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Wednesday, 21 February, 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning. We move on in Chapter 3 of this phase of the case study, and we have a witness in person to start the evidence this morning, who is ready; is that right, Ms Forbes?

MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, good morning.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

MS FORBES: The next witness is an applicant who is anonymous and his pseudonym is 'Michael'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

LADY SMITH: Good morning, 'Michael'.

A. Morning.

LADY SMITH: Could we begin with you raising your right hand, please, and repeat after me.

'Michael' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: Thank you, now do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

A. Thank you.

LADY SMITH: 'Michael', thank you for agreeing to come along this morning to help us with your evidence, and thank you for the written statement that I already have from you, which is your evidence, and I have been able to study in advance. I see you have the folder open. It has your statement in it. It will be there for you to

1 refer to, if you want to, when you are giving your
2 evidence. We will also bring the statement up on that
3 screen in front of you, which is a bigger font than the
4 typing in the statement in the folder. You might find
5 that helpful, too.

6 But, otherwise, 'Michael', can I just say that
7 I know what we are asking you to do here isn't
8 straightforward. It is not easy to come into a public
9 forum and talk about your own personal life,
10 particularly matters going back to your childhood, some
11 of which can be distressing and upsetting in a way that
12 could take you by surprise. I understand that, and if
13 at any time you want to pause, a break, in or out of the
14 room, or you have any questions for us, please don't
15 hesitate to speak up.

16 Really, overall, I want to do anything I can to help
17 you give your evidence as comfortably as you can, so you
18 help me if you need anything, will you?

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that. If you are ready, I will
21 hand over to Ms Forbes and she will take it from there;
22 okay?

23 Questions by Ms Forbes

24 MS FORBES: My Lady. Good morning, 'Michael'. The
25 statement that you have in front of you, if you could

1 turn to page 46, which is the last page of that
2 statement, there is a paragraph there, 174, and it has
3 a declaration. It says:

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

8 Then that's then been signed by you and it is dated
9 19 May 2022; is that right?

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. That's great. If we could just go back to the beginning
12 of your statement now.

13 Now, 'Michael', I am just going to start by asking
14 you some questions about your life before you went into
15 care. I understand you were born in 1952; is that
16 right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And initially, I think when you were very young, you
19 lived with your parents and an older brother in Dundee;
20 is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think later your parents had another child, but
23 that was a little bit later on; is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. That was a younger brother that you had?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think when you were very young, about 18 months old --

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. -- you ended up going to live with your father's

5 mother?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So your paternal grandmother; is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Your older brother, he went to live with your mother's

10 mother?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Your maternal grandmother?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So, at that time, you were away from the family home

15 with your parents; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think you tell us -- this is at paragraph 4 of your

18 statement -- this grandmother that you stayed with was

19 a wonderful woman?

20 A. Yes. She was, yes.

21 Q. And she looked after you. I think you tell us there --

22 and we will maybe come to that later -- you have heard

23 through family members that really that saved your life

24 by being placed with her?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You tell us, I think, when you were taken away and
2 placed with her there was some scabs you talk about;
3 were these injuries that you had?
4 A. I don't know. I don't know.
5 Q. You have just been told about them?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Yes, okay. I think you say there were problems in your
8 parents' marriage and that's where things started to
9 break up. But they got back together at one point and
10 that's when they had your younger brother; is that
11 right?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. But, later, I think you tell us, they got divorced?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. You really didn't have any involvement, I think you say,
16 with your mother or father --
17 A. Nothing, really.
18 Q. -- much after that. Okay.
19 Now, when you were staying with your grandmother,
20 growing up there; what was life like, that you can
21 remember?
22 A. Great. Just free, well fed, looked after. Fine.
23 Q. Yes. I think, though, you say that there was a little
24 bit lacking, in the sense that there was nobody kind of
25 taking you out places or doing things with you, like

1 playing football, things like that?

2 A. No, you made your own entertainment.

3 Q. Okay. And I think, at paragraph 5, you kind of give
4 a list of things that you were interested in as a child.
5 I think you say there you would go bird spotting,
6 collecting eggs, scrumping for apples, things like that?

7 A. Swimming.

8 Q. Swimming. And I think you say, though, that looking
9 back you kind of had a wild existence from then onwards?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. What do you mean by that?

12 A. Well, just I found out later on my ancestors were Irish
13 travellers, so just a sort of travellers' existence. It
14 must have been coming out in us. Just like that, just
15 free.

16 Q. Okay. So does that mean you were out of the house quite
17 a lot?

18 A. All the time. I didn't have a TV until I was 14. So
19 you were just out, as well. People didn't like children
20 listening to conversations, so I think, 'away you go out
21 now', and that was it.

22 Q. I think you say at your grandmother's house there was
23 an auntie that was -- you got on well with, first of
24 all?

25 A. Aye, yes. Yes.

1 Q. And while you were at your grandmother's house you still
2 had contact with your older brother --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- who was staying at your other grandmother's house; is
5 that right?

6 A. Yes, we just used to play together, meet up and play.

7 Q. You went to a primary school in Dundee, and that was
8 a Catholic primary school; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you say your brother was already there when you
11 started?

12 A. He was there, yes.

13 Q. Now, those early days at primary school, I think you
14 tell us you got on quite well; is that right?

15 A. Yes, yes. I had a wonderful teacher.

16 Q. You say you loved primary school and your teachers that
17 were there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. However, I think there became a time when another aunt
20 moved into the house with you and your grandmother, and
21 that aunt didn't like you very much --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- was your impression; is that right?

24 A. No, she didn't like my mother, so she didn't like me,
25 sort of thing.

1 Q. And I think you say that you were about seven years old
2 at the time when that happened?

3 A. Yes. Maybe eight. Seven or eight.

4 Q. What was she like towards you, then? Can you tell us
5 a little bit about that?

6 A. Just ... it is hard to explain. No time for us and
7 just ...

8 Q. Was she physical?

9 A. ... cruel.

10 Q. Cruel?

11 A. In a nutshell. Quite cruel. No birthday presents, no
12 Christmas, nothing like that. I was just sort of like
13 a lodger to her, but she was a lodger.

14 Q. Was she physical towards you?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Okay. And how would that -- what would that take the
17 form of?

18 A. Just kicking, chasing us under the bed with a brush.

19 Q. As a result of that did you start spending more time
20 outside of the house?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think you say in paragraph 7, at the end there,
23 you describe yourself as -- you say:

24 'I sort of became feral as a result of that.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Does that mean you just spent most of the time outside
2 of the house?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. There became a time, then, when you went to secondary
5 school in Dundee. Again, that was a Catholic secondary
6 school; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And, again, your brother was there, too?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you say you also had some cousins?

11 A. Cousins there. A lot of us there.

12 Q. And how did you get on there?

13 A. Pretty good at technical stuff, but I found out I was
14 a bit dyslexic. I never knew that at the time. My wife
15 told me that a few years ago. So I never got on well at
16 English or stuff like that, but technical, really good
17 at technical stuff.

18 Q. So the more practical sort of subjects?

19 A. Yes, hands on.

20 Q. I think you say that's the sort of time when you then
21 became involved with some other boys at the school who
22 didn't have mums and dads either?

23 A. Right, exactly the same, yes.

24 Q. I think you say the phrase 'birds of a feather flock
25 together', is the one that you use?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you end up congregating together in a sort of wee
3 gang; is that what happened?

4 A. Yes, because we were all in the same boat. And it was
5 unusual at that time for parents to be divorced, so for
6 there to be quite so many in our area, and the same age
7 was -- so we all stuck together.

8 Q. I think then there was an incident whereby a cousin had
9 sort of complained to you about getting the belt at
10 school; is that right?

11 A. Yes, that was a protestant school as well.

12 Q. As a result of that, did you take it upon yourself to do
13 something?

14 A. Yes, I broke in to the school and I stole all the belts
15 out of the classrooms.

16 Q. And --

17 LADY SMITH: How did you know where they were?

18 A. They're usually in the teacher's desk, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: And the desks weren't locked?

20 A. No, just a desk belt.

21 LADY SMITH: So you must have had a pile of them in your
22 hands by the time you left, did you?

23 A. Yes, I just dumped them. I couldn't take them to the
24 house, because I would probably end up getting hit with
25 them.

1 LADY SMITH: Where did you put them?

2 A. In the bins. They are worth money now, by the way, the
3 leather -- I think they're called a tawse.

4 LADY SMITH: The Lochgelly Tawse.

5 A. I never knew what they were called then, just the belt.

6 MS FORBES: So this was a sort of protest against the belt,
7 the tawse?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But I think you got caught after that, is that right, by
10 the police?

11 A. Yes, I kept getting caught; that was my problem.

12 Q. Yes. And this, though, I think, was the first time, you
13 tell us, you got in trouble with the police at all?

14 A. Yes, that would be the first time. Aye.

15 Q. You say there were some minor things in the past, but
16 this theft of the belts, breaking into the school, was
17 a big thing?

18 A. That was big.

19 Q. Did you do that on your own or did anybody else come
20 with you?

21 A. There was somebody else with us, but I can't divulge
22 their name.

23 Q. Yes, you kept their name to yourself.

24 I think up until this point the social work hadn't
25 really been involved with you, or anything; is that

1 right?

2 A. Nothing like that, really, no.

3 Q. And you had been obviously staying with your grandmother
4 and this aunt.

5 Now, I think you tell us you can't remember there
6 being a court hearing after this incident with the break
7 in; is that right?

8 A. I think I got 14 days. I am not really sure.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I am a bit mixed up with that.

11 Q. I think you tell us you were sentenced to 14 days, but
12 you just can't remember there being a court hearing, but
13 you think there must have been for that to happen.

14 A. I think I would have been about 13 at the time.

15 Q. This 14 days meant you were then taken, is that right,
16 to a remand home?

17 A. Yes, it was called Milnbank. That's not there now.

18 Q. But it wasn't straight from being caught by the police,
19 you went back to your grandmother's house and then, at
20 a later date, you were taken there, is that right, to do
21 your 14 days?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So 13 years old when you went there?

24 A. I think so.

25 Q. But you tell us that was a secure place?

1 A. Yes, it was locked. It was a big Georgian house, sort
2 of a big house.

3 Q. What was that like when you were there?

4 A. Just unexplainable, just boring. Fighting with each
5 other, laddies fighting together.

6 Q. I think you say that it was quite a physical place for
7 the boys? There was --

8 A. Yes, there was a lot of fighting.

9 Q. -- a pecking order that you had to sort of establish
10 yourself within it?

11 A. Yes, yes. That goes for every place.

12 Q. I think you do tell us -- this is at paragraph 29 of
13 your statement, so a bit further down -- 'It was up to
14 you to fight against being kept in your place'.

15 Sorry, 'Michael', it is blacked out there, but
16 I will just tell you what you said and you can agree or
17 disagree.

18 I think you tell us that it was up to you to fight
19 against being kept in your place and it was a couple of
20 punches and things like that which you saw as sort of
21 normal for back then?

22 A. Yes, it was quite normal. I had a black eye when I came
23 out.

24 Q. I think you say that was as a result of a fight you were
25 involved in with another boy; is that right?

1 A. I fought two of them. I got beat though.

2 Q. After you were there, you just went back home, is that
3 right, to your grandmother's house?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us that your aunt wasn't happy with
6 you, so you sort of stayed out of her way?

7 A. Yes, she was not happy at all.

8 Q. But you were trying to do something industrious anyway.
9 You were delivering newspapers, I think, for a while; is
10 that right?

11 A. I was on the newspapers and I was on the milk.

12 Q. You were earning some money for that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you had given some of that to your grandmother?

15 A. Yes, I used to give my granny the majority of the money,
16 willingly.

17 Q. But, at school, I think, you kind of tell us that you
18 were sort of left out, and the feeling that you got was
19 they just wanted you to be sort of tradespeople when you
20 got out?

21 A. Yes, we were in the sort of lower echelon at the school.
22 Just, say A, we were B, and the teachers just seemed,
23 'Oh, you are not going to amount to anything', so they
24 didn't, you know, do their best, I think.

25 Q. And I think you say you got into a bit of trouble at

1 school and you got the belt quite often from the
2 teachers?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That would be across your hands, at the time; is that
5 right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think at that time you are still hanging about with
8 your brother, your older brother; is that right --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and this group of boys?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you say you were up to no good, really; is that
13 right?

14 A. Yes, we just used to play cards and dream up things
15 to -- dream up mischief.

16 Q. Did that lead to then -- I think you tell us you got
17 involved with some petty crime?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think it's at 35 of your statement; 'For want of
20 a better word [you] became "cat burglars"'?

21 A. Yes, that's right, aye. Not in -- in those days you
22 never broke into people's houses, because nobody had
23 anything. It was always shops. Not that that's good,
24 but that was a law: just shops.

25 Q. That was the rule amongst your sort of group?

1 A. Yes, we didn't steal from people.

2 Q. Did you somehow see that as being slightly better?

3 A. Well, yes. I know it is a contradiction in terms, but

4 morally maybe a bit better.

5 Q. Is that what happened? Did you actually break into

6 a shop?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what was that?

9 A. That was a big store, and everything.

10 Q. Did it have jewellery and watches?

11 A. Watches, jewels, glaze, everything.

12 Q. How old were you at that time? Can you remember?

13 A. I would have been 14.

14 Q. And was there a group of you that broke into the shop?

15 A. Yes, about five of us.

16 Q. But, again, this was something that the police got on to

17 you for; is that right?

18 A. Oh yes, we got, as you call it, grassed.

19 Q. Okay. And you describe, I think at paragraph 36, that

20 they came to your grandmother's door?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say you were standing there with a watch on your

23 arm, a ring on your finger that you shouldn't have had?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So the stolen property on your -- caught red handed, so

1 to speak?

2 A. More or less, aye. Arm up the back.

3 Q. Okay. And I think all of you ended up in court, is that
4 right, and pled guilty?

5 A. All ended up in court and, apart from two, we got sent
6 to approved schools.

7 Q. At that time, there still wasn't any social work
8 involvement with yourself; is that right?

9 A. No, no social workers.

10 Q. And I think you tell us the only people that spoke to
11 you at that time were the police?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now, your brother was part of the group that was
14 involved in that burglary; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think you say that you, your brother, and another boy
17 were sent to Harestane Remand Home?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that was in Dundee?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So, at that time, you would have been 14, still?

22 A. 14, yes.

23 Q. Now, you tell us a little bit about Harestane. I am
24 going to move on and ask you some questions about that,
25 'Michael'. This was in the north of Dundee; is that

1 right?

2 A. Pardon?

3 Q. It was in the north of Dundee?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And the Balgowan Approved School was --

6 A. That was further up.

7 Q. Okay. So this was a secure place?

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. And you were locked in?

10 A. Lock and key.

11 Q. I think you say to us that you were -- you think you

12 were there during [REDACTED] and you think you left

13 about the end of [REDACTED].

14 Now, we can come to this a little bit later, but

15 there is a record that talks about you going from

16 Harestane to St Mary's in [REDACTED] 1967. So I think you went

17 from Harestane straight to St Mary's; is that about

18 right?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. But would you have been in Harestane for about four or

21 five weeks before that?

22 A. Yes, a good few weeks.

23 LADY SMITH: Was this before you appeared in court or after

24 you had been in court?

