

Wednesday, 14 February 2024

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(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the second day of evidence this week in Chapter 3 of Phase 8, looking into the abuse of children in residential accommodation for young offenders and children, and young persons in need of care and protection.

As we said last night, we have a witness to give oral evidence this morning. Although we thought that the witness wasn't going to be available until 11.00, in fact he's here now. So, in a reverse order of this morning's plan, I'm going to invite the witness to come and give evidence now and then we'll have a break. Then we'll move on to some read-ins.

Ms Forbes, would you like to introduce him?

MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. The next witness is an applicant who is anonymous, and he wants to be known as 'Billy'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Billy' (affirmed)

LADY SMITH: 'Billy', thank you for agreeing to come along this morning to help us with evidence about your experiences when you were a child in care, what probably feels like a long time ago now.

The red folder on the desk has a copy of your statement in it. You might find it helpful to have that

1 for reference. But we'll also bring bits of the
2 statement up on the screen, as we go through some of
3 your evidence, so that will be there for you as well.

4 'Billy', importantly, if at any time you have any
5 questions or you don't understand why we're asking
6 something, or our questions don't make sense, that's our
7 fault not yours, so speak up and tell me if you have
8 anything you want to ask.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Likewise, I do know that giving evidence can be
11 very tiring and at times people just want a break. So,
12 if at any time it's how you're feeling, tell me and you
13 can have a break, whether it's pausing sitting where you
14 are, or just going out of the room for a little while.
15 If it works for you, it will work for me, because what
16 I want to do is help you be able to give your evidence
17 as comfortably as you can, so that when you leave today
18 you can feel that you've given the best evidence that
19 you have.

20 That microphone is going to pick up your voice. You
21 don't have to be too close to it. We'll let you know if
22 you're in the wrong position, but a normal sitting
23 position like that should help.

24 Any other questions at the moment?

25 A. No, thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Billy'. I'll hand over to

2 Ms Forbes and she'll take it from there.

3 Questions by MS FORBES

4 MS FORBES: Good morning, 'Billy'.

5 A. Morning.

6 Q. As her Ladyship said, your statement is in that red
7 folder and it's also on the screen just now. For our
8 records we have a reference number, which I'm just going
9 to read out so we have it in the record. It's
10 WIT.001.001.6659.

11 First of all, 'Billy', if I could get you to just
12 have a look at your statement and go to the last page,
13 which is page 22. You can look at that in the hard copy
14 if you want, if you're able to.

15 A. Page 22. It's up here.

16 Q. It's up there as well.

17 A. Where I've signed?

18 Q. Where you've signed. At page 22, if we just go slightly
19 up the screen a little bit, we can see there, at
20 paragraph 107, it says:

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

25 You have signed it there and it's dated

1 13 December 2017.

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. That's the position. You signed that and made that
4 declaration?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That's quite a long time ago, 2017?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. But you are here now. So I just want to start by
9 registering the fact that you were born in 1949.

10 I don't need to go into your date of birth, but 1949 is
11 when you were born; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You tell us first of all in your statement about all the
14 different institutions that you went to and that you
15 want to tell us about. I'll just briefly read them out.
16 So we have Larchgrove there, in 1959. I think maybe you
17 were there twice, maybe in 1958 and 1959?

18 A. Yes. Twice, yeah.

19 Q. Then there's Balrossie. You have there the dates
20 between 1960 and 1962. Balgowan, and that's 1963 to
21 1964?

22 A. Mm hmm.

23 Q. Then Thornly Park, in 1965, and then Kibble in 1965?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Then we go into the borstals and young offenders, which

1 is Castle Huntly Borstal, 1966 to 1967?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Then Barlinnie Young Offenders, 1968, and then finally

4 Saughton, in 1968 to 1969.

5 Those are the only places you went to; is that

6 right, 'Billy'?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I just want to ask you some questions, 'Billy', about

9 your background and your life before you ended up going

10 into care. You tell us about that in your statement,

11 between paragraphs 3 and 7.

12 I think, first of all, you tell us that you were the

13 third oldest in a family of six?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But there were problems with your parents and drinking;

16 is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. They were alcoholics?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That meant, I think, that your eldest sister had to look

21 after you all?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. You were brought up in Glasgow, is that right? Before

24 you went into care, you were in Glasgow?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. You lived near the football stadium, Rangers?
2 A. Right beside it, yes.
3 Q. But I think you had difficulties, is that right, about
4 going to primary school?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Was it just the case you just didn't like it?
7 A. Probably, yes.
8 Q. But because of their problems, I don't think your
9 parents really paid attention to that, they didn't
10 notice?
11 A. No, they didn't.
12 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 5 of your statement, 'Billy',
13 that you ended up not going to school and then drifting
14 into some petty crime; is that right? You were involved
15 in stealing lead and things like that; is that correct?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Eventually, that meant that you came to the attention of
18 the police; is that right?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. You ended up at Govan Magistrates' Court?
21 A. That's right, yes.
22 Q. And you were sentenced then to this 14 days at
23 Larchgrove?
24 A. No, I was sentenced 14 days' detention. Larchgrove was
25 a remand home.

1 Q. Yes, okay. The first place you went was Larchgrove; is
2 that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. 14 days' detention. Okay. You think -- you tell us you
5 think that was about 1959, when you were about ten?

6 A. Thereabouts, yes.

7 Q. So you were quite young at that time?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Appearing before a court, first of all, and then being
10 sentenced to a period of detention?

11 A. Yes. 14 days, yes.

12 Q. You tell us that your aunt, who was your mother's
13 sister, she was trying to persuade them to let her take
14 you?

15 A. She was, yes.

16 Q. But they didn't listen to that?

17 A. They didn't agree, no.

18 Q. You started telling us about Larchgrove in your
19 statement and these two periods, because we have the
20 first 14-day sentence; is that right?

21 A. That's right, yeah.

22 Q. You think that was in 1959, and then you think later you
23 were there for about a month or four weeks?

24 A. 28 days, I think, yes.

25 Q. About Larchgrove, you say you don't remember too much

1 about it, but you describe it as a 'horrible place'?

2 A. Well, when I first went in there, because I was a tried
3 prisoner, I wasn't allowed to mix with anybody else and
4 I was separated for the 14 days.

5 Q. Was that because of your age as well, do you know, or
6 just because of the fact --

7 A. No, because I was a tried delinquent.

8 LADY SMITH: You would only have been about ten years old,
9 I think; would that be right?

10 A. I was very young, yes.

11 MS FORBES: That first time you were kept separate from the
12 other boys?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But, the second time you went in, you were treated as
15 a sort of normal resident?

16 A. Yes, I was with the rest of them.

17 Q. You tell us that when you were there you just were
18 miserable and you just wanted to get back home to your
19 family?

20 A. At that time I was.

21 Q. This second time that you were there, at Larchgrove, you
22 tell us you were put into a dormitory on that
23 occasion --

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. -- with the other boys. You tell us the age range being

1 about 10 to 15 years of age.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And all the boys there came from Glasgow?

4 A. Well, mainly ... all over, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

5 Q. One of the things you tell us there is that you had

6 a bit of an issue, and that was with bed wetting?

7 A. That was a big issue.

8 Q. You remember there was a bit of peer bullying from the

9 other boys about that and some teasing?

10 A. Yes, mickey taking and ... yeah.

11 Q. You say that all the places that you went to, you ended

12 up running away from; is that right?

13 A. Every place, yeah.

14 Q. You tell us that you think you must have run away more

15 than 100 times overall?

16 A. I actually run away and they got me at my mum's and they

17 took me back. And by the time I was back, within two

18 hours, I was back again at my mum's, so ...

19 Q. Is that from Larchgrove you are talking about or just in

20 general?

21 A. That was from Balrossie.

22 Q. You say, the early days, you just tried to get back to

23 your mother's house?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You would just be picked up by the police and taken back

1 again.

2 You say that at Larchgrove, in any event, you can't

3 remember any formal discipline for running away, when

4 you were brought back?

5 A. No. The discipline was more for wetting the bed. You

6 were ...

7 Q. When you say there was discipline for wetting the bed;

8 was that at Larchgrove?

9 A. That was at Larchgrove, yeah.

10 Q. What happened to you at Larchgrove after you wet the

11 bed?

12 A. Well, the teachers sort of -- you were separated, in

13 a sense, from the normal boys, as they say.

14 Q. This second time that you were at Larchgrove, you say

15 that there was this teacher who was quite strict,

16 a member of staff, Mr ^{GVB} [REDACTED] ?

17 A. I always remember his name, yes. The reason I remember

18 his name, he had a really red nose. It was just things

19 like that I remember.

20 Q. How did the boys feel about Mr ^{GVB} [REDACTED] ; can you

21 remember?

22 A. They were frightened of him.

23 Q. I think that second time at Larchgrove you say there was

24 a report being prepared on you about what was happening

25 back at home?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The results of that didn't end up being very good,
3 unfortunately?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. Because you weren't going to school and you had been
6 involved in some petty crime.

7 A. Mm hmm.

8 Q. You tell us then that the court said you should be sent
9 to Balrossie?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. That was to be for a period of between 18 months and 2
12 years?

13 A. I think it was -- I'm not too sure. I think it was
14 a year.

15 Q. You tell us that was between 1960 that you were there
16 and 1962?

17 A. That's right, yes.

18 Q. You start telling us about Balrossie from paragraph 27
19 of your statement. You say that when the decision was
20 made that you were going to Balrossie, you were taken
21 straight there from the court by police?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. In Balrossie, you say that the set-up was dormitories?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. About 20 boys in each?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. The age range this time, you say, is about 12 to 14; is
3 that right?

4 A. Just about. After 14, you were -- if you were
5 transferred, it would be an intermediate school.

6 Q. So this one was for the younger boys?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. There were staff there which were teachers and also
9 residential staff?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. You name only two residential staff; a night watchman
12 and a matron?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. They were the ones that actually stayed at the school?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But the teachers would come in during the day --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and other staff? You tell us you had some education
19 whilst you were there?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. There were classrooms?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But there were no locked doors or bars on the windows?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. You could just come and go as you wanted?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us about a man who ^{SNR} Balrossie; can you
3 remember his name?

4 A. Mr ^{GKF}.

5 Q. You describe him in your statement as a 'massive man'.

6 A. Oh, he was very hairy and big hands, that's what
7 I remember.

8 Q. You say here that the bed wetting problem continued; is
9 that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And there you were put into a different dormitory for
12 people who wet the bed?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. But there wasn't any punishment as such for wetting the
15 bed?

16 A. Well, we were made to wash our sheets and ...

17 Q. You had to wash your sheets and your pyjamas?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you have to do that before you went to the breakfast
20 in the morning?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say that caused a bit of an issue because you never
23 had enough time to eat breakfast; is that right?

24 A. That's how I still eat, very quickly.

25 Q. That's something that's stayed with you?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You tell us that most of your problems when you were in
3 care and the reasons you ran away were because you were
4 addicted to cigarettes, first of all?

5 A. Mm hmm.

6 Q. And you had the bed wetting problem, which you were
7 embarrassed about; is that right?

8 A. That was a big problem.

9 Q. You also wanted, you tell us later, to get back to see
10 your mum, if you could?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. At Balrossie, when you ran away, there was a punishment,
13 wasn't there, when you returned?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What was that?

16 A. That was the belt.

17 Q. Who would administer that?

18 A. Mr ^{GKF} [REDACTED].

19 Q. When you say 'the belt'; is that the tawse?

20 A. Yeah, the two-fingered one. Yeah, leather belt.

21 Q. You say that there was a boy who you were friends with
22 at Balrossie and he was the usual person you would run
23 away with?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. I think you comment that he wasn't there for the same

1 reasons that you were, because he hadn't committed any
2 offences?

3 A. He hadn't stolen anything, no.

4 Q. He was just an orphan; is that right?

5 A. They split the family up. Three went to Quarrier Homes
6 and [REDACTED] came to Balrossie.

7 Q. You tell us that there was no love from the staff. The
8 boys were treated quite strictly.

9 A. Well, we were just boys that had been in trouble,
10 basically.

11 LADY SMITH: I see, 'Billy', that in your statement you say:
12 'There was no love given out as far as staff were
13 concerned. We were bad boys and needed to be treated
14 strictly.'

15 Are you trying to tell me how the staff regarded
16 you? The way the staff thought of you was that you were
17 bad boys, so you needed to be treated strictly?

18 A. Well, yeah. They were just doing their job, basically.

19 LADY SMITH: That was their attitude?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: Just going on from that, 'Billy', is that how
23 you saw yourself back then, as a bad boy?

24 A. Basically, yes. I had got into trouble. I was sent
25 away.

1 Q. You say that there was this method of giving you a sort
2 of cuff around the ear if you weren't behaving, and
3 everyone would get that?

4 A. Quite regular.

5 Q. You comment, I think, that you didn't see that as
6 excessive or, back then, you didn't see it as something
7 abusive, really?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. You say that you think that back then that's probably
10 what happened in other places, too?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You do tell us about a couple of incidents that happened
13 at Balrossie. You tell us about that at paragraph 49.

14 First of all, 'Billy', I just want to ask you about
15 an incident in relation to you having a fight with a boy
16 and something happened then; can you tell us about that?

17 A. Yes. Well, I was made to fight the other boy by this
18 other boy and, during the fight, I was hit across the
19 head with an army belt and I've still got a sore bit
20 there. I required four stitches.

21 Q. This was an incident where you were having a fight with
22 a boy and then somebody else jumped in; is that right?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. As a result of being hit with that belt, you had to get
25 stitches; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was it seven stitches above your ear?

3 A. I think it was four or five. I can't remember.

4 Q. That was one incident that you remember happening with
5 you and another boy?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. At Balrossie?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You also tell us, 'Billy', about what would happen at
10 night to people who wet the bed, having to line up
11 outside one of the offices; can you tell us about that?

12 A. Yes. We had to go -- I'm mixed up here, because -- if
13 I explain it a bit better.

14 I thought a lot of boys were lined up. We used to
15 stand outside Mr ^{GKF} [REDACTED], which I thought was four or five
16 of us. We would go in and Mr ^{GKF} [REDACTED] would get a bit of
17 paper, hold your penis and rub it, and then we were put
18 out.

19 Now, I thought if it was a load of boys; why was
20 I put out separate, in a separate part of the place
21 where the matron stayed? They were doing a trial with
22 her bed. What it was, it was like a dart board
23 underneath the sheet and there was a bell beside the
24 bed, and if you peed on the bed the bell went off. The
25 matron would come in and strip off my sheets. She would

1 take me in and bath me, and then make me wash my sheets
2 and take them up and then come back, make my bed and
3 then get into my bed.

4 Q. There is the two things you are telling us about there.
5 There is the incident where you think you were having to
6 line up outside Mr ^{GKF} office?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you now think that was just yourself or do you think
9 there were other boys?

10 A. I think it was just -- I just wonder why I was picked
11 out of all them boys just to do that experiment.

12 Q. You remember going into his office, and what were you
13 told to do when you went in?

14 A. I was told to take my pyjamas down.

15 Q. Then you say there was a piece of paper that you then
16 put up to your penis?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And what was he doing with that piece of paper?

19 A. He was rubbing.

20 Q. You describe it in your statement as something like
21 litmus paper, you thought?

22 A. Somebody else told me that, so I just ...

23 Q. You weren't told what that was for?

24 A. No.

25 Q. But, after that, you then say there was a time when you

1 were taken to another bed in the establishment, in
2 Balrossie, by the matron?

3 A. Yeah, that was the matron's quarters.

4 Q. You were taken to her quarters and there was a set-up,
5 whereby there was a bell attached to some device --

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. -- underneath the sheets. Was that if you wet the bed,
8 the bell would ring?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How often did happen? Was it just the once or was it
11 more than once?

12 A. Sometimes it was more than once.

13 Q. If you were in that bed and the bell rang and the matron
14 would strip the sheets, you would have to wash them?

15 A. I would have to strip the sheets and wash them.

16 Q. You would have to strip the sheets?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You would have to wash them?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. I think you say you would then be put in a bath?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You tell us that was a cold bath?

23 A. Yes, it was. Yes.

24 Q. When you were in that bath; were you there on your own
25 or was the matron there?

1 A. No, the matron. I remember the matron distinctly
2 washing me.

3 Q. She would be washing you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. At this age, you are about 11 or 12 years old?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you tell us that you were quite capable of
8 bathing yourself?

9 A. Oh, yes, yes.

10 Q. But she insisted on doing it for you?

11 A. Well, I always thought it was a punishment.

12 Q. You thought it was a punishment that she would have to
13 wash you?

14 A. Yes. To try to stop me wetting.

15 Q. Do you think that was her trying to embarrass you, so
16 you wouldn't do it again or something?

17 A. I think it was more of a punishment, I thought.

18 Q. You say on reflection you think that was inappropriate,
19 looking back?

20 A. Now, yeah.

21 Q. You tell us about another incident as well, when you
22 were away from Balrossie up in Aberdeen at another
23 school, that was on a holiday?

24 A. Yes. We got a holiday once a year up there.

25 Q. Again, you had a problem with wetting the bed whilst you

1 were there?

2 A. Mm hmm.

3 Q. Then what happened when that --

4 A. There were four of us. I remember that distinctly. We

5 were taken outside and we were hosed.

6 Q. Who did that?

7 A. That was -- I think it was -- I can't remember his name,

8 one of the teachers.

9 Q. From Balrossie?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. One of the teachers had come with you from Balrossie?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You say the hose was turned on, on you; were you wearing

14 clothes when that happened?

15 A. No.

16 Q. How had you come to not be wearing clothes? What had

17 happened?

18 A. We took our wet clothes off.

19 Q. Did somebody tell you to do that?

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Are you sure it was a teacher, 'Billy', or

22 might it have been somebody else who worked there?

23 A. No, it was definitely a teacher, because it was only the

24 teachers that came with us.

25 LADY SMITH: Oh, right. When you gave your statement,

1 I think you felt it was the night watchman.

2 A. Aye, well, he's a teacher.

3 LADY SMITH: He was a teacher?

4 A. Yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you. My confusion, sorry.

6 MS FORBES: Thank you, 'Billy'.

7 It's this night watchman then who is telling you to

8 take your clothes off and you're going to be hosed down?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Whereabouts did this take place?

11 A. Just outside.

12 Q. Outside the school, in Aberdeen?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You say that you think at the time you thought it was

15 fun, but you see now that was abusive behaviour?

16 A. Yeah. I always thought there was no way they could

17 clean us. The only way they could do it was hose us,

18 so ...

19 Q. Was there facilities there that they could have used for

20 you to have a bath or something like that?

21 A. No, because it was a school. We were in camp beds,

22 so ...

23 Q. It wasn't something that had proper washing facilities?

24 A. No, they wouldn't have showers or ...

25 Q. You tell us that you weren't an easy boy to deal with

1 because you were running away a lot, all the time. You
2 have given us the reasons why you were doing that. You
3 needed to smoke, you were wetting the bed and you wanted
4 to see your mum.

5 But nobody ever asked why you were running away?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You are quite frank and you say if they had, you don't
8 think you would have told them?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You say the reason for that is because you didn't trust
11 the establishment?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Also, you mention that there was a code of silence among
14 the boys?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what was that, 'Billy'?

17 A. I was lucky, because when you went to a place, the
18 Glasgow boys seemed to stick together, so that stopped
19 any bullying from somebody else, so ...

20 And you just didn't talk. If you did anything
21 wrong, you took the blame.

22 Q. You wouldn't tell on other boys?

23 A. No.

24 Q. You wouldn't speak up if something was happening?

25 A. No.

1 Q. After a while then, at Balrossie, you were sent to
2 Balgowan. You tell us that you think you were sent
3 there because it was maybe further away from Glasgow?
4 A. Well, yeah, I couldn't see any other reason.
5 Q. This was, as I have said, between 1963 and 1964.
6 A. That's right.
7 Q. You would have been 12 or 13?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. You tell us about that in your statement, between
10 paragraphs 54 and 59.
11 This was something that you weren't given any
12 warning about before you were taken there; is that
13 right?
14 A. I was just woken up in the morning and ... I think they
15 call it ghosting now. But my parents weren't informed
16 or ...
17 Q. One day you wake up and you're just taken away to
18 Balgowan?
19 A. Took away that day.
20 Q. Again, this was a place that had no locked doors or bars
21 on the windows?
22 A. No.
23 Q. You say that you thought it was run by the Church of
24 Scotland?
25 A. Yes. Well, nearly all the ones I went to were Church --

1 well, the men of importance were -- rigorously want you
2 to go to church, so ...

3 Q. So there was this encouragement about going to church --
4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- if you were in these places?
6 A. Yes.

7 Q. It was Church of Scotland, a Protestant church?
8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. You tell us that this was -- Balgowan was a very big
10 school?
11 A. Yeah. It was massive, yeah.

12 Q. Bigger than Balrossie?
13 A. Yeah, much bigger.

14 Q. The age range there was slightly older?
15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But there were boys there from all around Scotland?
17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You tell us about ^{SNR} [REDACTED], who was a religious
19 man?
20 A. Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], yeah.

21 Q. There was a lot of teachers, a big staff of teachers
22 there?
23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You talk about ^{SNR} [REDACTED]; what was his name?
25 A. Mr ^{LSB} [REDACTED].

