6 Q. Do I take it that you passed out at some point?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were you conscious of receiving a electric shock?

9 A. Well, something happened. That's about all I can
10 remember. Something happened there. And then the
11 lights went out, metaphorically.

12 Q. You said you passed out. When you came too, then,
13 Brother Benedict was still there and you say he was
14 laughing?

15 A. He was laughing, yes.

16 Q. Did you speak to him and ask him what had happened?

17 A. I didn't. No, you didn't. You didn't ask these people
18 too many questions. It was always -- you would -- they
19 could become very violent.

20 Q. You are telling us about this incident. Was this the
21 first time something like this --

22 A. No, no, no, it wasn't the first time. It was three
23 times this happened.

24 Q. Was it the same --

25 A. No, no, no.

1 Q. Can you just tell me about it?

2 A. There was another time he took me down to the cellars,
3 if you like, and all these bits of phones, Bakelite
4 phones I think they were at the time, old ones and he
5 casually told me to sit down in a chair, which I did,
6 and whatever he did from behind I got an electric shock
7 ... I wouldn't say on the level of when I was
8 electrocuted by testicles, and again, sadly, he was
9 laughing.

10 The reason that he did this to me, he wanted to see
11 if the hair on my head would stand up, bearing in mind
12 that I had short hair. I don't know if you remember,
13 Colin, I think you might do, my haircut at the time was
14 the old-style American crew cut.

15 Q. Oh, yes.

16 A. So electric is not going to do too much to make that
17 stand on end, but he found it funny.

18 Q. That is one of the incidents. Did you say there were
19 three incidents?

20 A. Yes, he touched the back of my neck with a wire or two
21 wires, I can't remember, but definitely touching the
22 back of my neck. He was like there was -- just like
23 a bolt of lightning. It was like -- I heard a spark,
24 then again I came to.

25 Q. Again, did you pass out then on that occasion?

1 A. Yeah. I passed out. Yeah, I passed out slightly again,
2 aye.

3 Q. The incident you mentioned where he wanted to see if
4 your hair would stand on end, did they say that to you?

5 A. Absolutely, yeah, absolutely, aye. Just fancied -- he
6 was laughing as he was telling me. He was telling this
7 to me that is what he was asking, 'Wanted to see if your
8 hair would stand up'. I've got an American crew cut.
9 My hair's already standing up. Why the application of
10 electric? Just complete nonsense. He was just abusing
11 us, simple as that.

12 Q. Were these shocks painful?

13 A. Of course they were painful.

14 Q. You have mentioned these three incidents, were there any
15 more incidents that you were involved in, with him and
16 his electricity?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Were you on your own on these occasions?

19 A. Oh, I was on my own. You will find that with most
20 statements that come your way, Colin. They're always on
21 their own.

22 Q. You also mention in connection with Brother Benedict
23 a shower incident --

24 A. No, that wasn't Brother Benedict.

25 Q. I'm looking at paragraph 29.

1 A. That was Brother MJP .

2 Q. Was there an occasion then when Brother Benedict told
3 you to take your clothes off and have a shower, was that
4 Brother MJP and not Brother Benedict?

5 A. That was Brother MJP .

6 Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened?

7 A. No idea really. I was just called in. I can remember
8 it clearly. It was winter time and told me to take my
9 clothes off and told me to go into the shower room,
10 which is basically a wet room, and turn on the shower,
11 which I did do, which was freezing cold and he
12 disappeared for a few seconds and then he came back with
13 the yard broom and started scrubbing my bare skin in the
14 cold. All I remember was the screaming, my screaming,
15 and watching rivulets of blood running down the centre.

16 Q. Do you know why he did this?

17 A. For fun. He's laughing. They all laughed. They all
18 thought it was fun. That's what they did with all the
19 lads. They thought it was a bit of fun and games with
20 them. We were treated like animals.

21 Q. Were you on your own on this occasion with
22 Brother MJP ?

23 A. You'll find that most boys were on their own, Colin.
24 You'll find that most of those boys were on their own,
25 for whatever reasons. I'm not here to explain that to

1 you. That's their story. I'm giving you my story. But
2 you'll find that, yes, they were on their own basically.

3 Q. Did this happen just the once?

4 A. Sorry?

5 Q. Did this happen just the one time?

6 A. In the shower area?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I'll come back to Brother **MJP** again in a moment.
10 But if I can go back to Brother Benedict, you have been
11 telling us about the electric shock treatment that you
12 received. What about physical treatment? How did he
13 behave towards you physically?

14 A. When I look back on it, I have the impression that this
15 is more about a sort of secret thing for him, if that
16 makes any sense. I don't know if -- I've no idea if
17 I'm the only lad that suffered that. I've no idea, but
18 over and above all he always gave out this demeanour and
19 I always thought of him, the first time I ever met him
20 really, he's a bit of a Friar Tuck, if you like, a very
21 tall man, well, compared to a child anyway and he wore
22 bifocals, black, thick lenses and I don't know --
23 personally I didn't see him -- I never saw him -- if he
24 was doing anything wrong to any of the other boys, like
25 beating them up and things like that, I never saw

1 anything like that. I'm only giving you my experience,
2 Colin.

3 Q. Were you ever beaten by Brother Benedict?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Just going back to the incidents with the electricity,
6 what age were you, do you think, when these incidents
7 happened?

8 A. I'd be about nine-and-a-half.

9 Q. Did these incidents happen close to each other or were
10 there gaps in time?

11 A. There were gaps in between. Not much gaps, but there
12 was gaps in between.

13 Q. Can I go back to Brother **MJP**, because you do go on
14 to describe some other things that happened between you
15 and him.