25 A. This is after court, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: Okay, so they hadn't put you in any remand
2 centre before your court appearance?

3 A. Not before, no. We just had to turn up at court.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: Now, you tell us a little bit about the layout
6 of Harestane, and we have that in your statement. I am
7 not going to go through that in too much detail. But
8 I think you say it looked like a sort of modern school,
9 with a flat roof.

10 A. Yes, that was built to replace -- what was it?
11 Milnbank. They stopped using that. New place, brand
12 new, Harestane.

13 Q. I think you say there were big grounds, but you were
14 never really allowed out into them?

15 A. I think I was on them once.

16 Q. And there was a big drive outside that [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And there was a couple, I think you say, [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]?

21 A. That was the same couple that had Milnbank, Mr GFK [REDACTED]
22 and his wife. They were the same people. Although she
23 didn't work there that we'd seen. You saw her in
24 Milnbank, but you never saw her in Harestane.

25 Q. So before, at the remand home, they had both worked

1 there --

2 A. Yes, this time, it's only going to be Mr GFK .

3 Q. But this time at Harestane -- okay. And what was the

4 accommodation for you like within Harestane?

5 A. I think there was four in a room.

6 Q. So were these sort of dorms?

7 A. Yes, a wee room with four single beds.

8 Q. You go through quite a lot of detail about various

9 different staff members who worked there that you

10 remember. We might go into a bit more detail about some

11 of them in a little while, 'Michael'.

12 But, at paragraph 40, I think you tell us about the

13 sort of attitude of the staff members in general towards

14 you; are you able to say what you remember the attitude

15 towards you being?

16 A. Like we were beneath them, we were sort of scum. Looked

17 down upon.

18 Q. When you went there, it was a mixture, is that right, of

19 boys and girls?

20 A. There were girls there, but they were kept separate.

21 Q. Okay. And sorry, age range was that it went up to about

22 16?

23 A. 14 to 16.

24 Q. Okay. But when you went there you were still 14; is

25 that right?

1 A. Yes, still 14.

2 Q. So there were still some older, bigger boys than you
3 there?

4 A. Oh aye, yes.

5 Q. I think you sort of describe it as a sort of holding pen
6 for approved schools?

7 A. Yes, you were waiting, waiting on a placement.

8 Q. Okay. Now, you tell us about the daily routine. I am
9 not going to go into all of the detail about that, but
10 I think, at paragraph 43, you say really every day felt
11 like Sunday?

12 A. Yes, a long day doing nothing.

13 Q. So there wasn't anything scheduled, organised, for you
14 to do --

15 A. No, nothing.

16 Q. -- whilst you were there?

17 A. No.

18 Q. But I think you do say there was television, there was
19 comics, things like that, but there wasn't really any
20 education, or --

21 A. Yes, there were comics, I think some papers. I can't
22 remember if there was a TV there.

23 Q. You do say -- and this is a little bit later on now, at
24 48 -- that there was no education, but one of the boys
25 who you had gone in there with, his mum had wanted him

1 to take what was called the Dundee Schools Certificate?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. And she also asked for you to take that at the same

4 time?

5 A. Yes. So me and my pal went to school and sat that

6 certificate.

7 Q. I think you say, at that time, it was all maths and

8 English and you weren't very good at that?

9 A. Yes, I failed.

10 Q. But I think you tell us he passed his. Is that right;

11 he passed?

12 A. I would think so. He was cleverer than me.

13 Q. But whilst you were there, 'Michael', you say nobody

14 came to visit from your family.

15 A. I can't remember, no. I don't think anybody came up.

16 Q. What about social work; did anyone come to speak to you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So was anyone telling you what was going to happen, or

19 what to expect?

20 A. No, we just got told, maybe the day before: right, you

21 are going to St Mary's Boys' School in Glasgow tomorrow.

22 Q. Okay. Now, I think you say there was a time that you

23 almost ran away from Harestane; is that right?

24 A. Yes, mm-hm.

25 Q. I think this is from a punishment room; is that right?

1 A. Yes, just a wee punishment room. Like a room with not
2 any beds in it, just a room, and I tried to get out of
3 the window.

4 Q. So, if you could just tell us about that room a little
5 bit; what was that like? What was in there?

6 A. Just the same room I lived in, but without any furniture
7 in it. Just a room.

8 Q. And did it have a small window in there?

9 A. Sort of small, long window.

10 Q. What was that room used for?

11 A. Just being a spare room, because there wasn't a lot of
12 people in Harestane. It was just opened. So it was
13 just a spare room, doing nothing. But used to lock up
14 people that done something out of order.

15 Q. So were boys put there if they had done something wrong?

16 A. Just say you were fighting, you got caught fighting, you
17 got thrown in there.

18 Q. How long would you have to stay in there?

19 A. Just until they decided to -- just being hours, rather
20 than days. Hours.

21 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us you were only in there
22 once?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is that right? But you did see other people being put
25 in there --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- by staff members?

3 Now, there is a section in your statement,

4 'Michael', where you talk about -- it is kind of headed

5 'Abuse at Harestane', and that's at paragraph 55.

6 I think you say that Harestane was much the same as the

7 previous remand home, but bigger?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. It was the same sort of fighting among the boys?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. But I think you talk about a couple of staff members in

12 particular, and I think the first one you talk about is

13 Mr GFK; can you tell us about him?

14 A. He seemed to be an ex-RAF kind of looking man. He was

15 okay. Distant, but, on the whole, he was all right.

16 Q. And if you stepped out of line; what would Mr GFK do?

17 A. Oh, I got one wallop off him; that was for trying to

18 get out of that window. Just a wallop in the lug.

19 Q. So a clip around the ear or a clout around --

20 A. A good clout on the lug.

21 Q. Now, I think you tell us a little bit about that at

22 paragraph 57. This is the occasion when you tried to

23 escape out of the punishment room; is that right?

24 A. Mm-hm. That's when I got my clout.

25 Q. Yes. You say that you had managed to get the window

1 open; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you were halfway out?

4 A. Half out.

5 Q. Mr GFK came upon you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I think you tell us what he did there. Now, you

8 have said just now there was a clout around the ear, but

9 was it a bit more than that?

10 A. Oh, just a few slaps on the ear.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It wasn't a -- it was nothing.

13 Q. So I think you say that didn't faze you back then?

14 A. Well, I was taller than Mr GFK at the time.

15 Q. I think you say that you knew you had done something

16 wrong and that was the punishment --

17 A. Yes, that was it.

18 Q. -- that you got?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That was the kind of attitude that you had towards it?

21 A. Yes, that was it and that was it forgotten, and move on.

22 LADY SMITH: 'Michael', is that a room on the ground floor?

23 A. It was one up.

24 LADY SMITH: So you would have been dropping quite

25 a distance, if you had gone out.

1 A. Yes, my Lady. But, being a cat burglar, that wouldn't
2 have been a problem.

3 LADY SMITH: Of course, you'd had lots of practice. Thank
4 you.

5 MS FORBES: I think you also tell us about another staff
6 member there, and that is from paragraph 58, this is a
7 Mr GFL ; what can you tell us about him, 'Michael'?

8 A. Well, just what's in my statement. He was a kind of
9 Uriah Heep sort of character. Out of place with the
10 other two, who were like National Service men. He had
11 obviously never been in the forces.

12 And he was painting some ointment on me. I had to
13 strip naked in that room, and he paid particular
14 attention to my private parts, which -- he found it
15 amusing. I never. And when he was taking me in the
16 room, the other two guys, the staff members, were going,
17 'Ho-ho', in a kind of wee snigger.

18 Q. Is this the occasion where they said had you scabies or
19 something like that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you had to get some ointment on you for that, some
22 treatment?

23 A. It was painted on me with a brush, but I can't remember
24 having scabies. And usually scabies will spread through
25 a dormitory, or something like that.

1 Q. So, when this was noticed, you were then taken into this
2 punishment room?

3 A. Yes, the same sort of room. Yes, nothing in it.

4 Q. And it was Mr GFL that took you in there; is that
5 right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And was it just you and him?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And I think you tell us a little bit more detail about
10 that at paragraph 60. You say:

11 '... got into the room and it was just the two of us
12 in the room and the door was shut.'

13 Did he tell you to do anything when you got into the
14 room?

15 A. I just had to strip naked.

16 Q. Then you talked about this brush that he was holding,
17 and him having stuff to kind of paint on you?

18 A. Yes, as I say there, I think I was capable of doing the
19 front myself. I didn't need him plastering away.

20 Q. Because you were 14 at that age?

21 A. Yes, I was.

22 Q. But I think you say he painted it on you and he paid
23 particular attention to your genitals?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. Now, I think you said that before you went in there were

1 a couple of members of staff who were sort of
2 sniggering?

3 A. Yes, they were like -- oh aye.

4 Q. And was he sort of laughing when he was doing this in
5 the room?

6 A. He was trying to make out it was a joke, sort of thing.

7 Q. Did you find it funny?

8 A. I didn't find it in the least bit funny.

9 Q. How did it you make you feel, 'Michael'?

10 A. Terrible. I can't explain it. I just -- abused. And
11 unable to do anything about it.

12 Q. And how long were you and he in that room for, together?

13 A. Oh, it would only have been 15 minutes, something like
14 that.

15 Q. I think you say a little bit later, at 61, that you
16 think he was very inappropriate in the way that he
17 acted?

18 A. I think so. You wouldn't get away with that now.

19 Q. But I think when you were asked about whether you
20 reported any of this, you said you just didn't complain?

21 A. Yes, there was no point.

22 Q. So there came a time then, after those four or five
23 weeks, where you were told that you were going somewhere
24 else? Is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think you say that they never used to place Dundee
2 boys in Balgowan?

3 A. I think -- I never knew any Dundee boys who were in
4 Balgowan, and I think they were younger in Balgowan.
5 I think the age was maybe a maximum of 14.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So you would get out there, maybe, at 14, rather than
8 going in.

9 Q. But, in any event, there was a choice to put you into
10 St Mary's?

11 A. St Mary's in Glasgow, Bishopbriggs.

12 Q. You tell us, again, in there you think that was the end
13 of [REDACTED], but we have seen some records that say you
14 went in there in [REDACTED] 1967, just --

15 A. The months -- I really cannot pinpoint the months or the
16 days.

17 Q. So I think it was just before your 15th birthday; is
18 that right?

19 A. Yes, I think it was about that time.

20 Q. Now, when you were in Harestane, 'Michael', you had been
21 with your brother? Is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But, at this time, going to St Mary's; was this when you
24 were split up?

25 A. Yes, he went to St John's.

1 Q. Okay. And is that because he was a bit older than you?

2 A. Yes, again, that was an older.

3 Q. So I am just going to move on, 'Michael', to talk about

4 St Mary's and your time there.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you tell us that you think the leaving age there

7 would have been about 16; is that right?

8 A. Pardon?

9 Q. The leaving age at St Mary's was about 16?

10 A. Yes, 16.

11 Q. Maximum age?

12 A. I think there were some laddies there a bit older. They

13 were working outside.

14 Q. You tell us a little bit about being taken there. That

15 is at paragraph 65. You say there were two guys who

16 might have been social workers or something who took you

17 through to St Mary's in a car?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you say that was only the second time you had ever

20 left Dundee?

21 A. I think it was, yes.

22 Q. Did you know where you were going?

23 A. I knew the name of the place, but I never knew where

24 I was.

25 Q. Okay. Now, St Mary's at that time, I think you say, you

1 thought was a kind of Catholic place?

2 A. Yes, it was -- I think it was run by the church from
3 Ireland. Finance -- it was mostly Irish people that
4 worked there.

5 Q. I think, by the time you were there, there weren't any
6 Brothers; is that right?

7 A. No, there were no Brothers, no. There was a chapel in
8 the place. It was a massive big building, like
9 Downton Abbey.

10 Q. So, sort of religious-wise it was Catholic. But, in the
11 sense of who was looking after you, it didn't seem to be
12 a sort of religious order?

13 A. No, it wouldn't have been religious. It would have been
14 vetted by the church, I would imagine, but ...

15 Q. You describe it a little bit in your statement,
16 'Michael'. Can you tell us, you said it was a bit like
17 Downton Abbey --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What did you think when you first saw the building
20 there?

21 A. Never seen nothing like it. I never thought nothing.
22 Just another place.

23 Q. Okay. So just another place for you to be taken?

24 A. An impressive place, gardens and -- I never felt
25 nothing.

1 Q. And was there a big farm at the back of --

2 A. Yes, we had a lot of land at the back.

3 Q. Now, you give us quite a lot of detail about the layout.

4 I am not going to go into that; we have it in your

5 statement. But I think you say that the staff running

6 St Mary's were civilians, as far as you knew?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Although you do think there was still this connection to

9 Catholicism, if you like?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. At that time, none of the staff lived on site?

12 A. I think the matron and a couple of the girls that served

13 your food, they worked in the kitchen, they were from

14 Ireland. They had accommodation. I don't know. It was

15 a big, huge place. But that was it. None of the staff

16 lived on site.

17 Q. You do tell us a lot about what you remember about the

18 people, the personalities. So there was -- I think you

19 tell us about SNR [REDACTED]; what was his name?

20 A. I think he was a boxing champion, a big Irish guy.

21 Lovely man.

22 Q. And what was his name, 'Michael'?

23 A. Oh, I will think, again. I think I wrote it in the

24 statement. Mr LNI [REDACTED].

25 Q. It is not a memory test, I should tell you that.

1 A. Mr LNI, that was his name.

2 Q. Yes, paragraph 71. So he was a lovely man, from your
3 point of view?

4 A. I only saw him three times in the year plus I was there.
5 When I went, after six months, and when he told us I was
6 getting released.

7 Q. I think you then say there was a SNR; that
8 was Mr GFM?

9 A. Oh.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Boo.

12 Q. And did he have a nickname?

13 A. Not really.

14 Q. No? I think you say in your statement the boys had
15 nicknamed him GFM?

16 A. We called him GFM just for a joke.

17 Q. When you booted there; why were you doing that?

18 A. Again, you never saw much of Mr GFM, only when you were
19 getting punished. So when you saw him you knew you were
20 in trouble. You never saw him. He was in his office.

21 Q. So he was the one who would give people the belt?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. I think you say there was also a particular
24 housemaster that you liked?

25 A. Yes, Mr Hughes.

1 Q. And he was a housemaster, but he taught the music and
2 the singing as well?
3 A. Everything. Football. Singing. Table tennis.
4 Everything.
5 Q. And what was your view of him, 'Michael'?
6 A. A marvellous man. Cannonball, that was his nickname.
7 Q. Is that --
8 A. Because of his football prowess.
9 Q. Okay. And he was your housemaster; is that right?
10 A. Yes, thankfully.
11 Q. And did you look on him as a bit of a role model?
12 A. I looked on him like a dad, really.
13 Q. I think you say, at paragraph 73:
14 'There is always one good guy and he was that man.'
15 A. Aye.
16 Q. The bottom of --
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. The second last line.
19 A. I don't even need to look at that. He was a great lad,
20 a really nice man.
21 Q. You tell us about some other people there as well, but
22 I will not go into that in too much detail. I think at
23 paragraph 79 you mentioned **KDB**, who was the gardener?
24 A. Yes, **KDB** was a sort of gardener's labourer. I think
25 it is Mr Calendar, he was the gardener. He was tweed

1 jacket, shiny shoes.