1 Q. There was also somebody that you describe as a cobbler?

2 A. Yes, Mr. [REDACTED].

3 Q. You say that he was an ex-Sergeant Major from the army?

4 A. Yes, he was, yes, in the Black Watch.

5 Q. What was his job then?

6 A. He -- like an odd job man. He cobbled the shoes, he cut

7 your hair. Basically, odd jobs like that.

8 Q. I think you say he wasn't very good at haircuts?

9 A. Not where I was concerned, no.

10 Q. Was he told to do something after you had run away?

11 A. Well, after we had run away a few times, he was told to

12 cut my hair in a cross. And he cut my hair in a cross,

13 and then we ran away again and he was told to shave our

14 hair and put us in -- we were put in gowns. I think

15 you'll see in my record, I was stealing my clothes back.

16 My clothes were locked up, and I went and stole them

17 back.

18 Q. Your clothes were locked up to try to stop you from

19 running away?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. This first time then, he shaves a cross into your head.

22 So the shaved part is the cross, is it?

23 A. Yes, me and [REDACTED], the boy I used to run away with.

24 Q. You and [REDACTED] --

25 A. We're in the same place again, yeah.

1 Q. He was your -- the person that you liked to run away
2 with?

3 A. Yeah. He's my friend, yeah.

4 Q. This first occasion that this happens to you then, you
5 and he get the same treatment?

6 A. Well, it wasn't the first occasion. We had run away
7 a few times before that.

8 Q. But this is the first occasion that this cobbler --

9 A. My hair, yeah.

10 Q. -- Mr. ^{LID} [REDACTED], had done this to your hair?

11 A. He was probably told to do it. He didn't do it.

12 Q. Before that happened; what was your hair like? Was it
13 relatively long or was it short?

14 A. Just normal.

15 Q. You get this cross shaved into your head; were you told
16 why that was happening?

17 A. No. Well, we thought to stop us running away.

18 Q. That didn't work?

19 A. No.

20 Q. That was the aim, but it didn't work?

21 A. Yeah, it didn't.

22 Q. You were still running away after that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You say the next time that something happened from him
25 with your hair, all your hair was shaved off?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. When you say 'shaved off'; do you mean right to the
3 wood?

4 A. Right to the wood. That's when they put the gowns --
5 they got us wee white gowns and we were put in white
6 gowns.

7 Q. You say that there was a time when you were at Balgowan
8 where you and [REDACTED] were separated at night. He was put
9 into a dormitory and you were --

10 A. And I was in --

11 Q. -- put somewhere else?

12 A. I was put in the brush store.

13 Q. What was that, sorry?

14 A. The brush store.

15 Q. What was the brush store like? Could you describe it?

16 A. About the size of that desk.

17 Q. So a cupboard?

18 A. I was locked in there.

19 Q. This is a cupboard, is it?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did it have any windows?

22 A. No.

23 Q. When you were locked in there; how long would you be in
24 there for?

25 A. All night.

1 Q. Overnight --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- in there? Was there anything in there for you to

4 sleep on?

5 A. Yeah, I got blankets.

6 Q. What about a mattress or a bed?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You say 'overnight'; were you then let out in the

9 morning?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You tell us that despite being locked in the cupboard,

12 one night --

13 A. I broke out.

14 Q. -- █████ managed to force the door open?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Then you were out on the run, again?

17 A. That's again, yeah.

18 Q. I think you do tell us there are some positive things

19 about Balgowan. The education there was good, you say?

20 A. That's right, yeah.

21 Q. You were able to play football?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that something you enjoyed?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You say one of the big problems was that, at Balgowan,

1 you weren't allowed to smoke?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Because you were addicted to cigarettes that was

4 a problem?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Is that because it was a junior school or seen as a

7 junior school?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Billy', how old were you when you started

10 smoking?

11 A. I was I think 10 or 11.

12 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

13 A. I don't smoke now.

14 LADY SMITH: Well done. When did you give it up?

15 A. I gave it up when my son was born. I gave up -- I was

16 an alcoholic. I gave up the drink and the smoking and

17 the gambling, and he's now 41.

18 LADY SMITH: That's a huge achievement.

19 Ms Forbes.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady.

21 You say again, at Balgowan there was this problem

22 with the bed wetting?

23 A. That was a big problem, every institution I was in.

24 Q. That meant you also had to wash the sheets in the

25 morning?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Again, that gave you less time for you to eat your
3 breakfast?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You tell us that -- you have already mentioned this --
6 because the Glasgow boys seemed to stick together, you
7 were able to sort of escape any bullying?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. You describe it as safety in numbers?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. But there was the odd fight among boys that you saw; is
12 that right? You also talk about ^{SNR} [REDACTED],
13 Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], giving a punishment out when it was needed, and
14 that was the belt?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. The tawse, again?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You do tell us about one incident with Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], and
19 I think this happened after you had run away and broken
20 into a shop?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. Can you tell us what happened with that?

23 A. Well, I got -- it's normal practice, you get the belt on
24 the backside, so you put on a pair of gym shorts, they
25 lie you on the table, and one member of staff goes to

1 one end and one member of staff goes to the other and
2 Mr ^{LIF} gives you the punishment. Sometimes -- the
3 maximum was six on your backside. So I got that quite
4 regular.

5 Q. That was the usual. You had to change out of your
6 clothes into gym shorts?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. Did you know at the time why you were having to change
9 into the gym shorts before you got the belt?

10 A. I suppose it was to make it more severe.

11 LADY SMITH: How did it make it more severe, 'Billy'?

12 A. Well, if I had my trousers and things on, getting the
13 belt on the backside wouldn't be ... to put -- they made
14 it so that you didn't get it on your bare backside. You
15 put the gym shorts on. Sometimes a member of staff
16 pulled them tight. So rather than give you the belt on
17 the bare backside --

18 LADY SMITH: Because, as you explain in your statement,
19 there was always another member of staff there; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: With Mr ^{LIF} ?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: You say sometimes he would pull these gym
25 shorts tight on your buttocks?

1 A. Yes, on your buttocks.

2 LADY SMITH: Was the fabric of the gym shorts thinner than
3 your trousers?

4 A. Very thin. Gym shorts are just like -- well, they're
5 actually thin gym shorts.

6 LADY SMITH: They are usually similar to how thin
7 an ordinary shirt is?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: 'Billy', that's the punishment you would get
11 from ^{SNR} [REDACTED] regularly; that was the usual
12 punishment?

13 A. Quite regular, yes.

14 Q. I think you tell us that there was this time when you
15 broke into the shop and stole some cigarettes, where it
16 was different. The punishment that you received from
17 Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] that time was different from before; is that
18 right?

19 A. Well, they normally get very angry, because I suppose it
20 gives the school a bad name, and Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] was quite
21 severe.

22 Q. You say that occasion with the shop and stealing the
23 cigarettes, the police got involved, but they left it up
24 to Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] to deal with?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. You already said he was a religious man. You agreed in
2 your statement about that. At this time, he accused you
3 of being a sinner, you and whoever else had been
4 involved in not respecting religion; is that right?

5 A. Well, I was just -- I was a rebel, I suppose.

6 Q. You say that at that time he set about you with the
7 school belt, this tawse, but it was on your head this
8 time and not on your backside?

9 A. Mr. ^{LIF} [REDACTED] -- sometimes I knew something was going to
10 happen when I went into his office and there was no
11 member of staff there. So he really lost his temper.
12 I suppose I thought: he's doing what he thinks is right
13 because I broke into the shop.

14 Q. On this occasion; was he hitting you on the head with
15 the belt?

16 A. He slapped me all over with the belt.

17 Q. You say that you had this thing where you wouldn't cry
18 and you wouldn't show that it was hurting, and you would
19 look at someone defiantly if they were trying to cause
20 you pain and that seemed to make him angrier, you
21 thought?

22 A. I'm 75 years of age and I like pain. I've got tattoos
23 all over me. That's the reason I would not cry when
24 they were doing it to me, and I suppose I was brought up
25 with that.

1 Q. On this occasion, you think that perhaps that's why he
2 saw he wasn't getting to you and that maybe --

3 A. Exactly. He lost his temper.

4 Q. You describe that as being a vicious assault on you, on
5 that occasion?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. This is different from some of the usual punishments
8 that you had from him before?

9 A. Yes. Well, I suppose I was the one he took it out on,
10 because I was the one running away. I wouldn't tell him
11 what happened and ...

12 Q. Again, you didn't tell anyone about that at the time,
13 what had happened to you with Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] ?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I think then your time at Balgowan came to an end and
16 you were, again, moved to somewhere else, and that was
17 Thornly Park.

18 A. Thornly Park.

19 Q. You think that you were sent there because you were
20 running away?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Still?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us again that was something you weren't given
25 any notice about?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You describe Thornly Park as an intermediate school?

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. The boys are --

5 A. A bit older.

6 Q. You say they're about 13 to 16?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You say you were about 14, you think, at that time?

9 A. That's right, yes.

10 Q. At Thornly Park, you tell us you still had this problem

11 that followed you, with the bed wetting, and you were

12 still smoking and needed to smoke?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So you were still running away --

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. -- whilst you were there?

17 You tell us some things about Thornly Park that were

18 good. That --

19 A. I did my Duke of Edinburgh's award there.

20 Q. You did that, and did you say you learnt to swim while

21 you were there?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. Pass some life saving awards?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. Apart from the usual education, there was also some

1 practical skills taught, like darning socks?

2 A. That's right, painting and things like that, yes.

3 Q. Woodwork, painting?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Things like that. You tell us who ^{SNR} [REDACTED] was.

6 A. Mr ^{KGE} [REDACTED].

7 Q. Again, he had a method of discipline there; can you tell

8 us about that?

9 A. Mr ^{KGE} [REDACTED] always reminded us that he flew a Lancaster

10 Bomber in the war. And he was very, very -- he was very

11 religious, and he was a small Englishman and he was

12 vicious.

13 Q. You tell us about this regular method of discipline,

14 where you would have to be laid over a medical couch?

15 A. That's where you got the belt on the backside again.

16 Q. You had to change into the gym pants?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Again, you describe this -- the gym pants having --

19 being pulled tight whilst you were given the belt?

20 A. Well, Mr ^{KGE} [REDACTED] actually wouldn't let me wear the gym

21 pants. I actually got it on the bare bum. A member of

22 staff had to pull him off. Because I think the maximum

23 was six strokes on the backside. I don't know how many

24 he had on me.

25 Q. Is this the occasion that you are talking about, where

1 he wouldn't let you wear the gym pants? Was that
2 an occasion when you had run away?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. You had broken into what you thought was an empty house?
5 A. Yes, yes.
6 Q. But, unfortunately, it wasn't empty?
7 A. No.
8 Q. There was a lady inside?
9 A. Yes, that's right.
10 Q. You got a fright and ran off. But she said to the
11 police that you had stolen money.
12 A. There was money missing, yes.
13 Q. Your position was you never took any money?
14 A. We never.
15 Q. On that occasion when you got back, that's when Mr. KGE
16 then --
17 A. Well, I remember it was late at night when I got back,
18 and I thought maybe the punishment would happen the next
19 day. But they took me into the couch that night and he
20 just went mad. Because seeing it was an old lady, and
21 the fact it was an old lady and money was stolen, he
22 just lost the plot.
23 Q. You say that he used the belt on you on that occasion;
24 is that right?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And there was no gym shorts?

2 A. None.

3 Q. This was on bare --

4 A. On the bare buttocks, yes.

5 Q. You told us that you thought at the time the max was

6 six, but he didn't stick at six on this occasion?

7 A. No, it went over. Yeah.

8 Q. You tell us you think it was over eight?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And he drew blood?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is this the occasion where you tell us that he had to be

13 stopped by someone else?

14 A. Yes, he did. Yes, I remember that.

15 Q. Again, you tell us that you wouldn't cry?

16 A. No, I just bit the pillow.

17 Q. But you were saying that you hadn't taken the money?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But that wasn't accepted?

20 A. I mean, it wouldn't make any sense because we were just

21 in and then out right away.

22 Q. That's because you were frightened that there was

23 somebody in the house and you ran away?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. After this period at Thornly Park, you are then taken to

1 Kibble?

2 A. Yes, Mr. GHK .

3 Q. The whole time you were at Thornly Park you were still
4 running away again; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Would you be punished every time you returned?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would that be with the belt?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say then you go to The Kibble and this was a senior
11 school, so we've now gone from the intermediate up to
12 the senior?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. This was in 1965?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. You say you had good memories of your time there?

17 A. Well, the minute I walked in the door, Mr. GHK --
18 I remember the words well, he says: who's LRR ? And
19 he said: stay here six month without running away and
20 I'll let you go.

21 And he kept his word. That was a great Approved
22 School.

23 Q. Is this when he said to you you could smoke?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But if you didn't run away for six months, then you

1 could get out?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And you would be free?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. There was a time, you tell us, you did get punished for
6 getting a tattoo?

7 A. Yes, that's right. Yes. That was on the hand, though.

8 Q. Sorry, what?

9 A. The punishment was a belt on the hand.

10 Q. You say that you felt you deserved that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Why was that; because you'd got the tattoo?

13 A. Because I'd got the tattoo.

14 Q. It did work, what he said to you, is that right, because
15 you stopped running away?

16 A. That was the best time in all the Approved Schools.

17 Q. You still had this problem, though, with the bed
18 wetting?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But you didn't get any issues from the staff because of
21 that?

22 A. No, none.

23 Q. There is nothing there that you considered to be abuse?

24 A. No.

25 Q. After this six months, you got to go back home; is that

1 right?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. You were only back for about six weeks and --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- you got into a bit of trouble. So you were sentenced

6 to Castle Huntly --

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. -- for an offence? You were in Castle Huntly, Barlinnie

9 and Saughton?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. The detail of that time, we have already read in

12 earlier, 'Billy', on 8 November last year. It was

13 Day 386. But, just in short, what you say about those

14 places are that you didn't have any issues with staff in

15 those places; is that right?

16 A. No.

17 Q. There was peer bullying that went on?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You describe those places as just being violent

20 institutions --

21 A. Mm hmm.

22 Q. -- in general. After you left Saughton, that would have

23 been in 1969; is that right?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. You tell us quite frankly that you drifted into a bit of

1 a life of crime for a while. But then that all changed,
2 didn't it? Is that when you met your wife?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. You say that a bit later -- we'll maybe take things out
5 of order from your statement. But you talk about your
6 life after being in prison from about paragraph 102.

7 You tell us that even after you were married to your
8 wife, you still had this problem with the bed wetting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. As you have said, you gave up drinking and you gave up
11 smoking, and then you sought help for that, didn't you?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Were you told then, 'Billy', that was a medical problem?

14 A. It was a medical problem, yes.

15 Q. And you had some treatment?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. And that cured it?

18 A. That's it.

19 Q. You comment that you wish that had been something that
20 was --

21 A. Oh, I don't think I would have been in trouble. Not so
22 much, anyway.

23 Q. Because of the embarrassment of the bed wetting when you
24 were younger?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You tell us that you worked all your life?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And you're now retired?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. You lived for a while in London, I think?

6 A. Yeah, I did, yes.

7 Q. You make a comment when you are talking about impact,
8 'Billy', that from the time you were a teenager, until
9 you were 25, you were never liberated from care or the
10 prison system for a period of more than six months?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. So that whole time you were in institutions and
13 establishments?

14 A. Yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: In fact, 'Billy', from the dates you have told
16 us about that we have, you started going into care when
17 you were about ten?

18 A. That's right.

19 LADY SMITH: You were back home and then back in again, but
20 it was part of your life from very young?

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

23 MS FORBES: As well, 'Billy', you say about lessons to be
24 learned, at paragraph 106, that this Mr ^{GHK} is
25 somebody that had an impact on you.

1 A. He did, yes.

2 Q. You think there should be more people like him working
3 in the system?

4 A. I did say that, yeah.

5 Q. You say he was someone who knew your weaknesses and
6 worked to try to strengthen them?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. You talk about volunteering that you did at a youth club
9 in London; is that right?

10 A. I did. I started off with nine boys and two girls.
11 I ended up with, I think, nearly 100 kids.

12 Q. Was that something that you did in -- along with the
13 police? Were they involved in that initiative as well?

14 A. It so happened it was two Scottish policemen, no English
15 policemen. They came and helped in their own time.

16 Q. That's something that you got a lot out of, is that
17 right, that helping the boys?

18 A. Well, I understood the problems some of the kids had.

19 Q. You tell us about one particular time when you saw
20 a young boy who was trying to steal a car battery?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What happened with him?

23 A. We were going to play football with the youth club and,
24 as we passed by, it was a pal of the youth club boys saw
25 him. I said, 'What's he doing?', he says, 'He's

1 stealing a battery for the car'. So I went there and
2 said, 'Why don't you play football?' and now he's
3 a professional dancer. So I done something right.
4 Q. That is good. You had steered him off into a different
5 direction?
6 A. Yeah. I steered him off. I don't think one of the kids
7 in the club have been in trouble since.
8 Q. That is something that you can be proud of, that
9 involvement?
10 A. Yeah. Oh aye, yeah.
11 Q. You met your wife in 1974 and got married?
12 A. Yeah, 1974.
13 Q. 50 years together this year?
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. Since then you've never been in trouble?
16 A. No.
17 Q. You had three children together and an adopted daughter;
18 is that right?
19 A. Yes. We got a wee black daughter. Yeah, we adopted
20 her. She's now got a wee daughter, so we're
21 grandparents.
22 Q. You tell us as well that -- is it eight grandchildren?
23 A. 12.
24 Q. More now. Maybe eight at the time of your statement.
25 A. One grandchild and another one due.

1 Q. You said as well that the adoption process, you fostered
2 your daughter first and then you adopted her; is that
3 right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You think that the court must have seen at the time that
6 you were a reformed character because they didn't have
7 any issues with you?

8 A. That's what the man said, actually, that I was
9 a reformed character or I wouldn't have got her, because
10 there was a strict policy then.

11 Q. 'Billy', I think that's all the questions I have.
12 Unless there is something you want to say that you
13 haven't been able to say so far?

14 A. Just that I'm just glad I don't smoke, I don't drink,
15 and I don't wet the bed.

16 MS FORBES: My Lady, I don't have any applications for
17 questions for the witness.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 'Billy', thank you so much for coming along today.
20 As I said earlier, it's been really helpful to have you
21 here. We have your evidence and your written statement,
22 but you've also made a lot of it come alive by talking
23 to us today about the memories you have and that's
24 really helped me understand what it was like for you.

25 As you go away today, I hope you feel better for

1 having done this.

2 A. I think I will, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: It's certainly improved our stock of evidence
4 about what was going on in the places that you were in
5 when you were younger. As I said earlier, well done in
6 changing your life, and congratulations to your wife for
7 the influence she's obviously had on you.

8 Keep up the good work.

9 A. Right, thank you, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Billy', you are free to go now. Thank you so
11 much.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: Just before we move on, one point, 'Billy' used
14 his own second name, but his identity is protected by my
15 General Restriction Order and it's not to be repeated
16 outside this room. It may also be the name that his
17 wife uses and she is covered by my General Restriction
18 Order as well.

19 Four other names were mentioned, Mr LIF , Mr GKF ,
20 Mr LID and Mr KGE in relation to whom some
21 allegations were made. They are all protected by my
22 General Restriction Order and they're not to be
23 identified outside this room either.

24 So, Ms Forbes, what next?

25 MS FORBES: My Lady, we could do some read-ins or there

1 might be the time to have a short break?

2 LADY SMITH: Can we fit a read-in between now and about

3 11.30, the normal break time?

4 MS FORBES: Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Would that work?

6 MS FORBES: Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

8 MS FORBES: Perhaps then my learned senior, Mr Sheldon, will

9 take over just now.

10 LADY SMITH: If it doesn't take up the whole of the time

11 between now and 11.30, don't worry. But let's see if

12 that's possible.

13 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this will, I think, be a fairly brief

14 exercise. But, if I may, I would like to remind my Lady

15 of some evidence that was heard in the De La Salle

16 chapter, as it relates to the Dundee chapter. This is

17 the evidence of 'Jim', who gave evidence on 9 January.

18 I think it was the first day of the De La Salle

19 hearings.

20 'Jim' (read)

21 MR SHELDON: This is the evidence of 'Jim', who gave

22 evidence on 9 January, the first day of the De La Salle

23 hearings. The transcript reference is TRN-12-000000034.

24 The relevant parts are at pages 176 to 185 of the

25 transcript.

1 His statement is WIT.001.001.0586. There is also
2 a self-penned witness statement, which is at
3 WIT-3-000001325, but that document focuses entirely on
4 the De La Salle chapter. I think it's fair to say that
5 the focus of 'Jim's' evidence was really the DLS,
6 De La Salle schools that he attended.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes. He's particularly St Ninian's, Gartmore.
8 He attended for quite a long time.

9 MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady. But he was also at
10 Harestane and Balgowan. He gave some evidence about
11 that, and the evidence that he gave is consistent with
12 his witness statement.

13 But, if I may, my Lady, I just wanted to remind
14 my Lady of that evidence and draw what may be
15 corroborative threads together in relation to some of
16 that evidence.