16 A. Aye, yes.

17 Q. Can you tell me about that? You tell me for example
18 that he would take you away into the bathroom?

19 A. Say that again?

20 Q. You say in your statement that Brother **MJP** would
21 take you into the bathroom?

22 A. Oh, yeah. Well, you know -- they wanted you to do
23 things, but it's not going to happen. Being frank with
24 you, Colin, these things are not going to happen to me.
25 Not where I was born. It's not happening. There's

1 nothing going in my mouth. There's nothing going there
2 anally either. So hence in my statement, if you've read
3 it, I've been battered more times than fish.

4 Q. I saw that.

5 A. Thank you.

6 Q. You tell us about an incident when you were taken into
7 the bathroom and he tried to do things to you?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Can you tell me what he tried to do?

10 A. Aye, he wanted me to perform oral sex on him, that type
11 of thing. Not having any of it.

12 Q. Did you see his penis?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When you say:

15 'I have been battered more times than a fish.'
16 Who battered you?

17 A. Not just him, others. Monks.

18 Q. I think what you're telling me is that on the occasion
19 I've been asking you about, you have refused to comply
20 with what he wanted you to do, is that correct?

21 A. That is correct, sir, absolutely.

22 Q. What happened when you refused to comply with him?

23 A. Well, the only thing they know, just to beat you up.

24 Q. Did this happen once or more than once, this --

25 A. No, not just with him. With two or three monks it

1 happened, oh, yes let's not be under any illusions about
2 that.

3 Q. Can you just help me with that. What happened with the
4 other monks?

5 A. Your Brother **MCT**, he was a pretty heavy handed man
6 and it was always starting off with hitting you on the
7 top of the heads and when I say this man, the palms of
8 his hands were like -- really were like concrete.
9 Sometimes he'd give you a punch in the face or whatever.
10 Just nasty pieces of work. I think if there's such
11 a thing as a God he (indistinguishable) a whole lot of
12 bodies down to St Ninian's, they've all landed in the
13 same place.

14 I'm not here to throw mud, because only
15 St Ninian's -- as you are well aware, Colin, after
16 St Ninian's there were three other homes. I don't have
17 any complaints with those homes. None of this stuff
18 happened. So I'll clarify that right off.

19 Q. You have mentioned **MJP**, **MCT**, any other
20 brother who may have abused you?

21 A. Brother **LUE**, he was a nasty piece of work also.

22 Q. What did he do?

23 A. He used to kick us and, you know, slap you round the
24 face for no reasons, you know. Punch you in the arms,
25 punch you in the back of the head and just a horrible --

1 it's horrible. Nasty.

2 But you still haven't mentioned the civilian.

3 Q. I'll come to him in a moment. I just want to look at
4 this aspect of it with you.

5 What about the way the Brothers dealt with other
6 boys, did you witness any form of abuse with other boys?

7 A. No, no. You don't see it, Colin. It's behind closed
8 doors, if you like. I don't -- whatever I've seen, and
9 I've seen a few things, I was a wee bit of a nosey
10 parker back then and I would be in places where
11 I shouldn't be and I saw things happen that I shouldn't
12 have seen happen, but I did. They were totally unaware
13 of this.

14 Q. This is at St Ninian's?

15 A. This is at St Ninian's.

16 Q. What things do you have in mind?

17 A. Sexual abuse, physical abuse.

18 Q. If you look at sexual abuse, can you just help me with
19 that. What did you witness?

20 A. Exactly what I have said. Physical and sexual abuse of
21 children. They were totally -- I wasn't there. They
22 didn't know I was there. Not the monk, not the young
23 lad and I've got to look at these young lads in the eyes
24 a few years after St Ninian's, knowing what I saw, but
25 we never spoke about St Ninian's.

1 Q. Are you able to help me, 'Alexander', what did you see
2 on the occasions you saw sexual abuse? Let's just focus
3 on that.

4 A. Yeah. You know, oral sex and things like that,
5 forced --

6 Q. Where was this taking place?

7 A. Well, this was -- well, just about everywhere to be
8 quite honest with you. As long as it was out of sight
9 and out of place, but mostly it happened after midnight
10 and things like that, you see things that just don't sit
11 right at the time. You know, you would hear a scream
12 here and there, you know. You never really get to know
13 too much about that scream. It's just a horrible place.

14 Q. Did anything ever happen to you at night?

15 A. Yes. They would come in, you know, and it was painfully
16 obvious they wanted you to play with them, but it's not
17 happening, it's not happening. It's not going to
18 happen, not now, not ever in my lifetime.

19 Q. What about other boys? Did you see what happened?

20 A. I wasn't meant to see what happened, I wasn't meant to
21 see some things.

22 Q. But did you?

23 A. I did, yes, yeah.

24 Q. What did you see?

25 A. Exactly what I've said to you. Forced oral sex,

1 masturbation, that type of thing.

2 Q. Where was this taking place?

3 A. Oh, this would -- I remember once it was near the stable
4 yards. There is an old stable yard there and that's
5 where the civilian teacher lived. He lived above there
6 also and I see one or two things happening there.
7 I shouldn't have been there. I was a bit of a nosey
8 parker.

9 Q. The things you saw that happen there, did that involve
10 the Brothers?

11 A. It involved the Brothers, yes.

12 Q. What sort of things did you see there?

13 A. Like I said, masturbation, oral sex.

14 Q. From what I understand, from what you've been saying to
15 me, 'Alexander', you had a sort of defence mechanism and
16 you wouldn't let the Brothers do to you what they may
17 have been doing to others?

