

1

Tuesday, 20 February 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3

(Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.30 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to week 2 of chapter

6 3 in this phase of our case studies. I am sorry there

7 has been a delay this morning, we have been having

8 trouble with the connection to the witness, who is

9 giving evidence by video link. It is working now, so

10 I am keen to get started as soon as we can.

11 Ms Forbes, would you like to introduce the witness?

12 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, the next witness is an applicant

13 who is anonymous, and he is to be known as 'Gary'.

14 'Gary' (affirmed)

15 (Evidence given via video link)

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you. 'Gary', good morning, can you hear

17 me?

18 A. Yes, I can. Good morning.

19 LADY SMITH: Let me introduce myself, I am Lady Smith,

20 I chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry here in

21 Edinburgh.

22 Thank you for agreeing to engage with us this

23 morning to give some evidence about your time when you

24 were a child. Could we start by you raising your right

25 hand, please, as I have just done, and repeat after me.

1 Now, I will hand you over in a moment to Ms Forbes.  
2 But can I just say at the outset, 'Gary', if you have  
3 any problem with the link, and I know it has not been  
4 behaving itself this morning, please let us know  
5 immediately. If you have any questions for us, do feel  
6 free to speak up. It is important that we know if  
7 anything's worrying you, or if it becomes too much and  
8 you want a break, that's not a problem.

9 I do know that when people are asked to speak in  
10 a public forum -- which is what you are doing -- about  
11 their experiences of childhood, where those experiences  
12 are upsetting, they can be quite taken by surprise at  
13 their own emotions, so don't worry about that, we can  
14 handle it.

15 What's more important to me is that we do what we  
16 can to help you give your evidence as comfortably as  
17 possible; do you understand?

18 A. Yes, thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: Well, if you are ready, I will hand over to  
20 Ms Forbes and she will take it from there. Thank you.

21 A. Okay.

22 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

23 Questions by MS FORBES

24 MS FORBES: My Lady. Good morning, 'Gary'. I think you  
25 have a red folder in front of you that has your

1 statement in it; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you could turn, first of all, to the end of that  
4 statement, I think there are 52 pages, and that would be  
5 paragraph 300.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. At the end of that statement, there is a declaration  
8 there, at paragraph 300, which says:

9 'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
10 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
11 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
12 true.'

13 You have then signed it, and it is dated  
14 31 March 2022; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Yes, and that's the position.

17 Now, 'Gary', just for our purposes, that witness  
18 statement has a reference number, and just for the  
19 record, for the transcript, I will read out that  
20 reference number, but you don't have to worry about  
21 that. It is WIT-1-000000951?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. So now we have that out of the way, 'Gary', could you go  
24 to the front of your statement, if that's okay, just to  
25 the first page?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I am just going to start by talking about your early  
3 life. I think you were born in 1963; is that correct?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. And you lived in Falkirk?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. That was with both parents, and you had brothers and  
8 sisters; is that right?

9 A. Yes, that's correct.

10 Q. Were you one of five?

11 A. Yes. I was the second oldest.

12 Q. So you were second oldest in the line of five?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. 'Gary', what was life like at home when you were growing  
15 up?

16 A. Well, life was poor. Everybody was poor in the 60s.  
17 I mean, my mother and father did their best. We were  
18 always well fed, from what I can remember, anyway. We  
19 were always well dressed. My mother and father worked  
20 all their life, you know. My life was okay as a child.

21 Q. So life at home with your parents and your siblings,  
22 I think you said it was quite good; I think you tell us  
23 in your statement?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It was quite good, apart from being poor?

1 A. Yes, apart from being poor.

2 Q. I think you moved at one point, didn't you, from one  
3 part of Falkirk to another part?

4 A. Er, I did, as I got older, yes. We lived in, like, see,  
5 one part of Falkirk and then we moved to another part;  
6 know what I mean? I think I was 8 when we moved to the  
7 next house, housing scheme, sorry.

8 Q. Was that into a bigger house, a four bedroomed house?

9 A. Yes, obviously, because my mother and father needed  
10 a bigger house, because there were five children.

11 Q. Yes. You went to two primary schools, I think, and then  
12 on to high school?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us. At that point, I don't think there was any  
15 involvement with the social work with you at home; is  
16 that right?

17 A. No, nothing at all. Nothing at all.

18 Q. But I think you describe yourself a little bit in your  
19 statement, at paragraph 8, and you said you were getting  
20 into a bit of trouble; is that right, 'Gary'?

21 A. Yes, I was a naughty wee boy. Yes, definitely.

22 Q. I think you said you were hanging around with some  
23 people who maybe weren't the best?

24 A. No, definitely not. My friends -- I thought they were  
25 just my friends, but, when I looked back, they weren't

1 my friends, really. But I thought they were my friends.

2 Q. Were they the same age as you, 'Gary', or were they  
3 older?

4 A. I think we were all the same age, near enough.

5 Q. Did there come a point, then, when you stopped going to  
6 school and were getting into a little bit more trouble?

7 A. Yes, we used to. Yes, definitely.

8 Q. Did you know --

9 A. Do you want me to tell you --

10 Q. Sorry.

11 A. Do you want me to tell you the type of trouble I was  
12 getting into?

13 Q. You could say -- yes, just tell us what was happening,  
14 'Gary'.

15 A. We used to go out and do a wee bit of, like, you know,  
16 stealing food, sweets, posters, them, like. Then we  
17 started sniffing glue, which was, like, a big thing back  
18 then.

19 Q. So that was the sort of thing that people your age were  
20 getting up to in that area at the time?

21 A. Yes, definitely, definitely.

22 Q. And you have mentioned some things that you were getting  
23 into trouble for, but was there something then a bit  
24 more serious that happened?

25 A. Yeah. Me and my friends were all sniffing the glue one

1 day, and we broke into a local Catholic school and we  
2 decided to play with matches. And we ended up putting  
3 the Catholic school on fire, which led to the school  
4 getting severely damaged.

5 Q. And there was quite a lot of -- the value of damage was  
6 quite high, wasn't it?

7 A. Yes, I think -- if I remember right, I think it was  
8 £30,000 worth of damage, which was quite a lot of money  
9 in the early 1970s.

10 Q. Yes. And as a result of that, 'Gary'; did the police  
11 become involved?

12 A. Yeah, more or less. (indistinct) Like I say two weeks  
13 they were at my parents' door.

14 Q. You were the one, I think, who ended up getting into  
15 trouble for that; is that right?

16 A. Yes, out of the five, I was the one who got taken off,  
17 without seeing my family.

18 Q. Okay. So I think you were charged with arson or fire  
19 raising, something like that, at the school?

20 A. Arson. Yes, it was arson.

21 Q. You went to Falkirk Sheriff's Court?

22 A. I went to Falkirk Sheriff's Court, but because of my age  
23 I got transferred to the Children's Panel.

24 Q. Sorry, we lost you for a second there in the picture,  
25 'Gary', but you are back.

1           Did the Children's Panel say you were going to be  
2           sent home for a while for some reports to be carried  
3           out?

4   A.   Yes, I was getting sent home until they found me  
5           a place, an Approved School. I think it was  
6           an assessment centre to start with.

7   Q.   Were you 11 then; is that right?

8   A.   Yes, I was 11.

9   Q.   And as a result of that incident, you were also expelled  
10          from your own school?

11   A.   That's right.

12   Q.   Okay.

13                Now, when you went back home after the Children's  
14          Panel; did something happen?

15   A.   Yeah. I didn't want to, likesay, get taken off my  
16          parents, so I got really scared. So I ended up taking  
17          an overdose; know what I mean? And I was taken to  
18          Falkirk Royal.

19   Q.   And you were in hospital, I think, for a couple of days  
20          after that?

21   A.   Yes, a couple of days. And the social workers came, and  
22          I was allowed to go back home. That's -- sorry, on you  
23          go.

24   Q.   No, sorry, 'Gary', continue.

25   A.   That's when I was ... well, scared, because I wasn't



1           allowed to go back home, and my father and two social  
2           workers took me through to a place called Bellfield, in  
3           Dumbarton. Then my father left with the social workers  
4           and I was left with these people.

5   Q.   So there is the social workers that come to the  
6           hospital, your father's there, and those three and  
7           yourself go to Bellfield; is that right?

8   A.   Yeah, that's correct.

9   Q.   And I think you tell us about Bellfield in your  
10          statement about from paragraph 13. Were you told what  
11          the plan was in relation to you going to Bellfield?

12   A.   Yes, I was going to Bellfield to get assessed, until  
13          they found a place in an Approved School.

14   Q.   Okay.

15   A.   Which didn't happen for about -- I think, it was  
16          six months.

17   Q.   Okay. So this was the first time you had had the social  
18          work involvement in your life. You were aged 11; is  
19          that right, 'Gary'?

20   A.   Yeah, that's right. I think --

21   Q.   Sorry.

22   A.   -- I could even remember her name. It was a Ms Petrie,  
23          if I remember correctly.

24   Q.   That was the social worker, was it?

25   A.   That was the social worker.

1 Q. This was you being taken away from your parents and put  
2 into the remand home?

3 A. Yes. It was very scary. It was a very scary feeling,  
4 to be honest.

5 Q. I think you tell us about how you felt when you arrived  
6 there from paragraph 17 in your statement. You said you  
7 remember arriving, driving up to the main door; how did  
8 you feel at that time?

9 A. I was terrified. Scared. Confused. Know what I mean?

10 Q. And I think you say you were taken to the headmaster's  
11 room, first of all; is that right?

12 A. Yes, right, yes.

13 Q. And you were told what the rules were and what you could  
14 do and couldn't do?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Okay. But your dad was still with you at that point; is  
17 that right?

18 A. Yes. He was only there for a -- as soon as he left, it  
19 just -- well, when he left I was gutted, to be quite  
20 honest, because it was the first time I had actually  
21 been, like, out of Falkirk, know what I mean, and just  
22 taken away from my family, just left.

23 Q. I think you then tell us the kind of layout of  
24 Bellfield. We have that in your statement, so I won't  
25 go through it in detail with you. I think you tell us,

1 at paragraph 21, it was a sort of nice, big country  
2 house on a hill?

3 A. Yes, that's right.

4 Q. And it was all dorms?

5 A. It was all dorms. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. There was maybe five beds in each dorm; is that right?

7 A. That's right, yes.

8 Q. I think you tell us there might have been about 20 to 25  
9 boys there at the time you were there?

10 A. Yes. Yes, about that.

11 Q. And there was another building, though, that was  
12 an outhouse, I think you tell us at paragraph 22, which  
13 is where you went for some education?

14 A. Yes, that was just as you came in the gate, just at the  
15 bottom of the hill.

16 Q. And that was called 'the school'?

17 A. Yes, the school.

18 Q. What were the ages of the boys there, 'Gary'?

19 A. About 10 to about likesay 15.

20 Q. And I think you tell us that there was staff working  
21 there, but they didn't live there. But there was  
22 a night clerk, who you think was a woman, who did stay  
23 overnight?

24 A. Yeah, that's correct. I couldn't tell you her name,  
25 like, but ...

1 Q. When you went to your room at night, that was you. You  
2 weren't allowed out until the morning, unless you were  
3 going to the toilet.

4 A. That's right. That's correct.

5 Q. You do say that there was somebody there who was  
6 a member of staff that made an impact on you; can you  
7 tell us about that?

8 A. Yeah, his name was either Mr GRI or Mr GRI, but  
9 he is the only name I can actually remember out of all  
10 of the staff, because he had that much of an impact on  
11 me because of what happened. Do you want me, like, to  
12 tell what you happened?

13 Q. Yes, can you start by telling us what happened with that  
14 individual?

15 A. Right, well, it all started, every Tuesday night it  
16 was -- likesay we used to do a thing called, we used to  
17 call it 'jungle juice night'. Everybody would, likesay,  
18 be naked. All the boys would be naked and you would --  
19 they would put this -- it was to kill nits, because you  
20 had people, likesay, coming in from dirty families, poor  
21 families, and things like that, they had nits. So,  
22 just to keep the names clean --

23 LADY SMITH: 'Gary', do you know you don't need to be dirty  
24 to get nits? They will choose anybody's hair to jump on  
25 to, anybody's body.

1 A. That's true, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: I don't think it was because you were dirty.

3 They love children, that's the trouble.

4 A. That's true, too. Okay.

5 This is when I started getting a bit of contact with  
6 this Mr GRI or Mr GRI, because he would put the  
7 jungle juice on your hair, rub it into your hair, and  
8 then he would just slap your arse. And he would keep  
9 you standing there for about five minutes and then you  
10 would go into the shower.

11 And for some reason I was always the last one out of  
12 the shower, and I was always left, with, likesay, this  
13 individual. And he used to dry me a bit. When he was  
14 drying me, he would touch my private parts. He would,  
15 like, always be rubbing the back of my neck, know what  
16 I mean. This is something that would happen every  
17 Tuesday.

18 Then he used to, during the day, in the morning,  
19 after we had done all the cleaning -- the first time  
20 this happened to me there was a programme on the TV  
21 called the Wombles, and he used to shout, 'Come on  
22 Womble, let's go and pick up some rubbish'. I thought  
23 I was going out, likesay, just to pick up some rubbish.

24 This is the first time he tried to do what he did do  
25 later on.

1           We were going out and picking up bits of rubbish.  
2           He walked down the driveway and he asked me to come into  
3           the school with him. He opened the door -- he went in  
4           and shut the door. He took me up the stairs, and then  
5           right away he just grabbed me and threw me on the couch.  
6           And, likesay, he started ripping my clothes off, pulling  
7           my clothes off and pulling my pants down and he tried to  
8           get his penis inside me. But, because I was a small,  
9           wee boy, he just couldn't penetrate me at that time.  
10           And then he started, like -- he got all frustrated  
11           and just started slapping me, know what I mean. Aye ...  
12 MS FORBES: 'Gary', you are telling us about an occasion  
13           with this member of staff who took you into the school  
14           that time; this was on the pretence that you were going  
15           to go and pick up rubbish with him?  
16 A. Yes, he used to call me the Womble.  
17 Q. This first occasion, then, where you go into the school,  
18           and he tries to penetrate you; how far into your time at  
19           Bellfield was it when that happened?  
20 A. It wasn't long. It wasn't long, maybe about, I don't  
21           know, four or five weeks. Maybe a wee bit longer.  
22           Maybe a bit sooner, actually. But I know it happened  
23           quite quickly.  
24 LADY SMITH: How old were you 'Gary'?  
25 A. I was 11.

1 MS FORBES: On the run up to this, 'Gary', with this  
2 teacher; had he been, from your point of view, quite  
3 nice to you and been friendly towards you?  
4 A. Aye, definitely. He used to likesay give me -- it was  
5 caps and full strength cigarettes, because in Bellfield  
6 you could have four cigarettes, likesay, a day, know  
7 what I mean.  
8 And I didn't think -- I just thought he was a member  
9 of staff.  
10 But I was still a bit scared of everybody, because  
11 I came from Falkirk, I wasn't a Glaswegian, and they all  
12 spoke, like you say, with their rough voices, know what  
13 I mean. So I was always a wee bit -- I always felt like  
14 the outsider anyway.  
15 Q. But, this first time that he tried to assault you, he  
16 wasn't able to penetrate you, that's what you have told  
17 us; is that right?  
18 A. Yes, that's right. That was the first time he  
19 couldn't -- do what he was going to.  
20 Q. I think, 'Gary', you then said he got angry about that  
21 and then he assaulted you, physically; is that correct?  
22 A. Right. He didn't like -- he didn't likesay leave any  
23 bruises; he just kept slapping my arse and the back of  
24 my head. I was scared. I was just a wee boy, know what  
25 I mean. I think I just shut down, know what I mean.

1 Q. After -- sorry, 'Gary'.

2 A. He told me if I ever told anybody -- he always says this  
3 at the end, after what he was doing in the future. He  
4 always said, 'If you tell anybody I will throw you in  
5 the River Clyde', because the River Clyde was just at  
6 the bottom of the driveway.

7 So he was very scary.

8 Q. After this first time, though, 'Gary', did he try again?

9 A. Aye, about two days later he tried again.

10 Q. Where did that take place?

11 A. In the same place, in the school.

12 Q. Okay. And that time, that second time; what happened?

13 A. He did penetrate me.

14 Q. Okay. And are you able to describe how you felt after  
15 that?

16 A. How did I feel? Sore. I was bleeding. I mean,  
17 I didn't get any medical attention, because -- what he  
18 told me, he said, 'Look, put this toilet paper in you',  
19 know what I mean. But I can remember waking up the next  
20 morning and I could hardly walk. I had the pains down  
21 the back of my legs. I had never felt a pain like that  
22 in my life before. I kind of shut down a wee bit, as  
23 well. I was already scared then, but that made me kind  
24 of just go dead quiet, you know what I mean. But it  
25 kept happening.



1 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 49 of your statement,  
2 'Gary', that first time he was able to penetrate you,  
3 you describe it as like getting a piece of wood put  
4 inside you; is that what it was like?

5 A. That's right. That's what I did say, aye, in my  
6 statement. It just felt like somebody was forcing  
7 a piece of wood inside me. That's my memory of it, know  
8 what I mean. That was --

9 Q. Sorry, 'Gary', I stopped you. Continue.

10 A. That was the first time it actually happened, you know.  
11 It was not a nice memory.

12 Q. No. And did it happen again after that?

13 A. Yeah, it happened quite regular after that, actually.  
14 But then he would take me into the greenhouse. The  
15 places would change, know what I mean, but it happened,  
16 like, quite regular after that.

17 Q. Did you learn to behave in a certain way when that was  
18 happening, to make it better for you?

19 A. Yeah, I used to relax. I got to know what to do with my  
20 body, and turn my head off at the same time. Just turn  
21 my head off. That's how I used to deal with it.

22 Q. And did that -- sorry, 'Gary', continue.

23 A. Then they started giving me, likesay, weekend leave.  
24 I was allowed to go back to my family at the weekend,  
25 and he always made a point, 'Don't tell anybody, because

1 I will kill you', know what I mean. So I was scared,  
2 because I knew I was coming back.

3 As I say, the abuse kept happening. One day they  
4 told me I was allowed to go home because they had found  
5 me an Approved School. And then he told me, 'Just don't  
6 tell anybody', and I certainly wasn't going to tell my  
7 parents, know what I mean. I was scared, full of shame,  
8 know what I mean. I was just glad to get back home.

9 Q. After this was happening to you, 'Gary'; did you change  
10 your personality at all, and how you were?

11 A. Well, I can remember my mother saying, 'There is  
12 something not right with our GRF', know what I mean.  
13 But I don't know, I put myself in that position, didn't  
14 I? Even though it should never have happened to me,  
15 I put myself in that position by, say, breaking the law.

16 Q. Yeah. I think you say in your statement you used to be  
17 a lively wee guy, is how you describe yourself, always  
18 bouncing about.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But when that started it changed?

21 A. Oh aye, yeah, definitely. I kind of shut right down,  
22 I know that, know what I mean. I couldn't trust men. I  
23 kept away from older men. But then I was always around  
24 them; know what I mean?