17 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

18 MR SHELDON: The part of 'Jim's' statement which relates to
19 Balgowan starts at page 9, paragraph 39.

20 'Jim' has been talking about his time at
21 St Joseph's, and after that he was sent, it seems, to
22 Harestane remand home. What he says, at paragraph 39,
23 is:

24 'Baillie ^{LOF} [REDACTED] worked in the courts and he got
25 involved when I was getting moved by order of the court

1 from St Ninian's to Balgowan. There wasn't a space
2 available there immediately, so I went to Harestane.'

3 If I can pause at that point, my Lady, just to
4 remind my Lady of the handwritten letter we saw
5 yesterday, where a very similar thing happened to the
6 lady's son. She wrote the letter of complaint and he
7 was to be sent to an Approved School, but ended up in
8 the remand home, also in about 1966, so around the same
9 time:

10 'When I was at Harestane, ^{LOF} [REDACTED] came to see me,
11 as he said he had heard about me and wanted to make sure
12 I was settling in. He knew I was a talented artist.
13 That first time he didn't mention anything about my
14 abuse.

15 ^{LOF} [REDACTED] came to see me for a second time at
16 Harestane. It was when I got taken back by the police
17 after running away and I was put in a wee locked room.
18 ^{LOF} [REDACTED] came in to see me at about one o'clock in the
19 morning and he came into the room and raped me in there.
20 He said that he had heard about me and that he knew
21 I didn't mind it happening. That's how I knew that
22 Fitzwater must have told him. ^{LOF} [REDACTED] abused me, and
23 I mean sodomised me every night for a week when I was at
24 Harestane.

25 'I was on lockdown in there, so I couldn't really

1 tell anyone. I told one teacher who came into Harestane
2 and I told him what ^{LOF} [REDACTED] was doing to me. I think
3 his name was ^{ZILX} [REDACTED] and he was an artist. He said to me
4 that he knew what was going on and he knew ^{LOF} [REDACTED] came into
5 Harestane after he had been drinking at a club in
6 Broughty Ferry, which was right because he used to come
7 in after 11 o'clock at night. He had his own key to
8 come in and, once he was in, he did what he wanted and
9 all the staff at Harestane and the council knew what was
10 going on. From what he said, this wasn't the first time
11 that ^{ZILX} [REDACTED] would have been aware what was going on. He
12 didn't do anything to help me. Nothing happened after
13 I told him, so he mustn't have told anybody.

14 'I was only at Harestane as a temporary measure and
15 was moved from Harestane to Balgowan once a space became
16 available.'

17 'Jim' says he was then moved to Balgowan and, on
18 paper, it says:

19 'I was there for two years, but I wasn't there very
20 much because I ran away all the time. I got moved into
21 Balgowan and within a week I was called to go and see
22 the headmaster. I can't remember his name. ^{LOF} [REDACTED]
23 was there drinking coffee. He told me that Mr ^{LOF} [REDACTED] had
24 told him I was an artist and that ^{LOF} [REDACTED] was going to
25 take me down to the harbour where I could sketch his

1 yacht. When I went back to the class the teacher asked
2 me what the headmaster had wanted. The teacher may have
3 been called Mr Hutchinson, but I know we just called him
4 Hutchie. I told him that I was going to paint
5 [REDACTED]'s boat or he was going to fuck me. Hutchie
6 said he couldn't have me speaking like that in class and
7 he sent me out. When I was going downstairs the door
8 was open, so I ran away. I don't suppose I expected
9 Hutchie to do anything with that information.

10 [REDACTED] came to the school twice a week at all
11 different times, including late at night. He possibly
12 had something to do with the board of governors, so was
13 there supposedly on an official capacity and he worked
14 for the council.

15 'After I got sent out of class at Balgowan, that was
16 the first time I ran away and I was away for about a
17 week. When I got back no one ever spoke to me about the
18 remarks I made in class. I ran away often from
19 Balgowan. They would take me back and I would just run
20 away again every time.

21 [REDACTED] did come to the school to pick me up and
22 he took me to his yacht. It was called [REDACTED] and was
23 at the marina at Broughty Ferry. He took me out on his
24 beautiful yacht with his two male friends. He only ever
25 took me out on his yacht that once. They were all in

1 their 40s. On the yacht they made a movie of each of
2 them raping me, all three of them.

3 'There was a technical teacher at Balgowan called
4 [REDACTED] ZILX. He was a Jehovah Witness. He asked me to go with
5 him to the Jehovah church in Dundee because he knew
6 I was good at art and he wanted me to go down and do
7 some paintings in the church hall. He didn't want me to
8 paint, he just wanted a wee private place to abuse me
9 and that was it.

10 'I never told anyone about the abuse on the yacht
11 because I had stopped telling people.

12 'When I was in Rossie Farm, [REDACTED] LOH took me into
13 an office and shut the door. He told me that he'd had
14 a phone call from [REDACTED] LOF asking if I had said
15 anything to anybody or had made any statements. [REDACTED] LOH
16 asked me about what it was about, so I told him it was
17 about the abuse. He then told me if I had been abused,
18 then he would sort it out.'

19 Just pausing there again, my Lady. There will be
20 evidence later about Rossie Farm in a future chapter,
21 but there was, certainly in the 1970s, a [REDACTED] LOF who
22 was on the board of governors at Rossie.

23 LADY SMITH: It was, thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: So there does appear to be a link there.

25 I mentioned at least the possibility of

1 corroboration, and I can say to my Lady that there is
2 a police statement in possession of the Inquiry. The
3 individual who gave the statement is not an applicant,
4 so we're not naming him and I'm not going to show the
5 statement here. But I can provide the reference, which
6 is PSS-000024884.

7 My Lady, there are some issues with the statement
8 and some issues with, arguably, the credibility of some
9 aspects of it, but it does corroborate in some respects
10 'Jim's' statement, in particular about Harestane and
11 [REDACTED]. This particular individual says that he met
12 [REDACTED] because he was a magistrate who he first met in the
13 courts, who sent him to Harestane. He says that [REDACTED] had
14 a lot to do with Harestane, possibly as a governor or
15 trustee, he thought. He says that serious sexual abuse
16 by [REDACTED] was perpetrated in an interview room in Harestane
17 and elsewhere, and this individual would have been in
18 Harestane in about 1966.

19 LADY SMITH: So that would be about the same time as 'Jim'.

20 MR SHELDON: Yes, about the same time.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR SHELDON: Finally, my Lady, in this respect, we also have
23 a death certificate for [REDACTED]. It's NRS-000000008.

24 My Lady can see that, I think, for herself. The
25 circumstances in which Mr [REDACTED] died are certainly

1 interesting in the circumstances. But of most
2 significance in this context is the fact he was found
3 dead on a yacht called the [REDACTED], which was moored in
4 the Tay, just off Wormit and died age 47.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. What year was that?

6 MR SHELDON: That would have been 1981, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR SHELDON: Unless there is anything my Lady wants to hear
9 about that, I think that's --

10 LADY SMITH: No, I think it's very clear and we have the
11 references. It's very helpful.

12 MR SHELDON: It was just, I hope, to draw those threads
13 together. As I say, 'Jim's' statement is consistent
14 with what he said in evidence.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
17 who is anonymous. His pseudonym is 'Ewan', and the
18 reference for his statement is WIT-1-000000724.

19 'Ewan' (read)

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Ewan' says he was born in Edinburgh in
21 1949. He talks about his life before going into care,
22 between paragraphs 2 and 6. He lived with his parents,
23 a younger brother and a younger sister on the south side
24 of Edinburgh. His parents divorced when he was about
25 five years old and that's when he says his world

1 collapsed.

2 He was taken by Social Services to a residential
3 school. He says he didn't see his mother again until he
4 was 14 years old.

5 He talks about the residential school between
6 paragraphs 7 and 53, and he tells us later in his
7 statement he was there for about nine or ten years. He
8 didn't see any of his siblings whilst he was in care and
9 he actually forgot that he had a brother and sister.

10 In the holidays, he would be sent to Balgowan List D
11 School. If I could go to paragraph 33 of his statement:

12 'When the holidays came round, I would be sent to
13 Balgowan List D School in Dundee. There were much older
14 boys there and you had to learn to fight. There was
15 different bullying by your peers and you had to stand up
16 for yourself. You would also get the belt from the
17 staff there for fighting with the other boys.'

18 He then says that some of the boys from the
19 residential school went home for the holidays, but he
20 then said:

21 'I had nowhere to go as my parents couldn't take me,
22 so I had to go to Balgowan during all the holidays.'

23 He says he looked forward to go back to the
24 residential school. He says:

25 'As there was so much bullying and violence at

1 Balgowan List D School, you would only be there for
2 a couple of weeks to allow the staff at the residential
3 school to have a holiday.'

4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5

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7

8

9

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later He says:

11 ' [REDACTED] bullies were at Balgowan and the older
12 boys there would try to force themselves on you to have
13 sex with them. If you didn't comply they would physical
14 assault you [I think it's supposed to be "physically"].
15 I can't recall their names, but I had to fight a lot of
16 them. You did try to mention it to the masters ...'

17 And he talks about the masters at the residential
18 school:

19 '... and at Balgowan, but they just dismissed it as
20 if it wasn't happening. They didn't want to know.'

21 He thinks he left the residential school when he was
22 about 15 and he was sent to Thornly Park. He talks
23 about his time there between paragraphs 55 and 67. He
24 says he got the belt there and he would run away at
25 every opportunity. He describes physical abuse,

1 bullying among the boys, bullying for sexual favours.

2 He left Thornly Park when he was still 15, and he
3 had been working as a porter at a hospital to gain work
4 experience and then he went to stay with his
5 grandmother, in Leith.

6 He talks about his life after being in care from
7 paragraph 70. He says he went to stay with his mother.
8 He got a job on [REDACTED], and he enjoyed that and going
9 [REDACTED] built up his confidence. He worked on [REDACTED]
10 for ten years and then he was on oil rigs, in catering,
11 and [REDACTED] for the council, but he had a bad accident
12 and was out of work for a long time.

13 He then latterly worked in a hotel. He says he got
14 married in 1968 and he had children and grandchildren.

15 He talks about the impact of his time in care from
16 paragraph 72, and says he can't watch films on TV which
17 deal with children's homes or children in care. He says
18 that his life with his siblings was ruined by his time
19 in care. He didn't grow up with them.

20 His sister is now deceased and his brother lives in
21 Manchester, but he says he never got a chance to know
22 them.

23 He says he only got to know his mother a little bit
24 because he lived with her for a short time when he was
25 15, but she died in 1999 of motor neurone disease and he

1 also ended up looking after his father for the last
2 seven years of his life.

3 He says he looks after his grandchildren and always
4 locks the house up at night to make sure they're safe.
5 He doesn't like them being out late at night.

6 He then talks about lessons to be learned, and
7 that's from paragraph 77. If I can go to that part of
8 his statement, he says:

9 'There were no disclosure procedures when I was in
10 care. There were no inspections. The Social Services
11 and the staff in the institutions didn't take the time
12 to listen to children. I don't like the idea that
13 children turn 16 and 18 and are no longer under the care
14 of the Social Work Department. Children are being
15 excluded from schools and it can take a full week before
16 someone from Social Services manages to speak to them.
17 That is too late.

18 'The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry should be going
19 into the children's homes and asking the children what
20 they think. It is what they want and they need someone
21 to listen to them. "Tomorrow is the new future,
22 yesterday has gone." My life has nearly gone, but the
23 children's lives are just starting.'

24 He then talks about being involved with the
25 Kinship Care group and foster care groups and says he

1 has parental rights for his grandchildren and he's had
2 that since 2004, and they're now going to be moving on
3 to the next stage in their life and to independent
4 living. They're both working.

5 He says then, at paragraph 80:

6 'I work closely with the local kinship carers group
7 and also met with the foster care groups. I have been
8 asked to collect children from schools who have been
9 excluded. I have refused to do this because it's the
10 responsibility of the Social Services. I have always
11 challenged the Local Authorities and Scottish
12 Government, as I do not believe that they do enough for
13 children who are in the care system. I continue to
14 challenge the children's services in Scotland to try to
15 get them to be more proactive and understanding of the
16 needs of children in the care system.

17 'There needs to be an alternative to the child and
18 Mental Health Services who are being overwhelmed by the
19 amount of referrals. There should be a system where
20 children can be diagnosed earlier and given the support
21 that they need to steer them through the education
22 system. Each child in Scotland is entitled to 25 hours
23 education per week and this needs to be honoured by the
24 Scottish Government and the educational authorities.
25 Currently the powers-that-be are sadly failing the

1 children of Scotland.'

2 He says at paragraph 82:

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

5 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
6 true.'

7 He has signed that and it's dated 16 June 2021.

8 My Lady, I have another statement that hopefully
9 we'll be able to do within the time.

10 LADY SMITH: Before you move on to the next one, there was
11 just one name I think I should have mentioned earlier
12 and that's Bailie ^{LOF} [REDACTED] is covered by my General
13 Restriction Order, but there was nobody in that last
14 read-in, I don't think, that I needed to draw attention
15 to.

16 Yes, where next?

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is anonymous. He's
18 an applicant. He wants to be known as 'Greg'. The
19 reference is WIT-1-000000657.

20 'Greg' (read)

21 MS FORBES: 'Greg' was born in 1955 and talks about his life
22 before care between paragraphs 2 and 4. He was born in
23 Perth, lived there with his parents and two brothers.
24 He says his dad was never there because he was in the
25 special forces, but life in Perth was great. He was

1 expelled from primary school, though, when he was in
2 primary 4 for stealing the canteen money and the biscuit
3 money and he was sent to St Ninian's.

4 He was disruptive in school there and three times
5 a week he attended a place where he was assessed.

6 The first time he went to court was Perth Juvenile
7 Court, in 1965, so he would have been about ten. He was
8 in court for going on to the railway lines and breaking
9 into buffet cars on the trains. He was given probation,
10 but he was sent to an Approved School the second time he
11 appeared, which he thinks was late 1965 or early 1966.
12 Again, he would still have been ten then, because of his
13 birthday.

14 He was sent to Balgowan, and he starts talking about
15 Balgowan at paragraph 5 of his statement:

16 'Balgowan was a big building, like something from
17 the Addams Family. It was a long building with
18 dormitories on each end and administration in the
19 middle. LIF [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of Balgowan and SNR [REDACTED]
20 SNR [REDACTED] was Mr LSB [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was GNC [REDACTED].

21 'Balgowan was a culture shock for me at first
22 because I was a scared ten-year old. There were about
23 120 boys there. The four dormitories were called Scott,
24 Wallace, Bruce and Duncan. I started off in Scott.
25 Wallace was for people younger than me. The youngest

1 boy to be put into Balgowan [and he names the boy] ...
2 he had just turned nine-years old. After a certain age,
3 you move into Bruce House. When you hit 14 or 15, you
4 went into Duncan House, which was the senior house.

5 'They opened a new block, which was called the
6 cottage block, and it was only for 21 people.'

7 He says his cousin and he were the first two in it.
8 He says his cousin was put into Balgowan before him for
9 trespassing on the railway lines, too:

10 'When you went into Balgowan you started off on
11 grade four, which was for four weeks, then grade three,
12 which was 12 weeks. You spent 24 weeks in grade two and
13 12 weeks in grade one. If you were a good boy, you
14 moved up a grade every week. Once you hit 12 weeks you
15 were allowed out for leave on a Saturday. Sometimes you
16 got bonus weeks, so you jumped two weeks.

17 'After four weeks, I was allowed to go home. Just
18 after dinner on a Saturday, you got five hours of free
19 time and I managed to get home to Perth and back to
20 Balgowan for tea time. If you got a good report, which
21 was a red tick, you got a weekend leave. You had to go
22 in the back of the meat wagon. This was a big van with
23 no windows, which was an old potato bus. They would
24 drop you off and collect you. Eventually I was getting
25 a weekend leave every week. Sometimes I was getting ten

1 or 12 good reports a week. I had the best job, which
2 was in the back kitchen. I had to prepare sandwiches
3 and butter and put them in the dining room for when
4 everybody came in. This meant I could eat anything
5 I wanted.'

6 He talks about routine and says, at paragraph 11:

7 'The first people you saw when you walked in were Mr
8 and Mrs Ness. I was taken to the headmaster's office to
9 speak to him and then I was kitted out and given my
10 number.'

11 He tells us what his number was:

12 'I got peas, mashed potatoes and sausages for my
13 dinner on the evening I arrived.

14 'If you ran away, you got strapped with the belt six
15 times on the bare backside. I never ran away and
16 I never had a bad mark against me.

17 'On my first night at Balgowan, someone urinated in
18 my bed, which was an initiation. The staff kept the
19 boys who had a bed wetting problem near the door of the
20 dorm and the night watchman, who we called Joe the
21 Skull, woke them up during the night to go to the
22 toilet.'

23 He then talks about leaving Balgowan, and he says:

24 'I was out in under a year. The governor was
25 a Mr Dunphy and I asked him when I could get out. He

1 asked me when my birthday was and I told him [and he
2 says his birthday]. He said that I would be out for my
3 birthday. A few weeks after that he told me that he
4 couldn't release me on my birthday because of the way it
5 landed, so he told me to go home until my birthday and
6 then come back. I was sent home for about three weeks
7 holiday, then I went back to Balgowan and I was
8 discharged.

9 'I was out for a period of time. I went back [and
10 he names the school he went back to] ... then I got a
11 recall to Balgowan for Shoplifting. I was back in
12 Balgowan for seven or eight months and then I got out
13 again.'

14 He then says that the only place he experienced
15 anything sexual was in a remand home which was called
16 Bellfield House, and that was an assessment centre where
17 you were sent for reports. He says that this was during
18 the time he had first left Balgowan and his recall to
19 Balgowan. He was about ten years old. He describes
20 being taken for a shower at Bellfield House by a man who
21 started to wash him down. He names that man and
22 describes him. He says that this man was interrupted by
23 another member of staff coming in.

24 He states that shortly after he was released from
25 Balgowan the second time he was caught for shoplifting

1 in Dundee, and four of them had bunked off school one
2 day and they went through to Dundee. He says:

3 'We were remanded to Harestane Remand Home in
4 Dundee. My friends all got probation, but because I had
5 been in a List D school before I was sent to Oakbank.'

6 He then talks about his time in Oakbank from
7 paragraph 19. He says he was there the summer of 1969.
8 Doesn't talk about any abuse there.

9 When he left Oakbank he went back to Perth and got
10 a job as a fitter with a firm, in July 1960. But he was
11 in and out of court, he says, being admonished until he
12 was 14. Then he was involved in fighting at a football
13 match and he was sent to Rossie. He said it was not
14 long after the Ibrox disaster, which was January 1971.
15 He would have been about 16 years old.

16 If I can go to paragraph 22 of his statement:

17 'I was sent to Rossie Farm for fighting at
18 a football match. It was a St Johnstone versus Aberdeen
19 game which was played in Perth. The fight took place
20 outside the football park, but happened not long after
21 the Ibrox disaster and this was mentioned in court.

22 I was sent to Harestane Remand Home for a couple of
23 weeks and then I was sent to Rossie Farm. [REDACTED] LOF
24 took me there from Harestane. He was a governor and he
25 was a police Bailie at [REDACTED]. He also

1 frequented Harestane. Rossie Farm was where all the
2 trouble started.'

3 Then he talks about his time in Rossie between
4 paragraphs 23 and 90. He talks about being locked in
5 cells at Rossie. He says there was fighting among the
6 boys. But he enjoyed working on the farm. He did
7 receive the belt whilst there, and he was running away
8 a lot. He describes self-harm by one of the boys there,
9 and also suicide by one of the residents later in life,
10 which he attributes to what happened to the boy in
11 Rossie.

12 He states that he should have been paid for working
13 when he was in Rossie, working on the farm, but the
14 staff ended up keeping the money, saying it had been
15 used up in petrol, bringing him back and forth from
16 court and after running away.

17 He says there was peer abuse there and he was put in
18 a special dorm for boys who wet the bed and it was
19 called 'piss the bed dorm'. There was physical abuse by
20 staff. He was hit on the head with a brick by another
21 boy and punched, and didn't receive any medical
22 treatment for that.

23 He was put in segregation cell after running away
24 and he was out of association for about ten days, and he
25 says he was there for 24 hours a day.

1 In one incident he received a backhander from one of
2 the members of staff at Rossie and that loosened his
3 teeth, and he wasn't allowed to see a dentist to get his
4 teeth fixed and he eventually lost his two front teeth.

5 He says he got the belt there and they were abnormal
6 punishments, and he talks about a boy dying from
7 [REDACTED] just after he left.

8 He was then sent to Polmont, in December 1971. He
9 talked about Polmont from paragraph 91. That evidence,
10 my Lady, was read-in on 9 November last year, Day 387.
11 He comments that Polmont was far easier than Rossie.

12 He got out of Polmont in November 1972, when he was
13 17 and then talks about life after being in care between
14 paragraphs 96 and 98. He went back home to Perth, got
15 a job on a cargo ship and worked at sea and travelled
16 all over Europe. He has worked in various jobs,
17 Belfast, England in London. He has three children,
18 although he's separated from their mother.