18 A. No, I wouldn't. I came from a hard background, sir.
19 I've seen many things that I shouldn't have seen before
20 I was nine. But that's my father's life. You know, the
21 parties and all that type of thing. There are things
22 that kids shouldn't be aware of. Things that kids
23 shouldn't see.

24 I could have rewritten the Kama Sutra back then.

25 I could have written the Kama Sutra with things that

1 I saw.

2 Q. Are you saying to me that even before you went into care
3 you had witnessed some sort of sexual activity?

4 A. I watched sexual activity all over the place in my home
5 town.

6 Q. You mentioned the civilian teacher that you want to talk
7 about, what was his name?

8 A. Mr MCK .

9 Q. Can you just tell me about him then. I think you would
10 be in his class; is that correct?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. How did he behave towards the boys in his class?

13 A. He was absolutely horrible. Just a nasty piece of work.
14 Nasty, I mean, you don't know the images in my mind,
15 Colin, what I would like to do if I met him today.

16 Q. For example, were you ever punished by him?

17 A. Aye, absolutely.

18 Q. What would he do to you?

19 A. He used a cane on me once. Looking back I thought he
20 was on medication. He went ballistic. Right in front
21 of the whole classroom. Went ballistic. I had welts
22 all over my body for two weeks. I mean there was no
23 holding back. And he liked to sit behind his desk and
24 masturbate over (indistinguishable). Let's get that
25 straight, no doubt other lads' statements will have told

1 you the same thing.

2 Q. Let's look at the physical stuff first of all.

3 As far as the caning was concerned, you have said he

4 lost the plot. Does that mean he hit you on different

5 parts of your body?

6 A. Absolutely, all over. The head, the face, the back, the

7 backside, the arms, the thighs, you name it, he just

8 went ballistic.

9 Q. Had you seen him behave in this way towards any other

10 boys?

11 A. Not that way. Not as bad as what happened to me. I was

12 found wandering about the school and one of the monks

13 brought me back to the classroom and from that point

14 there -- I've never seen what happened to me happen to

15 any of the other kids, but I've seen kids being caned.

16 Q. In what way would they be caned?

17 A. Across the backside.

18 Q. Over the trousers?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You also mentioned masturbation. Can I just understand

21 what you say Mr MCK was doing in that connection?

22 A. Oh, I'm sure by other statements you will have heard

23 this anyway. Yeah, he liked to play with himself after

24 various events and he would sit behind his desk and it

25 was painfully obvious what this man was up to. There is

1 no question about that.

2 Then the hand movements as he stood up and he put
3 his hand in his pockets. It was obvious what he was
4 doing. He was playing with himself. Let's make no
5 mistake about that, Colin. You will have other
6 statements you have read, you will have heard the same
7 things, no doubt. This is what this man is about and
8 he's just a civilian.

9 Q. Did the boys discuss this?

10 A. No, we don't discuss anything. I told you. Even after
11 the years when we left St Ninian's, when any of us ever
12 met up we never talked about St Ninian's. None of us
13 ever talked about St Ninian's. My brother wouldn't
14 speak to me for 20 years after I came out of
15 St Ninian's. Wouldn't speak to me for 20 years.

16 Every time he saw me he would run away.

17 Embarrassment, I don't know. Who knows?

18 Q. Have you ever discussed St Ninian's with him in any
19 detail?

20 A. No.

21 Q. At paragraph 37 you describe an incident where you gave
22 a young boy a hug?

23 A. Mm hmm. Oh, yeah.

24 Q. Can you just tell me about that?

25 A. Yeah. I was coming through the main entrance, the front

1 entrance, if you like, of the school, and I was making
2 my way to the library. At this time I could read and
3 write, so I was no longer just looking at pictures now,
4 I could read. I learnt to use a dictionary and all
5 that.

6 I heard whimpering in an alcove and I see a wee boy
7 there and he was terrified and he told me something.
8 I'm not going to repeat that, Colin, what he told me.
9 This kid was terrified.

10 I'll never forget that kid. I'll never forget him.
11 He's mentioned in that statement, in those statements.
12 I will never forget that kid. He was terrified. If
13 I didn't know any better he was on the verge of taking
14 his own life.

15 Q. You gave him a hug?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. How did he react to that?

18 A. Do you know, you would have to ask that lad, I don't
19 know how he reacted. It was one of friendship, it was
20 one of understanding.

21 Q. What prompted you to hug him?

22 A. Just so young. Just so young.

23 Q. You, you were young too, what age do you think you were
24 at this time?

25 A. I would be getting on for nigh on ten. Look, it is what

1 it is -- on occasions it goes through my mind is moments
2 like that, even to this day, yeah.

3 Why did I give him a hug? What else was there to
4 do? I didn't know.

5 Q. You also tell us that although you never ran away when
6 you were at St Ninian's, there was an occasion when you
7 went for a walk?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Instead of going to the classroom?

10 A. That's right, yeah.

11 Q. Something happened. What happened on that occasion?

12 A. One of the monks found me wandering about the place and
13 took me back to the classroom. I've already repeated
14 that to you and that's when Mr MCK sort of lost it
15 with the cane.

16 Q. That is the cane incident when he lost it?

17 A. That's that.

18 Q. Another monk you mention is Brother MBZ .

19 A. Mm hmm.

20 Q. And an incident involving his beehive or beehives.

21 A. Oh, well, that is a story-and-a-half, that is.

22 He was doing -- he had all equipment on, that type
23 of thing and I was standing quite a distance away and
24 I was watching him and he signalled, actually signalled
25 for me to come over and he put on this

1 (indistinguishable) thing and gave me some gloves or
2 whatever you call them, and he was showing me what he
3 was doing, or trying to explain to me what he was doing,
4 that type of thing and these bees are flying all over
5 the bloody place.