25 Q. After that started with this member of staff, I think

1           you tell us it happened -- you have said it was  
2           regularly; I think you tell us in your statement it was  
3           about once a week?  
4    A.   Aye.  Once a week, aye.  
5    Q.   Was that for the remainder of the time you were in  
6           Bellfield?  
7    A.   Yes.  
8    Q.   Okay.  I think you say you were there all together about  
9           three months in total?  
10   A.   I was there about three or four months.  
11   Q.   Okay.  
12   A.   I was just glad when I got told I was going home.  
13   Q.   When he made these threats to you about, you know,  
14           throwing you in the Clyde and killing you; did you  
15           believe him when he said it?  
16   A.   Yeah, totally.  Definitely.  
17   Q.   Apart from this abuse from that individual, you do tell  
18           us about some other things that went on in Bellfield in  
19           your statement.  I think you say there was some physical  
20           abuse.  That is at paragraph 54; is that right?  
21   A.   Yeah, you were always getting slapped.  You were made to  
22           work, likesay, quite hard.  Now you have buffers.  Not  
23           just to shine the floor back then.  It was a piece of  
24           wood, with a big heavy weight on the end of it.  And if  
25           you never got it done by a certain time, you would get

1 a slap in the back of the head.

2 Q. So would that be from members of staff?

3 A. Yeah, yeah, members of staff.

4 Q. I think you say there was also some of that from some of  
5 the older boys at Bellfield?

6 A. Yeah, I was -- they used to, likesay, come round and  
7 just jump on your bed and just beat you up. Because, as  
8 I say, I didn't speak like them. They used to call me  
9 a teuchter all the time, you know what I mean. At the  
10 time I didn't know what a teuchter was.

11 Q. Yes. Was there one particular boy that you were scared  
12 of at the beginning, when you first arrived at  
13 Bellfield?

14 A. He was a traveller. He used to say they used to kill  
15 rabbits and that, and he knew how to break their necks  
16 and he was going to do that to me. He actually slept in  
17 the same dorm as me as well, so I was always scared to  
18 go to sleep.

19 Q. So, when you were in your dorm at nighttime, that was  
20 somebody you were worried about?

21 A. Yes, totally, 100 per cent.

22 Q. I think you say when you were at Bellfield you didn't  
23 run away, but some of the other boys did; is that right?

24 A. Yes, some of them, yeah.

25 Q. And --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you tell us there were repercussions for that,  
3 when they got back?

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. What was that?

6 A. They would get beat up.

7 Q. And would you see them with injuries?

8 A. Yeah, yeah, all the time.

9 Q. What kind of injuries would you see?

10 A. Their face would be red where they had been slapped,  
11 some of them had, likesay, black eyes. Know what I  
12 mean. The one in general. But I got to experience  
13 that. I got to experience that type of violence on  
14 myself, but we will talk about that when we get into it.

15 Q. Okay.

16 I think you say when you were in Bellfield you  
17 became, what you describe as a regular bed wetter. But  
18 that is something you had done at home a little bit  
19 before you got there, but it was something that was  
20 worse when you were in Bellfield; is that right?

21 A. Yeah, as a child, I think, most people used to wet the  
22 bed. In Bellfield, because it was happening, probably,  
23 I kept wetting the bed, and I used to get punished for  
24 that as well. They used to pick the sheet up and rub it  
25 in my face. Not nice.

1 Q. Who would do that, 'Gary'?

2 A. The staff.

3 Q. Okay. And did you have any issues with other boys, if

4 you were a bed wetter?

5 A. Aye, you would get bullied for it, you would get called

6 pissy and things like that.

7 Q. I think you tell us a bit about the individual you have

8 named. You are not sure of his surname, but I think you

9 describe him as looking like a sort of teddy boy of the

10 time?

11 A. He reminded me a wee bit of how my uncle used to dress.

12 How he used to have his hair, all brushed back just like

13 a teddy boy.

14 Q. But, in relation to sexual abuse, it was only that

15 member of staff that you had a problem with at

16 Bellfield; is that right?

17 A. Yes. I think that's why I can only remember his name,

18 even though -- I think it is Mr GRI ██████, but it could be

19 Mr ██████. But my money's on Mr ██████.

20 Q. Okay. And you've said that you didn't speak about what

21 was happening to you whilst you were there; is that

22 right?

23 A. No.

24 Q. I think you also tell us that you didn't hear anyone

25 else speaking to you about things that were happening to

1           them?

2    A.  No.

3    Q.  So there became a time, then, 'Gary', after Bellfield,

4           where you were moved; is that right?

5    A.  Yeah, I was allowed to go home.

6    Q.  Okay.

7    A.  I was allowed to go home for, I think, likesay, about

8           four weeks or six weeks.  Then the social worker turned

9           up one morning.  I didn't even know I was going, and

10          this would all be, likesay -- like, I don't know that

11          they wanted to tell me, because the last time they told

12          me I took an overdose, so I've kind of -- and I have

13          actually thought about that, and I think they probably

14          didn't want to tell me.  They just came, and it was me,

15          my mother and Ms Petrie again, took me up to Dundee.

16    Q.  So there is a time you get extended leave from

17          Bellfield?

18    A.  Yes.

19    Q.  And you think that was for about four weeks?

20    A.  Yes.

21    Q.  Were you aware, when you were back home, that you were

22          going to be going somewhere else or was it the case --

23    A.  Yes.

24    Q.  Right, okay.

25    A.  No, I had been told they had found me an Approved

1 School, but I didn't really know where I was going until  
2 the day.

3 Q. Okay. And you then say that you were taken up to  
4 Balgowan?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you obviously didn't want to go up to Dundee; is  
7 that right?

8 A. No, because it was miles away.

9 Q. 'Gary', you tell us about Balgowan from paragraph 58 of  
10 your statement, and you give us a description. Now,  
11 I won't go through that in detail with you, because we  
12 have it there, and we have heard some other evidence  
13 about the layout of Balgowan.

14 I think you say there was a main, big building  
15 called 'the Castle'; is that right?

16 A. Yeah, that's what the kids called it, the Castle.

17 Q. Yes, and that had four houses within it?

18 A. Yes, Scott House, Duncan House -- I can't remember the  
19 other two, but I lived in the cottages.

20 Q. Yes. So there were cottages that were separate and then  
21 this big house, as you say, which the kids called the  
22 Castle?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. This cottage that you were in when you arrived at  
25 Balgowan, you describe it a little bit at paragraph 59,



1 I think you say there were about nine rooms in it, three  
2 boys in each. So you think there was about 27 boys in  
3 total at the cottage; is that right?

4 A. Yes, that's right.

5 Q. And you give us their ages; about ten to 16 years old?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You go into some details about the layout and things.  
8 But there was a couple, is that right, who you called Ma  
9 and Pa; was it Mr and Mrs GMR-SPO ?

10 A. Yes, Ma and Pa GMR-SPO , and they had a daughter called  
11 [REDACTED] as well.

12 Q. And they lived upstairs at the cottage; is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. And there was another member of staff there, I think you  
15 tell us, about paragraph 61; can you remember who that  
16 was, particularly?

17 A. Was it Mr zIPR [REDACTED] ?

18 Q. I think there was somebody you say was a crazy old  
19 captain?

20 A. Oh, Mr LID [REDACTED] , aye.

21 Q. And I think you describe him as a sort of second world  
22 war hero who had been a major?

23 A. Yes, he used to show us his bullet holes on his body.

24 Q. You talk about the routine at Balgowan, at paragraph 63.  
25 I won't go through that in detail. But I think what you

1 point out is this was a very big building you had  
2 arrived at; is that right?

3 A. Yes, the biggest building I had ever seen, as a child.

4 Q. And you found that quite daunting?

5 A. Yes, very intimidating.

6 Q. I think you say when you got to the cottages and were  
7 shown around, one thing that really sticks in your mind  
8 is the fact you had a quilt?

9 A. Yes, it was the first time I had actually seen likesay  
10 a quilt in my life and I found it -- I felt like I was  
11 lying on top of a marshmallow.

12 Q. And I think you tell us that had a big impact on you,  
13 the quilt?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So when you went to Balgowan, I think you tell us that  
16 you were told, maybe, how long you would be there for;  
17 is that right, 'Gary'?

18 A. Yes, the Children's Panel told me: GRF, if you behave  
19 yourself, we will get you back to your family and your  
20 siblings within a year.

21 Q. So, in your mind, you thought you had the year --

22 A. I was going, yes.

23 Q. -- and then would you get to go home?

24 A. Yes, that's -- that was my target, that's what I wanted  
25 to -- I just wanted to get back home to my family,

1 really.

2 Q. I think you tell us that things happened to you quite  
3 quickly in Balgowan?

4 A. Yes, [REDACTED], I remember him, I will never forget him.  
5 Another one.

6 I had been there about -- maybe six weeks, it was  
7 a summer's night. I had been out playing in the park,  
8 because they had a big field in the front of the Castle,  
9 and we were just, like, playing football. There was  
10 a trampoline there as well. And then I walked in.  
11 I came in early. I have had a shower, I've come out  
12 with a towel wrapped round me. I walked into my room.  
13 I shared a room with another two boys, but they were  
14 still out in the field. And this guy called [REDACTED],  
15 he was very scary looking. He was an older boy. He was  
16 very scary looking, he had a big scar that ran all the  
17 way through his face.

18 And he just threw me on the bed and just started  
19 raping me. And I just couldn't believe it was happening  
20 again, know what I mean?

21 Q. So, 'Gary', this is another boy, an older boy, who was  
22 in the cottages alongside you; is that right?

23 A. Yeah, his name is [REDACTED].

24 Q. And I think you said to us he was about 15 or 16, in  
25 your statement?

1 A. Yes, I think he was 15.

2 Q. And at that time 'Gary'; how old were you?

3 A. I would be 12 now. It was 1975.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I would be 12.

6 Q. This occasion where you say you came back in after  
7 having a shower, into your room; how long is that after  
8 you arrived at Balgowan, roughly?

9 A. It was no longer than six weeks.

10 Q. Okay. When that happened; was there anyone else around  
11 at the time?

12 A. No. I didn't even know -- I just entered my room and he  
13 just followed me in, and it happened right away, just  
14 happened right away. There was nothing I could do.

15 Q. I think you described that boy later, 'Gary', as being  
16 someone who was built like a man at that time, almost?

17 A. Yes, he was a thick set -- he just didn't look right.  
18 He just didn't look right. He was a lot bigger than me.  
19 He was a lot -- I found him very ugly, really, to look  
20 at, know what I mean? And very scary.

21 Q. I think you say that that then was something that  
22 happened regularly?

23 A. Yes, all the time. Not just to me, as well.

24 Q. I think you -- we don't need to go to the names of the  
25 other boys, but you do name three boys that you say told

1           you that he was doing it to them as well; is that right?

2    A.   That's right.

3    Q.   And you also say there was another couple of boys, who

4           told you, but you can't remember their names; about five

5           other boys all together?

6    A.   Yes, there was five.  And there is not many of them left

7           anymore.

8    Q.   And how regularly did that happen with him?

9    A.   It used to happen to me twice a week.

10   Q.   Okay.  And was it always up at the cottage?

11   A.   Yeah, (indistinct) there was other things happened, but

12           that's after the year.  That's after the year that I

13           was -- it was down -- he was raping us all, know what

14           I mean.

15   Q.   When this would happen; where would the other boys be,

16           who were usually in the cottages?

17   A.   They were always out playing.  He picked his times, know

18           what I mean.  Because, as I say, everybody was quite

19           wary of ██████, because he was quite scary.  Remember, we

20           were all young boys, and we're all likesay built like,

21           they're all like -- we're very thin boys.

22   Q.   And I think you tell us that there was quite a lot of

23           stuff you could do at Balgowan.  There was football,

24           there would be classes and things like that.

25   A.   Yes, we would go to school in the morning.  We used to

1 go to the gym. I used to go and do a bit of gardening,  
2 likesay, night classes. That was in the winter. And,  
3 yeah, while that was happening to me and the boys.

4 But then I actually, I became, likesay, one of the  
5 good boys, even though what was happening to me was  
6 happening to me. If you behaved yourself, you were  
7 allowed to go home every weekend and you were allowed  
8 to -- you got a merit badge. You got a badge with a  
9 name on it. You were known as a merit boy, and you were  
10 allowed to go to the local youth club to learn to do  
11 northern soul dancing at there, so ...

12 I was doing all right likesay that, but, at the same  
13 time, all that madness was happening to me.

14 Q. I think you say, 'Gary', there was a time when you  
15 wouldn't be doing something, that was the time he would  
16 choose to appear and abuse you?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. It was -- I don't want to say it was  
18 normal, but it became a normal thing for me, as sad as  
19 that is.

20 Q. Now, you have mentioned -- we have talked about the fact  
21 that you had this year in your head, that if you just  
22 got through the year you would be able to go home.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Did that happen?

25 A. No, they lied to me.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I went back -- no, I did have the hearing. I came in  
3 and went back to Falkirk, because I went home at the  
4 weekend and I think the Children's Panel sat on the  
5 Monday.

6 And I will never forget it, and they says to me --  
7 because this is where my life kind of changes in my  
8 head, I think. Because they say to me, 'Oh, GRF, you  
9 are doing really well', and I goes -- 'But we would like  
10 to send you back for another year'. Right away I says  
11 to myself: I am not going back there. No way. I have  
12 suffered all of that for a year, know what I mean.

13 Q. What did you do, 'Gary', after you found that out from  
14 the panel?

15 A. As soon as they told me, this happened right away. My  
16 mother was crying because she thought I was coming home  
17 as well. I was crying. I can remember asking to go to  
18 the toilet. Went to the toilet, I jumped out of the  
19 window, and this is where I started becoming a problem  
20 for the authorities because -- as a young boy running  
21 all the time, know what I mean. And you get caught.  
22 The police would find you or your parents would find  
23 you, and because your parents are law abiding people,  
24 they would phone the social worker up, the social worker  
25 would come down with a police officer and take you back.

1           This is when it all changes, because as soon as you  
2           go back, this is when you get introduced to -- because  
3           you are misbehaving, you no longer can go home at the  
4           weekend, you lose your merit. And at the weekend the  
5           cottages always, always closed, so you got taken up to  
6           Scott House. But, as soon as the coppers took you back,  
7           that's when the staff would start being violent towards  
8           you, in a very, very terrible way, know what I mean. It  
9           was wanting to instill fear into you, but it just made  
10          me even more determined to run, to be quite honest.

11 Q. So, after this Children's Panel, you realise you are not  
12       getting home. You kind of escape from the panel  
13       hearing, but then you are caught and taken back to  
14       Balgowan; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then, after that, was it the case you started running  
17       away, because of what was going on?

18 A. Yes, I became -- because I wasn't allowed to go home, so  
19       I just went home anyway, know what I mean. And  
20       sometimes I would walk from Dundee to Falkirk, skipping  
21       trains, hitching lifts, know what I mean.

22           I can remember once I walked from Dundee to Perth,  
23           and it was that cold we could have died, so we walked  
24           straight into the police station and handed ourselves in  
25           and were taken back.



1 Q. Because you were getting in to trouble and running away,  
2 you didn't get your home leave. And I think you just  
3 said there, 'Gary', that the cottage wasn't open at the  
4 weekend; was that so Ma and Pa **GMR-SPO** could get the  
5 weekend off?

6 A. Yes, because most people went home at the weekend, know  
7 what I am saying. But, if you misbehaved, if you got  
8 caught smoking, fighting, just not following the rules.  
9 But I wasn't allowed to go home, that was me, I was  
10 known as an abscondee.

11 Q. As a result of that; would you then have to stay in the  
12 big house, which was called the Castle?

13 A. Yes, I would go to Scott House.

14 Q. Yes. And I think you tell us that things would happen  
15 there once that started happening, once you started  
16 having to stay in the Castle at the weekend; can you  
17 tell us about that?

18 A. Yeah. That's where -- it is not this **██████████** now. Up  
19 there it is all older guys who have all been kept in  
20 because they have been doing what they have been doing.  
21 And I can remember waking up and I've got one on my back  
22 and they were just all taking turns just having sex with  
23 me, know what I mean. Just raping me, really.

24 Q. I think you say that there would be sometimes three of  
25 them, is that right, and two would hold you down?

1 A. Yes, there was always three of them. Always three.

2 Q. And two would hold you down, and I think you tell us  
3 that they would rape you and they would take turns in  
4 doing that?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I think you say there was something else that they would  
7 do when that was going on as well; would they put  
8 something --

9 A. They would put a pillow over my head, know what I mean,  
10 just so -- because I did shout for help and that, but it  
11 made no difference, because they just put a pillow over  
12 my face, know what I mean.

13 Q. Did that happen every time you were at the Castle or did  
14 it depend what part of the Castle you were in?

15 A. I didn't really know who was actually doing it, because  
16 I couldn't see them, but I used to wake up and they  
17 would be there, know what I mean.

18 After that, every other time I used to go up there  
19 my plan was to try and escape, know what I mean. Tying  
20 my sheets off, dangle out of a big Castle window, just  
21 to try to get away.

22 Q. So, when you would have to go up to the Castle, your  
23 plan was you weren't going to stay, you were just going  
24 to try to get away?

25 A. Yes, I was just a runner. I wasn't listening to

1 anything they said. I wasn't staying there because of  
2 what was happening to me.

3 Q. Now, this is -- oh, sorry 'Gary', sorry.

4 A. This is when -- see when you used to get -- this is when  
5 I got made unruly. And once you get that status, that's  
6 when the beatings at places start happening. When  
7 I'd run away and get caught, I would get taken back.  
8 You would you get taken to SNR [REDACTED] office, and  
9 there would be, like I say, SNR [REDACTED] and four  
10 members of staff. They would take all of your clothes  
11 off, take your underpants. We used to call it being  
12 starfished. And each member of staff would take a hand  
13 each or a foot each and just pull you apart.

14 In Scotland, you used to get leather strapped as  
15 a child. I would get this leather strap. I would just  
16 get whipped, know what I mean.

17 I remember once I actually managed to get away, and  
18 I ran down to -- there was a housing estate in, likesay,  
19 Dundee. When I used to go to the youth club, I'd made a  
20 few friends. I told a mother and the mother phoned my  
21 father, and my father travelled up to Falkirk that night  
22 with his two brothers and two of his friends. And when  
23 they seen the state of me, they took me back into  
24 Balgowan and asked them. I've not seen my dad get  
25 angry, but he was angry that night. And he just wanted

1 to know what was happening to his son. And he goes,  
2 'Look, I am taking my son', and they said, 'You can't  
3 take your son. We will have to call the police'.

4 So the police came up to the school, and they  
5 weren't even interested in my injuries, and they went  
6 like that to my dad, and my dad said, 'I am taking my  
7 son', and my dad -- they said to my father, 'Oh, you can  
8 take him, but you will get done with kidnapping because  
9 he is on a protection order', and because of them saying  
10 that to my father, me and my father never spoke until my  
11 mother passed in 1993, know what I mean, because I think  
12 my dad felt he kind of let me down. And that's -- that  
13 wasn't a nice time for us all, know what I mean. But  
14 I wasn't allowed to go.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Gary', just going back to being starfished;  
16 were you put on to a table for that?

17 A. Yeah, you know SNR had a massive big oak  
18 table in his office.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 A. And they would put you on the table and get whipped.  
21 I don't know if you have heard this from other people,  
22 but that was quite a common thing that happened there.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Gary'.