19 He was back in prison a couple of times in his
20 earlier days, but he says he hasn't been inside a court
21 for 40 years, except for a minor littering offence.

22 He talks about impact from paragraph 98, but
23 essentially it relates to Rossie, which he thinks about
24 daily and the loss of his front teeth.

25 Then, at paragraph 107, at the end of his statement,

1 he states:

2 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true.'

6 He has signed that and it's dated 29 March 2021.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. That neatly takes us to
8 11.30. I'll rise now for the morning break and we'll
9 return to some more read-ins after that. Thank you.
10 (11.31 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.46 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Just before we turn to the next read-in, three
14 names I want to mention, who have been referred to in
15 the read-ins before the break. One was Mr ^{GMZ} [REDACTED],
16 another was Mr ^{GNC} [REDACTED], known as ^{GNC} [REDACTED], and
17 another was Mr ^{LSB} [REDACTED]. They all have the protection of my
18 General Restriction Order and are not to be identified
19 outside this room.

20 Now, Ms Forbes.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who is
22 anonymous, known at 'Scott'. The reference for his
23 statement is WIT.001.002.1102.

24 'Scott' (read)

25 'Scott' was born in 1956 and brought up in Maryhill,

1 in Glasgow. He says he remembers all the places he was
2 in, but not the detail. He talks about life before care
3 between paragraphs 3 and 9. He lived with his parents,
4 two sisters and a brother in a tenement flat. They all
5 slept together in a double bed.

6 Life at the flat was horrendous. His mother and
7 father were never there. His father worked in the
8 bookmakers and, if he wasn't there, he was in the pub.
9 He drank and he gambled.

10 The electricity and gas were cut off. His father
11 had to do all the cooking over a coal fire. He was made
12 to break into coal bunkers to steal coal, and his mum
13 used to buy candles to light the place. But it got to
14 the stage where they couldn't even afford the candles.
15 His father had gambled all the money away and he was
16 sent to St Giles Chapel to steal candles. He had to
17 steal clothes off washing lines because they didn't have
18 anything.

19 He was only a wee boy whilst he was doing that. He
20 says he would come home from school and there would be
21 nobody at home, so he roamed the streets. He was
22 starving and, on one occasion, he broke into the school
23 to get something to eat from the dining hall.

24 His mother would be away for weeks or months at
25 a time and then come back full of the drink and she

1 would bring back fancy men.

2 There were arguments between his parents and he
3 witnessed violence. He was stripped naked by his mother
4 when he was seven or eight and he was beaten with
5 a carpet beater. He was screaming. The neighbours
6 tried to help and police and social work became involved
7 and this is when he was taken away from the family home.

8 He went to a children's home. He talks about that
9 between paragraphs 10 and 31. He thinks he was there
10 twice. The first time maybe for a year, and then again
11 when he was nine.

12 He describes himself as being mentally disturbed at
13 that point. He describes himself as having a speech
14 impediment and being an undernourished and frightened
15 little boy.

16 He ran away a few times because of what was
17 happening in the home and he missed his parents. He
18 says that at the home he would receive the belt on his
19 hands and back from staff and, on one occasion, he was
20 made to strip naked by a member of staff and was
21 touched, and he says there was inappropriate conduct
22 that took place.

23 In between the times at the home he was sent back
24 with his parents. Whilst he was home, he says he was
25 sexually abused by a neighbour, and when he was nine or

1 ten he was sent to Larchgrove Remand Home.

2 He talks about Larchgrove between paragraphs 34 and
3 43. He was there maybe five to eight weeks for
4 an assessment. He says there wasn't anything good at
5 Larchgrove and he was sexually abused by two members of
6 staff whilst there.

7 He also talks about one of the residents murdering
8 another resident whilst he was there. He then left
9 Larchgrove and was sent to Balrossie, and he thinks he
10 was between nine and 11 years of age when he went there.
11 He talks about that between paragraphs 45 and 67.

12 He was sexually abused by an older boy there on
13 a regular basis, and he says that happened from the very
14 first day. There was, in general, sexual abuse by boys
15 towards other boys, the older towards the younger.
16 There was also physical abuse. He describes the bullies
17 there as being 'horrendous'.

18 He ran away because of the abuse and he got the belt
19 from staff. There were physical assaults by staff. He
20 was made to strip naked and he was held whilst he was
21 belted on the back, buttocks and thigh. He had injuries
22 as a result.

23 He was put into a segregation room until the
24 injuries cleared up. He was in there for days the first
25 time and then, after a similar assault, was there for

1 a fortnight.

2 He says his mother took him to the police and showed
3 them his injuries but they weren't interested. And
4 staff were trying to find out why he was running away,
5 but he was too scared to tell them about the bullies and
6 the resident who was abusing him.

7 He says that a psychiatrist saw him on one occasion
8 at Balrossie, but he didn't tell him what was happening.

9 However, after that, the resident who was abusing
10 him was moved to Thornly Park. But, unfortunately, he
11 was then moved from Balrossie to Thornly Park.

12 He talks about Thornly Park between paragraphs 68
13 and 72. He thinks he was there between the ages of 11
14 or 12. He was there for a few months. He says nothing
15 was good there. The resident who had abused him at
16 Balrossie was there and he was put in beside him and the
17 same sexual abuse happened again.

18 He was running away to get away from that. But, at
19 Thornly Park, it was just that resident that was doing
20 that to him there.

21 He said he got belt on the hands after running away,
22 but nothing like what happened at Balrossie.

23 He then went to Balgowan after Thornly Park, and he
24 talks about Balgowan at paragraph 73 of his statement.
25 I'll just read from there:

1 'Balgowan was in Dundee. I think I went there
2 straight after Thornly Park. I don't remember going
3 home or going anywhere else in between. The only reason
4 I can think of why I was sent all the way to Dundee is
5 maybe because I had started running away again. I was
6 only there for a short time. I think it was only for
7 a couple of months. I think I was between 12 and 14
8 when I was there, but I am not sure. It looked like one
9 of the big, long private schools you see in Edinburgh.
10 It was a building like that. It had a football park at
11 the front of it.

12 'Mr ^{LUP} [REDACTED] was the physical education instructor.
13 He walked with a limp. He was bald. He had a big, long
14 nose with a point. It made him look like a witch.

15 'There was a night watchman, but he was never about.
16 He was supposed to be covering the whole building, but
17 he was never there. He didn't do his job properly.

18 'There were lots of dormitories. We all slept in
19 dorms. The dorm I was in had, maybe, about 24 boys in
20 it.

21 'I can't remember any visits from anyone whilst
22 I was there. I can't remember any social workers being
23 involved. I don't remember any children's hearings or
24 things like that.

25 'I ran away regularly from Balgowan. I ran away

1 because of the things that were getting done to me in
2 the dorm. I was trying to get away from that.
3 I wouldn't tell anybody why I was running away. If
4 I had said anything to anyone I would have just said
5 that I was getting bullied. I wouldn't have said
6 anything about what was really happening.

7 'Mr ^{LUP} [REDACTED] molested me. He was like ^{MKI} [REDACTED] was
8 at Larchgrove. He was much the same in the way he acted
9 as ^{MKI} [REDACTED].'

10 This was a member of staff that he talked about
11 abusing him in Larchgrove:

12 'He got near to me through me going to the
13 gymnasium. He did what he did in the gym. There were
14 outside toilets next to the gym. You could use those
15 toilets if you were out in the playground playing games
16 or whatever. He would touch me up, feel my bum, and all
17 that carry on in there. He'd say things to me. I think
18 he was known for all of that in Balgowan.

19 'There was no one there to look after you. When
20 I was in the dorm, I saw residents jumping in and out of
21 each other's beds. They were doing it to each other.
22 There was always a level of bullying. There were
23 hardcore bullies in there. It was the bullies who
24 picked on guys like me. The bullies picked on me to do
25 dirty things to them.

1 'One night I was told by one of the boys that I had
2 to start in bed one giving the guy a wank and a gobble,
3 then I had to work my way round the dorm. I remember
4 bolting out of a fire door at one o'clock in the morning
5 because of that. I went out the fire exit and down the
6 stairs with another boy from my dorm. We wandered into
7 the middle of nowhere in the centre of Dundee.

8 'I got caught by the police. They took me back to
9 the home. I don't think I said anything to them about
10 why I was running away. That, again, was out of fear.
11 I got leathered by the staff when I got back. I got
12 given the belt on my hand. It was the guy who was
13 second in charge who did that. I can't recall his
14 name.'

15 He then went to Barlinnie and Longriggend, and that
16 section of his statement was read-in during the Scottish
17 Prison Service chapter on 8 November 2023, Day 286.

18 He says he was only 12 to 14 years old when he was
19 sent to Barlinnie and then Longriggend. He says he was
20 the youngest boy in Scotland to be sent to these places
21 at the time. He was in and out of Longriggend in
22 between Approved Schools. He talks about abuse at
23 Longriggend, had to sit on a chair all day and was
24 assaulted by prison officers.

25 After that, he was sent to Oakbank in Aberdeen and

1 he talks about that between paragraphs 92 and 96. He
2 says that the bullying there was horrendous, but there
3 was no problem with the staff.

4 He ran away from Oakbank and stole a money box from
5 the office. He was caught by police and given the
6 choice to stay in Oakbank or go to Rossie, and he chose
7 Rossie.

8 He then talks about Rossie from paragraph 97
9 onwards. He says he was 14 or 15 when he went there and
10 he was there for nine months. He was put into a single
11 cell for two or three months before he was moved into
12 a dorm. There were also punishment cells there for bad
13 boys, he says.

14 When he got to Rossie, he discovered that the
15 resident who had been sexually abusing him from
16 Balrossie was there. Again, he was sexually abused by
17 him whilst at Rossie on a regular basis.

18 He saw another resident being physically assaulted
19 by staff and put into a punishment cell, and that when
20 that boy got out of the cell he wasn't the same.

21 He was then in Oakbank, and he talks about that at
22 paragraph 107 and 108. He went back there after Rossie,
23 for a short time. He doesn't know how old he was. He
24 says that Oakbank was different the second time. There
25 was no abuse and the place felt different.

1 After Oakbank, he was released home. He thinks he
2 was about 15. He went back to his parents' house, who
3 by that time had moved to Possilpark. But it was
4 horrendous when he moved back. His parents were still
5 the same way. He hadn't been around his family and he'd
6 missed out on family life and he felt institutionalised.

7 He ran around with older boys and was involved in
8 crime. He was in Larchgrove and then Geilsland, and he
9 talks about that between paragraphs 114 and 129.

10 The resident who had been abusing him before was
11 again now at Geilsland, and he sexually abused him
12 again. He was running away because of that.

13 He says he was also sexually and physically abused
14 regularly by a member of staff whilst he was there. He
15 was allowed away on leave from Geilsland and he broke
16 into a bingo hall with two other boys. He ended up at
17 Glasgow Sheriff Court and was sent to Polmont. He says
18 he was about 16 or 17 when he was sent there. He was
19 there for about nine months.

20 He talks about that between paragraphs 130 and 139,
21 and, again, that evidence was read in on Day 386.

22 Whilst there, he experienced and witnessed physical
23 abuse by staff. But, again, this previous resident who
24 sexually abused him was there again and the sexual abuse
25 by him started up again on a daily basis. They were

1 both working in the same work unit. That went on until
2 he managed to get into the cook house and he was able to
3 get away from him.

4 After leaving Polmont, he got into trouble and was
5 recalled and sent to Barlinnie. He was 17 or 18 when he
6 was sent there. That was for ten weeks. Again, that
7 evidence was read in on Day 386. There was no problems
8 or abuse whilst he was in Barlinnie, he says.

9 'Scott' then talks about his life after care,
10 paragraph 145. He says Barlinnie operated as
11 a revolving door up until the age of about 21. Then he
12 ended up in mainstream prison population. He got
13 married in 1981 and was allowed to leave -- at that time
14 he was in Perth Prison -- to attend his wedding. He had
15 three children. Later got divorced, and says that he
16 was never there for his children and has no contact with
17 them now.

18 He had two daughters to another woman and they were
19 both placed in care. He later had a daughter and a son
20 to another woman, who he was with for a long time. He
21 said that she kept him out of jail and for that time he
22 had a great wee life and he still sees both of those
23 children.

24 He talks about impact from paragraph 152. He says
25 that his time in care has damaged him psychologically,

1 physically and sexually. He's mentally and physically
2 not well and he says his life has been ruined. The
3 resident who he talks about throughout his statement,
4 who abused him, is still around and he's reported him to
5 the police.

6 He says he was never visited in the establishments
7 he was in and he's been used by people all his life.
8 He's just been passed about. He can't hold down
9 a relationship, can't hold conversations, and he's been
10 on his own now for a long time.

11 He stays in his house and locks himself away and
12 says he's been bullied all his life by people and later
13 his family. He said he never really got into drugs, but
14 he, at the time of giving this statement, had recently
15 been taking crack cocaine, but he said he was off it.

16 He then talks about reporting abuse from
17 paragraph 168, and he says that he spoke to the Glasgow
18 Association for Mental Health. He spoke to them in 2003
19 and told them about all the abuse that had happened and
20 then reported a lot of it to the police.

21 In 'Lessons to be Learned', from paragraph 174, he
22 says:

23 'These places were not nice. Sexual abuse was rife.
24 If they had cut out the bullying in these places it
25 might have been easier to report things.'

1 He then says, at paragraph 178:

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

4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true.'

6 He has signed that and it's dated 5 September 2018.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, I'll now pass over to Mr Sheldon.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 A couple of names there relating to people whose
11 identities are protected by my General Restriction
12 Order, Mr ^{LUP} [REDACTED], and Mr ^{MKI} [REDACTED]. They're not to be
13 identified outside this room.

14 Mr Sheldon.

15 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

16 The next statement is of an applicant who wishes to
17 remain anonymous and wishes to be known by the name
18 'Alexander'.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MR SHELDON: His statement is WIT-1-000000958.

21 'Alexander' (read)

22 MR SHELDON: 'Alexander', my Lady, was born in 1958. He
23 grew up in a large extended family in the Parkhead area
24 of Glasgow. His mother and stepfather later split up
25 and they moved together to the Bridgeton area of

1 Glasgow. But he says, on the whole, his childhood was
2 a happy one and life at home was pretty good.

3 He says that he, whilst still at primary school,
4 fell into some bad company and started truanting, and
5 ultimately ended up in a juvenile court. He was sent to
6 Larchgrove Remand Home for seven days' detention.

7 He appears to have had some convictions at that
8 stage. It's not clear what the nature of that was, but
9 he said he'd been given a stolen peddle cycle and that,
10 it seems, is how he ended up in Larchgrove.

11 He was in Larchgrove on two occasions, my Lady, the
12 first time in about 1968, so he would have been aged
13 about nine or ten. He says that Larchgrove was run like
14 an army camp and staff would shout at you just to
15 humiliate and degrade children.

16 He describes the humiliation of bed wetters and some
17 physical abuse. He was then back home with his mother
18 for a while, and then had a second stint in Larchgrove.

19 He was ultimately sent to Balgowan, after this
20 second visit to Larchgrove. It's not completely clear
21 when that was, but the statement suggests that this
22 would have been about 1969 and that view is supported by
23 the fact that he names -- he says that ^{SNR} [REDACTED]
24 was Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], but one assumes that he means Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], who
25 was then still ^{SNR} [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 Mr ^{LSB} .

2 That was about 1969/1970, my Lady.

3 If I can take the statement up at paragraph 23,
4 page 6, where 'Alexander', as it were, sets the scene.

5 He says:

6 'Balgowan had a long driveway through a massive
7 estate. There was a big dining room on the ground
8 floor. There was another separate unit called the
9 special unit. All the "goody, goody" boys got to stay
10 there. They got to do lots of different things and
11 different treats that the rest of the boys didn't get.
12 I was never in this special unit. There must have been
13 about 120 boys in total in Balgowan. I was one of the
14 youngest boys there, at nine, and the oldest boys would
15 have been about 16. The dorm I had had about 20 boys in
16 it. At one point I was moved into a dorm with older
17 boys, but I am not sure why. There was a rumour when
18 I arrived that a boy had hung himself in the bell tower
19 and it was now haunted. The dorm I moved to was near
20 the bell tower, so I was petrified for weeks in this new
21 dorm. It was also closer to the night watchman, so it
22 could have been so he could keep an eye on me and stop
23 me absconding.'

24 He then talks about the governance of the school
25 and, at paragraph 25, he says:

1 'Balgowan was run like a military establishment.
2 There were lots of parades on the square, rain, hail or
3 shine. You were sometimes left standing out there for
4 hours.'

5 He goes on to describe the routine at Balgowan. He
6 says that he was initially taken into the building.
7 This is paragraph 26:

8 'I met Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], ^{SNR} [REDACTED], on my own. He took
9 me into his office and was talking to me. I had no idea
10 what he was saying and couldn't take anything in because
11 I felt numb and didn't know where I was or what was
12 happening. He said something about me keeping myself to
13 myself and not getting into any trouble and I would be
14 okay. I was then taken from there and given a uniform
15 to put on and shown my dorm where I would be sleeping.'

16 He goes on to describe, my Lady, the routine. He
17 says, at paragraph 28, that the food was good and they
18 got porridge and sometimes cornflakes for breakfast.
19 Wednesday and Thursdays -- paragraph 29 -- were shower
20 days and there was, it seems, a television to watch.

21 He says, at paragraph 31:

22 'In the evening we could watch the television or
23 play games. I didn't get involved with the others very
24 much because I was too busy planning my next escape. We
25 went on a few trips when I was at Balgowan. We went to

1 London for a couple of weeks and I enjoyed it,
2 especially travelling through Devon. Another trip was
3 up in the Highlands to Glenhead Lodge. I enjoyed these
4 trips and these are good memories.'

5 My Lady will recall Glenhead is the country house
6 that seems to have been attached to Balgowan, near to
7 Kirkton of Glenisla.

8 Paragraph 32, page 9:

9 'I had been told I had been sent to Balgowan to get
10 an education. After breakfast every morning we were
11 told what we were allocated to do that day. We might go
12 to a workshop or to a classroom. It was usually
13 classroom through the week and workshop at the weekend.
14 I was always in the same class. One of the teachers was
15 ERM and I had him most of the time.
16 I liked him and he taught us about nature and things
17 like that. Another teacher was GMZ and he taught
18 English. There was another teacher, Mr Paterson, who
19 had a cleft lip. Overall, I think the quality of
20 education was good to an extent. After lunch, we often
21 had physical exercise.'

22 He then says a little about healthcare, religious
23 instruction, work, birthdays and so on.

24 Page 10, paragraph 40, he says:

25 'Because my mum lived so far away she only managed

1 to come every six weeks or so, and she came on her own.
2 [REDACTED] had taught me how to write letters, so
3 I wrote to my mum and she wrote back. I knew, because
4 they told me, that they would read the letters before
5 they were sent and the replies from my mum had been
6 opened and obviously been read before I received them.
7 I didn't see a social worker all the time I was there.'

8 Paragraph 41:

9 'As far as I knew, I was going to be there between
10 one and three years. No one ever sat down with me and
11 told me how long I would be there for or gave me any
12 inclination [probably "indication"] as to what was
13 happening. I wasn't there to be assessed. I was
14 supposedly there to get an education.'

15 He says a little about discipline and the recording
16 of good and bad behaviour.

17 He says, at paragraph 43:

18 'If I didn't have bad reports I got weekend leave.
19 I didn't get it straightaway and had been there for
20 about four months before it started. Before I got
21 weekend leave, I was allowed out on an afternoon leave.
22 This meant I could go into Dundee city centre and I was
23 allowed out on my own. They even gave me some money.
24 When I got weekend leave I went home to my mum's.'

25 Paragraph 44:

1 'I was a prolific absconder, and if there was
2 a record for the most times anyone ran away, I would
3 have held that record. When I was home for weekend
4 leave I just decided not to go back. As far as my mum
5 knew, I was going back and I never told her otherwise.
6 I wouldn't have got her involved because at that time
7 she could have been prosecuted for harbouring me. The
8 first she would know was when the police turned up at
9 her door looking for me. I usually stayed with some of
10 my friends whose parents didn't know I was in
11 an Approved School. I was caught when the police
12 stopped me for a routine check and would be taken to the
13 police station, where I would wait for the staff to pick
14 me up.

15 'The first time I ran away I was severely punished.
16 I never heard about any of the other boys who ran away
17 getting punished like I was.

18 'Because of that beating, it changed my attitude
19 about running away. It made me all the more determined
20 not to get caught. It changed my mindset and I made
21 every effort not to get caught by the police. When we
22 were taken out on day excursions, if there was any
23 chance of running off, I would. I ran away when we were
24 on a trip to Edinburgh and another time when we were in
25 London. I was caught in London after a couple of hours

1 and held in a remand unit until the staff came for me.
2 When I ran away I would never go back to my house for
3 fear of getting my mother into trouble with the police.'

4 Taking this short, he would sometimes stay with
5 friends:

6 'I usually got caught within a couple of weeks, not
7 any longer. Sometimes I actually wanted to get caught
8 because I was fed up.'