6 For no reason he just whipped this hood right off me
7 and to look at me by the time they had finished with me,
8 they used the lotion iodine, so when you put iodine on
9 your skin it's like little brown marks and they were all
10 over the place.

11 Q. I think what you're telling me, 'Alexander', is that
12 after you had donned the regalia he then pulled the hood
13 off you?

14 A. The headdress, the headpiece.

15 Q. Because of that you were vulnerable to being stung by
16 the bees?

17 A. Yes, there were hundreds of them.

18 Q. You were stung?

19 A. I got stung, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. How did he react to this?

21 A. I legged it. That's what I did. I didn't hang around
22 to find out what he was reacting to. I run away
23 screaming to high hell.

24 Q. Although you ran away you were stung and you required to
25 get treatment with iodine?

1 A. That's correct, yes. That's what they used.

2 Q. Can I then take you on, 'Alexander', to when you came to
3 leave St Ninian's. You tell us in your statement you
4 left in 1968?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. By then you would be aged about 13?

7 A. 12.

8 Q. How much notice were you given that you were leaving?

9 A. Not very much notice.

10 Q. Did you go back home?

11 A. I went back home, but that didn't last for far too long.
12 By this time my father had taken up with another woman
13 and she actually came with two of her own daughters.

14 So by the time I arrived home I may as well have
15 just been a ghost. He didn't even notice I was there.
16 My father wasn't there at the time, I might add. So
17 I went into what would be my bedroom, packed a couple of
18 clothings and went round the road, if you like, and
19 stayed at my uncle [REDACTED] and my aunt [REDACTED].

20 Q. Did you tell either --

21 A. No, no, Colin, it's no good asking me. I told no one
22 anything. That's 50-plus years.

23 Q. Having left St Ninian's, what you tell us in your
24 statement is you got into a bit of trouble and you were
25 sent to St Joseph's?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. I think records might suggest that you went there in
3 [REDACTED] 1969 when you were still aged 12, would that be
4 about right?

5 A. That would be about right, more or less.

6 Q. You begin by looking at the routine and you say it
7 wasn't too bad?

8 A. It was all right, yeah, yeah. But unfortunately a few
9 lads appeared, who were also at St Ninian's with me and
10 here again I am confronted with monks. So actually one
11 Saturday evening we went AWOL. We run away from the
12 place. We were arrested in Edinburgh. Placed in
13 a remand centre there and then from there I was
14 transferred to St Mary's, Bishopbriggs in Glasgow.

15 Q. Insofar as St Joseph's was concerned, you are possibly
16 there for about four months or so, is that right?

17 A. I wasn't there very long.

18 Q. Did you have any visits from social workers?

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. Did anybody who might have been a board manager come to
21 visit the school?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. Any sign of any inspections?

24 A. No.

25 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I am quite happy to carry on, I know

1 my Lady would like to have a break --

2 LADY SMITH: How much longer do you think we need?

3 A. You can wrap this up, Colin. There's nothing else to

4 tell you about the other schools.

5 MR MACAULAY: I think you are probably right.

6 LADY SMITH: If you are all right for us to carry on for

7 a few minutes and then we can let you get away after

8 that.

9 Mr MacAulay.

10 MR MACAULAY: You went --

11 A. Colin, I hope I'm not offending you.

12 Q. Not at all.

13 A. Thank you, thank you.

14 Q. You went to St Mary's and what you tell us in your

15 statement is that you had no issues with St Mary's?

16 A. Absolutely no issues whatsoever.

17 Q. You go on to say:

18 'There was no comparison with St Ninian's. It

19 wasn't a bad place.'

20 A. Say that again?

21 Q. There is no comparison with St Ninian's, because it

22 wasn't a bad place?

23 A. No, it was fine.

24 Q. I think at this time, St Mary's, there had been

25 an involvement with the De La Salles, it was now being

1 run by civilian staff?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. You also went to Geilsland in Beith --

4 A. Just outside of Johnstone, a little village called

5 Beith.

6 Q. What I want to take from you in connection with

7 Geilsland is what you tell us at paragraph 63.

8 I'll just read a bit out to you.

9 A. Please.

10 Q. You had an encounter with a man SNR at

11 first, his name was Mr EZD .

12 A. That is correct, a wonderful man.

13 Q. I'll just come to that. What you do is when you go into

14 his room you saw that there were putters in a stand and

15 you picked one up and I'll just quote what you said:

16 'I told him if he ever thought of using the belt on

17 me that this is what he would be getting. He was a bit

18 shocked and taken aback.'

19 A. Let's just step back a minute or two in time here. When

20 I arrived at Geilsland, once the lady had left it was

21 just myself and Mr EZD in his office and he basically

22 gave me the rules of the place, you know, what you can

23 and can't do, that type of thing. He said -- then he

24 opened his drawer and he took out a belt and he says

25 this is my corporal punishment, if you like, but from

1 the left-hand side there was a bag with putters that you
2 use on the putting green.

3 I went over and I picked one up and I said, 'If you
4 ever think you're going to use that on me, I'll bend
5 this over your skull'. From that moment on, me and that
6 man became great friends. He was a remarkable man.

7 Q. Indeed, you say that he was a mentor to you?

8 A. He was. He was. I should have listened, but I didn't.

9 Q. You didn't, because I think after that you got into
10 trouble again, is that correct?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. You were sent to Polmont?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You also spent time in Barlinnie Young Offenders
15 Institution, is that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. After you had left care then, you have a section in your
18 statement where you talk about life after care and in
19 fact you moved in with your mother for a short period of
20 time?