2 Q. So KDB worked with him, did he?

3 A. Yes, KDB would take some boys to do some tasks.

4 Mr Calendar, he was minding the farming side.

5 Q. And there is also someone you have called LYT ?

6 A. LYT . LYT was -- how can I say it?

7 A quartermaster, storeman, also a sort of gangmaster.

8 If any jobs needed done outside the school, LYT

9 would get a gang and go and do these jobs outside the

10 school.

11 Q. I think you say that there was an incidence where you

12 went to a teacher at St Mary's and were asked some

13 questions; is that right?

14 A. Yes, we went to a sort of psychologist, a woman sitting

15 in a room and asking you questions about your ...

16 I asked to get the result of that later on. I wrote to

17 them when I was about 60, and they gave me some address

18 of some solicitors, but I never got the result of the --

19 they were asking us everything.

20 Q. Were these psychologists --

21 A. Yes, I would say they were psychologists.

22 Q. -- who came in to ask questions of the boys there?

23 A. They must have been making a survey, broken homes or

24 whatever, stuff like that.

25 Q. Was there another time, 'Michael', when you went to see

1 about whether you were going to go to school or receive
2 any education at St Mary's?
3 A. That's what I was hoping for.
4 Q. Yes.
5 A. But that didn't happen.
6 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us that there was
7 a particular question you were asked at that time, and
8 it was about the distance between the earth --
9 A. To the sun.
10 Q. -- to the sun.
11 A. And we were told, 'Don't answer question 14', and
12 I said, 'Why not?', 'You won't know it'. I used to
13 have a wee thing -- or my cousin had a thing, the Magic
14 Robot, mind, some of the older ones will remember it.
15 And I remember the answer from the Magic Robot,
16 approximately -- was it 93,000 miles?
17 Q. 93 million.
18 A. Aye, approximately 93 million miles, and I never saw the
19 school again after that.
20 Q. So somebody made the decision at that point --
21 A. He is too clever to be here.
22 Q. But I think, from your point of view, that was something
23 you sort of missed out on while you were at St Mary's;
24 is that right?
25 A. Yes, big time.

1 Q. Because from what you tell us, 'Michael', St Mary's for
2 you seemed to be more about working; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What work were you assigned to when you arrived there?

5 A. Well, coming from Dundee, people on the West Coast think
6 we are a lot of -- we call it teuchters. So you are
7 obviously a big teuchter, perfect for the farmers and
8 gardeners, and that's where I spent my days there.

9 Q. So that was something that was just assigned to you; you
10 weren't given a choice about that?

11 A. No, no choice. That was where you were going.

12 Q. What other sort of opportunities for learning kind of
13 trades or things like that --

14 A. The only other thing, really, there was a baker's shop.
15 They done baking for the school. And there was a chosen
16 few lads -- I must say none from Dundee -- and they were
17 at the baker's and they learned baking skills. And that
18 was really -- farmers and gardeners or baker.

19 Q. Is that something you might have preferred to do, the
20 baking?

21 A. No, not really. No.

22 Q. I think you say that a lot of the boys there were from
23 the West Coast; is that right?

24 A. Yes, about 120 boys, say 110 from Glasgow and 10 from
25 Dundee, Edinburgh, Aberdeen. So you were in the

1 minority.

2 Q. As a result of that; were there gangs --

3 A. Oh aye.

4 Q. -- put together?

5 A. Yes, and you didn't fit in until you could sort of prove
6 yourself. I was -- I used to be quite a good football
7 player, and that was big. And every day you played
8 football in the yard, big yard, and I started getting
9 picked for the teams, two teams. And once you got into
10 the football you got more accepted.

11 Q. So that gave you a bit of status?

12 A. Yes, that was big, football.

13 Q. From St Mary's; did the team there then go on to play
14 some other teams from other places?

15 A. We never went out, but teams came in.

16 Q. Okay. So, in that sense, were you able to then avoid
17 some of the issues with some of the other boys from your
18 association with the football?

19 A. Yes, I would say. You learn the rules, the rules of the
20 jungle, and you pick them up the first couple of weeks.
21 But the football helps.

22 Q. And I think you say there was this pecking order with
23 somebody at the top --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and it went down the hierarchy?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was that something that you saw as a bit of a struggle,
3 trying to find out where you fitted into that?

4 A. The first week or so, yes. I managed to fit in.

5 Q. And apart from the football; was there anything else
6 that you had to do to be able to fit into that?

7 A. Well, if you had cigarettes. I was lucky, I had -- me
8 and my halfer, we had a thing going with cigarettes. We
9 had a book. People get one, they give you two back. Or
10 they get 10, they give you 20 back. So me and my
11 halfer, as it's called, we ran a cigarette cartel.

12 Q. You say 'halfer'; is this another boy who --

13 A. It was a lad from the West Coast, from Rutherglen. Me
14 and him were halfers, best pals. Half everything.

15 Q. And I think you describe it as the cigarette
16 distribution --

17 A. Network. That helped you fit in as well.

18 Q. So that was a way you could elevate your status there
19 amongst the boys?

20 A. Oh yes, yes.

21 Q. I think you tell us about St Mary's and the fact there
22 was, maybe about three, or more, maybe, but at least
23 three houses, the last one, if you were going to be
24 leaving, was called St Theresa's?

25 A. St Theresa's, yes.

1 Q. If you were put in there you knew you were maybe getting
2 out at some point?

3 A. You knew, yes.

4 Q. Now, I know we have talked a bit about the general time
5 that you were there, 'Michael', but I think you tell us
6 particularly about an incident that happened on the
7 first day that you arrived at St Mary's. You went to
8 see SNR [REDACTED], Mr LNI [REDACTED]. You had to stand outside his
9 office; can you tell us about what happened when you
10 were doing that?

11 A. I remember it to this day. You just stand outside,
12 waiting on -- the two people that took me, they were in
13 with him, so I was outside, school uniform on, just
14 a blazer, trousers, and this wee guy came and tried to
15 stick it on us. But I managed to dodge him.

16 And that was my introduction to St Mary's Boys'
17 School.

18 Q. You said 'stick it on us', and you made a little gesture
19 there; is that try to headbutt you?

20 A. He tried to headbutt us, yes.

21 Q. But you managed to avoid it?

22 A. Yes, I managed to.

23 Q. What did you think at that point?

24 A. I just thought: it's going to be lively. This is going
25 to be lively.

1 That's the first thing I thought.

2 Q. So a taste of things to come?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think, at paragraph 87, you say a couple of things

5 there, that you were left thinking after that, 'What was

6 that about?', and, 'Here we go'?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say it was something out of the film Scum?

9 A. Yes, it was like: let the games begin.

10 It was like Scum.

11 Q. Now, that day when you went into the office and met with

12 Mr LNI; did he tell you about how long you might be

13 there for?

14 A. He said, "If you behave you may be released within

15 six months".

16 Q. So in your head; was that the goal?

17 A. That was the target: behave yourself, six months, I'm

18 out.

19 Q. Is that what you did? Did you just get stuck into what

20 you had to do at St Mary's?

21 A. Yes, I got stuck into everything, and I went back to see

22 Mr LNI, asked for an interview after six months.

23 I said, 'You told me, six months, I have done that', he

24 says, 'You are getting on very well, just keep it up.

25 Off you go'.

1 Q. So there was nothing like 'Come back in another
2 six months'? Just, 'Off you go'?

3 A. No, he more or less said there was no time.

4 Q. Now, you were in this farmers and gardeners; is this
5 something that you essentially did every day?

6 A. Every day.

7 Q. Okay. And would that involve all sorts of duties of
8 working out on the farm and in the fields?

9 A. Everything. Weeding to planting crops. Picking up
10 crops. Everything.

11 Q. I think you say there was a tractor that you were
12 allowed to drive?

13 A. Yes, I was elevated to being the tractor driver.

14 Q. Okay. And were you given any training before you did
15 that?

16 A. Well, Mr Calendar, he gave us turns on it and he seen
17 that I was pretty good at it. So I had the keys and
18 everything for the tractor.

19 Q. And how old were you at that stage, still 14?

20 A. Probably 15 then.

21 Q. Okay. So you would be driving the tractor regularly?

22 A. Yes, all the time. Doing everything.

23 Q. Okay. I think you tell us about your work day, your
24 routine at St Mary's. Essentially, you did your chores
25 in the morning and then you went to your work, and yours

1 was the farmers and gardeners, and then you did get some
2 sort of free time in the evenings.

3 A. Yes, that's when you done your sort of table tennis or
4 music.

5 Q. Okay. There were times, I think, at the weekend, when
6 you wouldn't normally work on a Saturday, but you would
7 volunteer?

8 A. Well, I had the keys to the tractor, so if I was fed up
9 I could just go and catch up on some tractor work.

10 Q. But I think you say, if you didn't volunteer, your day
11 would just have been spent mucking about with other
12 boys?

13 A. Yes, people get bored and trouble starts.

14 Q. So did you see sort of the work there as a way to sort
15 of avoid getting into bother?

16 A. Aye, I suppose. Keep busy, just keep busy.

17 Q. I think one of the things that you particularly tell us
18 about, 'Michael', is that you were sort of put to task
19 in groups, sometimes. You have mentioned already the
20 individual who would be in charge of that -- I am going
21 to say it wrong now; is it LYT [REDACTED]?

22 A. LYT [REDACTED].

23 Q. Would you sometimes be taken out of St Mary's to
24 somewhere else?

25 A. Yes, it was in my statement some place. I went and done

1 a clear out, or it must have been an old -- God knows,
2 an old building that must have been getting renovated.
3 So there was a gang of us that went at night and cleared
4 out the rubbish, cleared the rubbish out of it.

5 LADY SMITH: I think it may be paragraph 103 you are talking
6 about.

7 A. 103. It was in the centre of Glasgow. It was a big
8 building, and it was -- he had obviously gotten some
9 money from somebody to clear debris. It took us about
10 a week. Just at night, though.

11 Q. So this is you and other boys; I think you say it is
12 about eight to ten boys?

13 A. Aye, I think it would have been about ten.

14 Q. Ten?

15 A. Ten of us.

16 Q. And you are there at night and you are clearing out this
17 building that's getting renovated; is that right?

18 A. Yes, it was a big building. It was about three storeys.

19 Q. I think you tell us that involved knocking down old
20 walls, filling skips, stuff like that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you weren't given any face protection or equipment?

23 A. No, nothing. Just your ...

24 Q. I think it is the paragraph after that, you tell us
25 about being taken to go tatty picking?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that something that would happen when it was the
3 right time of year?

4 A. Well, yes, potato picking, so when would that be?
5 August, September, October, something like that. It
6 just depends when they are ready.

7 LADY SMITH: It depends which type of potato, doesn't it?

8 A. Yes.

9 MS FORBES: I think you say that would last for about
10 a month.

11 A. That was about a month solid, except Sunday, because you
12 would have to go to church. It was hard work.

13 LADY SMITH: 'Michael', at the end of paragraph 103, you
14 said you thought LYT [REDACTED] would have got a wee brown
15 envelope at the end of the work --

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 LADY SMITH: -- to clear that big building; what made you
18 think that?

19 A. Well, he wasn't the sort of man that would do these
20 things for nothing. I reckon he would have got
21 a backhander and maybe he gave the school their share.
22 He just forgot to give us our share.

23 LADY SMITH: You didn't get anything?

24 A. No.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. This building was nothing to do

1 with the school.

2 A. Nothing to do with the school, no. It was centre of
3 Glasgow.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: Again, in relation to the potato picking,
6 I think you say that you didn't receive any money for
7 that either.

8 A. When I left the school, when I was 16, I think I got £5.
9 But you would be talking 30 bob a day, in Dundee, going
10 tatty picking. So that was a month of 30 bobs. So
11 somebody was getting well paid for it, but it wasn't us.

12 Q. Do you think you would have felt a lot better about what
13 you were doing at that time if you had received some
14 money?

15 A. Of course. Of course, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Can I just check something else with you,
17 'Michael'? Sorry. At paragraph 105, you have explained
18 you weren't paid for any work, and what's in the
19 statement is:
20 "I know it was £3 per bit for picking tatties."
21 A. Maybe it was £3 a day.

22 LADY SMITH: I am just wondering, because if this has been
23 interpreted by somebody who doesn't remember old money.

24 A. When I went to the tatties --

25 LADY SMITH: Can I just ask you one favour, if we speak at

1 the same time the stenographers can't cope with that.

2 A. Right.

3 LADY SMITH: At that time, it was pre-decimalisation. Your

4 memory is 30 bob. So that would have been 1 pound and

5 10 shillings?

6 A. £1.50.

7 LADY SMITH: Which is the same as £1.50 in modern money.

8 A. My Lady --

9 LADY SMITH: Hang on. When you say 'per bit'; what's the

10 bit?

11 A. The bit would be from about me to that girl in the

12 corner. That's a bit. The field's put into bits.

13 LADY SMITH: Okay. It is the area that you are picking?

14 A. So you get so many yards.

15 LADY SMITH: I have you.

16 A. I was basing that £1.30 -- when I was a laddie, we used

17 to do half a bit.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 A. Two laddies would do half a bit, so you would get 30 bob

20 each, instead of £3. So you are right in saying it

21 would probably be £3 a day for an adult doing a full

22 bit. And at the approved school, we were doing big

23 bits, full bits, so it would have been £3 a day for

24 a month.

25 LADY SMITH: Got you. Thanks, that's cleared that up.

1 MS FORBES: I think there was another time that you were
2 taken on a sort of holiday, but it was actually a farm;
3 is that right?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Again, who was it that took you there?
6 A. LYT [REDACTED] was running the show, but the other masters
7 were there as well. We had a school bus. So he was a
8 bus driver, very handy. So he drove us down there, some
9 place in Ayrshire.
10 Q. Did you have to camp there or were you given
11 accommodation?
12 A. Camp.
13 Q. So was this sort of presented to you as being a holiday?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. But was it a holiday?
16 A. We never knew it was a working holiday. It was
17 described as a holiday, a camping holiday.
18 Q. What did you have to do then when you were there?
19 A. Well, going up the fields, big bales of straw, picking
20 up the bales of straw on the back of the trailer, and
21 the tractor is going up the field. And that was what
22 I was doing.
23 Q. Now, you tell us a wee bit about that at 118 in your
24 statement. But, also, there was -- I think you say,
25 something happened when you were there in relation to

1 a boy using an axe.

2 Now, that's a little bit later on in your statement,
3 just a little bit out of order, but I will take you to
4 that just now. So that is at paragraph 139 of your
5 statement, so quite a bit later on. But I think you
6 tell us there was something that happened during the
7 holiday to that farm and you were, at that time,
8 supposed to be in charge of the axe?

9 A. I remember -- I actually remember where you are; do you
10 want me to explain?

11 Q. Could you tell us what happened -- yes.

12 A. Well, we had tools for camping, part of which was an axe
13 for hammering in pegs or whatever. And one of the
14 laddies had chopped a tree down beside the burn with his
15 axe, and I went, 'Give us that axe', because I was in
16 charge of these wee pile of tools. I said, 'Give me
17 that axe, you will get me into trouble', and just as
18 I got the axe, LYT [REDACTED] seen me with the axe. So he
19 told me that I chopped the tree down. I said, 'It
20 wasn't me'. 'Who was it?', 'I am not going to tell'.
21 So I got a -- I got knuckled.