9 Paragraph 47, 'Good memories':

10 'Muriel McKenzie, the matron, was a good woman.
11 After the severe hammering from Mr ^{LIF} and Mr ^{LSB}, she
12 kept me under her wing and looked after me. She treated
13 my injuries, and she gave me jobs and tasks to do to
14 keep my occupied. She took me into the office and
15 Gill Ireland had obviously been told by the matron what
16 had happened to me. After that Gill Ireland was good to
17 me, too. She made sure I got my weekend leave. These
18 were the only two females in the school, and because of
19 them I calmed down and just got on with it. I had been
20 traumatised by the incident, but they did their best to
21 help me.'

22 He then goes on to talk about this particular
23 incident, and abuse generally, at paragraph 48. He
24 says -- actually, skipping that first sentence:

25 '^{GMZ}, the English teacher, was like a volcano

1 and all of a sudden would explode. Sometimes he skelped
2 boys on the side of their heads if they did something
3 like running in the corridor. His favourite was to grab
4 boys by the lapels and drag them into the corner and
5 make them stand there facing the wall. Other times, he
6 would throw things at boys in the classroom. One time
7 he threw a set of keys and it hit a boy on his head and
8 cut him. He was sent to the matron to get treatment.
9 Everyone sat in fear in his class and often you would be
10 able to hear a pin drop.

11 'After being there about six months, I had been on
12 weekend leave and didn't go back. The police caught me
13 and I was collected from the police station by a member
14 of staff called Mr ^{GNA} [REDACTED]. He chatted to me all the
15 way back and he seemed to be a really nice guy. When
16 I got back, nothing else was said about me running away.
17 The next day, I was told when I was in the playground
18 that I was to go to the matron's sick bay. I went in
19 and the door was shut behind me. There were a few other
20 staff in there and I started to panic. ^{SNR} [REDACTED],
21 Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], then told me I was going to be punished for
22 running away and bringing the police to the school.

23 'The next thing I remember was being on the
24 examination table, lying on my front. My trousers and
25 pants were at my ankles. Other members of staff were

1 holding me. Two were holding my shoulders and another
2 two were holding my feet. They were Mr ^{GNB} [REDACTED],
3 Mr ^{GNA} [REDACTED], Mr ^{GNC} [REDACTED], and I think the other holding
4 me was Mr ^{LSB} [REDACTED], ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] then
5 started beating me with a thick leather strap that had
6 a split at the end. Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] was about 85 years of age
7 and the first few strikes hit my backside, but then he
8 started missing and was hitting my back. It was agony.
9 'Mr ^{LSB} [REDACTED] then suggested that he take over and he
10 then hit me with the belt and he was leathering my bare
11 backside. I became numb to what was going on because of
12 the pain and I couldn't say how many times I was hit. I
13 was screaming for my mother and was distraught. I was
14 still nine when this happened. They were like a pack of
15 wolves attacking a lamb.
16 'When they finished, the men left the room and the
17 matron, Muriel McKenzie, treated the weals on my back
18 with cream. She was trying to console me. She was
19 crying and kept saying to me that what had happened was
20 wrong. I didn't understand what she was meaning, but
21 I know now. I thought at the time that this must have
22 been normal punishment if you were bad. I thought it
23 was done to use me as an example to all the other boys.
24 This only ever happened once to me and I never heard
25 about it happening to anyone else. Muriel McKenzie

1 treated the weals on my back for a few weeks. Because
2 my backside and back were so sore I couldn't sit down or
3 lie on my back in my bed. It was like that for weeks,
4 maybe even months. Once the matron paid an interest in
5 me after my beating and, after Gill Ireland knew, I had
6 someone to speak to and confide in, up until then I felt
7 very alone.

8 'After the incident when I was beaten, all the other
9 teachers shunned me and treated me differently. At one
10 point, my whole class were made to stand on the parade
11 square for an hour and the staff told the class that
12 they were being punished because of what I had done.
13 This turned a lot of the other boys against me and I got
14 a hard time from them.

15 'I think some of the staff deliberately got the boys
16 to target me. I know for a fact that one time I was
17 getting bullied by another boy, Mr ^{GNA} [REDACTED] was
18 standing nearby and would have seen me getting battered,
19 but he just turned and walked away. I can't remember
20 the names of the bullies, but they were 15 or 16.
21 I tried to stay out their way as much as I could. All
22 that time I felt like a black sheep in a flock of white
23 sheep. I wasn't aware of anyone else being singled out.

24 'Within a few minutes of lights out, I would get
25 pelted with boys' shoes when I was lying in my bed. It

1 got so bad at one point that I crawled under my bed to
2 go to sleep. One of these boys was called [REDACTED]
3 and another [REDACTED]. I became friendly with a
4 boy called [REDACTED], who was a good fighter. I
5 paired up with him, so it was a bit easier for a while.
6 Unfortunately, when he left, my life collapsed again and
7 the bullying started up again. There was a lot of
8 bullying at Balgowan by the older boys on the younger
9 boys. I was a quiet guy, so I was an easy target for
10 them.

11 'I know that some of the boys would be taken grouse
12 beating with ^{GNF}[REDACTED]. He would take ten or 12 of
13 the older boys at a time, in the summer. When they came
14 back, they told me that they had been given alcohol by
15 him and were paid £5. They said the food they got was
16 great and that they had enjoyed themselves. They never
17 said anything else happened, just that they got alcohol
18 and money. I was never asked to go on these outings.'

19 Talking about reporting of abuse at Balgowan,
20 'Alexander' says:

21 'After the time I ran away and was given a severe
22 beating by ^{LIF}[REDACTED] and ^{LSB}[REDACTED], I was refused home leave for
23 a few months. When I did eventually get home I showed
24 my mum the marks on my back and told her what had
25 happened. Even though it was two or three months since

1 I was beaten, the marks were still there. She freaked
2 out when she saw my back. I don't know what my mum did
3 after I told her, but I was never beaten again at
4 Balgowan, even when I ran away and was returned by the
5 police.

6 'I never trusted anyone at Balgowan to tell them
7 about the abuse. There was one person I might have
8 told, Mr ^{GNA} [REDACTED], because I thought I trusted him, but
9 he then held me down while I was severely beaten.
10 I couldn't trust anyone after that.'

11 He then talks about leaving Balgowan. He says that
12 in total he was in Balgowan for about 18 months and
13 simply given a train ticket and sent away. He was at
14 home again for a while, but, again, truanted and was
15 sent to Thornly Park List D School.

16 He has some good things to say about the head at
17 Thornly Park. He doesn't seem to have suffered any
18 significant abuse, although mentions one incident where
19 he says he didn't receive appropriate medical treatment
20 for a leg condition, which may have been neurological.
21 It's not clear. We'll come back to that in the section
22 on impact.

23 He says there was never any physical punishment at
24 Thornly Park. He didn't experience any and didn't see
25 other boys being hit.

1 He was then again at home and, again, truanting from
2 normal school and was sent to The Kibble. He again
3 describes certainly lesser abuse than at Balgowan. But
4 does say that he experienced some peer abuse from
5 particular groups of boys, but, by that stage, was
6 perhaps old enough to take action to defend himself.

7 Ultimately, he ran away from Kibble because of the
8 abuse and the possible consequences of that.

9 He then leaves Kibble and he got a job aged 18, but
10 was in trouble with the law and ultimately was sent to
11 Longriggend. He says that was in 1977.

12 He describes Longriggend as 'brutal' and 'hell'. He
13 was then later in Glenochil, but doesn't describe any
14 significant abuse at Glenochil. He does note that as
15 a young person he was held in Glenochil with very
16 serious offenders and says that it wasn't right.

17 At page 24, paragraph 94, he says:

18 'In 1982, I met my wife-to-be and I was never in
19 bother with the police again. We married in 1989.'

20 He did a business and management course and did well
21 building up a business. But, unfortunately, had
22 an accident and couldn't work and lost his business.

23 At page 25, he describes the impact and emphasises,
24 my Lady, the impact of abuse at Balgowan on his life.

25 At paragraph 95, he says:

1 'Balgowan was a catalyst for what was going to
2 happen to me for the rest of my life and how everything
3 followed on from that. As a result, since the incident
4 where I was leathered by Mr ^{LJF} [REDACTED] and Mr ^{LSB} [REDACTED] after
5 running away, I have learned never to trust anybody, and
6 I mean anybody. This put the shutters up for me.

7 'Of all the places, including young offenders
8 institutions, borstal and prison, Balgowan was without
9 doubt the worst place I have ever been. It may have
10 been that I was institutionalised by the time I got to
11 prison because I knew everyone, they all knew me and
12 I knew the routine, what to expect and how to behave.
13 It was all ingrained into me.

14 'I have never been able to work for somebody because
15 I couldn't handle being told what to do or someone
16 standing over me watching what I was doing. This stems
17 back to my early days at Balgowan. I have always worked
18 on my own and been my own boss. Even if nowadays
19 someone looks over my shoulder when I'm doing a job, it
20 makes me very uncomfortable.

21 'Ever since the time I had issues with my legs in
22 Thornly Park I still have issues to this day. I was
23 sent to the neuroscience department at the Queen
24 Margaret Hospital and they have told me that I have
25 neurological damage.'

1 Taking that short, it makes it difficult to put
2 weight on his feet and at times his feet get very hot.

3 He says at paragraph 99, when he was about 29 he saw
4 an individual who had bullied him at Kibble in a pub,
5 and went over to him and said:

6 'I wasn't a wee boy anymore and I asked him if he
7 wanted to beat me up now. His face went white. My mum
8 was there and I told her this was one of the boys that
9 bullied me at The Kibble. He tried to make excuses that
10 they were all just young boys. I wanted to beat him up,
11 but I decided he wasn't worth it.'

12 He then goes on to say that he had always wanted to
13 work. Paragraph 101:

14 'My wife and every other partner I have ever had
15 have told me that I have a serious trust issue and
16 I know they are right. Ever since I was beaten at
17 Balgowan and I was held down by Mr ^{GNA} [REDACTED], who
18 I liked and trusted, I have not been able to trust
19 anyone. Everything and everyone I come across I have to
20 analyse and I am always very sceptical. I have to know
21 someone for a very long time before I can even remotely
22 trust them or let the brick wall down that I have built
23 up. I know I have a chip on my shoulder and I hate it
24 and would like to get rid of that, but I can't. I push
25 people away who try to get close to me. I am frightened

1 to let my defences down because I am afraid I will get
2 hurt.

3 'It took me years to disassociate myself from all
4 the people who I came across in my time in care and
5 prison. As soon as I met my wife I pulled myself away
6 from them all.'

7 He says, at paragraph 103:

8 'My own personal health is not great. I have
9 arthritis, fibromyalgia, and I have suffered a heart
10 attack. I have had stents fitted to my heart. I was
11 only diagnosed within the last few months with
12 fibromyalgia. I have been told by Professor John Reid
13 that my fibromyalgia could stem from childhood trauma.
14 I have had the symptoms of fibromyalgia for a long
15 time.'

16 At page 27, paragraph 107, he talks about lessons to
17 be learned, and he says:

18 'Staff at children's homes must be trained to
19 identify the signs of child abuse before it is too late.
20 If a child appears isolated and playing alone, there
21 might be something not right. Something should be done
22 to find out if he is frightened or unhappy. Gentle
23 questions might open up a Pandora's box. There must be
24 more intervention.

25 'Children must be spoken to for what they are, young

1 people. Speak to them at their level, never standing
2 up, looking down at them. That just instills fear. If
3 someone had approached me and asked me like that I would
4 have told them.'

5 He says his hopes for the Inquiry are:

6 'By me coming forward it will encourage others to do
7 the same. To have their say and to have their voices
8 heard children must be able to trust someone enough to
9 confide in them. That trust must never be broken or
10 that child will never trust again.'

11 My Lady will see he has signed the statement and
12 given the usual indication at paragraph 112 as to the
13 use of the statement.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 Just to add a few names to those I have already
16 mentioned today, ^{ERM} [REDACTED], Mr ^{GNA} [REDACTED],
17 Mr ^{GNB} [REDACTED] and ^{GNF} [REDACTED] were all referred to by
18 name, but they're not to be identified outside this
19 room, as they're protected by my General Restriction
20 Order.

21 Now, Ms Forbes.

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
23 who is anonymous and known as 'Fred'. His reference is
24 WIT-1-000001126.

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'Fred' (read)

MS FORBES: 'Fred' was born in 1953 and he talks about his life before care from paragraph 2. He was born in Aberdeen. He lived with his parents and was one of six children. He says he used to get a lot of hidings from his mother and father. His dad was a glazier and his mum worked with fish and, from his point of view, he was the bad egg.

His father and the three oldest kids were Catholic, and his mother and the three youngest were Protestant. He doesn't know why that happened. He was sent to Catholic school. He says when he was two-and-a-half, he was sent to Nazareth House, he doesn't know why, and he was there the same time as his brother, who was older and has most of the information from about his experience there.

He talks about that between paragraphs 13 and 20.

He thinks he was there for three months, and he talks about physical abuse whilst there.

He says he was in a children's shelter and went there whilst he was in primary school. He doesn't know how long he was there for. But, again, his brother was there with him. He remembers fighting with his brother a lot.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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He was then put into a children's home. He

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says that was between the ages of six and ten.

Secondary Institutions

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

He talks about Balgowan from

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paragraph 122 of his statement. I'll read from there:

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'I was in Balgowan for almost two years. I could

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have been out after 11 months, but I ran away three or

23

four times so had time added on. Three months every

24

time I ran away.

25

'I thought it was great there. There were around 90

1 kids in the school. Everyone stayed in their own
2 corner. Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, the boys
3 all had their own corner. So, when I went there, I sat
4 with the Aberdeen folk. The age range was 12 to 15. It
5 had to be because it was a school. We had to attend
6 classes between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

7 'It was a massive place, a big square and everything
8 was off the square. We had a gym, woodwork area,
9 classes for everything. In the middle of everything was
10 the playground.

11 'At one side under the dormitories was the food
12 hall, and at the other side under the dormitories were
13 the classrooms.

14 'Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED] was ^{SNR} [REDACTED] and ^{SNR} [REDACTED] was
15 Mr McGuire. Everyone was called "mister". There were
16 no teachers called by their first name. I remember
17 a teacher called Mr Skinner and a teacher called
18 Mr ^{GRZ} [REDACTED], who worked in the shoe shop.

19 'A few of the teachers in there were gay. I don't
20 want to go into any detail about that. I had no
21 interest in that. Some people did it their own way and
22 that was it. I just kept away from that and so did most
23 of my pals.

24 'There were one or two gay pupils in there as well.
25 The headmaster knew about that, but keeping the place

1 running smoothly was all they worried about.

2 'I remember my first day. My probation officer took
3 me from the court. The probation officer and another
4 guy from court took me. I wasn't handcuffed or anything
5 like that.

6 'They drove me down to Dundee. The school was just
7 off the Kingsway in Downfield. There was a hospital
8 behind the school as well. Strathmartine Hospital.
9 It's still there.

10 'I remember the year I was in there. It was 1966
11 because I remember watching England in the World Cup.
12 We watched it in the TV room. There was a good few of
13 us watched it. I think it was a Saturday. I would have
14 been 13.

15 'I met ^{SNR} [REDACTED] and ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. They told me
16 what was happening. I was then taken through to a room
17 where I got changed into the regular school uniform we
18 wore at the Approved School. I was allocated a number
19 and shown where to go.

20 'There were four dormitories, two at each end of the
21 school.

22 'The dormitories were all named after the glens,
23 Genisla, Glencoe. We all had a number and my number
24 was ...'

25 And he says his number:

1 'We had get up at the same time in the morning, get
2 washed, make our beds. Then we had to stand at the end
3 of our bed while they checked they were made properly.

4 'Before breakfast, we all had to stand in rows in
5 the playground. We stood in rows in our number order.
6 They would know if anyone was missing from the line
7 because we were in number order. Once everyone was
8 there we would be allowed in for our breakfast. At
9 bedtime, we would all have to stand by our beds again.
10 They would tell us to get undressed. We would put our
11 underwear in a basket at the foot of our beds and
12 someone would come round and take the baskets away. We
13 then turned our covers down and got into bed.

14 'Lights out would be about half an hour after that.
15 I would hear noises after lights out and there would be
16 fighting. A lot of trouble started when the lights went
17 out, but there were always teachers on. I think there
18 were two or three at each end of the building and they
19 were on all night. They would stop the fighting.

20 'As time went on, I started behaving myself. I got
21 to work in the kitchen, which meant I got to sleep in
22 a smaller dormitory. That was because we got up at
23 different times from the others. There were only six
24 beds in that dormitory and it was good. It was guys
25 I knew and who I worked with in the kitchen.

1 'After they checked our beds, we went downstairs to
2 the playground and lined up for breakfast. That was
3 just after 8.00 am. We ate our breakfast and then went
4 back out to the playground, where we were allocated to
5 our classes.

6 'After school, at 4.00 pm, we went back out into the
7 playground, lined up again and were allowed in for our
8 dinner.

9 'The food hall was in a large hall underneath the
10 dormitories.

11 'We would line up for our food, which was placed on
12 trays. We would help ourselves, take whatever we
13 wanted. The food was okay. I have no complaints about
14 the food.

15 'Once we finished our meal there were guys who would
16 clean the tables. The tables had covers on them and
17 they would turn the covers over at lunchtime for the
18 evening meal. The covers were washed at night for the
19 next day. They were made of a plastic type material,
20 not cloth.

21 'Later, when I was working in the kitchen, I would
22 take what I wanted, when no one was looking.

23 'We showered a few times a week at nighttime, before
24 we went to bed. I can't remember any issues at shower
25 time. There were around 40 guys in the dormitories at

1 each end of the school and the showers were at each end.

2 'We had a uniform at Balgowan. It was jeans and
3 a jumper. That's all it was. We only changed that once
4 a week, when they washed the clothes. I think it was
5 Friday night they did that. We had to put our clothes
6 into a laundry basket and they gave us fresh clothes for
7 the weekend.

8 'We used to play football with folk from the
9 hospitals sometimes. A lot of them were disabled, but
10 they played with us from the school. I was a full back
11 and had managed to get into the school team. We weren't
12 that bad. We also played other schools around Dundee
13 every Saturday morning and I looked forward to that.

14 'In the evenings, we had recreation. We had games
15 and some people made things with cardboard. You could
16 do whatever you wanted to do. We had recreation until
17 just after 8.00 pm. Then we had to go up to the
18 dormitories.

19 'On a Saturday afternoon, we were allowed to go out.
20 I think we were allowed out between 12.00 pm and
21 5.00 pm. We were given a shilling, which was a lot of
22 money back then. I would go and watch the football in
23 Dundee. We were given free tickets to watch either
24 Dundee at Dens Park or Dundee United at Tannadice. We
25 could spend our money on whatever we wanted.

1 'They took us on a holiday up the mountains to
2 a place called Glenhead, a retreat in the Cairngorms.
3 They also took us to Arbroath once a year; that was to
4 another school for a three-week holiday.

5 'We were at school between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm
6 Monday to Friday. We had different classes. Things
7 like woodwork, maths and suchlike. We did a bit of
8 everything.

9 'We didn't spend all our time sitting at desks,
10 though. We had shoe shops and forestry classes where we
11 learned to cut down bushes. It was all different
12 things, practical things. It was the same in
13 Rossie Farm.

14 'We had maths and English to do, too, and I got on
15 okay at that. It didn't bother me. The staff that were
16 teaching us in school were the same staff putting us to
17 bed at night. We just called them teachers.

18 'There were nurses in the school. They had their
19 own rooms and surgeries. We needed the nurses because
20 the playground was made of concrete. There were a lot
21 of people who fell playing football and injured
22 themselves. If there was a serious injury, they would
23 take us to hospital.

24 'The dentist was just down the hill from the school.
25 Ten or 12 of us would go down at any one time for

1 a check-up.

2 'The whole school went to church every Sunday. That
3 was passed Downfield and Strathmartine Road down towards
4 the Kingsway. There was a church there and I remember
5 us all walking down to it. Everyone knew we were from
6 the Approved School. We did that every Sunday, at
7 11.00 am.

8 'Not everyone was forced to go to the church. We
9 just went so we could get out of the school. I was
10 a Catholic, but there was no choice of where to go. We
11 were just asked if we wanted to go to church and that
12 was it. Most of us went just to get out and get some
13 exercise.

14 'I worked in the kitchen. They had cooks, but my
15 job was to take things like the cooked potatoes and put
16 them onto long trays. When the guys came in for their
17 tea they would just help themselves. It was good
18 working in the kitchen.

19 'I didn't take any possessions in there. They would
20 have been stolen.

21 'I had stopped bed wetting long before I went there.
22 There were some that still did, though, and they got
23 a lot of stick. At the end of the day, there was
24 a reason for it and once that was explained to us it
25 wasn't too bad. We used to have a laugh about it and

1 that was it.

2 'The boys wetting their bed had to take off their
3 own rubber sheets, wash them and put fresh ones on. The
4 staff didn't do anything like that.

5 'I got into a lot of fights in Balgowan. I was
6 always having trouble with someone. Everyone would hang
7 around in their own groups and that depended on where
8 you were from. The Glasgow boys stayed together, the
9 Dundee boys did the same, and so did the Aberdeen boys.