21 A. A very short period of time, sir, yes, in Manchester.

22 Q. You describe her as being a good person?

23 A. Yeah, yeah, I guess, she was all right. My mum was all
24 right. She was okay.

25 Q. Sadly, I think --

1 A. She died of emphysema. She dropped dead in front of me
2 in the front room.

3 Q. Did you then spend quite a significant time in prison?

4 A. That's correct, sir.

5 Q. I'm not going to look into the details of that.

6 What you do tell us is that you met a girl and you
7 had a son. What you say is:

8 'The proudest thing I have is my son.'

9 Is that right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. At paragraph 85, I just want to ask you about this,
12 because first of all you said you were an alcoholic for
13 a while --

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. -- but you have stopped drinking for quite some years
16 now?

17 A. Oh, yes, I have, yes.

18 Q. What you tell us, at 85:

19 'I like to go travelling all over Europe and learn
20 a wee bit more about different cultures. In that way,
21 I'm beginning to find myself.'

22 A. Yeah, thanks to close friends of today. In fact, two of
23 them actually at the moment, one is in India and one is
24 in Chile at the moment, but usually when they go, they
25 like to take me with them. But recently because of

1 health I haven't been able to go too far, but
2 I've learnt a great deal because of these people.

3 Q. The section headed 'Impact', paragraph 86:
4 'I'm a little bit more analytical now. I think
5 looking back it made me disillusioned. The anger is
6 terrible.'

7 A. This is.

8 Q. Do you still feel that anger?
9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You have a positive note here, because you say:
11 'My days of being in courtrooms and prisons are
12 over. I just want to find something for myself so that
13 I don't feel this anger.'

14 That is your aim?
15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. If we turn then to the section headed 'Lessons to be
17 learned' at paragraph 92, what you say is:
18 'I have done this today because I feel that it's
19 very important to let people know what was going on out
20 there. It's very important.'

21 A. It is very, very important what was going on out there.
22 I mean, as my life moves along, sir, in various
23 institutions, I hear this and I hear a little bit here
24 in different institutions, about other kids, not Scots,
25 here in England, who went through various things and

1 have gone through the system, they themselves -- they
2 call it foster care. We in Scotland -- we refer to them
3 as List D, which surprised me with Ms Sturgeon's
4 statement, when she kept mentioning foster care.
5 I never heard her mention once List D schools, but on
6 a more personal level I thought that was a slap in the
7 face to these kids who were in Approved Schools.

8 Q. What you do say in the next paragraph is:

9 'There has to be empathy and understanding. There
10 was no empathy in St Ninian's. They treated the kids
11 with callous indifference. It's sad because it was such
12 a grand place.'

13 A. It was. That is the sadness. It really is, Colin.
14 This could have been a private school. Just the wrong
15 people running it. They could have changed lives for
16 the better, but I can guarantee you the kids that went
17 in there were not the same kids that came out. They
18 came out different characters. That's the bottom line,
19 Colin. They did. It changed their lives forever, and
20 it could all have been so different. It could have been
21 so different, had everything had been going for it.

22 Q. The way you put it in your statement:

23 'They had all of the ingredients in place but it was
24 the wrong people running the place.'

25 A. Correct, so, right, Colin.

1 Q. Can I take you to the second-last paragraph of your
2 statement, 'Alexander', 96:

3 'There needs to be more vetting. It has to be done.
4 Everything always comes down to the money factor.

5 You ask the question, and indeed you answer the
6 question:

7 'What is more valuable, the child or the money?
8 I say the child is more important.'

9 A. Well, Colin, as you know I've been to trial, yes, and
10 I was -- there were 15 jury members and I was given 15
11 guilties. I was given compensation of £100,000.
12 £75,000 I got, £25,000 went to the lawyers and the
13 barrister.

14 To this day, I've not even bought myself a pair of
15 shoe straps with that. Not spent a penny of it. I gave
16 it all away to my friends. Not a penny did I spend of
17 that money. Speaking to these two good people here,
18 left and right, I refer to that money as 'the devil's
19 money'. If I want money I'll make deal with the devil.
20 I don't want the money like this. This is tragic what
21 happened. That's the devil's money that was handed out
22 and I never spent a penny of that money and I'll leave
23 it at that, Colin.

24 Q. Thank you for that, 'Alexander'.

25 Can I just say before we part company, I always say

1 to the witness at the end that if there's something else
2 you would like to say in addition to what you've said
3 and answered my questions, feel free to do so.

4 A. The one thing I would like to see put in place in these
5 homes, foster care or List D, whatever, that from
6 whichever area they come from, like I was from Paisley
7 and there's myself, my brother and I can mention the lad
8 but I won't mention his name. Now, why didn't the
9 Social Services come maybe once every three months just
10 to see your progress? Why are these things not in place
11 anywhere? Oh they certainly weren't at St Ninian's.
12 Certainly wasn't at St Joseph's. Certainly wasn't at
13 St Mary's. Certainly wasn't at Geilsland.

14 The latter three I'm not bothered about, but
15 St Ninian's because of the age. You would have expected
16 somebody to come out from your area and I believe for
17 me -- I believe it was Renfrewshire City Council. They
18 are the ones that took me to the Children's Panel. Why
19 couldn't they send someone out to just see how these
20 kids are? Once every three months, 'How are you doing,
21 'Alexander'? How are you doing, [REDACTED]?

22 Just to make sure and see what kind of progress.
23 Get a written report from whoever, how is he doing,
24 how's he fairing up? That type of thing. That was
25 never in place at St Ninian's and I put money on the

1 table anywhere in the world, that never happened.