22 Q. When you say 'knuckled'; what happened?

23 A. Kind of just punched my ear, the side of the face.
24 I never thought he was going to do it, so I never kind
25 of rode the punch. I got a shock.

1 Q. So you weren't expecting it?

2 A. Pardon?

3 Q. You weren't expecting it?

4 A. I wasn't expecting it, no.

5 Q. What kind of force did he use?

6 A. It was quite forceful, enough to show everybody, 'I'm in
7 charge'.

8 Q. And how old do you think you were?

9 A. Oh, 15.

10 Q. In relation to LYT [REDACTED]; what was the size
11 difference between you? He is a grown man, obviously.

12 A. He was wee-er than me, as well.

13 Q. He was wee-er than you?

14 A. Not much. I would have been 6 feet, so he would have
15 been 5 feet 9, something like that. I described to
16 [REDACTED], it was like Sergeant Hartman on Full Metal Jacket,
17 if you have seen that film. That's what he looked like.

18 Q. Were there other staff members or housemasters there
19 when that happened?

20 A. Yes, housemasters seen it a bit. Just turned a blind
21 eye, really.

22 Q. After he did that; did you have any marks on your face,
23 or anything like that, as a result of it?

24 A. Never even noticed, really.

25 Q. Now, I think you tell us there was this punishment from

1 SNR [REDACTED], and that was the belt; is that
2 right?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. I think you tell us about that from paragraph 132. So
5 we are just going a little bit backwards in your
6 statement. So you say that it was always him, never SNR
7 [REDACTED], that gave the boys the belt.

8 A. Yes, it was always ...

9 Q. And you say that boys would be told to report to his
10 office after they had got into their pyjamas?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So it wasn't during the day, in their normal clothes?

13 A. That was par for the course. If you were getting the
14 belt you were paraded in your pyjamas outside Mr GFM's
15 office.

16 Q. When you say 'paraded'; does that mean you went and
17 lined up?

18 A. You went and lined up outside the office.

19 Q. And do you know why you had to be in your pyjamas?

20 A. Well, because the belt would be a bit sorer through the
21 pyjamas.

22 Q. So, at the time, you were aware of that --

23 A. Yes. Oh aye.

24 Q. -- it was sorer in your pyjamas?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us how that was administered at
2 paragraph 133; that the door would be shut and you would
3 have to bend over a table?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And it was the six times?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Across the backside?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you say it was very thin pyjamas?

10 A. Very thin, yes.

11 Q. Now, you tell us that there was an occasion when you
12 received the belt; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But it was just the once?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How did that come to be?

17 A. We were, again, picking potatoes and one of the boys
18 threw a potato at Mr Calendar whilst he was driving the
19 tractor and his back was to him. Quite dangerous
20 really, if you think about it. I reported that that had
21 happened.

22 So we were all asked -- well, we're in our pyjamas,
23 and you go into the office and he said, 'Who threw the
24 potato?' and he knows you are not going to say who threw
25 the potato. So you don't know who threw the potato, and

1 you would get the belt. And everybody would get the
2 belt, because nobody would say, 'It wasn't me'.
3 Q. And was that something that was just a sort of unwritten
4 rule?
5 A. Oh yes.
6 Q. You didn't grass on anyone?
7 A. That was a golden rule.
8 Q. Okay. So if you were following any rules, that's the
9 one you would follow?
10 A. That's the one.
11 Q. Okay. After you got the belt; did you have any marks or
12 injuries, anything like that?
13 A. Oh yes. I explained in my statement you used to shower
14 naked every night. You go in the shower and you see all
15 the boys that had been in Mr **GFM**'s office, black and
16 blue marks over their backside.
17 But, as I also said, that also gives you a bit of
18 standing. So it was like a badge of honour, in a way,
19 because everybody knows you are not a grass.
20 Q. I think you say that -- it's paragraph 134, you say:
21 'Having those marks showed you refused to grass on
22 another boy.'
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. When you were talking about the instances of abuse in
25 your statement, 'Michael', you tell us, at

1 paragraph 137, about sort of gangs that operated in
2 St Mary's. You say there was extortion, gangs, and
3 whatever else; was that something you were affected by?

4 A. I was asked once to cough up money out of my cigarette
5 business.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I told them where to go. And they told me what they
8 were going to do, but they never done it. I gambled
9 that they wouldn't do anything.

10 But there were people going about trying to get
11 money or sweeties, or fags, off other boys, maybe
12 younger boys than me. Oh, it went on. It went on.

13 Q. I think you say there was a lot of physical stuff that
14 went on between the boys?

15 A. Oh, a lot of fighting.

16 Q. So fighting --

17 A. Daily. Daily basis.

18 Q. Would that be between boys of the same age, or would
19 there be differences in ages?

20 A. All about the same age. But maybe boys who wouldn't
21 stick up for themselves, they would get picked on even
22 more.

23 Q. And there is a sentence in that paragraph, where you
24 say:

25 'It was a full time course in personal survival.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that how you saw it?

3 A. That's how I seen it, yes.

4 Q. You have told us about the ways in which you were able
5 to sort of put yourself into the pecking order?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You said that this meeting with Mr LNI six months in
8 didn't get you anywhere, is that right, at that time?

9 A. No.

10 Q. But there was a time when you were told that you would
11 actually be leaving St Mary's?

12 A. Yes, Mr LNI was practising his golf on the sporting
13 field. We were playing football. I run to get the ball
14 and went in his direction. And he says my right name
15 'You will be getting out tomorrow'. That was it.

16 Q. And I think that was going to be on your birthday?

17 A. That was my 16th birthday.

18 Q. And how did you feel when you were told that?

19 A. Marvellous.

20 Q. Was it quite close to the day that you were leaving that
21 you were told?

22 A. The day before.

23 Q. Okay. I think you say that despite what went on in
24 St Mary's, you still had a tear in your eye on release?

25 A. Aye, I did, yes.

1 Q. Why was that?

2 A. It might have been relief. It might have been I was
3 institutionalised. Jim Hughes was there, Mr Hughes, he
4 was saying cheerio, so I had a wee lump in my throat,
5 I suppose.

6 Q. Now, after leaving St Mary's; how did you feel?

7 A. Lost. When I went home, I kind of got through to my
8 gran's. My Auntie [REDACTED] didn't want me there, so I went
9 to live with my dad. I was a man then.

10 Q. You were still 16, though, at that time; is that right?

11 A. Yes, I was a sort of an old 16.

12 Q. Okay. Do you feel that you had to grow up quite
13 quickly?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was that from being in care or from a mixture of things?

16 A. Just everything in my life.

17 Q. This time back at your grandmother's, I think it didn't
18 last that long, did it?

19 A. No, [REDACTED] picked on me again and I stood up to her now.
20 I wasn't having it, so I got thrown out or asked to
21 leave.

22 Q. Okay. And did you go and live with your father for
23 a while?

24 A. I went and lived with my dad.

25 Q. I think you talk about your life after leaving St Mary's

1 from paragraph 143, 'Michael', and I think you say it
2 was difficult for you to try to get a job?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. And that is because you didn't have any of these
5 qualifications that were looked for?
6 A. No.
7 Q. Do you think it also went against you because you had
8 been to an approved school?
9 A. Yes, definitely. Most definitely.
10 Q. Okay. Did anyone ever say that to you when you went to
11 these interviews?
12 A. No.
13 Q. No.
14 A. I had a lot of experience as a gardener, and I went for
15 a job as an apprentice gardener. I knew I wasn't going
16 to get it and I didn't get it. And laddies that were
17 there never seen a fork or a spade, one of them probably
18 got it.
19 Q. And had you been driving tractors?
20 A. I had been on tractors and everything.
21 Q. And I think you say that you were left with kind of one
22 option, which was to go to the jute mills?
23 A. Yes, I went to the jute mills.
24 Q. And you did that for a while, I think different jobs in
25 there?

1 A. Yes, a couple of years.

2 Q. And I think you say you generally enjoyed it?

3 A. No, just necessity. Some of the jobs I enjoyed.

4 Q. I think you tell us you got married quite young, before
5 you were 17, anyway?

6 A. I got married at 16, 55 years ago. We're still married
7 yet. [REDACTED], it will be 55 years.

8 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 146, that your wife
9 was the bonniest lass in Dundee.

10 A. Yes, definitely was.

11 Q. I think after that -- did you take a different career
12 path -- and decided you were going to join the forces;
13 is that right?

14 A. Yes, I was in the mill. There is a play called The Mill
15 Lavvies, you have probably never seen it.

16 I was in the toilet in the mill and there was an old
17 soldier there, and he said to me, 'How have you not got
18 your hair cut?' I had long hair at the time, he said,
19 'Get your hair cut and join the army. Look at the size
20 of you', so that's what I done.

21 Q. I think, first of all, you wanted to go to the RAF?

22 A. Aye. I will tell you what he said to us. He said, 'You
23 have either got to be very good looking or very
24 intelligent to get into the RAF and you don't fit into
25 any of those categories. Try the Black Watch'.

1 Q. Charming. So that's what you did; you went to the Black
2 Watch?
3 A. That's what I done.
4 Q. You were there for quite a while; is that right?
5 A. I did nine years.
6 Q. You say, at first, when you were working there you had
7 some difficulties because of the way you would respond
8 if anyone tried to challenge you on anything?
9 A. Yes, just makes you intolerant of people, take the
10 mickey out of you and everything, you know what I mean.
11 You are defensive by the time -- you will not take any
12 nonsense.
13 Q. So you found it, I think --
14 A. I found that --
15 Q. -- difficult to just laugh things off?
16 A. Yes. Later on, I got into the way army people just
17 speak to each other differently. You could say anything
18 to each other. But, at that time, I didn't like people
19 saying certain things to us.
20 Q. Was that because you were still in that mind frame of
21 having to sort of defend your place in the order?
22 A. I was still in the approved school.
23 Q. I think you tell us that your wife stayed back in Dundee
24 whilst you were away with the army, and that you were in
25 Northern Ireland for quite a while in the 1970s?

1 A. Many times, yes.

2 Q. And that would have been with The Troubles?

3 A. Yes, from '71 to '76. Every year except '72.

4 Q. Yes. And I think you were brought up Catholic; is that
5 right?

6 A. Yes, that was -- and I'm 89 per cent Irish, as well.

7 Q. And I think by the time you left you had had risen to
8 the rank of corporal?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But you tell us that you and [REDACTED] had five children
11 together; is that right?

12 A. Yes, we had five children. We lost one to a cot death,
13 so finished up with four. Four boys.

14 Q. I think you say things were hard after you lost one of
15 your children?

16 A. Yes, that's -- that's the worst thing.

17 LADY SMITH: And I see that happened when you were serving
18 in Northern Ireland.

19 A. I was in Armagh. That was in early '71. I think that
20 was [REDACTED] '71.

21 LADY SMITH: That must have made it even harder to cope with
22 that tragedy.

23 A. Yes, it was devastating.

24 MS FORBES: You were still a teenager at that point; is that
25 right?

1 A. I was 18.

2 Q. 18. And I think you say you had some issues about that?

3 A. I had a breakdown. But I never knew it was a breakdown
4 until I was older. I must have had a breakdown, because
5 of the way I was acting.

6 Q. And then you left the army and went to work for; is it a
7 printing company?

8 A. I went to work for DC Thomson's, the bookbindery.

9 Q. I think you say, though, it was known that they were not
10 the people who would employ somebody of your religion?

11 A. I lied about the school I was at, because that was the
12 only way. I was at St Mary's, so I said I was at
13 Ann Street Secondary School, Stobswell. 'Which church
14 did you go to', 'Wallacetown'. The places I knew.

15 LADY SMITH: You were at Ann Street, that is where you broke
16 into to steal the tawses.

17 A. One day, ma'am. So I got in, just about. But he was
18 more impressed with my army record, because the guy that
19 was interviewing us was in the cadets, he was an officer
20 in the cadets. And he said, 'Oh, you have done this and
21 you have done that'. So he was more interested in that,
22 so I got the job.

23 MS FORBES: I think you say, after you got that job you
24 worked your way right up, all the way through different
25 positions until you became a bookbinder.

1 A. Yes, I finished up a bookbinder.

2 Q. That was the one that paid the best?

3 A. That was the big money.

4 Q. And I think did you do that job until you retired?

5 A. No, I left at -- my wife wasn't very well, so I was
6 wanting to be part time, so I gave up the bookbinding,
7 I got a part time job just delivering papers, five hours
8 a day. So that gave me time to juggle things, and then
9 I took voluntary severance later, and got a good
10 package. So ...

11 Q. I think you say after you sort of left DC Thomson you
12 were doing various different things, but it actually
13 worked out that you were busier than you were when you
14 worked?

15 A. Yes, at one time I had three jobs. I never got the
16 figures right. I hadn't a clue on my mortgage, so
17 I wasn't making enough. So I had to do part-time, other
18 part-time jobs. I only had had about six months to go
19 on the mortgage, so I had to take extra work on.

20 Q. Until that was cleared; yes?

21 A. Until that was paid.

22 Q. I think you then tell us, 'Michael', about the impact on
23 you from being in care, and that's from about
24 paragraph 154. I think you tell us you think back about
25 your time in St Mary's, and you describe it there as

1 being 'an important year in your life'; is that how you
2 see it?

3 A. Yes, it was a -- from 15 to 16, it is quite important,
4 that 15th year, yes.

5 Q. Why do you think it was an important part of your life?

6 A. Just learned so many lessons in there, so many. Met
7 different people, good people, bad people.

8 Q. And I think you talk as well about this responsibility
9 that you were given then of being able to drive the
10 tractor?

11 A. Yes, that was good.

12 Q. Is that something that gave you a bit of confidence?

13 A. Yes, it gives you a lot of confidence. Yes.

14 Q. There was a phrase you use, 'Michael', in paragraph 154,
15 and you say:

16 'At St Mary's they gave me a freedom there without
17 supervision.'

18 A. Yes, I used to be able to go and get my tractor and away
19 I went. Saturday, Sunday, catch up on work.

20 Q. So it seems that whilst you were at St Mary's that's
21 something that you were able to take on without getting
22 into trouble?

23 A. Yes, I sort of grew up.

24 Q. But any qualifications I think you got were in the army;
25 is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Later on.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Just going to paragraph 156, you do mention about your
5 struggles with dyslexia and not getting an education
6 when you were growing up. You say:
7 'They might have been flogging a dead horse if they
8 were trying to educate me at St Mary's, but I think
9 I had more about me than picking tatties.'

10 A. Yes, I think maybe if they had of taught you plumbing or
11 even laying bricks, or some skill.

12 Q. Yes, but you just weren't given the chance?

13 A. Yes, I never got that opportunity.

14 Q. You tell us a little about your brother, in that he went
15 and joined the Parachute Regiment after he left?

16 A. Yes, he was a weekend soldier. Best the both worlds, he
17 only went at the weekend.

18 Q. And I think you and he are still in touch now?

19 A. Yes, he is in Thailand.

20 Q. So, in general, I think you tell us life for you is good
21 now?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. However, I think you say there are some mental scars
24 from growing up and your time in care?