24 MS FORBES: When you say 'whipped', 'Gary'; was that with  
25 the tawse?

1 A. Yes, in England, I don't know if -- when I was a child,  
2 that was going to school. If you misbehaved or if you  
3 were cheeky in class, they would give you six of the  
4 best over the hands. It was that leather strap, you  
5 know, with the wee tails at the end of it, and they used  
6 to just whip you on the backside, and, like, my legs and  
7 my back.

8 Q. So that's what would happen at Balgowan?

9 A. Aye, only to the unrulies. Once you got that status you  
10 were just a problem.

11 Q. When would it happen to you? What would you have done  
12 to receive that?

13 A. Got caught after running away.

14 Q. Okay. So it was running away that caused that?

15 A. Aye, that's what it was. I will be quite honest, they  
16 just couldn't control me, because as soon as they took  
17 me back, I was off. I just wasn't wanting to live in  
18 that place anymore. I just wanted to get back home,  
19 really.

20 Q. I think you say that aside from what was going on at the  
21 Castle, if you were there at the weekends with these  
22 other boys, the abuse from [REDACTED] --

23 A. [REDACTED], yes.

24 Q. That changed a little bit at one point; was there  
25 a reason why that changed?

1 A. I can't remember. I can't remember that, honestly.

2 Q. I think you say you made a skateboard at one point?

3 A. Oh, yeah, yes, you are right enough. I've just

4 remembered. Aye, we used to make -- in the 1970s,

5 that's when likesay skate boards became a big thing, and

6 they used to allow us to make skateboards. So, one day

7 when [REDACTED] came in, I had a skateboard and I smashed it

8 off his face.

9 Q. Did you say there was another boy involved in that?

10 A. Yes. He did beat [REDACTED] up, and that kind of stopped

11 after that. It stopped with me, anyway, I know that.

12 Q. Did it completely stop with you after that? Because

13 I think you say in a later part of your statement it was

14 maybe going on still a little bit with him?

15 A. It was definitely going on. But, after that -- are you

16 talking about after hitting him with a skateboard?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Yes, it did happen. I did try to report it once. But I

19 actually said to Ma [REDACTED] -- but I didn't actually go

20 into detail. I just said [REDACTED] hurting me, and her

21 response was, 'Stop telling stories or you will not get

22 to go home at the weekend', so that kind of shut me down

23 a bit. But I just -- I don't know. I was just never

24 asked.

25 Q. I think you say there was a member of staff there,

1           though, who was quite nice to you and took an interest?

2   A. Yeah, Mr [REDACTED]. Was it Mr [REDACTED] -- aye,  
3       definitely Mr [REDACTED]. When I used to get kept in at  
4       the weekends, I used to think about him, like I say,  
5       for years because he was one of the ones who was very  
6       kind to me. You remember the ones that were bad to you,  
7       but you also remember the good ones.

8           And I used to always think he knew what was  
9       happening, because he took me back to his house one  
10      night with his wife. I am sure he had a child. And we  
11      used to sit and watch movies and, you know, just have  
12      something to eat and they would take me back in the  
13      morning, know what I mean. He was really -- just a nice  
14      guy, nice man.

15   Q. I think you say you don't know for sure, but you wonder  
16      if maybe he thought there was something going on?

17   A. I did at first, aye. I didn't really, as I said,  
18      I didn't really trust men at first. But, when I think  
19      about it, like I say, later on, I think he -- I used to  
20      always say to myself: did he know what was happening?  
21      Know what I mean? But I was a bit (indistinct).

22   Q. I think you also say the bed wetting problem you had in  
23      Bellfield you still had for a while in Balgowan, but it  
24      stopped at one point; is that right?

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that when you were about 14?

2 A. Yes. 14, aye, because this is just before, likesay,  
3 I ran away, and I wasn't allowed to go back to Balgowan,  
4 which I was really happy about. But they put me in  
5 another place. But I don't think we are going to talk  
6 about that.

7 Q. We might briefly go through that period in a moment,  
8 'Gary'.

9 But, just before you leave Balgowan, you are quite  
10 candid in your statement and say it wasn't all bad. It  
11 was bad, but it wasn't all bad at Balgowan.

12 A. It was terrible, when I think about it now. But I think  
13 it is just how I am. There was some good times, but  
14 I think the bad times kind of overtook that. I am  
15 starting to realise that now.

16 Q. I think you say if it hadn't been for [REDACTED] and  
17 the boys up at the Castle, it might have been an okay  
18 place?

19 A. Yes, it was okay apart from that. It was only when  
20 I became a problem for the authorities there, that is  
21 when -- when the police were looking for me all the  
22 time, know what I mean, that's when it became a problem  
23 for me, apart from what was happening to me.

24 Q. Okay. You kind of were at Balgowan for, I think you  
25 say, about three years; is that right?



1 A. Yeah, I think it was 1975 to, likesay, 1978. I remember  
2 [REDACTED] 1978.

3 Q. I think you describe, 'Gary', in your statement that you  
4 had gone through quite a change when you were there from  
5 this wee, quiet, shy guy, I think you described yourself  
6 as, to this wee, angry guy?

7 A. Yes, this is where I started -- this is where I was  
8 introduced to violence. That place introduced me to  
9 violence in every way possible.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I started changing a bit.

12 Q. I think as a result of you running away more and more  
13 you ended up being taken to somewhere else, and, I think  
14 you have touched upon there, this was an assessment  
15 centre; is that right?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Is this at the point when you were made unruly?

18 A. Yeah, I was unruly. That's me getting the label  
19 'unruly'.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Escapee, that's what I was known as.

22 Q. So that's the label that was put on you at that time,  
23 that you remember?

24 A. Yeah, that was your label until you go to places like  
25 borstal and that.

1 Q. Is that towards [REDACTED] about 1977, when you were  
2 still 14?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. I think you tell us a bit about the assessment centre in  
5 your statement. Like I said, we are not going to go  
6 through that in any detail, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

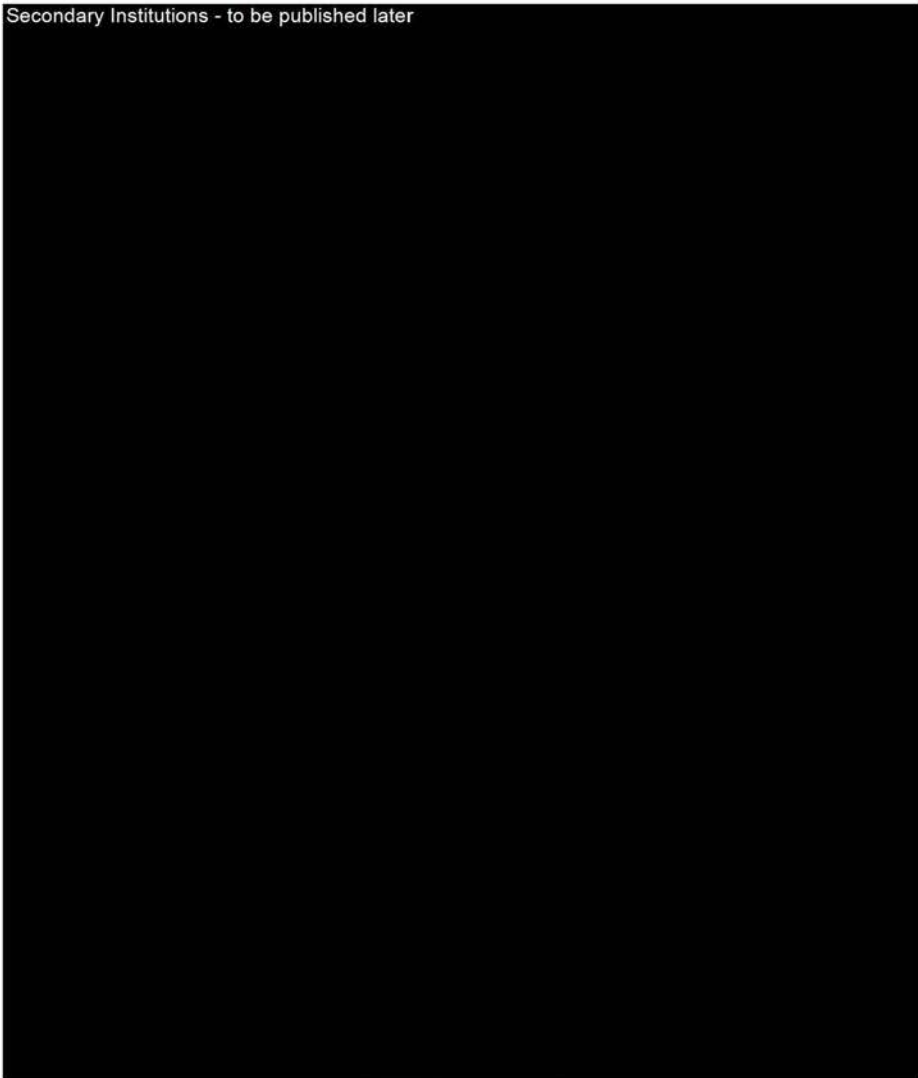
22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19



20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Secondary Institutions - to be published later you end up getting  
moved to Larchgrove. I think you went there the same  
day you were picked up by the police; is that right?  
A. Yeah, we went back to the assessment centre, then that  
night I was taken to Glasgow. And that's --  
Larchgrove's like a mini-prison. It is very secure.

1 Q. 'Gary', you tell us about your time there, between  
2 paragraphs 137 and 152. You were there more than once,  
3 but this is about your first time.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us there was a thing called the Digger;  
6 is that right?

7 A. The Digger, aye. That's where I was put as soon as  
8 I got there. I just got taken out of the taxi and  
9 marched right to the Digger. It was like a cell.  
10 That's what Scottish people call -- they say punishment  
11 cells: down the Digger.

12 Q. I think you say that in that cell there was no bedding,  
13 no toilet or sink, and you were in there for a few hours  
14 before you were taken out?

15 A. Yeah, that's correct.

16 Q. I think you also describe you heard when you were there  
17 a lot of shouting and bawling, which you took to be  
18 aggressive. But I think you say you later learned that  
19 was the way they spoke?

20 A. Yes, I called them Glaswegians. I had never been in  
21 Glasgow. I had been in Bellfield, but this was a place  
22 in Easterhouse, in Glasgow, and they were all, 'wee  
23 neds', just all mad.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes. Of course, Bellfield's in Dumbarton, not  
25 Glasgow; isn't that right?

1 A. That's correct, yes. Glasgow, it was an inner city  
2 place, and I just found them very -- I wouldn't say  
3 scary. I was very wary of them, you know what I mean.  
4 And there were lots of older boys there as well.

5 Q. And I think you say that after being in the cell for  
6 a few hours you go up to the dorm after that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that's where you slept; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you describe the people that work there as being  
11 people who looked like big, hard guys?

12 A. Yes, definitely, know what I mean. They were really --  
13 I was very intimidated with the accent, as well, to be  
14 quite honest.

15 Q. I think you say as well that's the time you started to  
16 meet guys who you would end up seeing later in life, in  
17 prisons?

18 A. Yeah, yeah, just part of that revolving door.

19 Q. Now, you tell us a bit about your time there, 'Gary'  
20 that first time, and you say you were quite quiet and  
21 you were a bit of an outsider because you didn't talk  
22 the same way as everyone else?

23 A. Yes, I was the first one from likesay a Central Region  
24 ever to be put in a Glaswegian -- let's say children's  
25 home.

1           Larchgrove, you know, I found it -- Larchgrove was  
2           okay. The staff were mad, the boys were mad, but I did  
3           kind of adapt to that. And we used to have, likesay,  
4           loads of people would come in, like Billy Connolly, half  
5           the Celtic team, half the Rangers team. It was okay.

6           You still got a slap, know what I mean, if they  
7           thought you were, likesay, cheeky. If you got into any  
8           fights, they just took you down the Digger. You just  
9           got left for about a day.

10        Q. I think you say, 'Gary', it was quite a secure place,  
11        because you were always looking for a way to get out.

12        A. Yes.

13        Q. But, because it was so secure, I think there was only  
14        one time you say that you were able to run away?

15        A. Aye. It was -- because I had been there a wee while and  
16        I was getting on with all of the staff and that, and it  
17        was a bad winter and the driveway had all got blocked up  
18        with ice. So they actually called for a few, likesay,  
19        volunteers to go and break up the ice, and I was one of  
20        the volunteers.

21                And it was just starting to get dark and I noticed  
22        that the gate was open a little bit, so I kind of  
23        managed to get up to the gate and I managed to get  
24        through the gate, and then I was off again. I managed  
25        to get out of the place. And it took me a wee while to

1 get to the railway station, but then eventually got back  
2 to, like I say, Falkirk, and to my mum and dad's house.  
3 And my dad said, 'Son, what do you want to do? Do you  
4 want to stay the night or do you want to go back?' and I  
5 was like, 'I had better go back'. So I have done all  
6 that to try to get out the place and then I just handed  
7 myself back.

8 When I went back, they had a meeting the next  
9 morning. I got put back in the Digger and, in the  
10 morning, I attended a meeting and they said to me,  
11 'Look, 'Gary', we understand that you live miles away  
12 from home, so we are going to start giving you, likesay,  
13 weekend leave'. So I had to run away from the place to  
14 get them to give me, likesay, weekend leave, as mad as  
15 that sounds.

16 Q. So, after that incident then, when you ran away, you  
17 were getting to go home at the weekends; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you tell us that Larchgrove was all right, and  
20 there is not any abuse that you really want to talk  
21 about on that occasion, and certainly no sexual abuse?

22 A. No, there was nothing sexual there.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. But then they found me another place. It was called  
25 Thornly Park. That was in Paisley. And I go to the --

1 Q. Now --

2 A. Sorry? On you go.

3 Q. I was going to say you were 15 at that time; is that

4 right, 'Gary'?

5 A. No, I think I was still 14, you know.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And I think I was getting ready to, like -- no, I was

8 14. And I went to Thornly Park. This was -- the main

9 building had been -- one of the pupils had, likesay,

10 burnt it to the ground, so we were all living in, like,

11 portacabins. And I can remember right away I could hear

12 people just having sex and I was like, 'What's going on

13 here?', know what I mean. And I just couldn't

14 understand how this was happening. And then I woke up

15 one night and it is happening to me again.

16 Q. And you say it is happening to you again; is this sexual

17 abuse?

18 A. Yes, it's the same again, know what I mean.

19 Q. Was this by older boys?

20 A. Older, aye. Yeah, it wasn't the staff. It was older

21 boys.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. This kept happening. But I wasn't there long. I know

24 I wasn't there long, maybe a couple of months.

25 Q. I think you tell us, 'Gary', you were there about three



1 months.

2 A. Aye. I actually broke into a shop just to get caught,  
3 know what I mean, because I wasn't -- it was happening  
4 quite regular again. And it just wasn't -- I wasn't  
5 going through all that again.

6 This is when I started to realise I could defend  
7 myself. And what happened, I woke up one night and  
8 somebody had put a weapon under my pillow. And then  
9 when I woke up, and I have this guy on top of me,  
10 I turned round and I cut him in the hand, and then I was  
11 off. Then I wasn't allowed to go back. I was sent back  
12 to Larchgrove.

13 Q. So, when you say you cut him; what was the weapon? Was  
14 it a knife?

15 A. No, it was an open razor.

16 Q. Okay. So this --

17 A. Somebody put it under my pillow, know what I mean.

18 Q. Yes. Okay. But this was more than one older boy that  
19 was doing this to you at the time; is that right?

20 A. Yeah, there was a few of them.

21 Q. And how long did that go on for while you were at  
22 Thornly Park?

23 A. Well, I wasn't allowed to go home at the weekend. So  
24 they'd, like I say, stopped all the weekend leave. So  
25 this gave the guys a bigger opportunity to, you know,

1 get me. But it always happened, likesay, during the  
2 night.

3 Q. Okay. I think you say that you were able to put up  
4 a fight by this point, and you have described what  
5 happened; you think that was the reason then you weren't  
6 able to go back there?

7 A. Aye, because, like, I used to always -- I have actually  
8 thought about this.

9 People must have known this was happening, because  
10 I could hear it happening at the night time before it  
11 started happening to me. So I just didn't want to be in  
12 that type of area.

13 Q. I think you tried to give us an idea of how often that  
14 happened to you whilst you were there. I think, at  
15 paragraph 164, you say you think it happened about eight  
16 times, or something like that; is that right?

17 A. Aye, in the three months about eight times. Aye,  
18 definitely. But, after that, after I cut that guy, it  
19 stopped. But I was -- I ran away that night anyway, and  
20 I, likesay, broke into a shop and I just sat in the shop  
21 and I got caught, because I wanted to get caught and  
22 they took me back to the Grove.

23 Q. Yes. So this is you back in Larchgrove for the second  
24 time. I think you tell us, at paragraph 171, about that  
25 and I think you tell us you were there about two months

1           that second time; is that right?

2   A. Yeah, I wasn't allowed to go home at the weekend,  
3        though.

4           Actually, I would say they kidnapped me, because  
5        they took me up to a place -- I don't know if your  
6        investigation actually -- because I was never actually  
7        in this place. It was a place called St Mary's,  
8        likesay, closed block. I got taken up there, but I got  
9        taken up there just to put the frighteners on me, know  
10       what I mean.

11   Q. This is when you were in Larchgrove for a second time,  
12       and there is an occasion when you were taken from  
13       Larchgrove to St Mary's, and that's this closed unit  
14       there?

15   A. Yes, it is in this (indistinct).

16   Q. You think that was to give you a fright?

17   A. Oh, definitely. And it did give me a fright, as well.

18           I can remember getting a wee tour of the place, and  
19        I was just -- there was this big guy called Mr **GRG**.  
20        He said, 'Come on, I will take you down to where all the  
21        bad boys go'. So they gave me a wee tour of this place  
22        and they took me down this corridor, all the walls were  
23        all red and there was a cell at the bottom of the  
24        corridor. He said, 'Wee man, you know why these cells  
25        are all red?' and I said, 'Why?' and he grabbed me by

1 the back of the head and just smashed my face in the  
2 walls and threw me into the cell, 'It was so we don't  
3 have to keep washing off your blood'. I was left in  
4 there for -- I think it was about a day, two days.

5 Q. This Mr GRG; is he someone from Larchgrove or from  
6 St Mary's?

7 A. No, he worked at St Mary's. Certain names actually just  
8 stay with me all the time, you know, and other names  
9 don't.

10 Q. The time you were put in that cell and left, I think you  
11 tell us you were just given some crisps and juice, and  
12 a pot to do the toilet in?

13 A. Aye, that was it. Then I got taken back to the Grove  
14 and then they found me another place.

15 Q. Just before we leave that, 'Gary', this incident where  
16 he smashes your face up against the wall; did that cause  
17 you any injury?

18 A. Yes, I lost a tooth, and my nose was all mashed.

19 Q. So you say 'mashed'; did you think it was broken, or --

20 A. No, it was definitely broke.

21 Q. Did you get any medical attention as a result of that?

22 A. No, nothing at all.

23 Q. Okay. So, after this day or two in the cell in  
24 St Mary's, you are taken back to Larchgrove; is that  
25 right?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I think you say that this second time was a bit  
3 different, you would get the odd slap on the head from  
4 the staff.