2 I never saw that happen to any kid at St Ninian's
3 and I think that should be considered in all these
4 places. There should be something -- at least once
5 every three months, to make sure these kids are all
6 right. If they send somebody independently from their
7 area. Whoever put them there, i.e. Children's Panels or
8 whatever, to check up on these children, see how they're
9 doing and maybe they could cut this -- go straight to
10 the heart of the whole matter and get ... because these
11 people are bad.

12 I'm bad. I was a bad man in my life, but I've been
13 nothing like this and I've paid my debt to society, you
14 understand. I'm not muddying the waters. My life has
15 been what it has. I'm not going to be bitter and
16 twisted, but when it comes to St Ninian's, I do get
17 angry. I do get angry, but I do that in the wee hours
18 of the morning, if you like.

19 MR MACAULAY: 'Alexander', can I thank you for coming here
20 to answer my questions --

21 A. It's been a pleasure.

22 MR MACAULAY: -- and assisting the Inquiry.

23 My Lady, I can confirm that no questions have been
24 submitted to me to put to 'Alexander'.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Alexander', before we close the link I want to

1 (3.31 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

3 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, we will now have a read-in of the
4 statement of an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous
5 and use the pseudonym 'Peter', WIT.001.003.0535.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 'Peter' (read)

8 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Peter'. I was born in 1953. My
9 details are known to the Inquiry.

10 I was born in the Gorbals area of Glasgow. My early
11 life was all right and the family moved to Maryhill in
12 the north of Glasgow and I went to a local primary
13 school, which I hated. There was no specific reason why
14 I hated school. I just didn't like being there and got
15 expelled at the age of ten for assaulting [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]. I was considered unruly, but the only
17 reason I assaulted her was when she started to assault
18 me across the legs with a belt. She was going crazy.

19 What had happened was that I had been told by the
20 best fighter in the school that he was going to batter
21 me. So I set about him and that was why we were going
22 to get the belt. He wanted to attack me because
23 I wasn't originally from the area and the gang culture
24 of the time meant it could be dangerous being in another
25 area.

1 I remember going to Glasgow Sheriff Court but the
2 charges against me were dropped after my lawyer
3 countercharged [REDACTED] for assaulting me with
4 the belt. Despite these charges being dropped, I was
5 still sent to remand school, which I think had something
6 to do with me allegedly stealing an old rusty hammer.
7 I was first sent to the assessment centre at Larchgrove.
8 It was a sign of the times that they sent you to these
9 places for next to no reason.'

10 Between paragraphs 7 and 13 the witness provides
11 evidence that he was aged 11 and sent to Larchgrove and
12 speaks of his experiences there.

13 Before going to St Joseph's in Tranent, where I will
14 pick up the statement at paragraph 14:

15 'I was collected in a minibus and taken to
16 St Joseph's in Tranent. I hadn't received any notice
17 that I was going, though I always knew I would be going
18 there because of my age and they had only been waiting
19 for a vacancy to come up before sending me there. There
20 were no children's hearings or anything like that before
21 I was transferred.

22 St Joseph's was out in the wilds and was an old
23 mansion with several floors. It was run by the
24 De La Salle Brothers and was all boys between 11 and 14.
25 I recall it was always cold and we always wore corduroy

1 shorts. We were split into four houses, two of which
2 were De La Salle and St Joseph's. All in one building,
3 with another separate building for those preparing to
4 leave. I was in St Joseph's House.

5 There was a big yard and the place had small dorms
6 and a chapel which we sometimes went to at 2.00 or 3.00
7 in the morning. This could happen at any time if the
8 Brothers were displeased. We would be in our pyjamas
9 and barefoot. The floor was made of cobblestones and
10 was freezing and they would have us there singing hymns.
11 We'd go back to our beds after it and be knackered in
12 the morning. The first time it happened, I thought:
13 what's going on here? But it became the norm.

14 The Brothers lived in the same building as us, but
15 were apart from us. The ones I recall were
16 Brother GWM, MJJ and GYY, who was a big
17 Irishman who used to whack you over the head. I think
18 SNR was Brother GYZ, who I believe was
19 later given two years for abusing boys. I later read he
20 died in a car crash. They all loved their drink,
21 especially on De La Salle Day.'

22 In paragraphs 18 and 19 the witness speaks about the
23 routine.

24 I'll move to paragraph 20:

25 'At the weekends we went on more walks. We didn't

1 go to school. We never really had any free time to
2 ourselves. The Brothers were always in control. They
3 would sometimes let us play in the yard, but as often as
4 not it was too cold, especially since we were wearing
5 short trousers.

6 You would have to scrub the floors and clean the
7 dorms. You also had to make your bed in a specific way
8 and if you did it wrong you would get a slap and they
9 would pull your bed apart and tell you to do it again.
10 Some of the boys worked in the kitchen and cleaned the
11 dining room.

12 There was a matron who I would say was in her late
13 50s, with white hair and wore glasses. She would give
14 you an aspirin or even stitch cuts. If you had flu or
15 something like that they wouldn't let you stay in bed.
16 They would just tell you to walk it off. I don't ever
17 recall seeing a doctor or a dentist. If you went to the
18 matron as a result of injuries you got from the Brothers
19 and told her how you got the injuries she wouldn't
20 believe you and would tell the Brothers what you had
21 said.

22 I think the teacher was an old woman, maybe in her
23 50s with grey hair and glasses. I don't recall ever
24 learning anything and to this day my spelling isn't
25 good. Some of the other boys did learn but I wasn't

1 interested and those of us who were like that were left
2 to our own devices. We were in classes according to
3 age.'