25 A. Yes, but I pushed them back.

1 Q. One of the things you say, 'Michael', at paragraph 158,
2 is you learned many life lessons in St Mary's. You say:
3 'I learned never to let anyone hurt you and to
4 punish those that did.'

5 A. Yes, that's a flaw, but that's just the way I am.

6 Q. I think if we just go a bit further down, to 160,
7 I think you say that after leaving St Mary's you sort of
8 felt institutionalised, as you have told us already.
9 I think you have told us you sought out institutions to
10 be involved in, like the army?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So was that something that felt comfortable to you after
13 having been in a place like St Mary's?

14 A. Well, some of the things weren't. I joined the Masonic
15 Lodge, and being a Catholic and having been in trouble,
16 I had to tell a lot of lies there as well. And TA.
17 Black Watch Club. I like the company of men. I am not
18 gay, but I like the company of men.

19 Q. I think you say that looking back -- and this is at
20 paragraph 161, looking back you say:
21 'I think the system at St Mary's worked for me, the
22 routine ...'

23 And you do mention this member of staff again,
24 Jim Hughes.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say he particularly helped you?

2 A. Yes, definitely.

3 Q. You said you had never met a man like that before?

4 A. No, he was my guru.

5 Q. You didn't have a relationship like that with your own
6 father?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And you do say you tried to seek him out at one point,
9 but you were too embarrassed to make contact?

10 A. I think I found out where he lived, but I would be too
11 embarrassed to drive up there and, 'Remember me?' So
12 I didn't do it.

13 Q. I think, just going further forward, you talk about the
14 treatment and support section at paragraph 162, you have
15 not received any counselling or treatment, but you say
16 that your wife has been your rock?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And she has helped you through?

19 A. Yes. Well, she tells me that I am dyslexic, which I am.
20 And I am crazy, which I am as well.

21 Q. I think you say, though, lessons to be learned, and
22 hopes for the Inquiry -- and this is at paragraph 168 --
23 that you think that you avoided continuing to be
24 involved with criminality through going to St Mary's,
25 and during the time you were there.

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. I think you mentioned the fact that you were so busy you
3 didn't have time to think about getting up to mischief?

4 A. Yes, really, really busy.

5 Q. But you say that -- and we talked about the fact that
6 you described yourself as being 'feral' when you were
7 younger, you say here that you thought you were
8 streetwise before you went there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But you were even more streetwise when you got out?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. But when it comes to education, the education you got
13 was learning how to look after yourself?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But yours is a success story, because you managed to
16 stay out of trouble when you got out?

17 A. Yes. I managed to, yes.

18 Q. Managed to get a job and have a good marriage, and
19 a working life and a family?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think later on, at paragraph 171, 'Michael', you talk
22 about the good members of staff and, again, you mention
23 Jim Hughes.

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You say there that a disappointed look from Jim Hughes

1 made you feel worse than any kind of beating with a belt
2 would have done?

3 A. Yes, that's true. That's true.

4 Q. Is that because you respected his opinion?

5 A. Yes, I respected him.

6 Q. And he was somebody you could look up to?

7 A. Yes, if he gave you a -- shook his head at you, you were
8 like that: oh, God.

9 Q. From your point of view, you say physical punishment
10 doesn't work?

11 A. No.

12 Q. If anything, it just makes you worse?

13 A. It makes you worse. Particularly if there are six boys
14 and one boy had done something, but, en masse, every one
15 of the six gets the same punishment. I thought that was
16 out of order.

17 Q. Did that go against your feeling of fairness?

18 A. Yes, definitely.

19 Q. I think you say, at paragraph 172, you think boys need
20 to be kept busy when they are in care, first of all.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So that's something that helped you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you say the good ones should be separated out from
25 the ones who are wild?

1 A. Yes, you have to separate the chaff.

2 Q. Okay. I think you talk about some of the boys that were
3 at St Mary's, who I think you nicknamed, or people
4 nicknamed 'radio rental', mental?

5 A. That's what they used to shout when they were attacking
6 you.

7 Q. So, overall, how do you feel about your time in care
8 now, looking back, 'Michael'?

9 A. Just take it on the chin. It just happened, and good
10 memories, bad memories. It doesn't concern us now.

11 Q. Okay. As you say, you have a good life, with a wife and
12 children.

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Now, 'Michael', that's all the questions I have for you
15 today; is there anything that you want to say that you
16 have not had a chance to talk about today?

17 A. No, if you are happy, I am happy.

18 MS FORBES: Well, I want to thank you for answering my
19 questions today. I know we have been an hour and
20 a half, so thank you very much.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Michael', can I add my thanks once more to you
24 for coming here to engage with us, bringing alive parts
25 of your statement that we have asked you about and being

1 prepared to talk so openly about your own life, the bad
2 and the good and feeling as you do. It is important to
3 stress what was good and what can be learned from that.
4 We know so much can be learned from what went wrong when
5 children were in care, but you have highlighted some
6 very important points about what could be good.

7 I hope that you have plans for [REDACTED], for
8 an excellent celebration between you and your wife,
9 53 years is a huge achievement.

10 A. Thanks, my Lady. We are off to Belfast. [REDACTED].

11 LADY SMITH: Great. Here's hoping you get some good
12 weather. Thank you, 'Michael'.

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Please feel free to go.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the break, some names that
17 relate to people whose identities are protected by my
18 general restriction order, and can't be identified
19 outside this room. There is a Mr and Mrs GFK-SPO and
20 Mr GFL and Mr LNI, and Mr GFM, and LYT. So
21 we will take the break now, and the next witness should
22 be ready for about 11.45 or so. Thank you.

23 (11.29 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (11.45 am)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

2 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the next live witness is 'Peter'.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Morning, 'Peter'.

5 A. Morning, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: Could you raise your right hand, please, and

7 repeat after me.

8 'Peter' (affirmed)

9 LADY SMITH: 'Peter' do sit down and make yourself

10 comfortable.

11 'Peter', thank you for coming along this morning to

12 help us with your evidence. I already have your written

13 statement, of course, which is evidence before me and

14 I have had the chance to study that --

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: -- in advance. It is actually in the red

17 folder on the desk there, if you want to refer to it at

18 any time. We will also bring the statement up on the

19 screen when we are referring to specific parts of it.

20 As I think you will understand, what we would like to do

21 with you in the time between now and the lunch break is

22 focus on some particular aspects of your written

23 evidence, and hear from you directly what you may want

24 to say about those.

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Otherwise, 'Peter', I do know that what we are
2 asking you to do is not straightforward. It is a big
3 step to agree to come into a public forum to talk about
4 things that are very personal to you that relate to your
5 childhood, some aspects of which may be distressing.
6 However well prepared people think they are, however
7 tough and together they may think they are, it can take
8 you by surprise how some things trigger emotions.

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 LADY SMITH: I understand that, and if it means you would
11 like a break or just a pause sitting where you are, you
12 must tell me because I would like to do all I can to
13 make the whole process of giving evidence as comfortable
14 for you as possible. So let me know if there is
15 anything that would help. If it works for you, it will
16 work for me; okay?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to
19 Mr Sheldon and he will take it from there.

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

22 Questions by Mr Sheldon.

23 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

24 Good morning, 'Peter'. 'Peter', I don't need your
25 date of birth, but I think you were born in 1955; is

1 that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. As Lady Smith has said, you have provided us with
4 a statement, and I will be asking you some questions
5 about the statement and about your experiences.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you are really principally here to tell us about
8 what happened to you at Balgowan?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. In Dundee. First of all, just for the record, I am
11 going to read the reference number of your statement.
12 You don't need to worry about that, but it is
13 WIT-1-000001323.

14 Now, 'Peter', as Lady Smith also said, you have the
15 statement on the desk in front of you. It is in the red
16 folder. I wonder if I could just ask you to open that,
17 please, at the last page; is that your signature?

18 A. That's my signature, yes.

19 Q. Which I think you did last year, September 2023?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Just above your signature, does it say:

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

24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Thank you. If we can just go back to the start of the
5 statement, and we will begin.

6 'Peter', you tell us, first of all, that you grew up
7 in Edinburgh. You had a number of brothers and sisters,
8 and I think what you tell us, paragraph 3, is really it
9 was a pretty happy childhood?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. At least up to a certain point. And you tell us that
12 when you were about 8 your dad, who worked as a chief
13 engineer on boats --

14 A. On the fishing boats, yes.

15 Q. On the fishing boats. He died quite suddenly; is that
16 right?

17 A. What happened is, the day before my father died, my dad
18 come home from spending 14 days at sea. And at these
19 times the ship's husband -- that's the people that
20 crewed the boats -- always panicked to get ships out the
21 harbour. My father come home, and he was just coming up
22 with his bag after finishing the trip, and the ship's
23 husband asked him if he could do them a favour and go on
24 the train and go up to Aberdeen and get -- I think it
25 was the Morning Crone, out of the harbour to sail

1 because the chief engineer was sacked.

2 My father came home, seen my mum. Gave me a cuddle.
3 I was standing outside with the wee girl next door, the
4 wee girl, [REDACTED], and my dad gave me money because
5 the baker van was sitting outside. And then he went
6 down to the corner and he shouted back at us: daddy will
7 see you when he comes home.

8 And I never seen him again. He died in Aberdeen
9 harbour. And the worst thing about it is he died in the
10 [REDACTED] Dock, and I loved my father very much.

11 Q. Was that something you were told at a later stage, that
12 your father had died there?

13 A. We all got woken up at four o'clock the next morning.
14 That's when -- when they got up to Aberdeen the boats
15 not like Granton, they lie side on to the pier. Not
16 like Aberdeen. In Aberdeen, it's bow on and it's tidal
17 there. So the ladder -- he must have thought the ladder
18 was tied to the bow, but the ladder was just lying on
19 the bow, and when they climbed up the ladder, the ladder
20 tipped and they went in and he smashed his head off the
21 ship's side. And the two watchmen who tried to save
22 him, when they got him out, my father was gone.

23 Q. 'Peter', you were quite young at that time; did you
24 really understand what had happened at that stage?

25 A. To this day, nobody told me my father wouldn't be back,

1 and that's when all my problems started. Because
2 I wouldn't go to school, I would sit at the top of
3 Granton steps and watch all the boats coming in, waiting
4 on my dad coming in, because nobody told me my dad's not
5 coming back. That's why, to this day, I always go down
6 to [REDACTED], where I was born, in the
7 front room, and I have my cup of coffee there out of
8 respect for my dad.

9 Q. So, when this happened, I think we understand that you
10 really stopped going to school, or going to school very
11 much, because you were waiting for your dad to come home
12 still?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right. How long did that go on?

15 A. Still goes on to this day. I still think my dad's going
16 to walk round that corner. I know I am 68-years old,
17 I shouldn't be hanging about, but we had a bond that
18 could never be broken. I needed my dad.

19 Q. So it clearly had a powerful effect on you?

20 A. Yes, I was the only one out of all of the boys that was
21 at sea and it made up for my dad. My dad was a chief
22 engineer. When I became 19, the captain of the ship
23 sacked the chief engineer for being a bad boy and said,
24 'IQF [REDACTED], you are now the chief engineer', which was the
25 proudest day of my life, I made up for my father.

1 Q. So you went on, later on, to work on the trawlers as
2 well?

3 A. Yes. And I kept that boat going for six years, until
4 the trawlers left Granton.

5 Q. Just thinking back to that time though, just after your
6 father died, it clearly had an effect on you. I think
7 it had a bad effect on your family as well; is that
8 right?

9 A. My mother, until the day she died, she couldn't get over
10 it. She loved my dad.

11 Q. And there were financial effects as well; is that right?

12 A. Yes, great financial effects. My mother ended up having
13 three jobs in the one day to keep us all going.

14 Q. So times were difficult. You weren't really going to
15 school. Did, at some point, someone come to talk to you
16 and your mum about that, about you not attending school?

17 A. Mr John Bachelor, he was the school board.

18 Q. And what did he do or say?

19 A. He just said, 'You have to go to school'. And then
20 after that I was taken up to Howden Street, I think it
21 was called the 'Round Table', they gave me a ticking
22 off. I think it was because they didn't know the
23 environment that the family was in. We never had any
24 money. I could go to the police and get my shoes, get
25 my jumpers, we were all like that. It was hard in those

1 days.

2 Q. Did the police have supplies of clothes and so on for --

3 A. Yes. Even -- when I did go to school, I even went to

4 school with my mum's slippers on, because I had nothing

5 for my feet.

6 Q. Okay. You talked about going up to Howden Street. In

7 your statement, I am looking at your statement,

8 paragraph 7, you talk about Nicolson Street and a 'Round

9 Table'?

10 A. Howden Street is the back of Nicolson Street.

11 Q. Oh, right.

12 A. It is still there to this day and it's still run by the

13 District Council. They still own it.

14 Q. All right. Can you tell us anything else about this

15 Round Table; did you understand anything about it?

16 A. It was professional people. It was accountants, maybe

17 a minister, a police officer, and they decided what was

18 going to happen to you.

19 Q. And was this -- I think you said these were council

20 buildings; is that right?

21 A. Pardon?

22 Q. I think you said Howden Street was run by the Council?

23 A. Yes, it was the social work department.

24 Q. All right. Did you understand that this Round Table was

25 a social work department being --

1 A. Not until after I was taken away.

2 Q. Oh, right. Did anyone explain you to anything about it
3 at the time?

4 A. No, they explained it to my mother. I didn't understand
5 what they were saying to me.

6 Q. You tell us, paragraph 8, that in spite of this you
7 still weren't going to school and, at some point,
8 John Bachelor came to say that he was taking you away;
9 is that right?

10 A. I was in the front room of the house in [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED], and my mother started crying and screaming.
12 And I had to go to the door to see what was wrong with
13 my mother and Mr Bachelor was standing there, and she
14 said I have to go with this man. He took me by the
15 hand, took me in the taxi, took me up to
16 Waverley Station, took me up to Dundee, up to Balgowan,
17 Downfield Place, and that is when my nightmare started.

18 Q. How long after this Round Table at Howden Street was
19 this?

20 A. I was up there twice to Howden Street.

21 Q. I am wondering how long.

22 A. About three days after that Mr Bachelor come.

23 Q. Three days after the Round Table. All right, thank you.

24 A. I believe Mr Bachelor then became the head of the
25 education department in Edinburgh district council.

1 Q. Okay. And Mr Bachelor took you to Dundee?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Had anyone said to you that you were going to
4 Dundee, or to some place called Balgowan, at this point?

5 A. I thought I was going for a day out.

6 LADY SMITH: Did you know where Dundee was?

7 A. Pardon?

8 LADY SMITH: Did you know where Dundee was?

9 A. No.

10 MR SHELDON: So all this came as a bit of a shock to you?

11 A. It took me about two months to get round to it, that
12 I am in here to stay and I will not be getting back out
13 again. I couldn't walk out. Everything was locked.

14 Q. This was a place where the gates were locked; is that
15 what you are saying?

16 A. Everything was.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. You went in a door, it was locked behind you. Not just
19 me, everybody else that was there.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. It was run just like the military. You were marching on
22 parade grounds, everything like that.