5 A. Aye, all the time.

6 Q. I think you tell us there was an incident with  
7 a Christmas party, where you think you were given  
8 Benylin?

9 A. Aye, Benylin. The staff were having a party. So what  
10 they did, they came in with this big, brown tub and gave  
11 us all these half pint shots of Benylin and we all fell  
12 asleep. So they could have their party.

13 Q. Okay. I think you say once your face healed you were  
14 taken from Larchgrove to Kibble to see the place first?

15 A. Yes, Kibble, yes.

16 Q. And you met with the deputy governor; is that right?

17 A. Yes, the Kibble List D School. Aye, it was good. I  
18 liked the Kibble, actually.

19 Q. I think you tell us, 'Gary', you were 15 when you were  
20 taken there; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. I think you say you only ran away from there  
23 once, is that right? I think you describe it as 'just  
24 enough to get kicked out'?

25 A. Aye. What happened is my brother worked, like I say, in

1 a big saw mill, and there was a job that came up. And  
2 I was trying -- sometimes, as you become 15, if you try  
3 to get a job, it helps you get home. But my brother got  
4 me a job. But then when I got there I got into trouble  
5 and got taken back to the Kibble. And I says no -- so  
6 me and one of my friends from ... [REDACTED] or  
7 [REDACTED] had decided to run away, and got caught, and  
8 that was me on my way to borstal after that.

9 Q. And that, I think, was just before your 16th birthday,  
10 you tell us?

11 A. Yes, as soon as I turned 16 I got my borstal.

12 Q. Yes. And I think you say that at Kibble there was the  
13 odd fight and staff would give you a kick up the arse,  
14 that's at paragraph 193.

15 A. Aye, yeah, definitely.

16 Q. But there was never anything sexual or anything like  
17 that?

18 A. No, there was nothing sexual there at all.

19 Q. Now, on your journey, then, 'Gary', I think after Kibble  
20 you end up going to Barlinnie and then Longriggend,  
21 I think, first of all; is that right?

22 A. Yeah, yeah. Barlinnie, aye. That was -- because I was  
23 only 15. And it was a different world. Actually  
24 became -- like, it actually became my world. But I can  
25 always remember, like, the first time in Barlinnie. The

1 smell and just everything.

2 Q. I think you say that -- we have gone through, actually,  
3 your evidence in relation to that, 'Gary'. It was  
4 read-in to this Inquiry on 12 December 2023, and that  
5 was day 397, just for the transcript's purposes. So  
6 I am not going to go through that with you in great  
7 detail.

8 But I think you tell us that you spent some time in  
9 Barlinnie before you went to Longriggend. You tell us  
10 about the dog boxes there, and you say you were in there  
11 when you were 15; is that right?

12 A. The dreaded dog box, I remember. As you you were  
13 getting processed, likesay, through the reception, they  
14 will put three to five people into a dog box. It's a  
15 very small -- sorry?

16 LADY SMITH: 'Gary', in the period before Christmas I heard  
17 a lot of evidence about places run by Scottish Prison  
18 Service, and experiences of people who were still  
19 children being put in them, including places like  
20 Barlinnie and Longriggend, Polmont, Glenochil and the  
21 like. I see you cover some of them in your statement,  
22 which I have read. Thank you very much for giving me  
23 your evidence about that. So we may not need to get any  
24 more detail from you today, because I have already had  
25 the chance to study it.

1 A. Okay, thanks for that.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Forbes.

3 MS FORBES: 'Gary', I think in general you say you were in  
4 and out of these places, Barlinnie, Longriggend,  
5 Polmont, Glenochil, and that was all the way up to your  
6 early 20s. You tell us in detail about some of the  
7 things that happened when you were in these places,  
8 assaults by staff and some of the fighting between the  
9 inmates in there, and we have read that into the record.  
10 So it is not that we are not taking that into account.  
11 We have gone through it --

12 A. Oh, no, I understand.

13 Q. We have gone through it word by word in the Prison  
14 Service section, just to make sure we have all that  
15 evidence.

16 I think it is fair to say, you know, you went  
17 through the short, sharp shock treatment and everything.  
18 You tell us about that, that you actually sort of  
19 enjoyed it, if it wasn't for some of the abuse that was  
20 taking place.

21 But, if I could take you just beyond that, I think  
22 you went to Friarton as well, I think you say, six  
23 times, up to 21.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Then you tell us, really, about what happened to you



1 after you got out of these places; that's from about 271  
2 of your statement, 'Gary'. I think you tell us that  
3 back then you were a punk and a skinhead, and you were  
4 getting into bother with the police, fighting with the  
5 police, and things like that; is that right?

6 A. Yeah, I was a bit of a ned hooligan, yes. Yeah, I was,  
7 I was.

8 Q. You tell us there were problems with drink and you tell  
9 us that was to sort of block out what had happened to  
10 you when you were younger. And you were getting into  
11 drugs and into fights, and --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- we can read about that in that later part of your  
14 statement.

15 You tell us, 'Gary', that had you a few  
16 relationships over the years, and you have ended up with  
17 six children; is that right?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. And you worked at times as an industrial cleaner and  
20 a labourer, when you were at liberty?

21 A. Yeah, I was a tank cleaner down Grangemouth.

22 Q. But I think since 2012 you have been in prison; is that  
23 right?

24 A. Yeah, 2011.

25 Q. You then go on to tell us, 'Gary', about the impact of

1           your time in care; that's from paragraph 276 of your  
2           statement. If I could just ask you a few questions  
3           about that.

4    A. Yes.

5    Q. So I think you tell us that you wished you had told your  
6           mum and dad about the abuse that you were suffering; is  
7           that right?

8    A. Yes. Yes, totally.

9    Q. And I think you say that --

10   A. I can see that now, like. But, back then --

11   Q. Back then it wasn't easy to do.

12   A. Well, I never opened up about this until, I think,  
13           likesay, it was 2019, to be quite honest.

14   Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 278, that there was  
15           a point when you were in prison where you were told you  
16           had the education of a 14-year old, and that was the age  
17           when you left Balgowan. I think you make the comment  
18           that's the kind of impact being in care had on your  
19           education?

20   A. Yeah, totally. I have not really had a -- I am getting  
21           an education now, but -- and I am actually doing not too  
22           bad. But I have always went through life not knowing  
23           a lot.

24   Q. I think just a little bit further down your statement,  
25           paragraph 282, you talk about the fact that you think

1           that things would have been different if you had been  
2           allowed to stay home after that first year at Balgowan?

3   A.   Yeah, definitely, definitely.

4   Q.   I think it is fair from what you have said today as  
5           well, in your mind, after that first year, that's where  
6           things really changed for you?

7   A.   Yeah, that's where my life -- this is where -- this is  
8           where I am just -- I have just went through life with  
9           that hate and I have just carried it, and I put up that  
10          many walls. I am only just starting to pull them back  
11          down now, really.

12   Q.   Now, just looking at some positive things, I think you  
13          tell us at paragraph 290 that you have had a lot of time  
14          for reflection since then and that's one of the reasons  
15          why you have come forward to the Inquiry; is that right?

16   A.   Yeah.

17   Q.   I think you are going back to the abuse, you say, when  
18          you were a child -- this is at paragraph 290, but you  
19          say:

20                 'I am not blaming that for the crime, I know it was  
21                 me that did the crime.'

22                 But, in your mind, things changed for you when you  
23                 started to suffer abuse when you were in care?

24   A.   Yeah, totally. I think -- I mean I do -- we don't call  
25          it the care system, all us kids. We used to call it the

1       scare system. And I think we were all denied that  
2       emotional intelligence, you know, the consequential  
3       thinking of our acts. That's a -- I am actually  
4       starting to see that now. I think -- as kids in care  
5       I think we are denied lots of things, denied our  
6       upbringing, really.

7   Q. I think, 'Gary', you are now in a facility that allows  
8       you to have some sort of therapy, that allows you to  
9       discuss what happened to you when you were younger; is  
10      that right?

11  A. Yes, it is -- it is meant to be one of the best therapy  
12      prisons in the world. And, as I say, this place is  
13      helping me tear down these walls.

14             It is hard, because I am opening up all of these  
15      boxes in my life, but I will not be leaving until every  
16      one of the boxes is open, anyway.

17  Q. Is this something that you feel is really helping you?

18  A. Yeah, totally, 100. My recommendation would be if you  
19      have come across a child who has been abused, you have  
20      to get them early, because if he is ignored and if he  
21      continues to go -- I am actually told that I am  
22      a product of the system; that's what I have been told,  
23      you know. So we need to catch these kids early and try  
24      to get them to talk about what's happened to them,  
25      because if they don't, they could be sitting in the same

1 position as me, as sad as that is.

2 Q. Well, 'Gary', that's all the questions I have for you.

3 But do you have anything else that you want to say that  
4 you have not had a chance to say today?

5 A. No, I think it has been -- I think this is part of my  
6 therapy, know what I mean. This is a big part of my  
7 therapy, just to do this, and I do thank you for the  
8 opportunity.

9 But, no, I think we have covered it. My therapy is  
10 going to, likesay, continue here, so I am always going  
11 to have to come back to the abuse anyway.

12 MS FORBES: 'Gary', I just want to thank you for your time  
13 today and for answering all my questions.

14 My Lady, I don't have any other questions.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 'Gary', can I add my thanks to you for engaging with  
17 us in the enormously helpful way you have done. Your  
18 written statement has so much good information in it.  
19 Good from my perspective for the work we are doing here,  
20 helping me understand what was going on in the places  
21 you have explained to us, but also about the impact on  
22 you personally and what you personally suffered. I am  
23 very grateful to you for sharing this with us. I do  
24 appreciate from your statement that it is not something  
25 you have shared with very many people. Please be

1 assured that we respect that, and I ask you to trust us  
2 to put it to good use. Thank you.

3 You will no doubt be pretty weary after finishing  
4 what you have been engaging with us for this morning,  
5 and I hope in the environment you are in those who are  
6 with you are able to take account of that and you can  
7 have a peaceful time the rest of today. Thank you.

8 A. Okay, thank you.

9 (The witness disconnected)

10 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, I know we have another witness  
11 ready, but I still think we should take a break at this  
12 stage for no more than 15 minutes. I am sure already,  
13 I hope, somebody is explaining to the witness it has  
14 been out of our hands this morning that we haven't been  
15 able to keep to time. But we will start the witness  
16 when we can, and if the witness is able to come back  
17 after lunchtime we have to do that, so be it. Thank  
18 you.

19 (11.55 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (12.10 pm)

22 LADY SMITH: Just before I invite Mr Sheldon to call the  
23 next witness I have a list of names from the first  
24 witness this morning. These are names of people who are  
25 not to be identified outside of this room. There is

1 a Mr GRI [REDACTED], or maybe GRI [REDACTED]. The witness's own  
2 name, at one point he used his first name. Mr and  
3 Mrs GMR-SPO Mr LID [REDACTED], [REDACTED], or it may have been  
4 [REDACTED], Secondary Institutions Mr GRG [REDACTED]. They are all  
5 protected by my general restriction order and can't be  
6 otherwise identified, otherwise than inside this room.

7 Now, Mr Sheldon.

8 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady. We have another live  
9 witness, and this is 'Buster'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Good morning, 'Buster' -- good afternoon, I am  
12 sorry. Could you raise your right hand and repeat after  
13 me.

14 'Buster' (affirmed)

15 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

16 'Buster', I would like to start by apologising, we  
17 had hoped to start your evidence about a half an hour  
18 ago, but some technical difficulties with the previous  
19 session meant it couldn't start on time and we ran over.  
20 I am so sorry.

21 A. That's fine.

22 LADY SMITH: I know how frustrating it can be when you are  
23 delayed when you have yourself ready to do something  
24 that is difficult and potentially stressful. But we are  
25 ready to start now.

1           A couple of things I would like to mention to you  
2           before I handover to Mr Sheldon, that red folder on the  
3           desk there has your statement in it. Thank you for the  
4           evidence you have given us that's been provided in that  
5           statement. It is part of your evidence, I have read  
6           it --

7   A. Thank you.

8   LADY SMITH: -- and we will look at some parts of it with  
9           you today.

10           Otherwise it is really important to me that you are  
11           as comfortable as you can be doing what, as I have  
12           already said, is difficult. You have come into a public  
13           place to talk about your life, your life as a child, and  
14           it could be upsetting at times. If it is and you want  
15           some time out, whether just sitting and pausing where  
16           you are or a break out of the room, that's no problem at  
17           all. If it works for you, it works for me.

18           Otherwise, if you have any questions, please don't  
19           hesitate to speak up. Sometimes we are not very clear  
20           in what we are asking, and if we don't make sense,  
21           that's our fault, not yours. So you just say, will you?

22   A. I will, thank you.

23   LADY SMITH: If you are ready I will handover to Mr Sheldon  
24           and he will take over from there.

25   A. Thank you.



1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr Sheldon.

2 Questions by Mr Sheldon

3 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

4 Good afternoon, 'Buster'. As Lady Smith was saying,  
5 you have provided a statement to the Inquiry, and thank  
6 you for that. I am going to read the statement  
7 reference in for our record, and the reference is  
8 WIT-1-000000967. 'Buster', I think you should have the  
9 statement in front of you.

10 A. I do.

11 Q. We will look, as Lady Smith said, some parts of that in  
12 a moment or two. But if I can just take you, firstly,  
13 to the last page of the statement, that would be  
14 page 23.

15 A. Yes.

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

17 A. I have indeed, yes.

18 Q. You say, at paragraph 107, that you have no objection to  
19 your witness statement being published as part of the  
20 evidence to the Inquiry and you believe the facts stated  
21 in the witness statement are true; is that right?

22 A. That's absolutely right.

23 Q. All right, thank you.

24 So, just going back to the start, and I don't need  
25 your date of birth, but I think you were born in 1967;

1 is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Right. You tell us, in the first page of your  
4 statement, that you were born and really grew up in  
5 Dundee. You tell us a little bit about your family  
6 there. But, I think, taking things fairly briefly, we  
7 understand that your parents divorced when you were  
8 quite young; is that correct?

9 A. That's correct. I was three years old.

10 Q. And your mother then remarried?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Was that fairly quickly after she divorced your father?

13 A. I think, yes, it was. I think the divorce took roughly  
14 five years.

15 Q. All right. Can I just ask you, then, in general terms:  
16 what effect did that have on you and your family?

17 A. It was devastating, to be honest. Yes, I remember when  
18 it actually happened. I remember going to meet my mum  
19 at the -- where she worked, at Timex, and she wasn't  
20 there. My dad was there, my brothers and my sisters,  
21 and we found out that she hadn't worked there for  
22 six months.

23 Yes, it broke the family up. So all four of us went  
24 to live in a two-room flat with an outside toilet, and  
25 quickly my sisters, who were a lot older, went back to

1 my dad, and then eventually my brother went to my dad,  
2 leaving me there. So it was really quite abrupt and  
3 quite devastating.

4 Q. Yes, and I think you didn't get on particularly well  
5 with your stepfather; is that right?

6 A. He clearly didn't want us there, and made it very clear  
7 to my mum, also, which didn't go down very well.

8 LADY SMITH: And 'Buster', this would be the early 1970s?

9 A. Correct, yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Divorce was much less common at that time than  
11 nowadays; am I right?

12 A. Absolutely, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: So to be the child of parents who had divorced  
14 was a tough gig.

15 A. That was a stigma.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 A. Single parent family, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

20 And 'Buster', I wonder if you could just pull the  
21 microphone a little bit closer to you --

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. -- just to ensure we pick up everything you are saying.

24 A. Is that better?

25 Q. Thank you.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Page 2 of your statement, you are saying by this time  
3 you were at primary school, but for various reasons you  
4 struggled a bit, and you say you became a naughty boy.  
5 Perhaps you could just tell us about your struggles and  
6 what happened from there.

7 A. So I was at Clepington Primary School, which was local  
8 to my mum and [REDACTED] house. And --

9 Q. Sorry, [REDACTED] was your stepfather; is that right?

10 A. Stepfather, yes. And I was put into remedial classes  
11 because the dyslexia, so Bs and Ds, 9s, Ps, all jumbled.  
12 In my eyes, I couldn't really -- I am fine now, but  
13 I had a real struggle with it. As such, the school took  
14 measures to give me one-to-one teacher time. And it was  
15 fine, but my stepdad, [REDACTED], just called me stupid, and  
16 repeatedly chastised me for not getting the homework  
17 right. So it was quite tough going. So that was early  
18 school years.

19 I actually started to get on quite well there. They  
20 really got to grips with -- and I was put back into  
21 mainstream class in Primary 2, and I was making good  
22 progress.

23 Q. But something happened that resulted in you, perhaps,  
24 getting into a degree of trouble at that stage?

25 A. Yes, I have to be honest with you, I don't know what got

1           into me that day, but I went and purchased a 2-penny box  
2           of matches and set some newspapers alight. Which  
3           I thought at the time was quite amusing, until the  
4           flames got quite high and there was a bit of damage.

5   Q. You tell us, at paragraph 7 of your statement, then,  
6           that there was a children's hearing. You say you don't  
7           remember anything about that; is that right?

8   A. Erm, there was a children's hearing, and I think it was  
9           just parents at the time. And whatever was decided was  
10          decided by mum and dad, and [REDACTED]. And it was decided  
11          that I should go into care.

12                 So I was asked to come home from school early one  
13                 day and the social worker turned up, and there was  
14                 a suitcase hidden behind the coats in the hallway.  
15                 I didn't see the suitcase, but that was my suitcase to  
16                 go. And that was my trip to Florence Booth House.

17   Q. All right. Just to be clear, did you understand, at  
18           least at the time, that your parents had had some sort  
19           of conversation with social workers and decided you were  
20           going to go into care?

21   A. I had no idea. It was completely out of the blue for  
22           me.

23   Q. All right. So you weren't told anything in advance of  
24           the move?

25   A. Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

1 Q. All right. You say you ended up getting three separate  
2 21-day assessments, and this was at a place called the  
3 Rannoch Moor Centre, in Dundee?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And were these 21-day assessments spread out? Over what  
6 sort of period?

7 A. So there was one immediately after the fire, and I don't  
8 think they found it very conclusive. And I think I got  
9 into some more trouble. There was a Coca Cola factory  
10 en route to school, and I managed to get a few bottles  
11 of Coca Cola, illegally, and they decided to have me  
12 back for another 21 days. I kind of clicked on that if  
13 I was naughty that I would end up in Rannoch Moor.

14 Q. So should we understand that's really what you wanted?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Because of what was happening at home?

17 A. It was lovely at Rannoch Moor. They were nice people  
18 and you didn't have to worry and feel fearful.

19 Q. And you felt fearful at home?

20 A. Yes. Not all the time. When [REDACTED] was working, he used  
21 to go to the Shetlands and stuff like that, then it was  
22 fine when he was gone. But, when he was there, it was  
23 horrible.

24 Q. All right. So you spent time in Rannoch Moor. I think  
25 you tell us in the statement -- and I don't think we

1           need to spend any time on this, but you tell us on the  
2           whole it was good?

3    A.   It was.

4    Q.   And you really enjoyed your time there?

5    A.   But I think that really confused them, because they  
6           wanted to try to figure out what was going on in my  
7           head.  But, in actual fact, I was behaving perfectly.