10 'There was no smoking allowed in Balgowan, but lots
11 of us did.

12 'I never had any visits from my probation officer
13 once I was in Balgowan. I never saw any other visitors
14 in there, no inspectors or anything like that. Once you
15 went into Balgowan they were in charge of you and that
16 was the end of it. Some of the teachers would look out
17 for you. If they thought something was wrong, they
18 would take you aside and ask you what the matter was.
19 They weren't all roughians. Some were sympathetic
20 towards you.

21 'If you went to see Mr ^{LIF} [REDACTED], ^{SNR} [REDACTED], he
22 would get one of the teachers to sit with you in a room.
23 A lot of the teachers in there were from Dundee. My mum
24 and dad visited me once when I was in Arbroath with the
25 school. We went there for three weeks every summer.

1 I can remember my mother and father coming down to see
2 me. It just happened to be the day I did something
3 wrong. I was standing with another ten guys and away
4 from the rest of the group down at the beach. My dad
5 came up and said a few nasty words to me. He had found
6 out from a teacher what I had done. I can't remember
7 what it was I had done.

8 'I ran away from Balgowan quite a few times,
9 although I was always caught and brought back. The
10 school wasn't secure. You could just walk out of
11 Balgowan. I got to Aberdeen a few times. I remember
12 walking to Montrose one time and stealing a bike.
13 I didn't walk all the way to Aberdeen.

14 'When I got to Aberdeen, I would go out with my
15 mates. I would stay at my mum and dad's and, a couple
16 of days later, the police would pick me up. They knew
17 I was there. Each time you ran away you had three
18 months added to your time at Balgowan. That's why I was
19 in there for so long.

20 'We weren't allowed to smoke in Balgowan. Lots of
21 guys did though. I did. I started smoking when I was
22 about 12. I used to steal them from my mother. If
23 a local shopkeeper knew your mum, they would sell fags
24 to you. You just had to say they were for your mum.

25 'When I was brought back after running away, I was

1 put in what they called a secure unit. It was just
2 a cell with a bed in it. You were locked in there for
3 a couple of days. They would bring your food to you.
4 You had to press a button if you wanted to go to the
5 toilet.

6 'They would take away your benefits, too, reduce
7 your recreation time. You would be made to stand in
8 a line with those being punished and would be last in at
9 lunchtime or dinner time.

10 'If you were being punished for something, you
11 wouldn't get out on a Saturday afternoon. You had to be
12 good to get out and get your money.

13 'That was it. I got no real physical punishment.
14 I would have hit them back.

15 'In the dining room there was a board which had
16 everyone's number on it. Mine was ... [and he says his
17 number]. Your number would move along the board until
18 you had been there for 11 months, then it would be time
19 for you to go home. If you ran away, your number would
20 stay still on the board for three months. If you were
21 moving along the board you had a star next to your
22 number; if not, there was a cross next to your number.

23 'There were some boys in there who didn't want to go
24 home and would run away, just to stay another three
25 months. Some had no home they wanted to go back to,

1 really.

2 'There were a few teachers that thought they were
3 better than everyone. There was a teacher called
4 Mr Skinner. The teacher who worked in the shoe shop was
5 Mr ^{GRZ} [REDACTED]. He was a hardy guy.

6 'There were a few teachers who grabbed folk by the
7 scruff of the neck. They would take them round a corner
8 and belt them. We weren't supposed to see it, but we
9 did. There was no cameras at that time, so they could
10 get away with it. There was also a few kids who hit
11 back.

12 'The teacher [I think teachers] that did that in
13 there were known. Everyone knew who they were. Even
14 ^{SNR} [REDACTED] knew who was doing it. As long as
15 everything ran smoothly, they didn't worry about it.
16 Mr ^{GRZ} [REDACTED] was one of the teachers doing it.

17 'When I say the teachers belted them, I mean punched
18 them. They never left a mark. They made sure they
19 punched them where they didn't leave a mark. That was
20 the way it was. We knew the teachers who did it. If
21 you didn't want trouble from them, you kept away from
22 them.

23 'I was never abused. I would get clipped round the
24 ear, but I would just take that. The teachers pushed
25 you a lot, too. They were just telling you to keep on

1 their right side.

2 'I had my arguments and fights in there. I was no
3 different from anybody else. The kids in there from
4 Glasgow weren't frightened of anyone. I even fought
5 with some Aberdeen guys in there. You fought with who
6 you needed to fight with. That was all there was to it.

7 'I threw a chair at a teacher once. I was put in
8 the cell for that. We had our ups and downs in that
9 school.

10 'I was feeling good about leaving Balgowan. I was
11 going to a new school called Northfield, the same school
12 as my brothers. I was going home to my mum and dad who
13 were forgiving. I would have been 14 when I left
14 Balgowan. They didn't prepare me for going.

15 'Things were fine at home and I enjoyed being back.
16 I had been to an Approved School and had learned my
17 lesson.

18 'I was back home for around one year. Things were
19 okay. I was at Northfield School and I was doing all
20 right. I never missed school because my dad would have
21 found out, neither did my brothers.

22 'After a time, though, I got back in with my old
23 pals and I went back to square one. I'm not blaming
24 them for what I did. I was responsible for my own
25 actions. I actually broke into the school I was at and

1 stole some money. I was caught for doing that.'

2 He then talks about being put back into a remand
3 home again, and he talks about that from paragraph 191.

4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12 That was the only time he was
13 in prison. He says he was 15 at that time. He was
14 stripped down, showered and had to wear prison clothes,
15 like the others, and was there for five nights. But he
16 was put as far way from the other prisoners as they
17 could get him.

18 The meals were brought to him, where he was in the
19 prison, and he didn't get to mix with the other
20 prisoners. He was in a cell for 23 hours a day. He
21 went to a special juvenile court to be released and then
22 released from Craiginches. He then went to a remand
23 home for a few days and then he was sent to Rossie.

24 He talks about Rossie Farm Approved School from
25 paragraph 218 onwards, and says whilst he was there he
was working, learning a trade. He ran away a few times,

1 and he was put in a cell for a night by the headmaster.
2 He says that some of the weaker boys were picked on by
3 staff. Some was physical and some was psychological.

4 'Fred' says that whilst he was there he learned how
5 to paint and, when it came time to leave Rossie, they
6 found him work, which he was grateful for.

7 He talks about life after care from paragraph 266
8 onwards and says that he went back and lived with his
9 mum and dad until he was 22. When he came out of
10 Rossie, he was on a six-month training course. In
11 Rossie he had learned how to paint, but needed to learn
12 how to decorate and he finished his apprenticeship.

13 He got married at 22, then moved out of his mum and
14 dad's house. He then served an apprenticeship at sea.
15 Then went back to painting and decorating, and he lived
16 for a while in Spain. However, his wife left and he
17 ended up bringing up four children on his own. They
18 were two, three, seven and eight at the time.

19 He carried on working for a while, but he had to
20 stop to look after the children. He went back to
21 painting when they were a bit older. He says he was
22 involved in a car crash at one point and then couldn't
23 go up the ladder and had to stop painting.

24 Since then, he's been driving people around and he's
25 been associated with a club that helps pensioners. He

1 says he has 14 grandchildren and he sees one of his
2 daughters every day.

3 He talks about the impact from paragraph 276
4 onwards. He says that judging by the rest of his family
5 he thinks that him going into these homes and
6 Approved Schools was a very poor thing for him. His
7 brothers didn't go down the route of committing crime.
8 He says if he'd had a better education he thinks he
9 would have had a better life. He's on tablets for
10 depression and the doctor he was seeing wondered if that
11 was caused by something that happened in his younger
12 years.

13 He says the best place he was in was Rossie. He's
14 taken his kids passed Rossie and Balgowan and he's sat
15 outside in his car and thought about what went on in
16 those places. But he doesn't know why he wanted to
17 visit them.

18 He would say though that he's had a good life, up
19 until now, since he left Rossie and he was never in
20 prison again. But, since his wife left, he's not been
21 in any long-term relationships. He says he has his dog.
22 He thinks that being in care may have had an impact on
23 him and his relationships. He doesn't trust anyone. He
24 has a mistrust of social workers and the police.

25 He does say though that he brought up four kids on

1 his own and there was no social worker ever at his door.
2 He says his kids have turned out well. They're all in
3 relationships and they have their own houses. He says
4 he's never taken drugs or had any issues with alcohol.

5 Talking about 'Lessons to be Learned' from
6 paragraph 300, he thinks that staff should be better
7 trained and they need to be more affectionate towards
8 these kids. It shouldn't just be treated as a job.

9 Then the declaration, at paragraph 311, where he
10 states:

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 He has signed that, and it's dated 15 November 2022.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

17 One additional name I don't think we have mentioned
18 before, Mr ^{GRZ} [REDACTED]'s name was mentioned and he's not to
19 be identified outside this room either.

20 So it's almost 1 o'clock. I think we'll stop now
21 and the plan is to run the first of the documentaries
22 starting at 2.00.

23 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 (12.55 pm)

1 (The luncheon adjournment)

2 (2.00 pm)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (2.05 pm)

5 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

6 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this afternoon -- as we promised
7 yesterday, but didn't manage to get to -- we are
8 planning to show two short documentary films. These are
9 BBC documentaries from the Man Alive series. We
10 understand that they were first shown in 1967 and these
11 are documentaries made at and about Balgay School, which
12 we have been hearing evidence about.

13 The first episode is called 'In Need of Care and
14 Protection' and, the second, 'If You Want to Run Away,
15 You Can'. Each episode lasts about 28 minutes. I'm in
16 my Lady's hands as to how we deal with that, whether we
17 take a break between or afterwards. At all events, the
18 total running time is about an hour.

19 LADY SMITH: We'll see how it goes.

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I think we have checked the technology and it should

1 work.

2 MR SHELDON: I believe so, my Lady. We have to, I think,
3 use headphones in order to hear the dialogue properly.

4 But, apart from that, I think we're ready to go.

5 The first episode is, as I've said, 'In Need of Care
6 and Protection' and it's BBC-000000031.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 (Documentary played)

9 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon. We could probably just go straight
10 on to the next one, couldn't we, and take the afternoon
11 break after that? Let's do that.

12 (Documentary played)

13 LADY SMITH: That's good time, Mr Sheldon. We'll take the
14 short mid-afternoon break just now and we'll get back to
15 another read-in after that. Thank you.

16 (3.08 pm)

17 (A short break)

18 (3.22 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

20 MR SHELDON: My Lady, in a moment or two Ms Forbes is going
21 to read in another applicant whose pseudonym is
22 'Donald'.

23 Before she does that, and just for completeness,
24 my Lady, following on from what we saw before the break,
25 just to give my Lady a couple of references.

1 The meeting, or a case conference, I suppose, that
2 we witnessed, I think, in the second of the two
3 episodes, that's referred to in the Dundee short form
4 report for Balgay. That's at DUN-000000898, at page 4.
5 LADY SMITH: Good.
6 MR SHELDON: It's also referred to in slightly unfavourable
7 terms by HMI MacPherson in a reference that I gave
8 my Lady yesterday. It is SGV-000102967, at page 7.
9 LADY SMITH: What was his criticism?
10 MR SHELDON: He felt it would be embarrassing for a young
11 girl to be brought in and, as it were, paraded in front
12 of a large group of the teachers. It wasn't entirely
13 clear from the picture, but it did seem as though
14 perhaps the majority of the staff members were at the
15 meeting, as well as just Mr Kerr.
16 LADY SMITH: And there was a camera as well.
17 MR SHELDON: Yes.
18 LADY SMITH: I did wonder about that.
19 MR SHELDON: I should say that particular passage is mostly
20 complementary of Mr Kerr, but there is a reservation
21 expressed about that particular aspect of what we saw.
22 LADY SMITH: We'll no doubt come back to this. As you know,
23 I had the opportunity to see these documentaries before
24 they were played today, so I've been thinking about them
25 for a while. But, although the content of some of what

1 Mr Kerr says is really interesting and it sounds like
2 the articulation of ideas that were ahead of the time,
3 the mid-1960s, there are aspects that are still
4 worrying, in terms of attitudes towards the girls.

5 The way in which they were spoken to in those two
6 documentaries, not just by him, but by the interviewer.

7 MR SHELDON: Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Who, so far as I'm aware, had no skills or
9 training in engaging with teenagers in those
10 circumstances. Lots to reflect on there. Some good,
11 some a little bit worrying.

12 MR SHELDON: Indeed, my Lady. I'll hand over to Ms Forbes
13 now.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 I should make it clear in case anybody is puzzled,
16 they'll have been aware that the girls' names, which
17 I take it were their actual first names, were used in
18 the documentaries. I don't see there is any point in me
19 issuing a direction that they're not to be identified
20 outside this room because these documentaries are
21 online. That's where we found them. So they've been in
22 the public domain for decades. So I don't see anything
23 I could do now would help to protect their identities,
24 if these people are around.

25 MS FORBES: My Lady, good afternoon. The next applicant's

1 statement is anonymous. As Mr Sheldon said, the
2 pseudonym is 'Donald', the reference is WIT-1-000000687.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 'Donald' (read)

5 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Donald' was born in 1959, in Dundee.

6 He talks about his life before care between paragraphs 2
7 and 11.

8 He lived with his mother and father in Dundee, and
9 there was an older brother and younger sister. His dad
10 worked full-time in the jute mill and his mum worked
11 part-time there.

12 However, his mother and father were divorced in 1965
13 and there was then financial difficulties. He states,
14 in his words, they were impoverished. He describes
15 himself as a hardy, streetwise kid, sometimes had to
16 make his own tea, sometimes had to just make do with
17 a packet of crisps.

18 He got on okay at primary school, he says, and
19 attended regularly. But was arrested a couple of times
20 for theft. The first time in 1968, when he would have
21 been nine-years old, and the second, in 1969, when he
22 would have been ten.

23 He was stealing food from Marks & Spencer. He went
24 before a Children's Hearing and they told him he was
25 going to be put into an 'in between place' whilst

1 awaiting transfer to Balgowan.

2 Being taken away from his home at that time was
3 an absolute shock to him, 'Donald' says. He was taken
4 to Harestane by a social worker. He talks about
5 Harestane from paragraph 12:

6 'Harestane was less than a mile away from the back
7 of Balgowan. The back of Balgowan actually went out on
8 to Harestane Road. Harestane was like a big house
9 rather than an Approved School. It was a wee bit more
10 like a community centre rather than anything else.

11 'I was only there for a couple of days. Looking
12 back, having seen my records, I think children were sent
13 to Harestane before going to Approved Schools, and
14 whilst they did the documentation and things like that.
15 I think that was a stopping off place that they used
16 before everything was legal and you could be sent to
17 Balgowan.

18 'I don't really remember much from my time in
19 Harestane, other than playing billiards during the day.
20 There is nothing in any of the records that I recovered
21 about the couple of days I spent there. I think I was
22 taken in a minibus with other boys up to Balgowan at the
23 end of my stay at Harestane.'

24 He then talks about Balgowan:

25 'According to my records, I was placed into

1 Balgowan ...'

2 And he gives the date as ██████████ 1969, and the date
3 he was released, in 1971, in the ██████████:

4 'That means that I would have been there between the
5 ages of 10 and 12. The records say that I was placed
6 there under ... [and he gives a registration number] and
7 that the decision number was recorded in Edinburgh [and
8 he gives a date in 1969].

9 'I was in Balgowan for a total of 628 days, which
10 works out at about 89 weeks. To me that seems an awful
11 long time, considering what I had done. I have
12 undertaken some research and discovered an exchange in
13 Parliament about Approved Schools recorded in Hansard
14 from 22 July 1968, between Donald Dewar MP and
15 Willie Ross MP, who was the Secretary of State for
16 Scotland at that time. It must have been around the
17 time of the Social Work (Scotland) Act coming in. In
18 that exchange, the average length of stay at
19 Approved Schools in Scotland is discussed, and what is
20 said is that it was about 26 weeks. That makes me think
21 that there may have been something more than me just
22 being sent to Balgowan for theft and that there could
23 have been some sort of welfare issue in the background.
24 Looking back, if there were other things going on, then
25 I don't know whether Balgowan was the appropriate place

1 to place me after I served my time.

2 'I think Balgowan was owned by Dundee Council at the
3 time. It was knocked down, but I don't know who owned
4 and ran the place when I was there. I haven't been able
5 to find that out. I find that very peculiar and have
6 come to a bit of a dead end with that. I know that it
7 was a List D Approved School when I was there. But,
8 beyond that, I don't know anything further.

9 'In total, Balgowan must have covered a number of
10 acres. The main building was a massive, old Victorian
11 building. A Scottish millionaire built the building for
12 the good and benefit of children and adults. It was
13 a beautiful building, which, if it was still around
14 today, would no doubt be a Grade I listed building.
15 There were some grounds to the front of the building,
16 with a 300-metre long driveway, so that people could
17 drive up to the front door. That door was for visitors
18 only. The boys didn't really go into front of the
19 building; they gained access by going round to the back
20 of the building.

21 'To the rear of the building was a massive area that
22 contained gardens, greenhouses and workshops. It was
23 basically an area where people could work. To the back
24 of that was a big locked wooden fence. I think there
25 was an area that was a bit like a compound in the middle

1 of the building. It was an area that was outside, but
2 within the building at the same time. We would play
3 football and run around in that area. It was very rare
4 that we would go anywhere else outside. As you entered
5 the building to the rear, there was a reception area.
6 Further on from that was a dining hall and some small
7 classrooms. The toilets were outside.

8 'The accommodation itself was old and cold. In my
9 head at the time I thought that they did that
10 deliberately, so that you would want to get out even
11 quicker. I can always remember how tight it was in
12 there. There were 107 children, rooms, bedrooms, a gym
13 hall and everything else all crammed into the same
14 space. Added to that, we couldn't walk into the front
15 of the building or access that part. That just made
16 things even tighter. If I am honest, I found the nature
17 of the accommodation, rather than what happened there,
18 good. I had things like clean sheets, blankets on my
19 bed and three meals a day. In that way I can't really
20 complain, because it was better than what I was used to
21 at home.

22 'I can't remember whether staff solely had the role
23 of teacher or looking after the children outside of
24 classes. I don't know whether some staff members did
25 both roles in there. I don't know where the staff

1 stayed. The nature of the building meant there were
2 corridors and rooms here and there that we didn't go
3 into. It was really like a maze. There could have been
4 areas that staff stayed in and were locked and we didn't
5 get to see.

6 'I know there was a headmaster because I see him
7 featured on some of the paperwork I recovered. However,
8 I don't remember seeing him.

9 'Mr. [REDACTED] was one of the staff members who taught
10 lessons in the classrooms.

11 'I don't know whether he was qualified, but he was
12 a teacher there. I remember him only having one hand.
13 He was a nice guy. He was sort of well spoken, so I am
14 not sure where he was from.

15 'Tommy Traynor would sometimes teach stuff in the
16 classrooms during lessons, but he mostly worked on the
17 residential side of things. He was ex-Black Watch.
18 I think he was Scottish. He was a little guy.
19 I remember that he wore brogues with segs attached to
20 their soles. You could hear him coming from a mile way
21 because of them. I think he did that deliberately to
22 avoid confrontation with the kids. He was sort of half
23 a nice guy. I think he felt a wee bit sorry for some of
24 the kids. During the better times, when everything was
25 calm, I remember children crowding round him and having

1 a chat. He had a wee bit of a heart.

2 'Mr ^{LUP} [REDACTED], was the gym

3 matter. ^{LUP} [REDACTED] may have been his first name because

4 I remember a song that was sung by the boys about him

5 that called him that. He was a Dundee man. He had no

6 bend in one of his knees. When he walked he sort of

7 bobbed along because of that. He had a big nose. He

8 had quite a powerful upper body. I would say that he

9 was either in his 40s or 50s when I was at Balgowan.

10 I think he had some sort of say in the place, so I took

11 it from that that he had been there for a while.

12 'Among the records that I recovered there is

13 a letter from the headmaster to the Registrar in

14 Edinburgh saying that there were 107 boys in Balgowan

15 just before I joined. As a child, it is difficult to

16 gauge the ages of people around you, but I think it was

17 all boys between the ages of about ten and 16. I don't

18 think I saw anyone there who was much younger than me.

19 'The boys were from all over Scotland. A lot of the

20 children and older boys were from Glasgow. My

21 impression was that the older boys from Dundee went to

22 Glasgow, and the older boys from Glasgow went to Dundee.

23 Back then, what religion you were seemed to be something

24 that was taken into consideration. I can see that from

25 my records. I do wonder whether there were only so many

1 religious places that the children could go to in
2 Glasgow and that was why so many Glasgow children came
3 across to Dundee. Balgowan didn't seem to have that
4 segregation between different religions.

5 'I don't remember any of the other boys. You didn't
6 really have a lot of friendships with people. I wasn't
7 a loner, but I had to do what I had to do to survive.
8 I decided that the more people I was in hoc with the
9 harder it would be to survive, so I took the path of
10 being alone.