23 Q. We will come on to that just in a minute, 'Peter'. At
24 paragraph 10, you say you were put to Balgowan in 1965,
25 when you were about 9 and a half. Now, the records that

1 we have seen for you suggest that you were first there
2 in about [REDACTED] 1967?

3 A. '67, that's what's making it confused for me.

4 Q. Does that sound about right or do you think you were
5 younger than that?

6 A. I can categorically say I was 9. It was before my tenth
7 birthday, anyway, when I went into Dundee.

8 Q. That's your recollection?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. That you were about ten at that time?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. You describe -- this is page 3 of your statement --
13 arriving at Balgowan and how you got there; what were
14 your first impressions of Balgowan when you arrived at
15 it?

16 A. I thought it was a hospital. When I walked in the door,
17 big glass door, the first person I met was
18 Marjorie Ireland, who was the secretary, and
19 Mr LIF [REDACTED] came out, who was SNR [REDACTED], and
20 Mr LSB [REDACTED], who was SNR [REDACTED], and they
21 ushered me into Mr LIF [REDACTED]'s office. And then they said --
22 they shook Mr Bachelor's hand, and he was on his way
23 out.

24 Q. Did Mr Bachelor say anything to you before he left?

25 A. No, he just delivered me there.

1 Q. Right. And what did Mr LIF and Mr LSB say to you, if
2 anything?

3 A. They just told me what the school was. I am sure they
4 explained it was a List D School, and then it became
5 an approved school, and they told me what the
6 regulations were.

7 Q. What did they tell you about that, about the
8 regulations?

9 A. If I done anything wrong I would get the belt, and it is
10 over my backside. They used another phrase, but it
11 was -- they meant backside.

12 Q. Oh, right. Do you remember what the phrase was that
13 they used?

14 A. Arse.

15 Q. All right, okay.

16 A. That was Mr LSB, not Mr LIF.

17 Q. Mr LSB?

18 A. Mr LSB.

19 Q. Mr LSB said would you get belted on the arse?

20 A. To me, it looked like he was a man who drunk whisky,
21 because his cheeks were as red as anything.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. It was like a temper.

24 Q. At this stage, you didn't know how long you were going
25 to be there?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Or anything of that sort?

3 A. No. They took me into the dining hall, and it was
4 a big, long hall like this and all the tables. And then
5 Mr LSB looked up the board and said, 'See these boys
6 down on the bottom? They get the belt regularly. See
7 the guys at the top? That's where you are heading for.
8 That's what -- you are in here, you get to the top, and
9 you are out of here'.

10 Q. Did you understand that this was a sort of grading
11 board, a merit board, if you like?

12 A. It was a merit board with everyone's name on it and it
13 had blue pins, red pins, for punishment and all that, on
14 the board.

15 Q. Okay, and how did you get to the top of the board, or
16 end up at the bottom?

17 A. You had to do everything that they said to get to the
18 top.

19 Q. Okay. Did that include things like schoolwork?

20 A. Pardon?

21 Q. Did that include things like schoolwork, or was it just
22 about behaviour?

23 A. Behaviour. Everything was governed by behaviour.

24 Q. So, looking at page 4 of your statement, you tell us
25 a bit about the building itself, Balgowan building.

1 I will come to that just in a moment.

2 But you say that at the time you were there you
3 thought there were anything from 120 to 160 boys at the
4 school. I think, according to the records anyway, the
5 most that we have seen in the records was about 110;
6 would that sound about right or did you feel there were
7 more than that?

8 A. There was one time there the parade ground was that
9 full -- I think it was because Rossie Farm was getting
10 done -- I think it was Rossie Farm or -- no, it must
11 have been Rossie Farm, because when I was leaving
12 Balgowan, Rossie Farm joiners were coming in to do the
13 dormitories in Balgowan.

14 Q. Right?

15 A. So I think it was when Rossie Farm was getting done up,
16 those guys came down to our school and were billeted in
17 our school.

18 Q. Okay, so they kind of camped out in Balgowan during that
19 time; is that right?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. So that must have made the population of the school go
22 up significantly?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. Did that cause difficulties?

25 A. No, no, because the dormitories were massive.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. You had three rows of beds. There was Grant House,
3 Wallace House, Drever House. And Grant House Two,
4 that's where all of the bigger boys were.

5 Q. All right. So four dormitories all together?

6 A. Four dormitories. Either side of the building, two
7 dormitories.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Above the -- Wallace House and that was above the dinner
10 room and the other one was the gymnasium.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But they were at either end.

13 Q. Okay. So, on the ground floor, there is the dinner
14 room, the dining room?

15 A. When you went into the front door, to your right was
16 Mr LIF's office, there was a storeroom and then you
17 had -- it was like a store with a wee gym in it for
18 weights. And on to the left, you had the staff rooms,
19 and the Howard Keeley Room, and then the dormitory, the
20 main dining hall and the cookhouse.

21 Q. And were the shower rooms --

22 A. The shower rooms were down at either end, at the bottom
23 level. The shower rooms took 20 to 25 boys at one time,
24 showering. It was like you walk down two steps into
25 a square and there was 20 to 25 shower heads, so

1 everybody had a shower at the same time.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. You were so close to each other.

4 Q. Sure. So they were quite close to the dining area; is

5 that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you.

8 A. On the left-hand side. And the other end, their shower

9 room was just down the stairs from Grant House.

10 Q. Mm-hm. And upstairs you tell us that there was also --

11 as well as the dormitories there was room for the night

12 watchman?

13 A. There was a dormitory at either end, and then it came

14 into the main -- teacher for the night time stayed in

15 there. You had a library where the night watchman, who

16 had woken up -- what it was, if you wet the bed you were

17 woken up three times in the night to go to the toilet,

18 so you didn't wet the bed. There was a storeroom and

19 then there was a main door taking you up to a ladder

20 that took you right to the spire in the centre of the

21 whole building.

22 Q. Right. Yes, there was a big turret in the centre of the

23 building; is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Could you get up there? Was that open all the

1 time? Could you just go up there?

2 A. No, no, you had to go up a ladder.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. What it was, we built a train set. A big massive train
5 set was up there.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. But nobody was allowed to use it.

8 Q. Okay, all right.

9 A. And it was massive, a massive train set. The whole
10 turret was a whole train set.

11 Q. All right. Just thinking about the dormitories, I think
12 you tell us -- it is paragraph 18 of your statement --
13 each dormitory had about 25 boys in them; does that
14 sound about right?

15 A. I think the biggest dormitory was Wallace House, but
16 that was the younger kids.

17 Q. Mm-hm.

18 A. It went up in age groups.

19 Q. And you started out in Wallace?

20 A. I was in Wallace, yes.

21 Q. Were all the boys in the dormitories the same age or was
22 there a range of ages?

23 A. Around about the same age.

24 Q. Okay. I think you say that Grant House, for example,
25 had boys aged 11 to 13?

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Would that be about right? Okay.

3 And you also say that just before you left you
4 actually had a private room to yourself for a few
5 months, because you had the job of boiler house man.

6 A. For some reason they took a -- they started taking
7 a liking to me and they gave me the boiler house man's
8 job.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And then they gave me a private room. I don't know --
11 my honest opinion? I thought I was getting the belt
12 again.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Because, normally, when we were standing in the parade
15 ground and somebody has done something, I said, 'Here we
16 go again'. I knew I was going to get picked out. I was
17 used as a pawn to keep the discipline in the whole
18 school. It became that bad that they couldn't hurt me
19 anymore.

20 Q. Well --

21 A. I hurt myself. I used to -- inside my lips, the boils
22 in my lip, they are still there to this day. I used to
23 put my teeth --

24 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I don't want to interrupt you, but
25 I know we are going to come back to this, and I don't

1 want to rush you through that part of your evidence; is
2 that okay?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: It is not that we are not interested, quite the
5 reverse. We can deal with that in a little while,
6 because I think Mr Sheldon is dealing with some of the
7 preliminaries first.

8 This business of having your own room when you got
9 the boiler house job; was that anything to do with you
10 having to get up earlier to attend to the boilers?

11 A. I was up earlier than the boys, that's why I had
12 a private room.

13 LADY SMITH: I wondered by that. That helps me, thank you.
14 Mr Sheldon.

15 MR SHELDON: I will come back to that later, because there
16 is some more detail in 'Peter's' statement.

17 As Lady Smith was saying, 'Peter', I am really just
18 setting the scene, or asking you to set the scene for
19 us.

20 Still on page 4 of your statement, you say there
21 were transportable unit huts outside, and these were the
22 classrooms; were these like portacabin sort of things?

23 A. They are called TU huts. They're transportable units.
24 The base, it is a brick base and the transportation
25 units are landed on top of the base.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. And then they have concrete steps up to them.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And they were -- looking at the main school, they were
5 on the left-hand side, where all the vegetable gardens
6 were.

7 Q. Right. You say there was also an annex that you say --

8 A. Annex. Anybody local from Dundee was housed in the
9 annex; they weren't housed in the main school.

10 Q. Okay. Was the --

11 A. The annex was a luxury to the school.

12 Q. Okay. Was the annex ever called the cottage? Did you
13 hear it called that?

14 A. Cottage?

15 Q. Was it ever called the cottage?

16 A. They always called it the cottage. Mr IPR, he was
17 one of the teachers. He used to be down there mainly,
18 down there in the main school. He used to call it --
19 I forget the -- it was a Spanish name he had for it,
20 kind of like 'the holiday camp'.

21 Q. Like the villa or --

22 A. None of these boys were punished. Why? Their mums and
23 dads were close to the door. They would have been up at
24 the door. My mother never ever had a chance to do that.
25 I wish she did.

1 Q. Again, 'Peter', we will come back to that, just in a wee
2 while.

3 Page 5 of your statement, you talk about the staff,
4 and you name various members of the staff.

5 You have talked already about Mr LIF and Mr LSB,
6 and you name various other teachers at the school.

7 A. I can name every one of them that put their hands on me,
8 every single one of them, to this day. I still have
9 nightmares about them.

10 Q. I will ask you in a wee while about exactly that,
11 'Peter', and you will get that chance.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. Paragraph 25, you say there is a night watchman, and you
14 have talked a little bit about his accommodation. You
15 also say there was a Mr IQI, who lived up to his
16 name. First of all, who was Mr IQI?

17 A. Mr IQI?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. He was the night watchman.

20 Q. He was the night watchman, oh, right. How did he live
21 up to his name?

22 A. It's just the way he spoke to you and that. It was
23 like -- maybe because he couldn't get to sleep at night
24 time, he had to come and wake us up to go to the toilet.
25 They called them the 'pee the beds' and it was brutal

1 the way he spoke to you to get you out of your bed.

2 Q. Right. He wasn't very sympathetic?

3 A. No, I have the inclusion that the guy liked a wee sleep

4 at night while he was on duty and he thought we were

5 just a hazard to him and he couldn't get to sleep,

6 that's what I thought. That was my conclusion about it.

7 Q. He just treated you like a nuisance?

8 A. Just a weird way he spoke to you.

9 Q. Over the page, page 6 of your statement, 'Peter', you

10 are talking about the routine at Balgowan. What you

11 say -- and it is quite an eye catching phrase -- you say

12 at paragraph 27:

13 "The place was run like the military."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Perhaps you can tell us about that, and why you felt

16 that?

17 A. Well, the only man I looked up to, and the only man that

18 never took any part in punishing me, was a man who

19 I really respected, because he had [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] and that was LID [REDACTED],

21 who was the shoe shop man.

22 Q. Oh, right.

23 A. We used to make our own shoes and that.

24 Q. And you say he was the only person who didn't take

25 any part in punishing you?

1 A. He was still a [REDACTED] in the military. He was in the
2 army Cadet Force.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. And we had a section of the army Cadet Force in the
5 school. And he never took any part in punishing the
6 boys. He was a man you could go to and speak to.

7 [REDACTED] was really ...

8 And he run -- he run, likesay, it was all on the
9 parade ground. And in the centre of the grounds of the
10 school, you had a big parade ground. It was concrete,
11 it was all lines for the houses, Grant House, Wallace
12 House and that. And everybody lined up and you started
13 marching about and then got into your line, map dress,
14 and you were all in your line until you went in to get
15 your dinner or your breakfast or that, or anything like
16 that.

17 Q. How long would that take? How long would you be
18 marching around like that?

19 A. About half an hour.

20 Q. Oh, right.

21 A. Yes, half an hour.

22 Q. In all weathers?

23 A. All weathers. It doesn't matter if it was raining,
24 snow, or anything.

25 Q. You say -- this is paragraph 27 again -- inside the

1 building it was a one-way system and you were supposed
2 to always know where you were going; do you know -- did
3 anyone ever say why that was? Why did have you to use
4 this one-way system?

5 A. If you went into the hall, into the main hall, that's on
6 the bottom floor, past Mr LIF 's office and that. If
7 you walked on to that floor, you had to know where your
8 destination was. If you went past your destination you
9 couldn't turn about and walk back. Kind of, if you made
10 a mistake, you would have to go out, wait for a teacher
11 to let you out the compound and then you used to go
12 round to the other door in the compound and somebody
13 else would open the door there and then you would come
14 in. They would just tell you -- or if you were doing
15 the cleaning there, you would lose the job of doing the
16 cleaning, because you have to be exactly -- if you were
17 to go in Mr Howard Keeley Room you went right into it.
18 You couldn't go past and then turnabout and go back.
19 I think it was to stop the laddies taking the cigarette
20 ends out the waste paper baskets in the staffrooms.
21 Because some of the staff smoked in there, and all the
22 laddies would take the cigarette ends out of the bucket
23 and give them to the other laddies to smoke.

24 Q. But, at all events, if you didn't follow this rule you
25 would be penalised for it?

1 A. You would lose the job.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. And sometimes, if you had a job like that -- it was
4 a wee bit better for you if you had a job like that.

5 Q. You had a slightly easier time of it?

6 A. Yes, you would do. Yes, definitely.

7 Q. Okay. You tell us a bit more about the daily routine,
8 'Peter', on that page, and you say that bedtime was at
9 9.00 pm and no one was allowed to talk after that; what
10 happened if anyone did talk after bedtime?

11 A. It could go on for -- it all depends how the night
12 watchman felt, or if it was done when the teacher was
13 still out, because one of the teachers had to stay there
14 at night time, as well as the night shift man. If
15 anybody talked or anybody flung a pillow about, or that,
16 everybody was out of your beds, you stripped your beds.
17 You folded your sheets up, you folded your pillow cases
18 up, took your pyjamas off, folded them. Everything was
19 at the bottom of the bed, all neat and tidy, and then
20 you were told to make the bed again.

21 And then sometimes they would say: right, everybody
22 in to bed now. If you do that again you're (inaudible).

23 Then they would walk out the door, close the door,
24 and come back in again. They would say, 'I have changed
25 my mind. Everybody out your beds again, strip your beds

1 again'.

2 It all depends how they felt. If they felt a wee
3 bit tired, you done it once. If they felt, 'Right, we
4 are going to -- these guys are going to be up for
5 hours', sometimes they done it. Sometimes it lasted
6 two hours.