8    Q.   Because you were much happier?

9    A.   Yes.

10   Q.   All right.  Just to put some timescale on that,  
11           'Buster', so was this about 1972 by now?  Thereabouts.

12   A.   Thereabouts, yes.

13   Q.   I think you tell us at paragraph 14 of your statement  
14           that, really, there ended up being a custody battle and  
15           in the course of that, or perhaps because of that, you  
16           were sent to another children's home.  This was the  
17           Florence Booth House, and that's also in Dundee; yes?

18   A.   It is, yes.  Just to add, one of my little party tricks  
19           was to follow the buses back to my dad's house, and  
20           I used to regularly, if you like, go and see my dad.

21   Q.   This was your birth father?  Your real father, if I can  
22           put it this way.

23   A.   My real father, and my mum didn't like that much.  So  
24           the discussion to put me into care was, if you like, to  
25           keep me away from him, as well.

1 Q. All right. Your mum didn't want you to see your real  
2 dad?

3 A. Mum wanted to adopt me into [REDACTED] name, change my  
4 name to [REDACTED], and I didn't want that either. That --  
5 again, there is quite a lot of detail in my notes about  
6 that. My dad refusing, et cetera.

7 Q. Okay. So you tell us -- this is page 4, paragraph 16  
8 now -- you say that you were about 7 years old when you  
9 went to Florence Booth and you were still able to attend  
10 Clepington Primary School?

11 A. Yes.

12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

23 Q. Again, I don't want to spend too long on this, because  
24 the focus, obviously, here is your experiences at  
25 Burnside and Balgowan?



1 A. Sure.

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2

3 Q. But you then say that you left Florence Booth quite  
4 abruptly and, at paragraph 32, that that really threw  
5 you. So what happened then?

6 A. Um, I was doing really well at school. I was still  
7 underachieving. But, in my eyes, I was doing really  
8 well. I was in mainstream school, at Florence Booth.  
9 And at roughly aged 10, because I was in Primary 6,  
10 I was told that I was going back to my dad's to live.

11 Q. And this was your birth father?

12 A. Birth father, yes.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And that was on the Monday, by the Friday I was packing  
15 my bag to go, sort of thing. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17 and the school that I went to, all came to an abrupt  
18 end, to go and live with my dad.

19 Q. And how was that?

20 A. Yeah, it is embarrassing, but there was no food in the  
21 cupboards. There was no routine, my dad worked night  
22 shifts and day shifts. And at night he worked for the  
23 Dundee Port Authority and during the day he worked for  
24 the butcher's shops, and so he was never there. And  
25 when he wasn't working, he was either playing snooker or

1           golf. So I was a latchkey kid, I think you would  
2           describe it as.

3   Q. Yes, I think that's the expression you use in the  
4           statement, and I think we all understand what that  
5           means.

6   A. Yes.

7   Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
8  
9  
10  
11

12   Q. Okay. So you say then, at paragraph 35, you were in  
13           Primary 7 at Blackshade School?

14   A. Yes.

15   Q. But then went to Rockwell. I think things changed for  
16           you a bit at that point; is that right?

17   A. Changed a lot at Rockwell.

18           Just slightly back one step. They pushed me quite  
19           hard at Lochee Primary School, and when I went to  
20           Blackshade everything seemed really easy, hence why  
21           I won prizes and done really well at Primary 7.

22           But, when I went to Rockwell, which was first year  
23           of secondary school, it was really difficult, because --  
24           for many reasons, really. I was the kid that, like you  
25           say, had a stigmatism of single parent. I was the kid

1 with hand-me-down type clothing and there was quite  
2 a lot of bullying, and ridicule and stuff like that, so  
3 it was really difficult.

4 I got on quite well with my technical classes.  
5 I didn't do too well at maths and English.

6 Q. At page 8, paragraph 36, you say things really went from  
7 bad to worse, and your dad had asked you to be taken  
8 back into care.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you say there is a Children's Panel; can you  
11 remember much about that?

12 Can you remember much about the lead up to that and  
13 about the panel itself?

14 A. There was -- many panels. So I would get home from  
15 school at night, there would be no food. And I managed  
16 to work out things like the Mothers Pride factory down  
17 the road would have vans with out of date cakes and  
18 stuff like that, and I would do my rounds and get bits  
19 and pieces. But I got caught and that would end up  
20 being reported to the Panel and put before them, and  
21 more 21-day assessments would follow.

22 Interestingly, they never looked at my family  
23 situation; they only looked at the actual offence.

24 Q. Do you remember what the Panel would say to you, the  
25 kind of things that were discussed at the Panels?

1 A. They would ask me why, and I wouldn't say why, really.  
2 I would just tell them it was just for food, really.

3 Q. Okay. So you tell us, paragraph 37, you did three  
4 21-day assessments --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- in between times going back to your dad's. Now, we  
7 have some of your records, 'Buster', and there is  
8 a record of you going to Balgowan in [REDACTED] 1982.

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Just before you were transferred to Balgowan, but was  
11 that the first time you were at Burnside, or were there  
12 occasions before that?

13 A. So that was the last of the three 21-day assessments.

14 Q. Oh, right.

15 A. So that was on [REDACTED] '82 and, at the end of that  
16 assessment -- well, actually, we didn't even get to the  
17 end of the assessment. There was a Children's Panel  
18 called and I was sent to Balgowan.

19 Q. Right. Well, we can just go on, I think, to look at  
20 Burnside.

21 But, just before I go on to that: can I take it that  
22 in general terms what you say about Burnside applies to  
23 each of your times there --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- or was it different from time to time?

1 A. No, it was still the same characters. It was no  
2 surprise. By the time -- the third time I got there,  
3 I was kind of expecting -- so you tend to avoid  
4 situations, because you know that it is going to end up  
5 in that fashion.

6 Q. All right. I mean, you say you were 12 or 13 when you,  
7 I think, first appeared at a Children's Panel in terms  
8 of Burnside. So would that have been about 1980, the  
9 first time you went to Burnside?

10 A. Yes. It was -- yes, as soon as I went back to my dad's  
11 and things went wrong, that's when the assessments  
12 began.

13 Q. Okay.

14 So this is still page 8, paragraph 38. You tell us  
15 a little bit about Burnside:

16 'It is a large complex.'

17 You say.

18 A. It is.

19 Q. 'One side a school, the other side a semi-secure unit  
20 that was split into two levels.'

21 So did you understand that there was this  
22 semi-secure unit and the school bit separately?

23 A. The school bit -- it was actually Rannoch Moor that got  
24 moved into Burnside. So they shut down Rannoch Moor --

25 Q. Right.

1 A. -- and they moved the whole unit to Burnside.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So I actually recognised some of the staff from there.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But that's a different part to where I was. I was in  
6 what's called the secure unit.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. Which is -- was the upstairs unit. Downstairs was  
9 girls.

10 Q. Okay. And were these parts of the establishment kept  
11 separate?

12 A. Yes, very much so.

13 Q. You tell us you were upstairs, in a shared room with  
14 about 30 to 40 other boys; all in the same room?

15 A. It was a bit like an old fashioned office block where  
16 you had the glass partitions. So each block, if you  
17 like, within the partition would have, typically, six  
18 beds, three either side. And there would be rows of  
19 them all of the way down to the end of the corridor.

20 Q. So this was a big area, but which was divided up --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- using these glass partitions?

23 A. Yeah, and they had like a TV room, sort of games area at  
24 the front, nearest the office area.

25 Q. Was that all part of the same area where the beds were,

1           or was that separate?

2    A. All on one floor, yes.

3    Q. All right.

4    A. So the central point, the corridor, overlooked all of

5           that, yeah.

6    Q. You mention that there was an isolation cell you got put

7           into, called the sin bin; could you tell us is little

8           bit about the isolation cell?

9    A. Yes.

10   Q. Did you ever see that?

11   A. Oh boy, did I see that, yes.

12            If you were in any way disruptive or they felt that

13            you needed to take time out, you got thrown in there,

14            basically.

15   Q. What was it like inside?

16   A. It literally was a cardboard table and a cardboard

17            chair. There was some padding on the walls and there

18            was a window.

19   Q. Could you see out of the window?

20   A. No, it was opaque.

21   Q. Right. And was there a toilet inside the room?

22   A. No, no.

23   Q. So what were the arrangements for you?

24   A. You had to knock on the door.

25   Q. Right.



1 A. Loudly. Repeatedly. To get any attention.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. There was no button inside, or call button or anything  
4 like that. You literally had to knock on the door.

5 Q. How long, typically, did that take to get attention?

6 A. Sometimes didn't.

7 Q. Not at all?

8 A. You did get attention, it just took a while to get  
9 there. You would get told to shut up quite a lot,  
10 because you were waking -- you are overnight in that sin  
11 bin, so you are waking up all the other people. They  
12 get quite annoyed that you are shouting. But if you  
13 need the toilet, you need the toilet.

14 Q. In paragraph 41, you tell us a little bit about what  
15 happens on arrival. You say that when you arrived  
16 a guard spoke to you, saying you would be shown to your  
17 room and so on. Is that what they were known as, these  
18 people, they were -- was it children that called them  
19 guards? Did they call themselves guards?

20 A. You just called them 'sir', mainly. But I just  
21 described them as a guard because he was the guy that  
22 stood at the top of the stairs and kept an eye on you,  
23 if you like.

24 Q. That's how you thought of them?

25 A. Yes, that's how I thought of them. Yes, he wouldn't let

1           you in or out.

2   Q. Over the page, page 9, you talk a bit about the daily  
3       routine, and you say a little bit about schooling. So  
4       the school area; is this a separate school area in the  
5       secure unit to the one that was now part of Rannoch  
6       Moor?

7   A. So there is a school area. It is still secure -- the  
8       whole building is secure, and within the building you  
9       have upstairs boys, downstairs girls and, at the very  
10      back, you had a school area, which was four classrooms,  
11      varying sizes. And the subjects were the basic maths,  
12      English. I think there was possibly a language and one  
13      was religious studies, I think, as well.

14   Q. How did you find the schooling? Did you take part in  
15      that?

16   A. You had to, yes.

17   Q. Okay.

18   A. So you got put into a class. And it was fairly  
19      straightforward, easy stuff. I got the feeling that  
20      they were just keeping you busy, if you see what I mean.  
21      They were watching your every move. They were watching  
22      your interactions with the teachers and with the other  
23      chaps in there.

24   Q. In relation to the food, you talk about, well, the food  
25      being pretty awful. You say it was bland and you say

1           that you could receive dog's abuse and boys would ping  
2           food at each other; was this abuse from other children  
3           or from the guards?

4   A.   No, from children.  It is kind of survival of the  
5           fittest in many respects.  If you sat down at the wrong  
6           table, they would get quite bent out of shape with that  
7           as well, and you would be told you are not sitting  
8           there.

9   Q.   You say in the next paragraph, just in the last sentence  
10          on that page:

11               'Meal times were occasions when things could spark  
12               off, so I was wanting to get away from there as quickly  
13               as possible.'

14               Can you tell us what you mean by 'spark off'?  What  
15               happened on those occasions?

16   A.   So, if somebody you didn't like or somebody who didn't  
17           like you was in there, you would find that -- it is  
18           easier to get to you in the dining hall than it would be  
19           upstairs in the secure unit.

20               So, again, you have elements of cutlery, you have  
21               your tray with bits and pieces on it, and you can get  
22               things thrown at you.  The tables and that were screwed  
23               down, you couldn't move them.  But the tray that you put  
24               your food in, that was usually thrown at you.

25   Q.   Let me go over the page.  You say showering time was

1           also potentially a problem; do we understand that  
2           showering was communal, as it were?

3   A.   It was communal.  It was an open plan shower block, with  
4           cubicles for toilets.  It is just an area where, if you  
5           are not careful, you could be pushed or -- and, yes,  
6           there are too many sharp objects you can hit your head  
7           off if somebody grabs a hold of you.

8   Q.   And did that happen?

9   A.   It did, yes.

10  Q.   Did it happen to you?

11  A.   It did, yes.

12  Q.   Frequently?

13  A.   Twice.

14  Q.   What happened to you?  What effect did that have on you?

15  A.   It was something and nothing for me, I got out of the  
16           way quick.  But I got tripped up and, when I was down,  
17           I got a kick, and I managed to get back up and get out  
18           quick.  So I just legged it, but yeah.

19  Q.   Did you see that happening to other children?

20  A.   Yes, they weren't so fortunate, some of them.  Some of  
21           them just got up and ran like me, but some of them got  
22           their head hit off the mixer taps and stuff like that.

23  Q.   It sounds obvious, but I presume that would be painful  
24           and potentially dangerous?

25  A.   It was dangerous, and they tend to go to hospital.  But,

1           if you were in the vicinity, even if it was nothing to  
2           do with you, you got put in the sin bin or you got  
3           dragged away as part of the problem. When it all kicks  
4           off, you get the hell out of there.

5   Q.   Just to go back to what you said a moment ago: were you  
6           aware of children being taken to hospital because of  
7           what happened on these occasions?

8   A.   Yes, yes, absolutely.

9   Q.   But, sometimes, even though you didn't have anything to  
10          do with the incidents, you would be blamed; is that  
11          really what you are telling us?

12  A.   You would be put on report, yes.

13  Q.   Okay. You say at the foot of that page that nobody came  
14          to visit, other than health workers or people preparing  
15          reports. So should we understand that there were some  
16          visits from -- was it social workers who did that?

17  A.   It was social workers, yes, but no family.

18  Q.   Right. Your family didn't come to visit?

19  A.   No.

20  Q.   Were you able to tell the social workers anything about  
21          the kind of things that were happening at Burnside?

22  A.   I was incredibly vocal about what went on there, to the  
23          social workers.

24                Ms Williams was my social worker. And, bless her,  
25                she was lovely, and I think she did try and do something

1           about it, but nothing ever happened.

2   Q. All right. Things didn't change?

3   A. No.

4   Q. At the foot of page 11, you go on to talk about

5       discipline.

6   A. Yes.

7   Q. And you say:

8           'The staff had a very strong handed approach of

9       looking after us.'

10           So perhaps you can just tell us in your own words

11       what you mean by that and what the staff were doing?

12  A. So, if you were up to no good, or you were having

13       a laugh and a joke with some of the boys, and it was

14       deemed by that member of staff that you were a problem,

15       they would have no hesitation in grabbing you and rough

16       handling you and getting you into the sin bin, or

17       putting you to your room and putting you on report.

18  Q. Rough handling?

19  A. Yes, so things like arm behind your back, collar, and,

20       on one occasion that I do remember, being dragged by the

21       ankle.

22  Q. So you were presumably being dragged along the floor by

23       your ankle?

24  A. Yes, and the guy found it hilariously funny. I was

25       kicking off. I was not being easy, either.

1 Q. But somebody dragged you across the floor and put you in  
2 the sin bin?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You were talking about having your arm put behind your  
5 back?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you show us what was being done; is that all right?

8 A. Yes, they would grab you by the head and put their hand  
9 behind your back and then pull it up, and then you can't  
10 actually --

11 Q. They pull your arm up your back?

12 A. Up your back. And like a wheel barrow. You comply,  
13 basically. That's quite a common thing.

14 Q. Again, it is perhaps an obvious question: was that  
15 painful when they did that?

16 A. Yes, it was very painful.

17 Q. So, over the page, page 12, perhaps just putting some  
18 further detail on that, you say, paragraph 56:

19 'Burnside was a harsh place, very oppressive, that  
20 had more of a bad atmosphere than anything else.'

21 Again, perhaps you can just tell us about that  
22 atmosphere and how that was created?

23 A. The atmospheres was a rollercoaster, it came in waves.  
24 So you would have people transiting the unit all the  
25 time.

1 Q. There was a big through put of children?

2 A. There was a big through put of people. And you would  
3 get to a point where it was actually manageable, it was  
4 fine. You knew who was who and what was what. And then  
5 three or four new people would come in, and they would  
6 kick off, and they would try and assert their dominance,  
7 if you like. So you had to keep your -- you were on  
8 your toes all the time.

9 And I think the whole purpose is that they assess  
10 what you are doing and how you behave. And I think the  
11 staff try to get you to be your worst version of  
12 yourself, so they are trying to goad you to explode.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14  
15  
16

17 Q. In fact, I think you tell us -- I should perhaps have  
18 taken you to, it it is on page 11 -- the assessments  
19 that they were doing eventually got you sent to  
20 Balgowan; that was at the end of this process of the  
21 three assessments at Burnside?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. But back to page 12, and you talk about the guards, the  
24 rough handling, being put into the sin bin and so on.  
25 At paragraph 57, you single out a particular individual



1           who gave you problems. Again, perhaps you can just tell  
2           us about him, please?

3    A. I will never forget this chap as long as I live, his  
4           name was **MYD**. And he was a big chap, quite a big  
5           stature, and he seemed to really enjoy putting your arm  
6           behind your back or rough handling you into the sin bin.  
7           You could tell he enjoyed it. You could really, really  
8           tell. And yeah, he was a nasty piece of work. Not just  
9           to me, to anyone in that unit.

10   Q. And is he the one who dragged you by the ankle? I think  
11           you say that at paragraph 58.

12   A. Yes, he was.

13   Q. Did anyone else do that or was it just him?

14   A. It was just him that dragged me by the ankle. He knew  
15           where to grab you to inflict pain, whether it is the  
16           shoulder -- he knew how to get you off your feet  
17           quickly, by jabbing the back of your leg, and behind the  
18           knee and stuff like that. He knew how to get you on the  
19           ground. He obviously had training in that area.

20   Q. You say at paragraph 60 that he would goad you; how did  
21           he goad you?

22   A. Um, he would use language which is quite embarrassing to  
23           repeat, but he would call you a little prick, 'What kind  
24           of dick head are you?', you know, he would just keep at  
25           you. And he would find little things that would upset

1       you, to do with what's going on around you at the time;  
2       'Can't you stand up for yourself?' that type of thing.

3   Q.   Again, I am sorry if it is an obvious question, but what  
4       do you think his intention was in doing that, his  
5       purpose was in doing that?

6   A.   Well, he made his intention clear when I did finally  
7       explode and got quite angry, because then he said to me  
8       'This is what we are seeing in the reports. This is the  
9       true **HGX**'. So the intention, I believe, would be  
10      to find out what the worst version of me would look  
11      like.

12   Q.   He wanted you to lose your temper?

13   A.   Yes. There was no question of that, absolutely none.

14   Q.   And the result of that was?

15   A.   Sin bin.

16   Q.   Okay. But, just to be clear, although you have  
17      mentioned that it was Mr **MYD**, that was the  
18      particular, a particular difficulty for you.

19   A.   Yes.

20   Q.   Was it just him that was doing these things?

21   A.   I can't remember the other chap's name. But there was  
22      another chap, who -- the same sort of goading, but not  
23      the same level of abuse, I suppose, and roughness. He  
24      would still be rough, but not as rough.

25   Q.   All right. Were children ever slapped or struck, or

1 anything like that?

2 A. Oh yes. Frequently, yes.

3 Q. All right. Were you slapped or struck?

4 A. Yes. Oh yes.

5 Q. And how was that done; with an open hand or otherwise?

6 A. Yeah, open hand. There would be -- yes, open hand and

7 slapping, basically. Usually from behind. Clap your

8 ears, that type of thing.