4 In paragraphs 24 and 25 the witness speaks about his
5 memories of Christmases and birthdays and also clothes.

6 I'll read from paragraph 26:

7 'We didn't have possessions of our own and we didn't
8 receive any pocket money. We didn't have toys or books
9 or access to TV. You couldn't bring anything back from
10 home as you were there to be punished. One boy brought
11 back a radio and it was taken from him and he got a slap
12 for it.

13 The Brothers used to take us to Forfar to pick
14 berries in the late summer and while there we would stay
15 in camp beds in big huts. One good thing about that was
16 they gave us Forfar bridies. I know that the Brothers
17 received money for all of the work we did, but we never
18 saw any of the money.

19 We would go to the chapel every day and sometimes in
20 the middle of the night. We would also be forced to go
21 to confession. I don't recall the priest's name. Some
22 of the boys were altar boys but they tended to be pets,
23 the Brothers' favourites.

24 I think we got home once a month for the weekend.
25 If you had been in trouble you would lose that

1 privilege. If you didn't go home you just went on the
2 usual long walks. Privileges could be taken away for
3 any daft reason, like talking in line or looking at the
4 Brothers in the wrong way.

5 My dad came to visit me once and he took me out for
6 the day to Edinburgh. My dad had just shown up out of
7 the blue and at first Brother GYZ wasn't going to let
8 me out because he could smell drink from my dad, but dad
9 said he would smash the place up if they didn't let
10 me go with him for the day. Afterwards the Brothers
11 said that would never happen again.

12 No social workers ever came to check up on me and
13 I don't recall any official visitors. It was as if
14 I lived in a world within a world, cut off from
15 everybody else.

16 I didn't receive any letters from home and there was
17 no point in me sending letters home as the Brothers
18 censored any letters that any of us would send. This
19 meant that if any boy complained about a specific
20 Brother in a letter he would end up in big trouble, so
21 nobody did. I don't ever recall using a phone to call
22 home.

23 I ran away once from St Joseph's. Myself and
24 another boy were going to get the bus to Buchanan
25 Street. To get the bus back to St Joseph's, but instead

1 we went to his mum's house in Govan but she wouldn't let
2 me in. I went back home but my dad said he would have
3 to take me back, as he would go to jail if he didn't.

4 I was about 12 years old when that happened and when
5 I got back I got a beating, I think from
6 Brother GWM and MJJ punching and kicking me.
7 They said that if I ran away again they would murder me
8 and just tell everybody I had run away. The Brothers
9 telling us we would be murdered was a regular threat.

10 Bed wetting was never a problem for me. Those who
11 did wet the bed got dragged out of their beds and thrown
12 into a shower and had their beds ripped apart. In our
13 dorm it was Brother GWM who was in charge and it
14 was he who would do that to the boys in our dorm that
15 wet the bed.

16 The attitude of the Brothers at St Joseph's was to
17 break you, not rehabilitate. It was a place that left
18 you feeling bitter when you came out of it. It was to
19 hammer you into the ground. There was a boy there who
20 was a grass. I had been in the place about six months
21 and I told him I was going to give him a slap and
22 Brother GWM overheard me.

23 Brother GWM then started punching me and
24 battering lumps out of me. I ran under a table tennis
25 table and he grabbed a wooden scrubbing brush then

1 started battering me with it until he was exhausted.
2 I was holding onto the table leg and I genuinely thought
3 he was going to kill me. It was a terrifying
4 experience. I was left badly bruised because of it.

5 Brother GWM was the most sadistic of the
6 Brothers and I saw him batter a lot of the boys. He
7 would grab us by the hair and punch us. He would punch
8 you on the head or in the face simply because he was in
9 a bad mood. He would also pick you up by the sideburns,
10 which was agony. That was one of the big problems with
11 some of the Brothers, their behaviour was unpredictable.

12 After the incident under the table tennis table
13 I was at home that weekend and my parents saw all the
14 bruises. They asked me what happened and I just told
15 them I had been in a fight, because I knew my dad would
16 have gone to the school and ended up in jail for
17 assaulting Brother GWM.

18 I did eventually tell my dad about how
19 Brother GWM had slapped me about the head. On the
20 Sunday my dad took me to Buchanan Street to get the bus
21 back to St Joseph's, which was being driven by
22 Brother GWM. My dad slapped him and warned him
23 about further assaulting me.

24 After that, things got worse for me.
25 Brother GWM came from the Gorbals, at least he said

1 he did, and he tended to take his temper out on me
2 because I told him I also came from the Gorbals. He
3 assaulted me on a regular basis throughout my time in
4 St Joseph's, both by punching me and kicking me. He
5 just regularly battered me.

6 There was one incident that happened during the day
7 when Brother GWM got me into a room on the pretence
8 of saying sorry to me for the incident with the brush
9 handle. It might have happened in the cobbler's shop
10 where Brother GWM worked. In the room at the time
11 was also Brother GYY, the big Irish Brother.

12 The two Brothers grabbed me and Brother GWM
13 stripped me. I tried to fight them off but there were
14 two of them and they were too strong for me. I was only
15 a kid. Without going into the details, the two of them
16 then sexually assaulted me. They raped me. I'm sure
17 the two of them were turned on by it.

18 That incident stayed with me all my life and has
19 caused me to have nightmares, night terrors, as a result
20 of it. The only other person I have ever told about it
21 was my wife, who would hear me screaming in my sleep.
22 It used to make me doubt my own sexuality, though I have
23 never been a homosexual.