7 Q. And you didn't get to bed at all?

8 A. It was just to put across: if one boy misbehaved in that
9 20, everybody ...

10 Sometimes they opened all the dormitories up, so
11 everybody's angry. So the lad who caused the problem,
12 I think he would get tomorrow, the next day, in the
13 compound. That's where everything was dealt with, in
14 the compound. Teachers used to turn their back when you
15 were getting battered by the laddies.

16 Q. So the other boys would take it out on the boy --

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. -- who'd been talking the night before?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. What would they do?

21 A. Just get beat up. Beat up silly. The teacher -- there
22 was one teacher on the parade ground, he would just put
23 the key to the side door, it would go in, and then shut
24 the door and lock it, and then maybe have a cigarette
25 and that, and then come back out and then say, 'Oh, what

1 happened to you?' and you can't say anybody assaulted
2 you.

3 Q. This is perhaps an obvious question, 'Peter', but why
4 could you not say anything?

5 A. You would just get beat up again, worse.

6 Q. And the staff were, you felt, turning a blind eye to
7 this?

8 A. It kept the discipline in the school; that was their
9 philosophy.

10 Q. They were getting the boys to do it for them, really?

11 A. Mm-hm. It was -- now that I am old enough, it was very
12 intelligent what they done, definitely.

13 Q. Well, that's one word for it, I suppose.

14 A. They were very cool and calculating how they done it.

15 I had to stop the crying when I was whipped with the
16 birch, because when I went back into the compound I got
17 worse than what I got, from them. It was all
18 psychological, because they used to say, 'Look at him,
19 he's greeting and that'.

20 Mind you, the blood would be pouring down the backs
21 of my legs as well.

22 Q. When you first arrived at Balgowan, you would still be
23 upset about leaving home and what happened to your
24 father; did boys bully you because of that as well?

25 A. It is -- I cried for months when I first went in there,

1 for my mother. I was persecuted for it. It is just
2 like you are in a place, it's run like the army: you
3 shouldn't be like that. You shouldn't be ...

4 We had a close-knit family, and I got persecuted for
5 that. It's the kind of funny thing about it, ever since
6 I have come out of that place, all I have done all my
7 life is just helped people. And I still do that to this
8 day. I was wanting to do nothing today because I was
9 coming in here and someone phoned me, and they had
10 broken down and they never had petrol. My partner said,
11 'You can't do that, we are going to the Inquiry', and
12 I had to go and give them petrol. I still help people.
13 It is -- I get great enjoyment in helping people.

14 Q. I am afraid --

15 A. I try to help people because I think everyone else went
16 through what I went through.

17 Q. Thinking back to that time, 'Peter' -- and I am sorry to
18 drag you back to it -- at page 7 of your statement, you
19 are talking about meal times, and I am really following
20 on from what you have just been telling us.

21 I think you say, at paragraph 36, that there were
22 problems at meal times as well because boys would take
23 your food?

24 A. It was hard. It wasn't just hard for me, there was
25 other people that were weak in there. We would get our

1 food put down to us and it would just be: the hand would
2 come round, take your plate, 'That's mine'.

3 It happened to the ones that were the rulers. No
4 disrespect to anyone, but most of them came from
5 Glasgow.

6 Q. You described them as 'the rulers', 'Peter'; is that
7 right?

8 A. Pardon?

9 Q. Did you describe them as 'the rulers'?

10 A. The rulers, aye. It's -- what they say went.

11 Q. So these were the people that ruled the roost at the
12 school?

13 A. Well, that's right. What it was, they used to get the
14 younger laddies to do things for them, likesay, go into
15 the staffroom when you were doing that and getting the
16 cigarette ends for smoking and that.

17 I remember the worst day of my life was they asked
18 me to do something when I got the boiler house job and
19 I wouldn't do it for them. So what I done was just run
20 away.

21 They asked me to go -- the boiler house man, who was
22 good to me, they asked me to go into his pocket and take
23 his cigarettes out, and take two cigarettes out of the
24 packet and give them to them. And I wouldn't do it, and
25 I ran away. And I lost my boiler house job and it was

1 back into getting beat again.

2 Q. Is that the first time you were there? Because we know
3 that you were there twice; was that the first time?

4 A. That was the first time I was in there.

5 Q. All right, thank you.

6 A. The second time I went back, it was bad. But it wasn't
7 that bad.

8 Q. Okay. The occasions when people would take food from --
9 well, I mean you and other boys; what did the staff do
10 about it?

11 A. Pardon?

12 Q. What did the staff do about it?

13 A. They never done anything about it because that helped
14 them do their job.

15 Q. Were they not monitoring meal times? Were they not
16 watching what was happening?

17 A. There would be only one staff member. The other staff
18 member, they wouldn't bother about it, because they were
19 getting helped to do their job.

20 Q. And if someone took a boy's food, if someone took your
21 food; would you be able to get some more?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. So you just went hungry?

24 A. You couldn't say anything about it. I remember one day,
25 there was one teacher, Mr. [REDACTED], and he came over

1 and said, 'What is it?'.
2

3 He must have known there was something wrong. He
4 said, 'What is it?', and I said, 'I didn't feel like
5 eating. I gave my food to him'. He said, 'Well, why
6 are you looking like that?', I was kind of looking like
7 that. I just said to him, 'I couldn't eat, so I just
8 gave him it'.

9 Q. So you weren't able to say to Mr IQH that someone had
10 taken your food?

11 A. Mr IQH -- first, Mr IQH was all right at first,
12 and then, for some reason, he changed.

13 Q. Changed how?

14 A. Just his manner towards people. It just changed.

15 Q. You say that -- and this is just the foot of page 7:

16 'Boys hung out in wee gangs.'

17 Tell us a bit more about that.

18 A. The Glasgow boys ruled the school. What was hard for me
19 was, about a year and a half, I said, 'Well, this is
20 what happens to you when you skip school', and then
21 80/90 per cent of the people that were in there were in
22 there for criminal things: lighting fires; assault;
23 stabbing people.

24 And I decided, no, I shouldn't be here. And I tried
25 to do everything that everybody told me to do and get
out of there, and I ended up going to Ainsley Park

1 School and it was a nightmare for me. I couldn't adapt
2 to Balgowan, to Ainsley Park, and I ended up getting
3 taken back to Balgowan.

4 Q. Sure. Again, we will come to that a wee bit later in
5 your evidence, 'Peter'. Just thinking again about the
6 gangs at Balgowan; was there trouble between groups of
7 boys, between gangs of boys?

8 A. Oh aye. See, the most private place for the boys in
9 Balgowan was the toilets. And you came out from the
10 dining hall at that door, run right across to your
11 right-hand side, right over to the corner was the
12 toilets. As soon as everybody got out of this door,
13 everybody -- it was just a chase over to the toilets,
14 because that's where they had their smoke and that.

15 And I remember I have run over with them as well,
16 I've run in to the toilets. The worse thing you could
17 do was run right into the main toilets, because it was
18 always wet on the floor, and somebody had put their foot
19 out. Somebody says to me -- I don't know to this day --
20 somebody said to me it was one of the teachers that done
21 that, the people behind me. And I fractured my skull
22 and was taken to hospital.

23 But, in the toilets, that's where all the beatings
24 happened, in the cubicles. And then you would get the
25 teacher coming in when everybody was on the parade

1 ground: where's IQF ?

2 And somebody would say: he's in the toilet.

3 I would be lying in a pile of blood somewhere.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And not just me. It wasn't just me, other people were

6 beaten up in the school.

7 Q. Just a couple of things, there 'Peter'. First of all,

8 you said that the cubicles were where the beatings

9 happened; was that beatings by other boys?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But I think you also said that there was an occasion

12 where you ended up on the floor in the toilet, and you

13 thought a member of staff had done that?

14 A. Some of the laddies said to us a member of staff put his

15 foot out and tripped me up when I came into the toilets.

16 I hadn't any proof of that. And I thought it would

17 be one of the laddies, but one of the them said to me it

18 was Mr LIO, and I have no proof of that. And what

19 happened is, I slipped and went right in to the wall.

20 I was knocked out. I woke up in the medical room.

21 Q. All right. So you were given some treatment in the

22 medical room?

23 A. Yes. A doctor came in, yes. But I can't find any

24 evidence of that.

25 I also had my tonsils out in the hospital in Dundee,

1 I was in there for three days, which was good for me,
2 because I had ice cream and jelly, my first ice cream
3 and jelly. But there was no record of that. I don't
4 know why, but for some reason my medical register starts
5 from 1986.

6 Q. Just before we leave all that, 'Peter', paragraph 41 of
7 your statement, you are talking about Sundays, which
8 I think you say were a bit quiet?

9 A. Sunday was a special day. It was special for me,
10 anyway.

11 Q. Why was that?

12 A. We went to church. I could pray for my dad. It was
13 hard. We used to wear grey flannels, a red blazer, like
14 this, all red. The laddies were dressed nice because we
15 were walking through the streets, through houses, and
16 beside houses. You would dress up really nice. But you
17 would get the odd snippets when you were going down the
18 street, mothers saying to their little -- 'This is what
19 will happen to you if you are in trouble'.

20 In Strathmartire Church, when you went in to the
21 church, we were all housed up on the right-hand side.
22 So you were getting people giving you funny looks and
23 that. But I was glad, because it gave me -- the church
24 gave me freedom.

25 Q. It got you out of the place?

1 A. Pardon?

2 Q. It got you out of Balgowan?

3 A. Yes, well, that's right. That's right. I loved going
4 to the church.

5 Q. Okay. And you say the rest of Sunday would just be
6 spent playing outside, and if it was raining you would
7 be inside?

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. You say then that you weren't allowed to play when you
10 were inside?

11 A. No, no, everything was regimental.

12 Q. All right.

13 A. There was a time when you went in to sit in the TV room,
14 and you have no talking or that, nothing.

15 Q. Right. So you weren't allowed to play games or anything
16 like that?

17 A. Out on the playground, yes.

18 Q. Outside.

19 A. But not inside, no.

20 Q. Okay. 'Peter', you then go on to talk about the uniform
21 that you were given. You say that you got it on the
22 first day and you never saw your own clothes. So you
23 were just expected to wear the school clothes all the
24 time; is that right?

25 A. School uniform.

1 Q. Even at weekends?

2 A. Pardon?

3 Q. Even at weekends?

4 A. Weekends was only blue, blue uniform. It was like
5 a dark blue. You had green for school, in the mornings
6 and, when you finished school, you changed into the blue
7 uniforms, that's trousers and a jerkin. And if it was
8 the day -- Saturday and Sunday, no school, it was the
9 blue uniforms all the time, but the green ones was
10 school uniform. Short trousers and a tunic.

11 Q. Okay. Short trousers, again, even in winter?

12 A. Yes. The only person that had long trousers was the
13 boiler house man. He is the only one that had long
14 trousers, which was good for me.

15 Q. Okay. Page 9 of your statement, 'Peter', you talk about
16 schooling. Can you just tell us a bit about the
17 schooling that you got at Balgowan?

18 A. Yes, woodwork, um, some history. Um, that was mainly
19 it. History. In the history room you done a bit of
20 English as well, but mainly woodwork and that.

21 Q. Okay. So there was some academic subjects, but it was
22 mostly practical things?

23 A. Aye, definitely.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Mr LIO was the woodwork teacher.

1 Q. Right. And you have mentioned Mr LID [REDACTED] already, the
2 man that took -- that was in charge of the Cadet Force?
3 A. Well, just about four months before I got out, he gave
4 me the job as RSM. That was a proud day for me.
5 Q. And you say he also taught you to tap dance; how did
6 that come about?
7 A. I still do it to this day.
8 Q. Very good.
9 A. He used to say to me, 'See, when I have had a hard time,
10 son, I just tap dance and it gives you a bit of
11 enjoyment'. The guy was good at tap dancing, and he
12 learnt me. And I still do it to this day. I do it in
13 front of my grandchildren, and they laugh at me. They
14 think it's good.
15 Q. Just after that bit of your statement, 'Peter', you say
16 that you went away for summer camp sometimes. You say
17 that you sometimes went to Arbroath, and you stayed in
18 a primary school; was that a place called Inverbrothock?
19 A. In the summer time, if we were going to the Aberdeen
20 open air pool, we stayed in a primary school in Arbroath
21 on bunk beds.
22 Q. Okay.
23 A. I think, my time in Dundee, I think I spent three times
24 in Arbroath.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. The rest of the time would be Glenhead Lodge. It was
2 a lodge up in Alyth. And up in the mountains, you would
3 see BBS in white stones, Balgowan Boys' School.

4 Q. Okay. How were these trips? How did you find them?

5 A. These trips were good. But the discipline was still --
6 the discipline part of it came with you, as well.

7 Glenhead Lodge is a valley, it goes down like that,
8 and there is a hill that goes right up, like that. So,
9 up on top of the hill, there is a peg in white and they
10 tell you, 'Right, everybody go up and touch the peg and
11 come down and you will get fed'.

12 Q. Okay. How far away was the peg?

13 A. Um, about two miles.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Two miles away. And by the way, you would get caught
16 every time if you said you touched the peg, because they
17 had big binoculars.

18 Q. Somebody was watching you, okay.

19 A. And we used to go on walks up Ben Macdui and all that.
20 But that was good times. But not everybody got that.

21 Q. You say, at paragraph 51, summer camp was good because
22 it felt like had you some freedom; is that how you felt
23 about it? Is that how you still feel about it?

24 A. Yes. Like I say, LID and that, LID knew
25 what was going on, and I believe his hands were tied.

1 He couldn't do anything about. He couldn't change it.

2 The discipline, you couldn't change it.

3 The discipline came from Mr LIF and Mr LSB. God
4 rest his soul, Mr LSB ended up dying one Saturday.
5 There was a fire. Somebody had started a fire outside
6 in the old railway, and he went to fight the fire with
7 some laddies, and he ended up having a heart attack and
8 died, even though the man took part in disciplining me,
9 I still say that, God rest his soul. I wouldn't wish
10 that upon anybody.

11 Q. You tell us, 'Peter', that birthdays weren't celebrated
12 at Balgowan.

13 A. No.

14 Q. That somebody might send you a card, but the school
15 wouldn't do anything about it.

16 A. Twice my brother told me he sent me a card and I didn't
17 get it. So he was the only one who was allowed in to
18 see me. He brought a card up and a box of chocolates
19 for us, and I had two chocolates out of it. The rest
20 went to the Glasgow boys.

21 Q. And Christmas, you say you stayed at Balgowan every
22 Christmas, you didn't get home; did anyone get home for
23 Christmas?

24 A. One time I did get home.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. They told me I wasn't going home. I think it was on the
2 22nd, they said 'Right, you can go home, but if you
3 didn't come back this time, then you will be in here for
4 a long time'. I didn't go back.

5 Q. You didn't go back to Balgowan?

6 A. I didn't go back.

7 Q. All right.

8 A. I stayed with my mother.

9 Q. All right, we will come back to that in a wee while.

10 You say that you didn't have much contact, I think,
11 with your family at all when you were at Balgowan?

12 A. I lost the contact with my family. That closeness of
13 a family was just broken -- between me and my family was
14 broken apart. To this day, it is the same. I maybe see
15 my oldest sister, [REDACTED] because the way she talks is
16 like that, like my mother. She is the spitting image of
17 my mother, but she is 70-odd now. My partner and I go
18 up to see her once a month, but she is always on the
19 phone to us, to see how we are doing. But that's the
20 only contact we -- we have ended up -- there are 14 in
21 my family. But my father's bairns, the eight bairns of
22 my father, we were all close, but that was just ripped
23 apart, in my view.