9 Q. Right. So, page 13 of your statement, you say that you

10 had been in Burnside three times and you were back at

11 your father's, but then got called to another Children's

12 Panel. From the Panel then -- well, I think your

13 records suggest that you were in Burnside for quite

14 a short time. About a week; is that right?

15 A. So my recollection -- and, again, it is helped by the

16 records themselves -- is that I went to Burnside on

17 [REDACTED], after the school expelled me, Rockwell High

18 expelled me from the school.

19 LADY SMITH: Which year was that, 'Buster'?

20 A. 1982. 1982.

21 MR SHELTON: My Lady, I am going to take 'Buster' to the

22 record, a different part of it. But this same record

23 shows those dates, at any rate. That's where the [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED] is --

25 LADY SMITH: That might help.

1 MR SHELDON: -- the Burnside date, and then [REDACTED] is  
2 Balgowan.  
3 A. That's correct.  
4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
5 MR SHELDON: Sorry, 'Buster', I interrupted you talking  
6 about that passage --  
7 A. No, that's fine.  
8 Q. -- of your evidence, where you leave Rockwell, you are  
9 taken to Burnside, for about a week. There is  
10 a Children's Panel --  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. -- and you are sent off to Balgowan.  
13 Again, do you remember anything about that Panel,  
14 and what the Panel said? Did they say anything to you?  
15 A. I do remember, yes.  
16 Q. All right.  
17 A. So there was two options on the table. As I said to  
18 you, my social worker, Ms Williams, she was really pro  
19 me, which was nice. So the two options were, she  
20 managed to get me a place at the Harris Academy, which  
21 would mean that my dad would have to look after me and  
22 I would attend school. I was more than happy for that  
23 to happen.  
24 Q. The Harris Academy is a mainstream secondary school in  
25 Dundee; is that right?

1 A. It is. It is indeed. It would be a fresh start.  
2 Nobody would know me, I wouldn't have the reputation.  
3 It all looked really positive. That was the option I  
4 think I preferred. Then my dad said that he couldn't  
5 look after me, so therefore I had to go to residential.  
6 And so there was two options, and the option that was  
7 selected, obviously, was Balgowan.

8 Q. All right. So you go to Balgowan in [REDACTED] 1982. And  
9 you, in your statement, have some description of  
10 Balgowan. You say it is a huge building, and we have  
11 seen photographs of it and we have an impression of  
12 that.

13 I think you think there were roughly 40 to 50 boys  
14 there at that time; is that correct?

15 A. It is hard to recollect exactly how many, but I would  
16 estimate around that region, yes.

17 Q. All right. Were you in the main building? I think  
18 there was some out buildings or cottages?

19 A. The main building was split into two. I was in the main  
20 building. One wing, I believe, was disused.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. And the other, the main wing, if you like, where the  
23 kitchen, dining room, et cetera, is, we were in there.

24 Q. You say at that time Balgowan [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED] HGZ [REDACTED], and  
25 you say that you had a number, number [REDACTED], and when you

1 spoke to a guard:

2 'I always had to say [REDACTED] 'Buster'', sir.'

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. It sounds extremely military?

5 A. It was incredibly military. So I got dropped off there  
6 by Ms Williams, in reception. It looks fairly  
7 innocuous. Once I got past reception it was quite clear  
8 this wasn't your average establishment. Very  
9 regimented.

10 The chap took me to the laundry, housekeeping sort  
11 of area, and I collected a bed block, which is two  
12 blankets and a sheet, and a pillow, and my towel, and  
13 other paraphernalia to do with toothbrush and stuff like  
14 that. Yes, it is a very, very different set up  
15 entirely.

16 Q. You say at the foot of page 13, paragraph 64:

17 'it was very austere and we were marched  
18 everywhere.'

19 A. Everything was march. We had to stand straight and  
20 refer to them as 'sir'. You couldn't -- everything  
21 I did would be prefaced with 'sir'.

22 Q. So they were like prison guards, effectively?

23 A. Well, it was army-style, I believe, American army style.

24 Q. Page 14. You say something about the routine at  
25 Balgowan, and you are talking about showering, the

1 stripping and making of beds and lunch, schooling and so  
2 on.

3 How was the schooling and the education at Balgowan?  
4 How did that compare to your other experiences?

5 A. It was one of the first things that I brought up with my  
6 social worker, that it was incredibly basic. It was  
7 primary school, and year 2 or 3, maybe. It was really  
8 Janet and John book one. And woodwork was pin and  
9 string. So you put a pattern on a piece of wood and  
10 bang some string, some pins in. It was incredibly  
11 basic.

12 Q. You talk about having free time. This is paragraph 66.  
13 But you are saying, last sentence of that, playing pool  
14 could be a dangerous time. So even just playing a game  
15 could be dangerous; what do you mean by that?

16 A. Oh, crikey, yeah. So, in the evening, after school, you  
17 would have recreational time. And you got selected,  
18 depending upon behaviour, et cetera, whether you could  
19 go and play on the Atari console, which was the prized  
20 game to play. I think it was Donkey Kong, that sort of  
21 stuff, Pacman, back then. Or you can go into the gym,  
22 or you can go into the pool room. But the pool room, in  
23 particular, was isolated.

24 So it was a single room at the end of a courtyard  
25 and the guards would let you in, and then lock the door

1 behind you. They wouldn't stay there. So it was just  
2 you and one other, or maybe several other, guys waiting  
3 to play pool. Because there is basically weapons there,  
4 or ... it can get quite heated.

5 Q. You mean the pool cues?

6 A. The pool cues, yes.

7 Q. And did it sometimes kick off --

8 A. Yeah, oh yes.

9 Q. -- with pool cues?

10 A. It did, yes. With myself, it was more goading and  
11 prodding you with a cue, because it was funny, than  
12 anything else. But I have seen the condition of some  
13 people who have come back from there. Because if you  
14 object to the goading, you see, then you are in for  
15 a fight.

16 Q. Okay. What sort of condition do you mean when you say  
17 you saw people?

18 A. Just bruised, badly bruised.

19 Q. And you formed the view that they had been struck?

20 A. Without a doubt.

21 Q. Okay.

22 You say that while you were at Balgowan you ran away  
23 twice?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. This is page 15, at the foot. The second time you got



1           picked up and spoke to the police at Bell Street, in

2           Dundee?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   And told them what was happening.

5   A.   Yes.

6   Q.   What happened as a result of that, if anything?

7   A.   I suppose it is probably the first experience of telling  
8       anyone in authority what was going on at Balgowan. It  
9       ended badly for me.

10           So the policeman took me back to Balgowan, and he  
11       said to the guard that, 'We have been hearing all about  
12       you', and it wasn't sniggered or taken lightly, but they  
13       didn't do anything about it. As a result, I was put on  
14       report for that, for mentioning to the police what goes  
15       on in Balgowan.

16   Q.   So, really, your attempt to get something done about  
17       this not only had no effect, it rebounded on you?

18   A.   It did. It did indeed. It also, I think, helped,  
19       potentially. They were wary of me, because I was quite  
20       happy to tell whoever would listen.

21   Q.   Just at the top of that page, page 15, you talk about  
22       bed wetting.

23   A.   Yes.

24   Q.   And you mention that bed wetting could result in loss of  
25       privileges?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Or you could even get the cane. You say you were never  
3 caned for wetting the bed, although it was threatened;  
4 were you ever caned during your time at Balgowan?

5 A. I was, yes.

6 Q. Could you tell us about that, please?

7 A. I was on report. I was taken to Mr HGZ office and  
8 I objected to what was being said. And as a result the  
9 punishment decided was a caning.

10 Q. And who administered that?

11 A. Mr HGZ.

12 Q. What happened? Can you tell us, really, what Mr HGZ  
13 did and how he gave you the cane?

14 A. Um, he pulled the chair out and the guard pulled my  
15 pants down, and he come round the back and caned me.

16 Q. Did you have to bend over the chair; is that --

17 A. Bent over the chair, yes. So I did, yes.

18 Q. And the guard took your trousers down?

19 A. He did.

20 Q. And then HGZ caned you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. At page 16, you tell us that -- paragraph 73:  
23 'The discipline in Balgowan was a sort of rinse and  
24 repeat thing. If you stepped out of line you knew what  
25 was coming.'

1           Again, could you tell me about that, please; what do  
2           you mean by the 'rinse and repeat'?

3   A.   So, on a daily routine, you would have to walk and do  
4           exercise around the yard and, at certain points, you had  
5           to queue up and you had to put your arm out, for an  
6           arm's length from the person in front of you, you had to  
7           stand straight. And if you didn't stand straight or  
8           slouched your shoulders, you were picked up. And it was  
9           the sort of general sort of pick up, 'Stand up straight,  
10          'Buster'. I won't tell you again'. This is a rinse and  
11          repeat, and if you did do it again, you would be on  
12          report, and privileges would be lost, that type of  
13          thing.

14   Q.   You say:

15            'If a boy ended up with a visible injury, like  
16            a black eye, the guards would write up a report.'.

17            So did boys end up with visible injuries like that?

18   A.   Yes. That was very regular, yes.

19   Q.   That was as a result of what?

20   A.   Either fighting with one another or falling down the  
21          stairs, as sometimes it was said. You didn't know the  
22          detail, but you wouldn't certainly see the results.

23   Q.   Was it ever as a result of action by the staff, by the  
24          guards?

25   A.   My understanding is yes.

1 Q. Right. Did you ever see that?

2 A. I have seen it, but not often.

3 Q. All right, okay.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon, it is now 1.05, and I think we  
5 still have a little way it go.

6 MR SHELDON: Yes, I was going to go on to look at  
7 a particular incident, my Lady, and that will take  
8 a little while, so ...

9 LADY SMITH: 'Buster', apologies, again, because I know you  
10 expected to finish giving your evidence by lunchtime.

11 A. No, no, it's fine.

12 LADY SMITH: If it's okay for you, I will stop now for  
13 a lunch break, for your benefit as much as anybody  
14 else --

15 A. That's fine.

16 LADY SMITH: -- and resume again at lunchtime. Thank you.  
17 (1.05 pm)

18 (The luncheon adjournment)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 LADY SMITH: 'Buster', is it all right if we carry on now?

21 A. Absolutely, thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
23 Mr Sheldon.

24 MR SHELDON: My Lady.  
25 'Buster', before the lunch break we were talking --

1       you were talking a little bit about discipline at  
2       Balgowan, and the attitude and the conduct of some of  
3       the staff and the guards to the children, including you.  
4       I want to go on to look at a particular incident that  
5       you talk about. This is page 16 of your statement,  
6       under the heading 'Abuse at Balgowan', and you begin at  
7       paragraph 75:

8               'There was an incident only eight days after  
9       I arrived at Balgowan. According to my records, this  
10       happened on [REDACTED] and I get this from a statement  
11       I have a copy of that was written by the guard, who the  
12       records show was called Mr LIC [REDACTED].'

13               We do have a copy of that, and I think you reproduce  
14       part of the statement in your statement here. But can  
15       I just start by asking you: what happened?

16   A. Sure.

17   Q. Can you tell us what happened that day?

18   A. So I was there in the lunch hall, I was there with  
19       another chap. We were minding our own business, if I am  
20       honest with you. We were laughing, joking, because at  
21       that point there was no guards around, so you kind of  
22       have a bit of a laugh and a joke. And there was  
23       a student-type person there helping out, and it was just  
24       jovial stuff. Mr LIC [REDACTED] didn't like the jovial stuff  
25       and he told me to be quiet. He told me to shut up. And

1           because I had a nervous disposition -- and it is  
2           a medical one -- where I snigger and smirk, he erupted,  
3           pretty much.

4   Q.   Is that a reaction to stressful situations?

5   A.   It is, yes.  It is not so bad now.  But, as a child,  
6           I would try to hide it by bowing my head, because I get  
7           an uncontrollable urge, I suppose, it turns out and it  
8           looks like a smirk.  And people would say to you, 'What  
9           are you smirking about?' and, 'Why are you laughing at  
10          me?' well, I am not.  But it is just in nervous  
11          situations I do that.  So he didn't like that, and  
12          proceeded to get my attention, I suppose.  He asked me  
13          to stand up, and eventually I did stand up, with my head  
14          bowed down, and because I was still sniggering he put  
15          that as giving him cheek, as he puts it.

16                 And then apparently I was abusive, but not using  
17                 foul language, was what I remember from that.  You  
18                 wouldn't use foul language because immediately you were  
19                 put on report and immediately you would be reprimanded  
20                 in a fairly severe way.  You just do not do that sort of  
21                 thing.  I don't understand how they have written that,  
22                 because it is just not how anyone would behave.

23                 So, after he didn't like what I was doing, he  
24                 grabbed me by the chin, which then turned into grabbing  
25                 me by the scruff of the neck, and dragged me into the

1 shower block, which is the adjoining room to the dining  
2 area. And he said, 'Look at me, look at me you little  
3 shit'. He grabbed me by the chin and moved my head  
4 upwards in a fairly abrupt manner. And I was still  
5 smirking, because I was absolutely petrified, and  
6 nervous. He then decided I was hysterical --  
7 I wasn't -- and he put me under the shower.

8 Q. Why would he have thought you were hysterical?

9 A. He might have thought I was hysterical because I was  
10 still smirking. I don't know, I am guessing.

11 Q. We can look at this statement. You reproduce this at  
12 paragraph 78. This is Mr LIC version, and we do  
13 have that statement. It is DUN-000001538?

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR SHELDON: We don't need to look at it because we have it  
16 in the statement, but the version Mr LIC has is:

17 'While supervising lunch today I felt it was my duty  
18 to move tables to where a community service volunteer  
19 appeared to be experiencing difficulty with two boys,  
20 namely ...'

21 First of all, were you giving the community service  
22 volunteer difficulty, as he describes it?

23 A. No. If anything, we were having a little bit of a laugh  
24 and a joke.

25 Q. Mr LIC goes on to say you, 'Buster', pushed the sweet

1       aside, saying he didn't like it. When the community  
2       service volunteer left the table to help unload dishes  
3       on to the trolley in preparation for dish washing,  
4       'Buster' flicked some cornflour across the table.  
5       I think you say, 'I didn't do that'?

6   A. No. And you wouldn't, because that immediately put you  
7       on report. And 'corn flower'; where has that come from?

8   LADY SMITH: I wondered whether it was a reference to  
9       a blancmange-type pudding that you make with cornflour,  
10       not as spelt here, spelt F-L-O-U-R at the end.

11   A. I see, yes.

12   LADY SMITH: Could he have been referring to  
13       a blancmange-type pudding as being the cornflour,  
14       because you do use cornflour to make blancmange.

15   A. Oh, okay, no idea. But something flicking across the  
16       table, again, no. It just isn't something you would do.  
17       There was indeed crockery and plates to be tidied  
18       up, but I had no idea until I saw this that I didn't  
19       like it and I pushed it to one side. That's completely  
20       untrue.

21   MR SHELDON: Okay. LIC says that he reprimanded you and  
22       you met him with verbal abuse. I think you say you  
23       wouldn't dare; is that right?

24   A. That's absolutely right, yes. These guys, you don't  
25       give abuse to or cheek or -- you stand and you stay



1 still, and you stand up straight, because if you don't  
2 stand up straight they will reprimand you for that, as  
3 well.

4 Q. Taking this a wee bit short, he says that he, LIC, ,  
5 removed you from the area into the wash room, and:

6 'As I verbally chastised him [he says]. He refused  
7 to lift his head up to speak to me and kept turning  
8 away. I took him by the chin with my right hand and  
9 firmly held his head in the hope that eye contact would  
10 reinforce my advice regarding his bad behaviour.'

11 Can you just remind us: this taking with the chin;  
12 how is he doing that?

13 A. So one of the ticks of when I got into when I was in  
14 a nervous situation is I would bow my head and smile,  
15 a silly looking smile, not natural looking. And he  
16 grabbed me, literally -- it wasn't by the hook of the  
17 chin. He just grabbed your face, basically, and pulled  
18 it up.

19 Q. So with a pinch on either side of the cheek; is that  
20 what you are referring to?

21 A. Just a full hand under your chin.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Pull you up. It is not polite, it is not a little jolt,  
24 it's a proper yank, and I still continued -- because  
25 I am absolutely crapping myself -- to grin and smile.

1 Q. Again, perhaps an obvious question, but: why were you  
2 scared? Why were you feeling scared at that point?

3 A. I knew what was coming. It was like night follows day.

4 Q. And what was that?

5 A. Generally speaking, that's a kicking. That's literally  
6 you are going to get thrown about a bit and taken to  
7 the -- taken to your room and put on report, or put in  
8 the hole.

9 Q. So he is taking you to the shower area; is that right?  
10 I think that's what LIC says in his --

11 A. It is. It is an open shower block, otherwise known as  
12 'no man's land'.

13 Q. No man's land; why is it called that?

14 A. Because you don't go in there, really, unless you have  
15 to.

16 Q. LIC says that he told you that unless you controlled  
17 yourself, he would hold you under the warm shower; was  
18 it warm?

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. Did you actually get wet at that point?

21 A. I was soaked through. I was absolutely drenched.

22 Q. And I think LIC says at that moment:  
23 'Mr GMP SNR appeared on scene.'  
24 And I think that is right, at least, isn't it?

25 A. That's what saved the day, for me. And the young lady

1           who was there as well, she was completely horrified.

2   Q.   Who was the young lady?

3   A.   Um, I don't know her name.  She was mentioned earlier in

4           the statement.

5   Q.   She is the volunteer?

6   A.   The volunteer, yes.  And I think it was a combination of

7           him losing his temper because I was smirking and

8           Mr GMP coming in, and the girl being there, that

9           stopped the general sort of manhandling, if you like.

10  Q.   Yes.

11  A.   Yes.

12  Q.   What did Mr GMP actually do and/or say to Mr LIC ?

13  A.   He come over really quickly and he asked what was going

14           on, and he said -- Mr LIC said that he was trying to

15           restrain me and calm me down.  There was an exchange

16           which I can't remember, from him.  It wasn't anything

17           negative.  And the end comment was, 'Get him dried off'.

18           And I think that's as far as it went for Mr LIC ,

19           really, and Mr GMP .

20  Q.   All right.  But, just to be clear: what do you think

21           would have happened if Mr GMP hadn't come on the

22           scene?

23  A.   I imagine I would get the legs kicked underneath me,

24           I would be dragged, put on report.  There would be

25           a fair few bruises resulting from that, without a doubt.

1 And he would want to teach me why you don't smirk.

2 'I will give you something to smirk about' was one of  
3 his expressions.

4 Q. You talk a little bit about Mr LIC statement at  
5 paragraph 80. You say in the last sentence of that:

6 'If it wasn't for SNR  
7 appearing, then that incident wouldn't have been written  
8 up and I would have got a kicking.'

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In fact, was there a sort of investigation into what had  
11 happened?

12 A. Because the social worker got told as well by myself,  
13 and --

14 Q. You told your social worker about this?

15 A. I did. And the social worker then asked about it, and  
16 because there were other people involved, ie Mr LIC  
17 and Mr GMP, I think the report actually was  
18 generated. Had it been one-on-one, nothing would have  
19 been recorded on that.

20 Q. Yes. I just want to take you, then, if I may, briefly,  
21 to some social work records. It is DUN-000002972. It  
22 is in very small print, so you will need to expand that  
23 quite a bit, I think.