24 I also thought that while I'm sure they sexually
25 assaulted me for their own pleasure, it was also just

1 another way they had of trying to break me. After it,
2 Brother GWM told me that if I ever told my dad
3 about it I would be killed and my body would just
4 disappear and that there were many bodies in the field.

5 I know that some of the Brothers would take some of
6 the boys that grassed, their yes men, from their beds
7 and down to where the Brothers lived and rape them. The
8 rest of us could hear those boys crying. We knew this
9 because the boys would come back to the dorm crying and
10 we would ask what was wrong.

11 Most wouldn't say, but one boy did eventually say
12 that the Brothers had raped him. I don't remember that
13 boy's name. The Brothers I recall seeing taking boys
14 from their beds were Brother GWM, MJJ and
15 GYY.

16 Brother MJJ was a crazy man and would often
17 just punch you on the face for no reason. The weird
18 thing was that he would try and be nice to you and then
19 batter you. He was unpredictable. He was like that
20 with all the boys.

21 I believed them when they said that they would kill
22 us, because sometimes a boy would suddenly just not be
23 there and when we asked where they were, the Brothers
24 would just tell us that they had run away. We didn't
25 believe that because people would have told us if they

1 were thinking about running away.

2 I was 14 when I left St Joseph's. I recall that
3 they gave me a new blue suit, a shirt and new shoes.
4 I left simply because I had reached my release date.
5 I went in a minibus to the train station where they put
6 me on a train and that was it, I was out. Before
7 I left, I remember Brother GYZ told me that that was
8 me in the big world, but if anything happened that they
9 could bring me back any time they wanted.

10 I went to a high school. I hated it and used to get
11 into a lot of trouble and they were going to send me
12 back to St Joseph's, but Brother GYZ at least
13 I think it was him, came out to see me. He said, "You
14 don't want to go back there. They'll kill you.
15 I'll fight to keep you out of there". He was talking
16 about St Joseph's and the Brothers who worked there.
17 I was only in school for a few months before I left with
18 no qualifications.

19 I worked in a bakery for about a year and then moved
20 to Coventry when I was 16. I worked in glass fibre
21 insulation for about six months. After that I spent
22 most of my life in and out of prison, until 1989 when
23 I got out after a long stretch. I didn't work again
24 when I got out of prison. My wife and I married in 1975
25 and we have three daughters.

1 I get night terrors. My time in care led to me
2 having almost no education. It destroyed my life and
3 I struggled psychologically. I admit that I rebelled
4 but I had to do that to survive. That's what led me to
5 a life of being in and out of prison. I was never
6 a thief, but I was always angry. And if I was ever
7 threatened I would react. I feel that if I had not been
8 in those institutions my life would have been so much
9 better.

10 I've had depression and anxiety, especially after
11 coming out of prison, but I was only ever given tablets
12 for them. My time in care has never left me and is
13 constantly on my mind, especially at night.

14 My GP did send me for counselling but I was never
15 able to bring myself to tell them about my time in
16 remand schools. I have contemplated suicide because
17 I just wanted to get these things out of my mind.

18 I once broke down in front of my doctor and that
19 night a psychiatrist and a nurse came out to my house.
20 They thought I was suffering from PTSD and put me on
21 tablets.

22 I have never reported what happened to me in
23 St Joseph's to anybody. It's not something you want to
24 talk about, especially about being sexually abused.

25 I have never tried to get my records. I always

1 assumed whoever was in charge of them wouldn't give them
2 to me but I would definitely be interested in getting
3 hold of them to find out why I was the places that I was
4 sent to.

5 Somebody should be held to account. Such places
6 should never have been allowed to exist. I am only one
7 of many who suffered abuse at their hands and all those
8 who suffered should get a chance to tell people what
9 happened. This is the first time I have spoken about
10 it, but there must be others who had harder times than
11 me who have never spoken of the abuse they suffered.
12 I think that's because they don't think people will
13 believe them.

14 That's why I am glad that this Inquiry is taking
15 place. It has taken a long time but at last people are
16 listening to us. I'm just glad to get the chance to
17 speak to people who are willing to listen to me.
18 I'm lucky that I had a mum and dad, but some were
19 orphans and didn't have any means of support.

20 I know the Pope has made an apology but it still
21 goes on. These people were supposed to be men of God
22 but to me they were just beasts. I stopped going to
23 church long ago as a result of what these people did to
24 me and others.

25 People looking after children should be vetted more.

1 Their backgrounds should be thoroughly checked and
2 inspections of such places should be carried out
3 regularly. I would even suggest that hidden cameras
4 wouldn't be out of order in such places. Anything that
5 helps keep children safe should be considered.

6 I am just glad that the Inquiry is giving people the
7 chance to speak about their experiences and the awful
8 things that happened to them. It is important that such
9 people are given that opportunity. I was lucky that
10 I had a mum and dad, but many others didn't.

11 I have no objection to my witness statement being
12 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
13 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
14 true.'

15 The statement was signed by 'Peter' on
16 15 November 2019.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today.

19 We have three witnesses lined up to give oral
20 evidence tomorrow.

21 LADY SMITH: Very well. Starting at 10 o'clock, I think?

22 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow
24 morning.

25 Thank you, all.

1 (3.50 pm)

2 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on

3 Wednesday, 17 January 2024)

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I N D E X

	PAGE
'Barry' (read)	1
'Bertie' (read)	12
'Terry' (read)	26
'Dinkey' (read)	46
'Anderson' (affirmed)	58
Questions from Ms MacLeod	59
'Alexander' (affirmed)	108
Questions from Mr MacAulay	109
'Peter' (read)	150
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