11 'I realised that I had met my match on my first day
12 there. I soon realised that the guys who were going to
13 be in charge of me were regimental and authoritative.
14 I remember being ordered around the place and being told
15 to do things. There was no, "Oh, you're going to be all
16 right, son. You'll be all right", or, "This is a great
17 place to be". I could sense that it wasn't that sort of
18 place from the moment I went in. It was more a feeling
19 of, "Here's another one", from the staff. Even as
20 a ten-year old boy, I could feel I was being treated
21 like an inmate. I didn't know it at that time, but I
22 soon came to realise that there was no such thing as
23 children in there.

24 'They did everything to you after you arrived. You
25 were scrubbed, deloused and given a haircut. I didn't

1 need that done to me, but obviously some of the boys who
2 came in will have done, so they did that to everyone.
3 I think that was sort of their standard drill. I can't
4 remember there being a medical examination. All I think
5 they did was check you for head lice and scabies.
6 I don't think it went further than that.

7 'The staff did give you a tour of the place on the
8 first day. As a ten-year old, that was hard to take in.
9 I was basically taken from one room to the next and then
10 it was, "Right, that is you done". I think I must have
11 just tagged on with people as they went along. After
12 that, I had to learn where everything was myself.

13 'I wouldn't define the staff as having made
14 an effort when I started that first day. They made
15 an effort to talk down to you when you were getting
16 changed, to say, "You're here now, we're the bosses and
17 don't step out of line", and, "We run this place like
18 an iron rod", but nothing further than that. They made
19 the effort to show you stuff, but not to care for you.
20 You were basically shown everything once and then it
21 was, "Get on with it". There was no empathy whatsoever.
22 I don't think they wanted to make it easy for you. They
23 wanted you to suffer because a suffering boy could
24 repent. They wanted your treatment to be short and
25 sharp. They didn't want you to be comfortable. They

1 wanted you to feel uncomfortable, so that you would then
2 conform to whatever it was they were looking for. It
3 was clear that you being there was a punishment rather
4 than anything else.

5 'I think I went into survival mode after I arrived.
6 I didn't know anyone and was homesick. I remember
7 feeling confused because nobody had told me what the
8 plan was for me next. I was having to find my own way
9 about and that type of thing. Looking back, I find it
10 hard to believe, given how old I was, that I had
11 a survival plan, but I would have had to have done
12 because I survived to the other side.

13 'I remember that over the first couple of months
14 I was very awkward, inward and didn't speak. I think
15 I was just scared of the environment I was in. I wanted
16 to be invisible and avoided anyone seeing me. I learnt
17 very quickly not to do things that would result in
18 attention being paid to me.

19 'Timings were regimental. Everything had a time for
20 when we had to do it. I think that taught you to be
21 quite punctual in the end. Looking back, having had
22 children of my own, I can appreciate that they had to do
23 that to get everyone up, ready and moving around.
24 I don't think there were bells. I think you were just
25 told when and where to go by the staff. I don't think

1 they wanted you to know what was ultimately happening,
2 in terms of what you were doing from one lesson to the
3 next. They didn't want you to get comfortable and, by
4 doing that, they put a bit of chaos in your life. It
5 kept you on your toes and let them keep things moving
6 all the time.

7 'We got up at 6.30 am. I can't remember how we were
8 got up. After getting up, we made our beds and went to
9 get washed at the sinks in the bathroom. We then went
10 back to our rooms, got dressed, tidied up the room
11 a bit, then went down for breakfast. After breakfast,
12 we tidied up before being read out the programme for
13 that day. I think that was at about 9.00 am. Some
14 people would go here, others there, and then the day
15 would start. You would move around between classrooms
16 and the gym. If you had gym there was no shower
17 afterwards. You would just get dressed, then go to your
18 next lesson.

19 'Mornings would usually be lessons, followed by
20 a break in the compound, another lesson, then lunch.
21 There were more lessons in the afternoon. I think when
22 the weather was on the good side, we got to do gardening
23 or woodwork. I think the teachers did that to reward
24 us. Either that or they used the gardens and woodwork
25 area when teachers didn't turn up. Those occasions were

1 like a free period. After lessons or activities in the
2 afternoon, we had dinner. I am not quite sure what
3 happened in the evenings. I have really tried to
4 remember, but I can't.

5 'I can't remember what I did on weekends for the
6 first few months, other than going to church on Sundays.
7 Saturdays changed after about six or seven months,
8 because I was allowed to go home for four hours.
9 Towards the very end of my time, there was a change
10 again. For the last couple of months over the summer
11 holidays, I got to go home during week days. When I did
12 go home, I would have to return to Balgowan to sleep
13 each night.

14 'I think the routine was that you were expected to
15 go to bed early and get up early. The room I was in was
16 a really big one with over 20 beds. There wasn't a lot
17 of space to yourself. People were right next to each
18 other. It wasn't a bonnie two to a room, kind of
19 situation. I can't remember whether we were in bunk
20 beds or had lockers. I would say it's more likely they
21 were single beds, because I don't ever remember going
22 into a top bunk whilst I was there. If I had, I would
23 have remembered that, because I was a bed wetter and the
24 guy below would not have been impressed. I remember no
25 incidents like that.

1 'There were boys of all different ages in my room.
2 Looking back, I think the thinking was perhaps that the
3 older kids would maybe babysit the younger boys.
4 I think the staff thought that the older kids would make
5 sure that the younger ones were not crying and moaning
6 by slapping them down. I think that was the mentality
7 behind all ages being mixed in together.

8 'We would all wash at two lines of sinks in the
9 mornings. Every couple of days, in the evenings, we
10 would have a shower. The showers were open plan at the
11 end of the room. There were no curtains, cubicles or
12 anything like that. There was no privacy whatsoever in
13 Balgowan. Washing times weren't supervised by staff.
14 I don't remember someone coming in and checking or
15 anything like that. I know that because if any staff
16 member had seen the sort of things I saw happening, then
17 I would remember them not being happy. There could have
18 been a staff member outside the door or in the building,
19 but they weren't in the room when we were showering.

20 'I don't remember anyone checking whether we were
21 cleaning ourselves properly and doing things like
22 cleaning our teeth. I can't remember anything
23 surrounding toiletries and towels. I do know that
24 I wouldn't be getting that sort of stuff from home, so
25 I can only assume Balgowan provided it.

1 'The majority of the toilets were located outside
2 the main building in a separate enclosed building. They
3 certainly weren't like the normal public toilets that we
4 have now. I'm quite sure that the toilets were in
5 cubicles with either half a door or no door on front.
6 I think that was to stop guys going into the toilets to
7 have a smoke.

8 'We all ate together in the dining hall. All the
9 tables were plastic and easy to clean. It had that
10 smell about it, as if the dish washer had been on
11 forever. I think all the meals were made in the kitchen
12 there, but I am not sure who did that. The food was
13 okay for me and I quite enjoyed it. I'd come from
14 a background where sometimes food was not a priority.
15 I had come from a place where I was getting crisps for
16 my dinner, didn't get breakfast, and had to survive on
17 school meals, so that side of things was okay. I was
18 now getting three meals a day. I think I got enough
19 food and would have reacted if any of the other boys
20 took my food away.

21 'I think the other boys realised to leave me alone
22 on that. I never experienced anything like being force
23 fed when I didn't like things and I didn't see that
24 happening to anyone else. I don't think the staff were
25 around enough during meal times to do that sort of

1 thing.

2 'I never saw the staff eating with us. I remember
3 them just walking around, asking whether the food was
4 okay. You just knew to say, "It's lovely", whatever it
5 was. They should have been walking around checking
6 whether there were children who were isolated, being
7 bullied and where everyone was sitting, but I think they
8 just walked around and occasionally chatted with people.
9 That sort of thing might have been going on in their
10 heads, but that isn't anything that I saw. To me, it
11 just looked like the staff were wandering around doing
12 nothing.

13 'You could pick where to sit, but we all sat at the
14 same chair and table throughout our time there. I seem
15 to remember the older Glasgow boys sat in one corner and
16 other groups sat elsewhere. Kids just found their own
17 places and areas to sit and congregate. I would never
18 go and sit next to some Glasgow skinhead at their table.
19 That just wouldn't happen. I think I just sat at
20 a table I felt safe on.

21 'I don't think they had cleaners who came in, but
22 there was always cleaning going on among the boys. The
23 boys did that all themselves. You can imagine what the
24 place was like with all those boys in the one place.
25 I don't think I got picked on too much to do the

1 cleaning because I was too young. I think that was more
2 a thing for the older boys.

3 'You were dressed in what looked like a set of tight
4 corduroy shorts with straps that went over your
5 shoulders. They were a wee bit like lederhosen.
6 I can't remember whether we wore those both in winter
7 and summer time. I think it was a brown shirt
8 underneath them and shoes. I don't think we had a gym
9 kit. I think all we had were a set of pumps that they
10 provided us with. There was no need for any clothing
11 from your parents. The only reason you might need that
12 was if you were let out on a Saturday. Everyone had
13 Brylcreemed cut to the back hairstyles. I think we had
14 all had haircuts like that, both for hygiene reasons and
15 to keep us in line.

16 'There is nothing that springs to mind surrounding
17 pocket money and whether that was something that they
18 did at Balgowan. There was a tuck shop, so there must
19 have been something. I can't remember getting anything
20 from the tuck shop.

21 'The only staff members I remember teaching lessons
22 in the classrooms were Mr ^{FLD} [REDACTED] and Mr ^{IQH} [REDACTED].
23 I can't remember how big the class sizes were, but
24 I knew when I was there that there were that many kids
25 in the classroom that it was awkward and tight. All the

1 children were mixed together in the classrooms during
2 the day. There were kids as young as ten and as old as
3 15 all sitting together. It must have been impossible
4 for staff to teach such a range of children. It must
5 have been hard, even for those teachers who wanted to
6 educate us. We all had different moods and some of us
7 were grumpy.

8 'I can only guess that they were supposed to be
9 teaching subjects, but my recollection is that the
10 lessons we had weren't structured in any way like that.
11 The teachers were pitching things at a level that
12 inevitably caused animosity in the class. I remember
13 teachers talking about grammar, nouns, verbs, things
14 like that. If you are a child sitting there who can't
15 even read, then you aren't going to stick your hand in
16 the air and say, "I'm struggling with this".

17 'When I think now about the children who got violent
18 in lessons, it wasn't because the children were animals;
19 it was because they were embarrassed they couldn't read
20 and terrified that they would be asked a question.

21 'I was taught to do things in the workshop, but was
22 never made to work in there. All the boys were taught
23 how to make things in there. I remember there were
24 a lot of boys refusing to make things and deciding to
25 make what they wanted. There was a lot of that went on

1 in there. I wouldn't go as far as to say, from what
2 I saw during those lessons, that the teachers were
3 teaching the older boys life skills for after they left.
4 I've read that they were training the boys trades, but,
5 to me, that is just crap. I can only think they put
6 that on for people who were visiting the place to see.
7 To me, the times when we were in the workshop were just
8 a way of filling time.

9 'I can't remember having much leisure time. It was
10 a totally different place to Harestanes. I remember
11 playing billiards, table tennis, there being books and
12 a library and things like that at Harestane. There was
13 none of that at Balgowan. If these sorts of things were
14 there, then I didn't see them or wasn't invited to
15 participate in them. I think they didn't want you to
16 have much of that because it might lead to trouble.

17 'I can't remember any of the boys being taken out of
18 Balgowan to go and play sport or anything like that. It
19 was very rare that we went outside. When we did get
20 breaks, we would go out into the compound for maybe
21 15 minutes at a time. I think it was only one class at
22 a time got to go out during a break, because the
23 compound wouldn't have been big enough to fit us all.
24 I think it was all staggered. We'd kick a ball about
25 and the older boys would go off and have a fag. Looking

1 back on mixing in all the age groups, that led to one or
2 two things happening. After that time, a staff member
3 would come out and shout you in to go to wherever you
4 were went to go next.

5 'I don't recall Balgowan being either Protestant or
6 Catholic. I didn't really know the difference between
7 the two at the age I was when I was in Balgowan. That
8 was something that was irrelevant to me at that time.

9 'The only time you were really outside was when they
10 marched to church on a Sunday. The church is still
11 there. I think it is Church of Scotland. I don't think
12 everyone went, because some of the children would go
13 home for weekends. I think the local community attended
14 the service as well. I think they took you there to
15 make you better. You didn't run around when they took
16 you there. Everything revolved around going to the
17 church on that day and coming back.

18 'We weren't taken on any trips or holidays. The
19 closest thing to that was a trip to church on Sundays.
20 That was the furthest they ever took me.

21 'After about six or seven months, you were given
22 a pass to go home for four hours on a Saturday. You
23 would put on your civilian clothes and just go. I could
24 just walk home. Towards the end the very end of my time
25 at Balgowan, Dundee Council experimented with children

1 going home during the day and come back in the evenings.
2 That was the set up I was under for the last couple of
3 months whilst I was there. I think that happened for
4 a short period during the summer holidays in 1971,
5 before I was due to start secondary school. I don't
6 know what the thinking was behind that experiment.

7 'I remember that when I could go home I would just
8 stay in Balgowan. I would never bother going home
9 because home wasn't somewhere I wanted to be at that
10 time. I felt, at that time, that I was really between
11 the devil and the deep blue sea. I wasn't sure whether
12 going home or staying in Balgowan was better for me.
13 I made the decision that I would be better to stay there
14 and that was the decision I stuck to.

15 'I can't remember whether birthdays and Christmas
16 were celebrated at Balgowan. Birthdays were never
17 a thing for me growing up, anyway. There could have
18 been things going on with the other boys behind the
19 scenes and their families, but that wasn't something
20 that happened with me.

21 'I don't know whether there were things provided for
22 boys to write home. I had no visits from my parents or
23 any of my relatives during the time I was there.
24 I didn't see a social worker during the time I was in
25 Balgowan. Social work contact all started happening

1 after I got out. Other boys did get visits from people.
2 I think they had a room where children could meet
3 people. I remember boys having parents who had driven
4 from all over Scotland to see them.

5 'I can't remember things like open days or people
6 coming in to inspect the place from the outside.
7 I don't remember anyone coming into the place from the
8 outside and asking me a question. I can't remember
9 there being anyone from the council or a charity coming
10 in. Looking back, the only people in authority we ever
11 saw were the staff who worked in Balgowan itself.

12 'Nobody ever told me from the start or as I went
13 along how long I was going to be in Balgowan. Nobody
14 even asked me, "How long have you been in here?" during
15 my whole time in Balgowan.

16 'I don't know whether there was a nurse or a matron
17 that worked inside Balgowan. I can't remember seeing
18 a doctor inside Balgowan. I'm sure there was one who
19 came in from the outside, but I never saw one. I think
20 the only time that you went to see a doctor was if
21 someone had told you to go and see them. It wasn't the
22 sort of place where you could put your hand up and ask
23 for medical help. I would think about running away all
24 the time, but never did. It was something that would
25 have been pointless for me, because my mother only lived

1 15 minutes up the road. There was always that threat
2 that people could sneak out of the back door and just
3 go. Some of the older boys did abscond. There was
4 a lot of what went on. There were no great plans, like
5 the Shawshank Redemption. Kids would notice a way out,
6 then they were gone. They tried to get back to Glasgow,
7 hitch lifts and that type of thing. A couple of weeks
8 later they'd come back to stay again, or come back and
9 be sent somewhere else. I don't know whether those boys
10 who ran away got punished. They obviously wouldn't be
11 moving up the graph they used to discipline children,
12 but further than that, I don't know.

13 'I used to wet my bed because I didn't want to leave
14 my bed. The bed wetting made things worse for me
15 because the other boys did not take to wet boys and the
16 staff frowned upon bed wetters.

17 'A lot of the time when staff spoke to you about
18 something they spoke to you in a group and in front of
19 the other boys. I think they thought that the best way
20 to teach you was to make a fool of you in front of the
21 other boys, and then would you stop doing whatever it
22 was you were doing. The staff enjoyed doing that,
23 because it was a good teaching tool. It meant they
24 didn't have anything --'

25 LADY SMITH: I wonder if that should be 'to do anything'?

1 MS FORBES: 'To do anything', yes:

2 'The boy would have to teach themselves what to do.
3 That was what happened when I wet the bed. The staff
4 would make me stand there in front of the other boys
5 with my wet sheets and ridicule me. You would want to
6 get your bed changed, and they would come storming in to
7 do that. They would say things like, [and he uses
8 a surname] "... have you pissed that bed again? What
9 have we told you about that? You are 10 or 11 years old
10 now. What sort of boy pisses the bed at that age,
11 you're a wee piss the bed". That was embarrassing. You
12 would then have to put your sheets in a big laundry bag,
13 and new sheets would be put on during the course of the
14 day. You weren't made to have a shower after that.
15 There certainly was no one who made sure you had
16 a shower before you put your clothes on.

17 'There was never any discussion about me seeing
18 a medical practitioner about the bed wetting. However,
19 those boys who wet their beds had maroon rubber covers
20 put over their mattresses. They only did that so they
21 could wipe down the mattress easily.

22 'The way in which they disciplined children was
23 a carrot and stick approach. On the dining hall wall
24 was a massive chart made out of graph paper. It was on
25 display for everybody to see. Along one side was

1 a colour code and on the other was a number system. It
2 was over three foot square in size. Everybody was
3 allocated a number.'

4 Then he tells us his number:

5 'That number was placed on a token. It was like one
6 of those little discs you would attach to your keys.
7 The token was put on a little nail on the wall. When
8 you came in your token was placed at the bottom of the
9 chart. As the weeks went on your token would be moved
10 up the chart to the nails that were above. Moving up
11 the chart would trigger different privileges that you
12 could get. It could be that you were allowed out for
13 three or four hours on a Saturday or for the whole
14 afternoon. Once you got to the top of the chart you
15 would maybe get a whole day with your family or you
16 could travel away to visit your family. If you had
17 a bad turn, then your token might be moved downwards and
18 privileges could be taken away.'

19 LADY SMITH: That's all very well, but if your family don't
20 want to be in touch with you that's not much of an
21 incentive, is it?

22 MS FORBES: No:

23 'Although there were no names you could determine
24 where everybody was in terms of privileges, because you
25 knew what numbers everybody was. Everybody could see

1 where everybody else was because the chart was in full
2 view. I seem to remember that I stayed at the bottom
3 for a wee while. The older boys would whinge and moan
4 about not being moved up one week or being moved down,
5 but I never got involved in any of that.

6 'There would be staff walking around all of the time
7 because of the fights among the boys. I don't think
8 when fights broke out they had the mentality to lock the
9 building down. But I do think there was definitely
10 a feeling of: let's calm everything down and start again
11 tomorrow.

12 'Looking back, I can appreciate all of that given
13 how difficult a place it must have been to run. For
14 staff members, it must have been extremely difficult to
15 control at times. I don't know what the consequences
16 were for the boys who had fights with the staff. That
17 was something that happened in exceptional cases. It
18 wasn't something that I was ever involved with. I can
19 only imagine the consequences for those boys would have
20 been pretty severe.

21 'The staff didn't get fond of me, but I think they
22 became a little more comfortable around me because I had
23 been there so long. They got to learn my traits.
24 I think they got to learn what to do when I was in
25 a particular mood and when to leave me alone. They

1 never grabbed me or threw me about, or anything like
2 that. I wonder whether that was because I was so small.
3 There really wasn't a lot of me to throw about. My
4 punishments more surrounded being belittled or basically
5 made a fool out of by the staff. Looking back, I wonder
6 whether staff being physical with boys of my size was
7 maybe seen as something that was taboo. I also wonder
8 whether I just became conditioned to everything that was
9 going on around me and accepted what was going on.

10 'I never experienced anything like corporal
11 punishment or receiving lines from the staff. I never
12 saw or heard of anyone receiving the belt or the strap.
13 I didn't get given chores as a punishment. I am sure,
14 though, that if you were a little arse who wasn't
15 behaving, then there would have been jobs that the staff
16 would make you do. There probably was a lot of other
17 things going on in terms of discipline, but they weren't
18 things that concerned me. I was never involved in any
19 of that.'

20 He goes on to talk about abuse at Balgowan at
21 paragraph 74:

22 'I have kept this part of my memory of Balgowan
23 school in my head under the banner, "Guard from everyone
24 and everything with no exception". I do not wish to go
25 into full details about my sexual abuse and have set out

1 below the extent that I am willing to describe. There
2 were lots of little things that happened, but they
3 aren't major things that I want to speak to in this
4 statement. They were things like staff belittling you
5 in class, mental abuse, and showing a lack of care.
6 They were all things that I think would go on in any
7 place.

8 'Unfortunately for me, my menace was the gym master.
9 He was my Nemesis. He was a brutal and wicked man. The
10 words used back then to describe this type of man would
11 be "dirty old man". In reality, his actions were
12 brutal. Today, the tag would be sexual predator or even
13 beast. He had that irreproachable
14 I've-been-here-a-wee-while air about him. It was almost
15 as if he had some sort of invincibility about him.

16 'He was a man for putting boxing gloves on the kids
17 and himself. He'd have that authority on you when he
18 did that and he would use the boxing to show that. He'd
19 sometimes hit you under the guise of showing you what to
20 do. He'd walk into the room and box your ears and
21 things like that. Looking back, I realise that that was
22 all part of his power game.