24 Just looking very briefly at that first page, at the  
25 top, I think we see there an entry for the

1 [REDACTED] 1982. About two-thirds of the way down that  
2 view of the page, we see 'Admitted to Burnside'.  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. And I think we discussed that before?  
5 A. We did, yes.  
6 Q. And it was about a week after that that you were  
7 admitted to Balgowan?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. If we could just go to page 4, please, in that document.  
10 This is an entry, I think, for [REDACTED] 1982. There  
11 is an entry, 4.00 pm, Mrs Williams -- is that your  
12 social worker?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. 'She advised me [this must be the person completing the  
15 log] that she had received a telephone call from  
16 Mr [GMP], [SNR], social worker of Balgowan,  
17 to say ...'.  
18 That you made a complaint against a member of staff.  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. To the effect that a particular officer had physically  
21 struck him; is that right? Had the officer struck you?  
22 A. He grabbed my face.  
23 Q. Right.  
24 A. And pulled me up. It would have resulted in more, but  
25 obviously we can't discuss that.

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. Had it not been interrupted. He was quite rough.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. This was nothing unusual.

5 Q. About halfway down that page, there is a paragraph that

6 starts:

7 'Buster' went into great detail ...'

8 I don't think we need all of that, but just to say

9 that you claim:

10 'He was threatened with a slap across the face

11 unless he was quiet. Then a member of staff pulled him

12 out and used a arm lock behind his back. He further

13 stated he was taken to the shower room and the shower

14 turned on and that he [you] were slapped.'

15 Is that an accurate summary of what you were saying

16 at that time to the social worker?

17 A. It is and it isn't. It is accurate in the sense that he

18 grabbed my face.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. There was lots of movement and grabbing, and I was

21 struggling and regrabbing.

22 Q. This was quite a fast moving incident?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. There is then a passage about

25 an examination. Was this the social worker that

1 examined your face in some way?

2 A. I can't remember whether she examined -- or whether it  
3 was the nurse at the school.

4 Q. All right. Just to take you to a passage a little way  
5 down the page, it is a paragraph starting:  
6 'I requested at this stage ...'

7 A. I can see that.

8 Q. 'That you join us ... I advised him of the main points  
9 of what you had been saying about the slap.'  
10 The person writing this says:  
11 'I also pointed out to Mr GMP .'  
12 Was it GMP or GMP ; do you remember?

13 A. I thought it was GMP .

14 Q. We can check that. Mr GMP pointed out:  
15 ' ... had a black eye and 'Buster' that another boy  
16 had done it.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that right? First of all, did have you a black eye?  
19 Do you recall that?

20 A. I had two black eyes, and a suspected broken arm.

21 Q. This was as a result of what?

22 A. Two days into Balgowan -- there is also a report in  
23 there somewhere to do with that -- I was upstairs and  
24 there was a bit of a kerfuffle, I suppose, with the  
25 boys. I got stuck in, as well, and it resulted in

1 a couple of black eyes, and -- a bit of a kicking,  
2 basically.

3 Q. All right. So this was a separate incident involving  
4 other boys in the unit?

5 A. It was.

6 Q. If we move on to the next page, please, just a few lines  
7 down from the top. I think we see there, there is  
8 an entry 'Meeting at Balgowan school'; was that  
9 a meeting that happened the next day? Do you recall  
10 that?

11 A. I couldn't tell you whether it was the next day or the  
12 day after, but it was soon after.

13 Q. Certainly the records suggest it was the 18th, so that  
14 would be the day after the complaint, anyway.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Do we see that this was a meeting which, according to  
17 the records, involved yourself, Mr GMP [REDACTED], your father,  
18 a social worker, and Mr LIC [REDACTED]. So the officer that was  
19 supposed to have been involved in this incident was also  
20 at this meeting.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you remember that?

23 A. Not really, if I am honest.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Not really.



1 Q. All right. I just wanted to take you to one passage of  
2 the report of that meeting, and it is the passage that  
3 begins 'Mr LIC ...'.

4 Yes:

5 'Mr LIC started to explain what had happened at  
6 the dining room table and what had triggered off the  
7 incident.'

8 It seems, according to this, you were drinking water  
9 before grace was said, were rebuked for this. You just  
10 continued. You further complained about the food and,  
11 quite clearly, Mr LIC's authority was being  
12 challenged by you, so much so that Mr LIC said, 'Look  
13 here, son, I am not a here for wee laddies to take the  
14 piss out of me'; do you recall that?

15 A. The grace thing I think is total rubbish, because you  
16 knew, you just stood there until grace was said.  
17 I don't think I would have taken a drink of water, and  
18 I certainly wouldn't have given cheek, because I know  
19 what would follow. So it doesn't strike me as true.

20 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking that wasn't mentioned in

21 LIC --

22 MR SHELDON: No, my Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: -- account of events?

24 MR SHELDON: No, my Lady. No, my Lady. The type in bold,  
25 paragraph 78/79 of the statement, is --

1 LADY SMITH: That's it.

2 MR SHELDON: -- not quite absolutely verbatim, but it is  
3 there, yes, as it makes no difference.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR SHELDON: Really what I want to ask you about that,  
6 'Buster', is: is that the kind of thing that people like  
7 Mr LIC [REDACTED], the staff at Balgowan, would be saying to  
8 you, 'I am not here for you to take the piss out of me'?

9 A. Honestly, that's very tame.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I don't like using abusive language in the presence of  
12 such wonderful women. It was expletives that -- you can  
13 imagine, it was really quite brutal.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. It was shouted at you. It wasn't spoken to you; it  
16 was -- everything was shouted. It was really not --  
17 yes.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. 'Wee laddies to take the piss out of me'. It is the  
20 kind of thing he would say.

21 Q. All right. At all events, this meeting takes place, and  
22 I think the conclusion from that is there was no  
23 evidence or no proof that an assault had taken place.  
24 I think you tell us about that in the statement; is that  
25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. We see that in the log, actually, as well. Mr GMP  
3 stated that nothing can be proved. In fact, I think it  
4 is worth going to the whole of that paragraph. This is  
5 at the top of what we can see now:

6 'Mr GMP states that nothing can be proved  
7 Mr LIC stated that we have to protect boys from you  
8 and others, also the property of the school and, in  
9 extreme cases, are allowed to use minimal force, for  
10 example armlock or headlock.'

11 Were other boys in danger from you?

12 A. I would love to have a picture of me from back then,  
13 because I was 8 or 9 stone and I could easily hide  
14 behind a lamp post. I was quite a slight lad. I would  
15 disagree with that statement completely. I was no  
16 threat to anyone.

17 Q. What do you think of the use of the words 'minimal  
18 force'? Was minimal force used?

19 A. They didn't bother whether it was minimal or not, they  
20 just restrained you. Who defines what is minimal? You  
21 know, if somebody puts your arm up your back or in  
22 an armlock; how far do you go in pushing the arm up the  
23 back, you know?

24 Q. Did anyone use a headlock on you?

25 A. Oh yes, the headlocks. That was one of their

1           favourites, really, the headlock, and then they would  
2           walk with you.

3   LADY SMITH:   Tell me how they applied the headlock.

4   A.   They would get their arm around your head and pull you  
5           down and then walk with you.   So, if you like, my head  
6           would be in their arm pit and elbow area.

7   LADY SMITH:   So you would be facing the ground.

8   A.   Yes.

9   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

10  MR SHELTON:   What sort of force was applied during headlocks  
11           like that?

12  A.   Depending on how compliant you were.   If you were  
13           compliant, it wouldn't be too bad.   But, if you  
14           struggled, they would dig you a few times as well, until  
15           you complied.

16  Q.   And how long would that last, typically?

17  A.   That could last, depending on where they are trying to  
18           get you to or from, a few minutes.

19  Q.   If we can go, then, back to your statement -- and we can  
20           leave that document for the moment -- you do say, at the  
21           foot of page 17:

22           'The guards, or screws as we called them, knew how  
23           to grab you at certain pressure points.'

24           I think you have told us a bit about that already.

25           This was a way of getting you to comply; is that right?

1 A. I think we wanted to comply. They just did that anyway.

2 Q. Right. And you talk again about forcing your arm up  
3 your back?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You say, at paragraph 83 over the page, that boys being  
6 manhandled by the staff was a daily occurrence?

7 A. It was.

8 Q. 'And we had a running joke that today was 'your turn',  
9 as it just felt that everybody got a turn of being  
10 manhandled and assaulted every day.'

11 Was there any rhyme or reason to that or did it seem  
12 to be almost chance?

13 A. Where that comes from is, in the morning, you had to do  
14 morning exercise, and whether it was rain or shine you  
15 had to wander round this yard. It is quite a large  
16 yard. And when you lined up to go back in, you had to  
17 do the arm's length and stand up straight. Whether you  
18 were standing up straight or not, somebody copped it.  
19 They would just simply be shouted at, maybe a clip  
20 across the ear. If you turned your head to answer, then  
21 you would be cheeking, and it would just be little  
22 things like that. And it just felt like everybody got  
23 their turn.

24 Q. You say, at the foot of paragraph 84, your impression  
25 was:

1           'The guards enjoyed restraining us and at times were  
2           just looking for an excuse to do so.'

3           Is that still what you think?

4   A.   It is.   Without a doubt.

5   Q.   In the next paragraph, you say that you got picked on  
6           quite often in the showers.   On one occasion, you fought  
7           back and got the cane.

8           You were telling us about that before the lunch  
9           break, 'Buster'.   I just wanted to ask you a little bit  
10          more about that, if that's all right?   You described  
11          what happened on that occasion.   I just wanted to ask  
12          you: was it a cane, a stick of wood, or some similar  
13          material, or was it the tawse?

14          Do you remember what implement was actually used?

15   A.   It was actually -- it wasn't a cane, as in a walking  
16          cane, that type of thing, it was a long piece of what  
17          looked like bamboo, I suppose, type thing.

18   Q.   All right.   We have had reference to Mr GMP or  
19          GMP, who may have been SNR  
20          at that time.   Can I just ask you: can you remember at  
21          what point during your stay in Balgowan this was?   Was  
22          it quite close to the start?

23   A.   Start, yes.

24   Q.   Right.   I just wanted to ask you: are you reasonably  
25          sure it was HGZ who caned you or might it have been

1           some other senior member of staff? Is that your best  
2           recollection?

3   A. I am 99 per cent sure HGZ caned me.

4   Q. All right.

5   A. I mean, in recollection, face-wise, I would probably  
6           have trouble now. But I was marched in front of  
7           Mr HGZ.

8   Q. All right, thank you.

9           You then move on to a slightly different topic, at  
10          paragraph 86, and I think you talk about something which  
11          may have been potentially sexual --

12   A. Yes.

13   Q. -- which happened to you; can you just tell us about  
14          that, please?

15   A. When I arrived the matron gave me my bed block and a few  
16          bits and pieces. And I had to go round and get the bed  
17          block from her, from behind the counter. She said to me  
18          that -- and I didn't think nothing of it at the time.  
19          But, if anyone comes towards you in the middle of the  
20          night, scream like you can scream no louder.

21          I thought it was funny at the time. But, yes, she  
22          gave me that tip.

23          And just to give a bit of background, the two black  
24          eyes and the suspected broken arm is to do with the guys  
25          actually having a laugh and a joke about what they do

1           during the night, and I laughed at them and said, 'You  
2           won't be coming anywhere near me', and that's when they  
3           decided to go -- and the guards stood there and watched  
4           it. But yes.

5   Q.   This was in the showers or in the dormitories?

6   A.   This was upstairs, in the social area.

7   Q.   Oh, right. And what were the boys saying? What were  
8           they laughing and joking about? What were they doing?

9   A.   They were talking about they were going to get you  
10          during the night. They were making sexual connotations  
11          to the fact that this happens as a normal thing for  
12          newbies, or new people who come in.

13  Q.   'Something sexual'; did you understand what the  
14          'something sexual' was?

15  A.   Not honestly at the time. No, no, I didn't. I didn't  
16          really know a great deal about these sorts of things, if  
17          I was honest, back then. Bear in mind, I was quite  
18          a young lad.

19  Q.   But something actually did happen that gave you grounds  
20          for concern, I think?

21  A.   Yes. Oh yes, yes. It's one of my recurring nightmares,  
22          unfortunately. But, you know, it happened, so ...

23                Yes. Do you want me to tell you about it, or?

24  Q.   I know it's difficult. If you can -- if you feel able  
25          to tell us, please, please do.



1 A. So I was only there a few nights, maybe three or four,  
2 and I was asleep. Now, the way the dormitories work is  
3 the young lads go to bed first and then the older boys  
4 patrol, and you are not allowed to speak or make any  
5 noises, you have to go to sleep, that sort of thing.  
6 And if they caught you, you would go on report.

7 And I was woken by a pillow being put over my head,  
8 quite forcibly. And the pillow was really, really,  
9 really sort of pushed down really quite hard, and there  
10 was a smell, a smell of genitalia, if you like, balls,  
11 and I was told loudly to suck it.

12 Now, I was having none of that and I just screamed.

13 There is a night watchman chappy outside.  
14 I screamed and I screamed, and I kicked and I struggled,  
15 and eventually just let -- the guy let go. And it all  
16 went very quiet.

17 I think that's what they were referring to when  
18 I got the black eyes, is what happens.

19 Q. All right. So this is the sort of thing you imagine, or  
20 you took them to be referring to?

21 A. Yes. It might well be different, but that's what I am  
22 referring -- I think it is what they are referring to.

23 Q. Oh, right. The pillow goes on to your head; is that  
24 right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then someone's telling you to suck it?

2 A. Yes. So I could see a little bit.

3 Q. I know it's difficult, but what could you see?

4 A. I could see his balls.

5 Q. Were you able to tell whether this was another boy or

6 a member of staff?

7 A. I had no idea. I was absolutely petrified. No idea.

8 What I do know is the next day the guys knew,

9 because they thought it was funny, 'Scared you, didn't

10 we? Scared you, didn't we?' they shouted.

11 Q. I think at paragraph 88, page 19, you say that you

12 complained.

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. You said something to one of the staff. What happened

15 as a result of that?

16 A. Well, there was a night watchman. He was an old bloke

17 and he seemed fairly innocuous, but he just sat in the

18 room not too far away from the dormitory. And, I mean,

19 I did make a report, but I was told I was lying. I also

20 told the social worker about it, Ms Williams. I don't

21 know where that went. Nothing got said afterwards about

22 it. I think it was put down to high jinx, as they

23 called it back then. Boys will be boys.

24 Q. Paragraph 89, you talk about spending a lot of your time

25 in a state of fear, either from the guards or from the

1 older boys. You said that you really got, in a sense,  
2 used to that and got to know the different quirks of  
3 different members of staff?

4 A. Do you get used to the -- some staff were not as bad as  
5 others, and certainly new staff were fine for a little  
6 while. Or they left, if they -- yes.

7 Q. I think you also say that there were a number of  
8 situations -- I am looking at paragraph 90 -- where you  
9 were worried about the boys, other boys, and praying  
10 that the next boy coming in to -- this is, I suppose,  
11 the games room; is that right?

12 A. Similar. There was an alleyway between the two wings,  
13 and, in the middle of that alleyway, was a room to the  
14 left, which was the -- where they put a TV and an Atari.  
15 And you probably fit three or four people in that room.  
16 It was only a small room. And you got a time limit, you  
17 were given 20 minutes time on the Atari, and then the  
18 next person would come in. And then the last person in  
19 would go out. So there was only ever two people in  
20 there at one time, so would you rotate it. And  
21 depending on who comes -- you wouldn't know who's coming  
22 in after. If it was one of big boys, they would either  
23 just push you out of the way -- but there were other  
24 boys there who would quite happily inflict some pain on  
25 to you just for the hell of it, just for a bit of fun.

1 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 91, about a particular  
2 incident where you were so scared that you felt you had  
3 to take refuge; is that the right way to put it?

4 A. One of the boys coming across the courtyard, they pulled  
5 him -- I don't know how to explain this. It's in the  
6 far corner of the courtyard. It is on its own, and it  
7 is -- you know, could you scream in there and nobody  
8 would hear you, nobody.

9 And I saw him coming across the yard, and I was able  
10 to get the pool table open, and it was on a ratchet  
11 system, and I was able to unratchet it, went and pushed  
12 it up and it come down, and I just lay in the middle of  
13 it. Like I say, I was quite a small boy.

14 I was able to make it seem that the machine was  
15 broken, because you had to put the thing into get the  
16 pool balls back, and I was able to block some of the  
17 holes, and they gave up in the end because they couldn't  
18 get all of the balls to come out.

19 Q. So I think you were at Balgowan until [REDACTED] 1992; is  
20 that about right?

21 A. Yes, and then they released me to -- Mrs Williams, bless  
22 her, she tried everything she could to get me out  
23 sooner, but they finally got me out.

24 Q. I think you went to a children's hearing at the end  
25 of [REDACTED], and they agreed to move you on to, as it

1           were, a different programme?

2   A.   It was called the Dundee Experiment.

3   Q.   Can you tell us about that?  What did you know about the  
4       Dundee Experiment?

5   A.   Actually nothing.  All I could tell you is it meant you  
6       didn't live in anymore.  I think the experiment involved  
7       various activity agencies.  So I went on trips to the  
8       Isle of Mull, I did IT stuff.  There was all different  
9       elements.  I assume that's what the experiment was all  
10      about.

11  Q.   Oh, right.  Were you still coming to Balgowan for some  
12      lessons?

13  A.   I was meant to be there from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.  Most  
14      days I didn't turn up.

15  Q.   All right.  And instead you were doing computer things  
16      and that sort of stuff; is that right?

17  A.   Well, they complained that I didn't turn up, but there  
18      was no threat of -- no threat of taking me back into  
19      residential.  So they weren't going to get me back there  
20      for all of the tea in China, if I could stop it.

21           So, in the end, the social worker got me involved  
22      with other groups that kept my time busy until I was 16.

23  Q.   Okay.  And paragraph 92, I think you said that -- or  
24      paragraph 93, you were left being a latchkey kid, so you  
25      were staying with your father again for a little bit; is

1           that right?

2   A.   That was a really bizarre time.  But that's true, yes.

3           Yes.

4   Q.   Then you tell us that your dad made you homeless because  
5           he moved in with his girlfriend?

6   A.   True.

7   Q.   And a social work got you into alternative  
8           accommodation?

9   A.   Well, they did, they got me a flat.  Actually, no, I was  
10          in -- first of all, they put me into an hotel, a bed and  
11          breakfast hotel.

12  Q.   And you were still, what, 16 at this time?

13  A.   16.

14  Q.   You tell us, paragraph 94, that you had a job making  
15          jute combs, and you tell us a little bit about that.  
16          But you say:

17                 'social work got me into IT and activity centres.'

18                 And I think IT went on to play quite a big role in  
19          your life; is that right?

20  A.   Yes, that's true.  Ms Williams got me the job in H&D  
21          Walker, where they made the combs.  She was wonderful.  
22          She did everything she could for me.  And then, with her  
23          help, I got into a few IT clubs, because that's what  
24          I wanted to do.  That was my passion.  That dovetailed  
25          with what I was doing with my sister.  She worked for

1           Timex, in Dundee, making the ZX Spectrum computer. So  
2           it all kind of worked together. I was able to identify  
3           what I wanted to do with my life. And still do with my  
4           life, yes, to a great extent.

5    Q.   Yes. You tell us a little bit in your statement about  
6           some other jobs that you had, but am I right in thinking  
7           that what do you now is involved with -- is around IT?  
8           I am sorry.

9    A.   Um, at the moment, I own my own IT company. I started  
10           that back in 1999, and we employ 26 staff, providing  
11           managed services, IT support, to small corporates  
12           throughout the UK. So IT's a big part of my life.

13   Q.   So I suppose that's a good news story, in a way?

14   A.   It is.

15   Q.   But, starting at paragraph 96, you do talk about the  
16           impact that all this had on you in your early life.  
17           Perhaps you could just tell us a little bit about that,  
18           from your point of view?

19   A.   Well, I think trust was the big thing for me. And once  
20           you have been through the likes of Balgowan it is not  
21           easy to trust. I struggle, rightly or wrongly, with  
22           love, the feeling of it more than anything. What does  
23           it feel like? I don't know. I can only say that  
24           I think it feels like what I have currently got with my  
25           wife and my two girls.

1 Q. That's been a good thing in your life, very much so?

2 A. 30 years married this year, so that's not too bad.

3 Something's right somewhere. But, you know, [REDACTED]  
4 family, my wife's family, are phenomenal. It is how it  
5 should be.

6 Q. You say, at paragraph 101, you have never sought  
7 counselling and:

8 'I think a lot of that has to do with the sense of  
9 shame about what my childhood was like, even though  
10 I know it wasn't my fault.'

11 A. Fear and shame.

12 I did a session before I did my statement, a few  
13 sessions, actually, on regressive hypnotherapy, and that  
14 ruined me for two weeks, at least. My head, the  
15 memories. What I have told you about in my statement is  
16 what I can be factual about. There is an awful lot that  
17 went on at Balgowan that I can't be that factual about,  
18 so ... and you still see it, and it just takes a smell,  
19 a situation, a comment, and it triggers it. It triggers  
20 a memory. So the regressive hypnotherapy was  
21 recommended by Future Pathways, and I will never do that  
22 again. That was just not good at all. But the  
23 hypnotherapist didn't understand why I was doing it, and  
24 she has recommended another course of treatment.

25 But one thing I will do when I get out of this



1 meeting today is seek professional help, because over  
2 the last week I have just been somewhere I never want to  
3 be.

4 Q. At page 22, you talk a little bit about lessons to be  
5 learned.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And, again, what do you feel are the lessons that we  
8 should take from experiences like yours?

9 A. Well, I personally think that what you guys are doing is  
10 phenomenally good. And I hope that the establishments  
11 that are looking after young people in this day and age  
12 are properly monitored, and if a minor or a child has  
13 an issue it can be heard. And if it is something that  
14 can be resolved, resolve it quickly. You can't -- it  
15 can't -- you cannot have institutions where once that  
16 door's locked you are really in the hands of these  
17 horrendous people who think they are doing some kind  
18 of -- and they are getting paid for this -- doing some  
19 kind of community benefit by taking you off the street  
20 and teaching you a lesson.

21 I just couldn't believe that that really was -- that  
22 period of my life was just so horrendous it still  
23 affects me to this day. But, in terms of lessons  
24 learnt, I think you are doing the right thing. I think  
25 we are on the right page. I think this is a very brave

1           and bold step by the Scottish Government.

2   MR SHELDON: Well, if I may say so, it is very brave of you

3           to come today and tell us what you have told us.

4           'Buster', that's all I want to ask you. Is there

5           anything else that you would like to add, to say?

6   A. I did prepare something. I think we have covered

7           an awful lot, to be honest with you. So if I could

8           stand up, Lady Smith?

9   LADY SMITH: Please, whatever makes you most comfortable.

10   A. I would like to express -- and I have written this three

11          or four times, but I would like to express my

12          appreciation, really, for your commitment and to leading

13          the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.

14                 It is addressing complex issues of child abuse.

15          I don't think there is much in life that you can say is

16          life changing, but that is, that is definitely life

17          changing.

18                 I understand the gravity of the situation and the

19          importance of a thorough and impartial investigation.

20          It is heartening to see the efforts that are being made

21          to ensure that justice for the survivors, with a hope to

22          prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

23                 I would like to say that the work has great value.

24          It does. It has huge value, certainly for me. And

25          I support the pursuit of truth and justice in addressing

1 child abuse issues in Scotland. And thank you for your  
2 commitment. Thank you. I do mean that.

3 And the team, wonderful. [REDACTED], the guys.  
4 Everybody I have met has been absolutely wonderful and  
5 they have listened, and it is the first time anyone's  
6 ever actually listened. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Buster', thank you for that. You are  
8 absolutely right, I am supported by a wonderful team.

9 A. You are.

10 LADY SMITH: And thank you for mentioning that specifically  
11 about them.

12 But my thanks go to you, because everything you have  
13 given us in your evidence, both written and spoken,  
14 today, has helped to advance the work we are doing here.  
15 Every shred of it increases my learning and  
16 understanding. You are right, it is difficult and  
17 complex, but it matters.

18 A. It does matter.

19 LADY SMITH: It really matters, and it matters to me to have  
20 people such as you prepared to come along, however  
21 difficult it is, and make a valuable contribution.

22 I am not surprised that you say it has been tough  
23 over the last few weeks getting ready to come here  
24 today. But let me add this: I invite you to leave what  
25 you can of your past now with us, make it our

1 responsibility, and go home to your wonderful wife and  
2 relax for a little while, if you can. Thank you.

3 A. Thank you very much.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Some names I want to mention, please, that have  
6 been used during 'Buster's' evidence, but in relation to  
7 people who can't be identified outside of this room.  
8 His stepfather, [REDACTED], a Mr MYD, also known as  
9 MYD, Mr LIC and Mr GMP, or GMP, it might  
10 have been, his wife, [REDACTED], and he has also used his  
11 own name, both in whole and in part. So please bear in  
12 mind those identities are all protected by my general  
13 restriction order.

14 Mr Sheldon, where are we going now?

15 MR SHELDON: My Lady, we did have another live witness for  
16 this afternoon, but he is unfortunately unable to attend  
17 today. So it is proposed to read his evidence in,  
18 insofar as it relates to our particular institutions,  
19 the Dundee chapter. The read-in, my Lady, would take  
20 approximately 20 minutes.

21 LADY SMITH: I think we should have a short break. Am  
22 I right in remembering that this is a witness, some of  
23 whose evidence has already been read-in --

24 MR SHELDON: That's correct, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: -- to the SPS section?

1 MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady. I can give you that  
2 reference now, or later.

3 LADY SMITH: That's all right, I can get you from you later.  
4 But we will have a ten minute break just now.

5 (2.53 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.03 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

9 MR SHELDON: My Lady, as I was saying before the break, this  
10 is a witness who has waived anonymity. He was to give  
11 evidence this afternoon, but can't attend,  
12 unfortunately. So the plan is just to read his  
13 statement in, insofar as it is relevant to the Dundee  
14 chapter.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 William Bauros (read)

17 MR SHELDON: The witness statement is WIT-1-000001039. As  
18 my Lady observed earlier, the portion of the statement  
19 relating to SPS was read-in last year, on 15 November,  
20 by Ms Rattray. The transcript reference is  
21 TRN-12-000000022.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR SHELDON: I am sorry, that should be seven zeros, 22.

24 LADY SMITH: It is quite difficult to count them all. Yes,  
25 thank you.

1 MR SHELDON: So this is the applicant William Bauros. He  
2 was born in 1963 in Cumbernauld. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 His father died when the applicant was about five.  
6 He thinks that his mother may have had difficulty in  
7 coping in the wake of that bereavement [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED] Social work became  
9 involved with the family and, ultimately, the applicant  
10 was taken into care [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were initially taken to a children's  
12 home in Glasgow, and the records suggest that was in  
13 1971, approximately [REDACTED] 1971.

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
15 [REDACTED]

16 Secondary Institutio But thereafter he [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] moved to Cardross Park Assessment Centre, and that  
18 was in the summer of 1974, and he describes some of his  
19 time there.

20 He does describe being confined to what he calls  
21 'the cooler' for hours on end, a room with no windows;  
22 that's pages 6 and 7.

23 He says that if he didn't eat certain things there  
24 they would be served to him again at a later stage. He  
25 went to school outwith the home and that was -- he

1 describes it as not too bad and got on fine there, at  
2 the local primary.

3 He says that he wasn't really visited. His mum  
4 didn't come to visit him in Cardross, but he was allowed  
5 to see [REDACTED], who lived close by.

6 He does say that he witnessed what appears to be,  
7 appears to have been, potentially serious sexual abuse  
8 of another boy by a member of staff, who he names.  
9 Indeed, he says that following that incident he gave  
10 evidence at Dumbarton Sheriff's Court in the trial of  
11 the member of staff who he thinks was sentenced in  
12 relation to what occurred.

13 My Lady, I can say efforts have been made to look  
14 for records of that and so far, at least, without any  
15 success.

16 He also reports some, perhaps, slightly less serious  
17 sexual abuse by a night watchman, who he names and  
18 describes.

19 He says he hated that. He notes it was  
20 an assessment centre, and most of the kids were there  
21 because they had been in trouble. Obviously, at that  
22 stage, William hadn't been in trouble at all; it was  
23 simply a case of the family having difficulty.

24 He says that he didn't see a social worker the whole  
25 time he was in Cardross.

1           At the point of leaving Cardross, when he was, he  
2           thinks, about 12, he and [REDACTED], to whom he was  
3           close, were split up and sent to different  
4           establishments. From Cardross William was sent to  
5           Balrossie School. That was in about November 1975. At  
6           page 11, he notes he wasn't happy there and describes  
7           a lot of aggression and fighting between the boys.

8           He says although they were schooled, it wasn't like  
9           a proper school. He says they mainly sat in class  
10          drawing and carrying on. He says there was no contact  
11          with social work and he hadn't been to a Children's  
12          Panel at that point. No one explained to him why he was  
13          being moved around, 'where I was going or how long  
14          I would be at each place'.

15          He says -- and this is page 13 -- that he actually  
16          got himself out of Balrossie. He was on home leave and  
17          simply refused to go back, and he said he shouldn't be  
18          there, he had done nothing wrong. And in fact although  
19          there were attempts to drag him back to the school, the  
20          police ultimately agreed with him that they had no real  
21          power to take him and he remained with his mother, at  
22          least at that stage.

23          He says that he was at home with his mother for  
24          eight or nine months, but things deteriorated when he  
25          got involved with a particular boy who he had known from



1 Cardross. And they got into some trouble and were sent  
2 before a Children's Panel and, first of all, sent to  
3 an assessment centre in central Scotland. He doesn't  
4 really have a great deal to say about that and doesn't  
5 describe, certainly, any significant abuse there.

6 Ultimately, in 1977 -- it is not clear from the  
7 records, my Lady, precisely when in 1977, but it seems  
8 to have been around then that he was sent to Balgowan.  
9 He says that he assumed that was a Children's Panel  
10 decision, but he doesn't remember going back to the  
11 Panel at that stage.

12 He gives some background about Balgowan. He thinks  
13 there were about 40 to 50 boys there in total. This is  
14 page 15.

15 Then, over the page, he says that he was taken to  
16 Balgowan in a minibus with two men. He didn't know  
17 their names and thought they might have been staff from  
18 Balgowan.

19 At paragraph 65, he describes the routine. He says:

20 'In the morning we got up, washed and dressed, then  
21 went out to the playground. We had to march everywhere  
22 which we called "parade". We went on parade to the  
23 classroom after breakfast. The classrooms were separate  
24 to the main building. There wasn't much in the way of  
25 schooling. I do remember someone trying to teach me

1 algebra, but I don't remember many other subjects. It  
2 was mainly drawing and having a laugh in the classroom  
3 or out doing physical education, which I liked. There  
4 were some practical classes.'

5 He thought they were in class until 3.30 or 4.00.  
6 He says if the weather was nice after that they were  
7 able to go outside to play, otherwise they would be  
8 watching TV.

9 He says the food was okay and he doesn't remember  
10 having any issues. He says, at paragraph 67, that the  
11 school provided clothing. He didn't think it was brand  
12 new, but it was in 'all right' condition. They  
13 sometimes had a small selection of clothes that they  
14 could pick things out and try from.

15 He says, at paragraph 68:

16 'The staff took to us a place called Glenhead [which  
17 we have heard about on a number of occasions before]  
18 that was for a week each year. It was in the hills in  
19 the middle of nowhere. We stayed in a cottage with no  
20 electricity and went hillwalking. I quite liked that.  
21 I think I went twice. There were four members of staff  
22 and about 12 boys.'

23 Paragraph 69:

24 'If you kept your nose clean you were allowed  
25 weekend leave once a month from Friday to Sunday. I had

1 my first weekend leave after I was there five months.  
2 The staff gave me a bus pass and a train ticket to get  
3 to Falkirk. I got the bus from Downfield, in Dundee,  
4 down to the train station, off the train in Stirling and  
5 on another to Falkirk. It was great to get home again,  
6 but I hated going back on a Sunday. Sometimes I didn't  
7 go back and I would be away from Balgowan for five days  
8 to a week.

9 'The police used to kick the door in at my mum's,  
10 looking for me. I would hide in the loft if I heard  
11 them. They would always find me and take me to the  
12 station, and someone from Balgowan would pick me up the  
13 next day and take me back. I would get the belt when  
14 I got back to Balgowan for running away.'

15 At 70:

16 'Balgowan was a pretty bad place. I remember if you  
17 did anything wrong, like being cheeky or fighting, about  
18 four or five of the staff would hold you down and belt  
19 you. They would get you to take your trousers down and  
20 belt you across the bare bum. They would belt so you  
21 hard they would take the skin off your bum. I remember  
22 seeing boys bleeding in the showers after being belted.  
23 I refused to take my trousers down, so they would drag  
24 my trousers off me. If you struggled, they would  
25 sometimes miss and belt on you the back. I think I was

1 belted about four or five times. I only know the names  
2 of three of the staff members involved in giving kids  
3 the belt. They were Mr GKF, Mr GMP and Mr GMR.'

4 He says:

5 'Mr GKF was in his early 50s and was SNR  
6 SNR. Mr GMP was SNR and  
7 Mr GMR was a former prison officer from Perth. The  
8 three of them were always there when I got the belt.'

9 Pausing there briefly, my Lady, just to note that  
10 Mr GKF was SNR at Balrossie for some time.  
11 Where, of course, this applicant also spent some time.

12 Maybe there is an element of confusion there, but it  
13 is difficult to say. That's certainly what the  
14 applicant says and we don't have, of course, his oral  
15 evidence to help resolve that.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR SHELDON: But I think we do recognise, potentially,

18 Mr GMP name.

19 LADY SMITH: That could be the Mr GMP we have already  
20 heard about today.

21 MR SHELDON: Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MR SHELDON: At all events, he says:

24 'The three of them were always there when I got the  
25 belt.'

1           He talks about another member of staff, who he  
2           names, and says she is now married. Her role was caring  
3           for the boys and I think she was maybe 28 to 30 years  
4           old. She asked me to help with her garden. She drove  
5           me to her house and had sex with me. It only happened  
6           once, and I think I was 14 years old at the time.  
7           Afterwards she told me to keep it to myself. I didn't  
8           think much of it back then. I know that she also had  
9           sex with one of the other boys from Balgowan [who he  
10          names]. I never reported it, but I told a couple of  
11          boys I was friendly with at the school. I remember some  
12          of the boys doing sexual things to each other.

13                 'I don't want to go into any more detail about that.  
14                 I knew it was going on and I saw it happen in the dorms.  
15                 I'm sure the staff must have known what was happening  
16                 too.'

17                 He says he doesn't remember ever seeing a social  
18                 worker when he was in Balgowan:

19                 'No one ever told me how long I would be there, but  
20                 I got it into my head I would be there until I was 16.  
21                 I was only there between 16 and 18 months before I was  
22                 moved again. I kept running away, so **SNR**,  
23                 Mr **GKF** told me I was being sent to Kerelaw. I was  
24                 straight from Balgowan to Kerelaw.'

25                 That is when he was 16. The records suggest, my

1           Lady, he was at Kerelaw around February 1979, and was  
2           there for around three months.

3   LADY SMITH: 1979? He would have been older than 14. He  
4           may have been 15 and hadn't had his 16th birthday, yes.

5   MR SHELDON: Yes. So he then describes his time at Kerelaw  
6           and talks about some of the staff from there.

7           Taking that short, my Lady, having described the  
8           routine, he does describe abuse, physical abuse, which  
9           he experienced at Kerelaw by Matt George, who of course  
10          now has convictions in relation to conduct at Kerelaw.

11   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12   MR SHELDON: He says that he himself abused, physically  
13          abused, him. Put him in a cell, as he puts it, and says  
14          that he battered other boys, and indeed had boys who  
15          would batter other boys on his instructions.

16   LADY SMITH: Yes.

17   MR SHELDON: He says that he was only at Kerelaw for about  
18          three months. They ended up running away. He stole  
19          a car, and because of that he was sent to Longriggend  
20          Detention Centre, he says, for about five and a half  
21          months.

22          So his time at Kerelaw must really have been quite  
23          short, my Lady, because he is then, after that, at  
24          Geilsland, and the records suggest that was August 1979.

25   LADY SMITH: Right, a busy year.

1 MR SHELDON: Yes. He doesn't say a great deal about  
2 Geilsland, my Lady. He says he absconded after two  
3 months and doesn't complain of abuse there.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR SHELDON: Thereafter, my Lady, he talks about his time at  
6 various SPS establishments, principally Glenochil and  
7 Polmont. I think, my Lady, Ms Rattray read-in some of  
8 the material about impact.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MR SHELDON: Perhaps just to emphasise that --

11 LADY SMITH: I do remember this.

12 MR SHELDON: -- he does say, page 30, paragraph 124:  
13 'My experience with the care system has ruined my  
14 life.'

15 He describes some of the things that happened to him  
16 after care and says, at paragraph 126:  
17 'I am a bit of a loner. I think that has a lot to  
18 do with being in care and being institutionalised.  
19 While you are in care you are on your own. You don't  
20 build relationships with people in the same way, you  
21 don't have any say in what happens in your life.  
22 I definitely have a mistrust of people in authority  
23 because of what I have been through. My time in care  
24 really wrecked my head.'

25 My Lady, just to complete that, he has signed and

1           dated the statement, and has given the usual declaration  
2           about truth and so on.

3   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Sheldon.

4   MR SHELDON: My --

5   LADY SMITH: Three names there, Mr GKF, Mr GMP and  
6           Mr GMR, and they are not to be identified outside  
7           this room.

8           Tomorrow what are we doing?

9   MR SHELDON: Three live witnesses, I hope, my Lady. So  
10          just, yes.

11   LADY SMITH: Very well. I am going to rise now until  
12          tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Thank you.

13   (3.25 pm)

14          (the hearing adjourned until 10 am the following day)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



I N D E X

1  
2  
3 'Gary' (affirmed) .....1  
4       Questions by MS FORBES .....2  
5 'Buster' (affirmed) .....63  
6       Questions by Mr Sheldon .....65  
7 William Bauros (read) .....133  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