23 'The sexual abuse started after a couple of months.
24 I was just ten years old when he identified me as his
25 target or object. I think before then I had been trying

1 to be invisible and it was only then that he saw me.
2 His ploy was to make me stay behind, to assist with
3 putting medicine balls or other equipment away. At the
4 beginning, he would take me into a small room and squash
5 himself up against me. He'd be rubbing my neck and
6 I would try to slither about to get away from him. That
7 moved, on the next time, to him touching me a bit more.
8 He would put his hand down the back of my trousers.
9 Things escalated further over time. They were all bits
10 adding up to the point that he would have his penis out
11 and ask me to play with him or to suck him. Very rarely
12 did he touch my penis. It was always him asking you to
13 come to him. Things further escalated to the point
14 where he would touch my backside and look to penetrate
15 me with his fingers. Things didn't go further than
16 that, but, to me, that constituted rape.

17 'I remember that he would always carry a duster-type
18 cloth thing to wipe himself and you off after he was
19 finished. He would then just tell you to, "Piss off to
20 your next lesson". I remember him making threats, too.
21 The threats I received from him were always along the
22 lines of: Balgowan stops at 15 or 16, you could then
23 head to Glasgow to borstal and then from there it is
24 prison. Do not rock the boat because that will be what
25 happens to you.

1 'He made me feel as if I was just a piece of scum
2 and that everybody would just think that I am lying. It
3 was all that type of conversation. Even to this day,
4 I can still hear him behind me. That body odour smell
5 always catches me out.

6 'The abuse continued until the time the Dundee
7 experiment started getting talked about. I think that
8 it was when there were conversations about which of the
9 boys could start going home that he started laying off.
10 I think he realised at that time that my time was done.
11 I don't believe that I turned up and he just turned that
12 way. He had an air about him that made me think that
13 I wasn't the first and that he knew he could get away
14 with doing things. I remember thinking at the time that
15 he knew he could get away with what he was doing.

16 'The boys at Balgowan all understood the gym master
17 was a predator. There were other boys who would be
18 late, after gym classes, coming into the next lessons.
19 When you are in that environment, kids all speak to one
20 another. I remember other boys saying, "Keep away from
21 him", and, "Don't go near him". A lot of what went on
22 between the boys, in terms of acknowledging what the gym
23 master was like, was more like just a look when you
24 walked into the classroom late. I appreciate that
25 doesn't make sense, but you just knew from the way that

1 other boys looked that they knew what was happening. It
2 was a look of: I know that if it hadn't been you, then
3 it would have been me.

4 'Those boys I remember as being the younger boys in
5 Balgowan. It was more the skinny, smaller kids.
6 Looking back, I wonder whether it was just the younger
7 boys because the older boys might have been able to
8 fight him off a wee bit more.

9 'There was never an explicit type of conversation
10 between the boys whilst I was there. I never went to
11 the extent of saying that the gym master was targeting
12 me in doing what he was doing. All I said was that he
13 was bullying me. I would never have gone into the
14 detail of exactly what was happening with the other
15 boys. I would have just denied things to the end. In
16 a place like that, if you told one person, you told
17 everybody.

18 'I never reported anything to the staff, but
19 I believe that some members of staff understood what was
20 going on. Nine times out of ten the reason I was late
21 for my next class was because of the gym master. None
22 of the staff ever said anything to me when I turned up
23 late. I think it was just accepted by the staff that
24 the gym master could keep you behind. They would know
25 that I had just been to gym class before theirs. There

1 was no follow up by any of the staff when I came in
2 late. They just said, "Where have you been? Have
3 a seat". There was no time when I was late that
4 a teacher sent someone to get me. There was none of
5 that. I think that the staff knew what the gym master
6 was like, but nobody confronted him. My feeling is that
7 they just viewed him as a dirty old guy, rather than
8 what he really was. I do believe in my heart that
9 people knew and nobody stopped him.

10 'The younger kids did suffer from the violence from
11 the other kids. Sadly, and unfortunately for me, over
12 the 18-month period I was at Balgowan it was impossible
13 to keep them at bay. Trying to defend yourself was at
14 times futile. The beatings you received for fighting
15 back the other boys were severe. Communal showers,
16 toilets and dormitory bedtime was a nightmare for the
17 younger boys like me because of that.

18 'The lack of supervision from the staff only
19 encouraged the older boys to continue their terror and
20 abuse. It really was a volatile place.

21 'There was violence between the boys all of the
22 time. I think that was because there was nowhere to go.
23 It wasn't like a secondary school, where there was a bit
24 of backchat and a scuffle in the corridor. It just
25 wasn't the sort of normal environment where kids could

1 get spoken to by staff and that would be it. At
2 Balgowan it could blow up at any second. If guys wanted
3 to have a go, then they would just go. One little thing
4 could escalate in a second. It would sometimes be the
5 case that other kids who were frustrated would then join
6 in. Things could get out of hand very quickly. There
7 was a little bit of the seasons affecting how the
8 children were. I remember it being worse in the summer
9 time because there was more time outside and more chance
10 to intermingle with other boys. The days felt shorter
11 during the wintertime and it was dark, so I think that
12 people were perhaps more happy to just sit about.

13 The fights would be because of the pecking order or
14 because boys wanted stuff. There was stuff surrounding
15 the tuck shop and cigarettes and smoking. In
16 exceptional cases guys would be chatting away nicely
17 with the staff in the morning, then trying to fight them
18 in the afternoon. The violence in there was always
19 physical, rather than anything involving weapons. There
20 was the odd Glasgow thing of saying, "You'll get cut
21 when I get you", but I don't remember knives ever being
22 used. I think that was all just words certain boys used
23 to terrorise you with, rather than being something that
24 could actually happen.

25 'You just knew to stay away from certain people when

1 they were in a bad mood. They might be in a bad mood
2 because of a bad phone call; they had gone away home and
3 had a bad time; they were a bit homesick and never got
4 away or they had been downgraded on the graph.

5 'For me, seeing or not seeing my parents didn't
6 affect me, but I could see that it did for the other
7 kids. They still had that emotional attachment to their
8 parents. I think, for those boys in particular,
9 Balgowan was a hard place for them to be when things
10 went bad. You just knew when to stay away from guys
11 when they were like that.

12 'There were two worlds in there. The one where the
13 staff turned out the lights and thought everyone was
14 sleeping, and the one that was actually happening. The
15 lights going out was the dreaded bit for me. Once they
16 went out, everybody would be quiet for a while before
17 the older boys started moving about in the dorm. You
18 would be trying to get to sleep and, the next minute,
19 one of them would be in your bed. It was never the case
20 that you were made to go to their beds. It was always
21 the case that they came to you and it was one-on-one.
22 They would slip into my bed and sexually abuse me. They
23 would touch me, masturbate themselves and so on. After
24 the business was done, they would go back to their bed.

25 'Those boys would have been either 14 or 15.

1 I don't remember any of their names. The abuse in the
2 dorms didn't happen every night when they came, they
3 came. I knew it wasn't right, so at first I would fight
4 back. The guys were quite big compared to me, so
5 through time and after being given a couple of slaps and
6 beatings, the fear factor settled in. It was then that
7 you just accepted what happened.

8 'Once I went to bed I never got up again. If
9 I needed a pee, then I just had it there and then in my
10 bed. Regardless of the consequences, there was no way
11 that I was going to go anywhere at night. I realised
12 that if I stayed in my bed, then when they got into my
13 bed they would have to be silent. If I left my bed, and
14 was caught by an older boy somewhere else, outside of
15 the dorm, then they would even more power over me. If
16 I had found myself in that situation, I would have been
17 even more vulnerable.

18 'Reporting older boys for their actions to the staff
19 was just taboo, as with all the crazy acts that happened
20 at night in a place like Balgowan, where the strong prey
21 on the weak, there was always a code and a line you
22 feared to cross. I was aware of other boys reporting
23 things and the treatment they received from the older
24 boys. However, I never found out exactly what they were
25 reporting. Nothing was kept a secret in there in that

1 way. It seemed nothing was confidential between the
2 staff and the boys who had been reported. The boys who
3 reported things would get booted, thrown about and
4 slapped by the older boys afterwards. It was just not
5 the done thing and you knew that you would have ended up
6 being bullied for being a grass on top of what was
7 already happening if you went there.

8 'Reporting the gym master was different. The
9 predator hook that he used to keep me from reporting and
10 keeping me in line was: how would anyone ever believe
11 a thief and now a criminal in care?

12 'Any failure to comply would make your stay even
13 longer. If that happened, and you reached the age of 15
14 or 16, then you were bound for borstal in Glasgow and
15 then possibly on to prison. I think another hook that
16 he had on me was that he was aware I wouldn't have been
17 in there if I had had any street cred. He held the
18 power and I just accepted it. It was almost as if you
19 took your medicine, just got it over with and hoped that
20 he moved on to some else. At the time it felt pointless
21 me going anywhere and reporting what he was doing to me.
22 I just felt that nobody would believe me because of my
23 history.

24 'Looking back, I knew what would happen if
25 I reported anything to the staff. It was pointless

1 doing that. You just knew that there would have been
2 a little arm put round you and you would be told, "Don't
3 cause problems". I think that would have been what they
4 would have done if you reported anything to them.

5 'I didn't report what had happened to my mother
6 whilst I was there. That was a really hard conversation
7 for a ten-year old to have. Looking back, I wonder if
8 there had been people who came in from the outside
9 I would have reported what was happening to me.
10 Thinking back to what I was like, I do think I would
11 have gone out on a limb to speak to people. I know
12 I would have done that and just taken the consequences
13 after that. I think I got to the point where I had been
14 there so long and was that battle hardened that I would
15 have spoken up. Towards the end, I felt unbreakable and
16 had stopped caring what people did to me. I'd got too
17 streetwise to the people who were abusing me, and the
18 fear and bullying element had gone. I'd realised that
19 what had happened had happened and I was never going to
20 get it back. I would have told them straight what was
21 happening.'

22 He then says that he left Balgowan in [REDACTED] 1971,
23 when he was 12. Then he thinks they were trying to put
24 him into the Dundee experiment over the summer holidays
25 and then back into secondary school. He says that was

1 the first time since starting at Balgowan that he'd had
2 any type of education outside of that institution.

3 He talks about his life after care from
4 paragraph 95. He said that when he went back his mother
5 and stepfather had married and moved to a bigger house
6 in the east of Dundee, but everyone seemed to know where
7 he'd been. There were social workers involved and his
8 impression was that they were easily manipulated by him.
9 They were involved right up until he was 16.

10 He didn't go to school regularly, but they held the
11 threat of him being sent back to Balgowan over his head,
12 and he would push it as far as he could before going
13 back to school for a short while.

14 Going back into mainstream education was difficult,
15 but he said that one teacher went out of his way and
16 tried to help him and told him there was nothing wrong
17 with him. He left school at 16. He had a job in a jute
18 mill. Then he had a bit of a drinking problem, but
19 joined the army in 1978, at 19. He doesn't know how he
20 managed to pass the exams.

21 He then lived in Germany, Canada and Cyprus, and
22 says he had a great life. He left the army because
23 there came a point when his son was of the age that he
24 would have to be sent to boarding school and, given what
25 had happened to him, that wasn't going to be an option.

1 So he moved back to Dundee and got a job with a tyre
2 company and he worked there for 25 years.

3 He retired in 2019. He's been married to his wife
4 for 40 years at the time of this statement. He has
5 a son who was in the RAF, but is now a firefighter. He
6 has grandchildren, and he's looking forward to
7 travelling when his wife retires.

8 He's hoping, after speaking to the Inquiry, to do
9 something to help other people. He would like to help
10 a charity a few days a week. He wants to give back, but
11 he wants to do it with a clear head, so he's giving a
12 statement to the Inquiry first.

13 Then, if I can go to paragraph 104 of his statement,
14 he talks about the impact this has had and the shame and
15 stigma of the experiences which he's found difficult.
16 It has required a lot to keep silent for the time that
17 he has.

18 He says the experiences he has had and the silence
19 he's kept has had an effect on his daily life.

20 At paragraph 104, he says:

21 'When I was in Balgowan I was a skinny, timid boy
22 who could be bullied, intimidated and touched. By the
23 time I left there people had learnt not to come near me.
24 I would fight to death for my pride.'

25 He says his mentality changed pretty quickly and it

1 was because of what he experienced there. He talks
2 about getting stigmatised and the fact that everyone
3 knew that he had been in Balgowan and, after that, he
4 never trusted teachers or conformed to education again.

5 He talks about being lucky about getting into the
6 army with his poor education, and he talks about
7 an officer in the army who, after him sitting an exam,
8 was very surprised that he was able to get as far as he
9 had done in the army and that that officer then gave him
10 some education and taught him that there were some ways
11 of going about things, like reading books, and he
12 started to get more involved.

13 He talks about the fact that if you're not educated
14 you haven't got that chip off your shoulder when you
15 come out. He says it follows you right through to
16 adulthood, parenthood and on to grandparenthood. He
17 says that he doesn't think anybody who has experienced
18 what he has is ever all right.

19 He talks about his wife picking up on things over
20 the years, about how he behaved when the topic of child
21 abuse came up on the TV and how he would just leave the
22 room to avoid it. He talks about his relationship with
23 his son and says he's been very protective and done
24 everything that he could.

25 He says, at paragraph 112:

1 'When you break free from places like Balgowan, no
2 matter how much help people give to you you've got to be
3 able do a wee bit yourself. You need to have that
4 little bit of drive in you to sort yourself out.'

5 He says:

6 'When you leave a place like Balgowan the only thing
7 that you have left is your honour. I have been
8 honourable to my wife, my son and my friends.'

9 He says that it's very hard to say what the full
10 impact has been on him, and that until he tells his son
11 what happened he won't be able to know what collateral
12 damage there's been in opening up and talking to people.
13 He's hopeful that he can put it all behind him and move
14 on.

15 He then talks about treatment and support, at
16 paragraph 114. He says that he did have some
17 involvement that led to him having counselling sessions,
18 but he didn't tell the person he spoke to anything and
19 he ended up calling it a day.

20 He then talks about reporting of abuse after he left
21 care, and he says it's really hard to have discussions
22 with family about the sorts of things he experienced.

23 He then says that times changed and that by the late
24 1980s society was opening up about abuse and he thinks
25 he maybe could have done something and spoken to people

1 then.

2 At the end of paragraph 116, he says:

3 'It's excusable for a ten-year old not to report
4 things, but I don't know whether it is for someone as
5 an adult, later on in their life.'

6 He says it's only really now he's spoken to his wife
7 about things. He's been quite open with her about what
8 happened, and he said she's been told everything.

9 As he said already, he hasn't yet, at the time of
10 this statement anyway, told his son.

11 He says that he visited Balgowan, at
12 paragraph 119 -- the site where it was -- on a couple of
13 occasions. He knew it had been demolished and he says
14 that when he's in a particular frame of mind he'll go up
15 and have a look.

16 He then talks about records and the journey about
17 that and what he was told by the social work at certain
18 times that didn't seem to be correct.

19 He then says, in 2019, there was increased coverage
20 of the Inquiry -- this is at paragraph 121 -- and about
21 the financial redress legislation, and he was aware that
22 if he was to apply for a job somewhere, like the
23 council, he would have to go through a disclosure
24 process.

25 He also talks about the fact that, following

1 Balgowan being knocked down, a lot of records were lost,
2 but he was able to obtain his social work records,
3 albeit they were redacted. He was shocked, when he read
4 through the records, at the language being used by the
5 people who were making the records and it wasn't good
6 and wasn't complementary, and it's not something he
7 would like to show his son.

8 In particular, at paragraph 123, he says:

9 'There were derogatory comments along the lines of
10 saying that my family were delinquents and we were all
11 living in squalor.'

12 He also talks about providing categories on the form
13 registering him to Balgowan for whether he was
14 illegitimate, and that that didn't really have any place
15 there.

16 He talks about lessons to be learned from 124, and
17 says that talking through the experiences with the
18 Inquiry has left him thinking how difficult it can be to
19 summarise a difficult part of your life experience. He
20 says:

21 'I am aware that a man went to the moon in 1969 and
22 that it was a great achievement for mankind. However,
23 it amazes me to think that whilst that was achieved
24 I was receiving the barbaric treatment I did at
25 Balgowan. That treatment was avoidable and should never

1 have happened.'

2 He then talks about some research that he undertook
3 himself and he details that paragraph at 125. I'm not
4 going to go through that, my Lady.

5 He does say later, when he talks about staff, he
6 feels it must have been hard for them to look after all
7 the children. But, at the same time, he knows they
8 never really did look after them.

9 He thinks that there should have been better staff
10 working in Balgowan and they should have been better
11 organised.

12 At paragraph 128, he says there should be the right
13 personnel in place in care settings and those persons
14 should be trained to educate, listen, to think and to
15 act to help prepare all young people for the future.

16 At the end of that paragraph, he says the people who
17 get employed to do jobs in care should really want to do
18 the job. He likens it to nursing and it should be
19 treated the same way as that.

20 He says:

21 'The people in these roles should have aspirations
22 for the children they care for, not just themselves.'

23 He then goes on to talk about education in care
24 institutions from paragraph 131, and says that education
25 is a part of Balgowan that really concerns him, looking

1 back. They never did what they were supposed to do.
2 They never did anything with them in terms of teaching.
3 He said he would be very surprised if there were many
4 children there who went on to do their Highers or even
5 fewer of them who would have gone on to university.

6 He says that Balgowan has to stand up and say that
7 they never educated the kids.

8 He comments on how children could be in those sorts
9 of places for the length of time he was and nobody
10 qualified was actually teaching them, and that nowadays
11 education for children of the age he was then is seen as
12 vital and can result in you missing out on things later
13 in life.

14 He thinks, looking back, he always had the feeling
15 they were just going through the motions.

16 He then talks about his length of stay and follow-on
17 care, and talks about how once someone has been in
18 somewhere for a certain length of time they become
19 conditioned. He thinks there should have been something
20 in place for children who did more than the average or
21 reached 52 or 60 weeks. They should have been taught
22 from the start what was required to get out, and he
23 says:

24 'If they'd done that then, even if my parents had
25 not sorted themselves out, I would at least have known

1 what behaviours, like drinking and so on, were wrong and
2 would have had a chance of moving forward quicker.'

3 He then talks about something that he describes as
4 the 'Bible' from paragraph 138, saying that he would
5 like to see a proper Bible written on what people
6 providing care for children should have to do, and there
7 should be one covering every part of Scotland. And that
8 people providing care should not be allowed to deviate
9 from it.

10 Hopes for the Inquiry. He talks about the fact that
11 sometimes he feels other people's perception of the sort
12 of sexual and mental abuse he suffered was something
13 just because of the era he lived in. But he says:

14 'I would strongly dispute that thinking. Abuse is
15 no more dreadful and disgusting today, in 2021, than it
16 was in 1969. Sadly people are still suffering because
17 adults failed to discharge their duties. Lots of
18 victims will have passed away now and lots of others
19 just can't find the courage to speak out. For me,
20 reflecting back on my experiences, any justice which is
21 delayed is a justice which is denied.'

22 He then talks about the issue of fault, and goes
23 through some detail about that and his views about it.

24 If we go to paragraph 142, he states:

25 'My hope would be that all the effort and good will

1 from Lady Smith and her colleagues can finally result in
2 an excellent report. When all is said and done, I hope
3 the report leaves not one inch of wriggle room to allow
4 adults to think that any form of abuse can go under the
5 radar.'

6 Then he says that the experiences he had during his
7 time in care happened in the past, but the impact is
8 never ending.

9 He says near the end, at paragraph 145:

10 'Unfortunately for me, the process of deciding to
11 provide a statement, and providing this statement, has
12 necessarily resulted in me looking back over a shameful
13 period of my childhood, between 1969 and 1971. I hope
14 this statement has set out those experiences to the
15 Inquiry. Sadly, I was a victim of sexual abuse,
16 physical abuse and neglect whilst I was incarcerated at
17 Balgowan. However, I hope that my experiences will
18 assist the work of the Inquiry and Lady Smith's ultimate
19 report on behalf of the government.'

20 Then he made the declaration:

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

25 He has signed that, and it's dated 7 May 2021.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes. There was much
2 valuable material in that statement. I can see why you
3 judged more of it worthy of being read than perhaps with
4 some other statements.

5 That is it for today. Tomorrow, we will move on to
6 two witnesses in person, or three? I've lost track.

7 MS FORBES: We were originally going to have two, but
8 unfortunately now we'll only have one in the morning, at
9 10.00 am and, after that, it will be read-ins.

10 LADY SMITH: That is the witness who was always going to be
11 at 10 o'clock, isn't it?

12 MS FORBES: Yes. I think so.

13 LADY SMITH: I don't think we brought forward the afternoon
14 witness. So the 10 o'clock witness is going ahead and
15 otherwise we have read-ins for tomorrow.

16 That's very helpful.

17 A couple of further names, please, to take note of
18 as people who are not to be identified outside this
19 room. Mr ^{IQH} [REDACTED] and Mr ^{LUP} [REDACTED], or it may be his name was
20 ^{LUP} [REDACTED], I think, all
21 three of them. Thank you.

22 (4.34 pm)

23 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
24 on Thursday, 15 February 2024)

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