24 Q. You say that only the Dundee boys got to go home at
25 weekends; is that right?

1 A. Some -- the weekends, if you had done everything by the
2 book you would be -- after you had been in there maybe
3 about four or five months, you maybe got a weekend every
4 month. But, if you didn't do everything that you were
5 told, you wouldn't get home at the weekends.

6 You would maybe get out on a Saturday for three
7 hours, that's all the boys got. You could get out on
8 a Saturday for three hours. And a lot of the laddies
9 used to go down to the town and back up again to
10 Downfield.

11 Q. Okay. Is that something you did from time to time?

12 A. I maybe got out for five Saturdays, maybe six Saturdays.

13 Q. In all of the time you were there?

14 A. Because every time I got out I wanted to get home to my
15 mum.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I got home once. The rest of the time I didn't make it.

18 Q. Mm-hm. You also tell us that you didn't have any visits
19 from social workers or anything like that; do you
20 remember any visits at all? Were there any inspectors
21 or managers from the school, or anything like that?

22 A. There were two gentlemen came to the school, and
23 I believe that they were on the school committee. I am
24 sure the school was funded by the Government, but it was
25 a committee that run the school, a committee of

1 managers. And I think there was two -- I think it was
2 the sports day. I am sure it was a sports day. They
3 came to ask questions.

4 Q. All right. Did they speak to you?

5 A. Yes, they spoke to me.

6 Q. All right. Do you remember what sort of things they
7 were saying, or asking?

8 A. Just asked how things were at school, but we were told
9 what to say.

10 Q. First of all, who told you? Secondly, what did they
11 tell you to say?

12 A. It was Mr ERM who said: mind, everything's good.
13 These people are going to ...

14 They asked the wrong one to say everything was good,
15 because it wasn't good for me.

16 Q. And you didn't feel able to say anything to them about
17 what was happening to you?

18 A. No, I lost all of my privileges and that, for doing
19 that.

20 Q. You --

21 A. He just says to the -- I am just trying to think of the
22 chap's name. The guy was good. I am just trying to
23 think of his name. He said, Mr ERM --

24 Q. Would it have been Mr Agnew, perhaps?

25 A. It wasn't Agnew.

1 Q. Or Mr Larg?

2 A. That could have been him, yes.

3 Q. I think you said he was good; how was he good?

4 A. Pardon?

5 Q. I think you said he was good; how was he good?

6 A. Are you talking about the two gentlemen that came to the
7 school?

8 Q. That's right, yes.

9 A. If you speak to people with respect, you get respect
10 back. I take it -- at the moment and now, it is very
11 hard for me to speak to someone who is speaking to me
12 with a foreign tongue.

13 If somebody is speaking to me in a bad way, I tend
14 not to communicate with them because it is disrespectful
15 to speak to people. I didn't speak to you like that.
16 You didn't speak to me like that. That's the way my mum
17 taught me. The first thing that comes out of my
18 mother's mouth all the time growing up was: always
19 respect people, always help people.

20 And that's how life is.

21 Q. Casting your mind back; did you feel that Mr Larg spoke
22 to you in a respectful way?

23 A. Yes, he asked me how things were going, so I told him
24 the truth. I am not going to tell him a lie.

25 If someone says to me, 'How's Balgowan?' I will

1 just say, 'That's okay, that's okay. But this, that,
2 and that could be done better', and I told the guy that.
3 So I lost all of my privileges for that, and I am lucky
4 I didn't get battered for it.

5 Q. Did you tell him you were being beaten?

6 A. I told him about the birch and he was very surprised
7 about it.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. They would have just said: aye, IQF's like that, just
10 tells lies all the time.

11 Q. Do you know if Mr Larg did anything about what you told
12 him?

13 A. Well, after I spoke to him, there was me and another lad
14 he spoke to, and there was a couple of other laddies
15 they spoke to, and then they spoke to a some of the
16 staff and that, and then they have their meeting in the
17 office. But that was the only time I seen these
18 gentlemen in there.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. But, seemingly, the committee, there was eight or nine
21 of them or something. There was a lady as well. But it
22 was only these two that came to the school.

23 Q. Yes. But really all you knew about what happened
24 afterwards is you lost your privileges?

25 A. I lost all -- where was I?

1 My merit was two before the top. I was put right
2 back down to the bottom.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. If someone asks you to tell the truth, you tell the
5 truth. Mr ERM's question to me was entirely
6 different to the answer that Mr Larg was seeking. He
7 said, 'How's things in the school?' and I told him,
8 'That's all right, that's all right, but that needs to
9 be looked at because it's wrong. It is definitely
10 wrong'. Nobody's got the right to draw blood out of
11 someone else's body, and that's what they done with me.

12 Q. Well, let me just ask you about that, then 'Peter'.
13 There is one or two matters we might come back to, but,
14 at page 14 of your statement, you are talking about
15 abuse at Balgowan.

16 First of all, you talk about a man called Mr LUP,
17 the gym teacher, and there were things that Mr LUP
18 did that you weren't happy with; is that right?

19 A. Mr LUP had -- when I first went in there, the advice
20 that I got from some of the lads was: watch Mr LUP,
21 he is always patting you on the backside and that.

22 But he only done that at me once, and I said I was
23 going to tell Mr LID and the chap never done it to
24 me again. But he had an awful habit of he got the
25 laddies to climb up the ropes: can you climb up the

1 ropes to the top, touch the top, and come back down
2 again?

3 He had an awful habit of holding the rope at the
4 bottom and looking up your legs, saying, 'You are a big
5 boy', because you could see anything, because of the
6 baggy ...

7 Q. They were loose fitting shorts, were they?

8 A. That's the only bad thing I thought of Mr LUP .

9 Q. Oh, right.

10 A. But he did pat me. When I was coming down, he patted me
11 on the backside, but I thought nothing of it.

12 Q. Was this a pat? Was it a touch? Was he fondling?

13 A. It was a pat on the backside.

14 Q. Oh, right, and you felt it was a sexual thing?

15 A. No. At the time, I didn't think it was a sexual thing,
16 but I just thought with the other lads saying he had
17 an awful habit of doing that --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I don't know. To me, it wasn't -- to me, it wasn't
20 sexual.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Mind you, at that time I didn't know much about sex.
23 I did -- other laddies said it was. Other laddies said
24 other people were touched and that. But, no, in my
25 case, I never felt that the guy had done me wrong.

1 I just said, 'Don't do that. I will get -- I will speak
2 to Mr LID', and I did speak to Mr LID, and he
3 just said, 'Oh, LUP's like that.

4 Q. You also talk about a Mr IQH, who you say had
5 [REDACTED].

6 A. Mr IQH, [REDACTED]. He had
7 an awful habit of banging on you the back of the head.
8 He would just say, 'How are you doing?', and it was
9 sore. The worst part of [REDACTED] was when he was holding
10 me down to get the belt. It was not just one person who
11 gave you the belt, there was three or four there.

12 Q. And Mr IQH was sometimes --

13 A. Mr IQH, it was sore because he didn't know the power
14 in his hand. And when he was holding your neck down --
15 because you were face down on the medical bench, he held
16 your head and your arms, and another teacher would hold
17 your legs, and the other teacher would give you the
18 belt. And I remember somebody asking me, they said,
19 'How can you prove it?', I said, 'Well, put yourself on
20 that table and let somebody birch you; what would you do
21 on that table?' They said, 'I would jump off of it'. I
22 said, 'Well, I never had a chance to jump off it. I was
23 held down'.

24 And then they opened the windows of the medical
25 centre and all of the laddies are on the parade, and

1 they can hear every scream that you are screaming, and
2 that kept all of them in check, to say, 'This is what
3 happens to you if you do something wrong'.

4 And Ms Betty Carrie, who was a matron,
5 Ms Muriel Gray, who was the deputy matron, voiced their
6 opinions all the time when they were dressing my wounds,
7 saying, 'This is not on'. She done it all the time,
8 Betty Carrie, and to protect me she gave me a job in the
9 cookhouse, so they couldn't get to me, because they
10 would have to go through her, because I would be working
11 in her place, in the cookhouse. She was in charge of
12 it.

13 Q. Okay. 'Peter', am I right in thinking that you had
14 heard about the birch and --

15 A. That's what the belt was called in that school, the
16 birch.

17 Q. So the birch was a leather belt?

18 A. It was a leather belt.

19 Q. But with a number of strands on it?

20 A. It would be three or four on it.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I can't be correct on that, but it was more than two,
23 anyway.

24 LADY SMITH: Do you know the word 'tawse', 'Peter'?

25 A. Pardon?

1 LADY SMITH: Do you know the word 'tawse'?

2 A. Tawse?

3 LADY SMITH: Heard of the tawse?

4 A. No, everybody in that school called it the birch.

5 LADY SMITH: Was it made of leather?

6 A. Leather. It was a big belt. It was a thick belt.

7 LADY SMITH: Okay.

8 MR SHELDON: So you had heard about the birch before you

9 actually got it yourself; is that right?

10 A. No, no. Later on I heard about it, because it was

11 widely used in, I think it was the Isle of Man, or

12 what's the other island? There was one of the islands,

13 Guernsey or something. One of the islands used it all

14 the time, but that's after I came out of Balgowan,

15 I heard about that. The birch.

16 MR SHELDON: I think what I was just wondering, 'Peter',

17 was: did you hear about other boys being beaten, being

18 belted --

19 A. It happened all the time.

20 Q. -- before it happened to you?

21 A. It happened all the time. But I got it a lot of the

22 times. I am talking about hundreds of times.

23 Q. All right. Can you just tell us about what happened to

24 you? The first time you got it; what happened?

25 A. I think I was greeting for about two or three days. My

1 mother never touched me like that. My father never
2 touched me like that. It was a discipline that
3 happened. I had never experienced it before. I never
4 experienced it afterwards, either.

5 Q. Can you just tell us: how did the staff do this?

6 A. How they did it?

7 Q. Yes. How did they do it? What did they do to you when
8 you were getting a beating like that?

9 A. You come in the medical, the medical room. Betty
10 Carrie's room, the medical room. It was all done in the
11 medical room, because if they went over the score they
12 would need a doctor. In fact, I know for a fact they
13 would never call a doctor, Betty Carrie would have to do
14 it. But she would voice her opinion right away, as soon
15 as she was called upon.

16 You come in -- what they done was, you walked up.
17 So you -- this is the table, you are facing the table
18 like that. They pulled your trousers down, your pants
19 down, put you on -- flung you on the bed. One teacher
20 held you with the head and arms, and one teacher held
21 you by the legs, and the other teacher -- I've got some
22 information that I got two of the belt on the hand.
23 I never got the belt on the hand at any time; it was
24 always my backside. And I never got two; it was between
25 six and eight. And the worst out of the lot was the one

1 I respected, I says -- God rest his soul -- it was
2 Mr LSB . He was -- very, very sore when he done it.
3 And they held you down and you couldn't move.

4 But the worse part about it is, after they had done
5 it to you, they flung you out in the compound, and all
6 the laddies would psychologically torture -- laughing at
7 you and everything, because you were crying.

8 Q. And just to be clear, 'Peter', you have named Mr LSB as
9 one of the members of staff that would do this to you?

10 A. SNR . He was SNR .

11 Q. And I think in your statement you also talk about

12 Mr LIF doing that, SNR ?

13 A. Mr LIF was the first person that ever gave me the belt.

14 Q. Oh, right. And Mr IQH ; did he take part as well?

15 A. Mr IQH , he never gave me the belt. He was one of the
16 ones who held me down, a lot of the time.

17 Q. And was anyone else involved in holding you down?

18 A. Mr ERM , Mr IQH , Mr LIO , Mr LUP , Mr IXR ,
19 Mr IQI . Because he come down to Edinburgh to pick me
20 up and, when I got back to Dundee, he helped them to
21 give me it as well. And they all had turns, every one
22 of them.

23 And I got some information that Mr ERM gave me
24 two on the backside and the witness was Mr LIO . No,
25 it wasn't. Two people couldn't do it to me. It had to

1 be three or four.

2 Q. And did these beatings draw blood, 'Peter'?

3 A. Most of the time, yes. It all depends how hard they hit
4 me. And some of them -- when I got older, I says to
5 myself: some of these teachers needed to go to the
6 opticians, because they weren't hitting my backside all
7 the time; they were hitting the bottom of my back. And
8 that was weaker than my backside, so that was how the
9 blood starting coming, because they were hitting the
10 bottom of my back.

11 The backside took a lot of beatings to get blood out
12 of it, because it is thicker skin.

13 Q. You say in your statement -- this is page 16,
14 paragraph 86 -- that they hit you more times if you
15 didn't scream, because they wanted the boys outside to
16 hear the screams?

17 A. The boys outside had to register the screaming, because
18 it was psychological. If you are hearing someone
19 screaming and you think you are next in the line to go
20 to it, you will do what you are told.

21 Q. You tell us that you would bite the inside of your mouth
22 to try to stop yourself screaming?

23 A. I still have the ulcers inside my mouth, still have the
24 ulcers, because I had to stop myself crying. I had to
25 stop screaming because, after they flung me back into

1 the compound, that was more pain to me; that hurt me
2 more, because it was psychological.

3 Q. The boys --

4 A. They used to come up and say, 'Look at you greeting',
5 and slap you on the face and that. That was more
6 a punishment to me than them hitting me with the belt.

7 Q. This is the other boys that would do that to you?

8 A. It bugged them because I wouldn't scream. It bugged
9 them tremendously that I couldn't scream.

10 Q. So this was other boys that would abuse you in the
11 courtyard afterwards?

12 A. I am talking about the teachers. It bugged the teachers
13 because I wouldn't be screaming.

14 Q. You have told us, 'Peter', that this happened in the
15 medical room?

16 A. It all happened in the medical room.

17 Q. And you talked about Betty Carrie. Should we understand
18 that Betty Carrie was there when this was happening?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay, she wasn't there.

21 A. No, they were not witness to it in any way --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- or I would have made them culpable for it as well.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Betty Carrie, no. When she come in and seen my wounds,

1 she used to go mental. She was -- she went mental. And
2 that's the reason why I think she got me a job in the
3 cookhouse.

4 Q. So you would be taken to her for treatment, after these
5 beatings?

6 A. No, I was standing there, they called Betty Carrie in
7 and they all walked out.

8 Q. Okay. So this is immediately after the beating takes
9 place?

10 A. Mm-hm, mm-hm.

11 Q. And they call her in because you are bleeding by this
12 stage?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. What is she saying then? What did she say to you? What
15 did she say to the staff?

16 A. She wouldn't communicate with me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. She knew that would be wrong. Mr LIF would be after
19 her.

20 Q. All right. Did you hear her saying anything to the
21 other staff who had done this?

22 A. She gave Mr ERM a really hard one, and said: this
23 should not be happening. This is wrong.

24 Q. Did that change anything?

25 A. No.

1 Q. The beatings just kept happening?

2 A. Definitely, definitely.

3 Q. Do you know if Ms Carrie told anyone else about the
4 beatings?

5 A. No.

6 It was hard for me. After it, you couldn't say
7 anything. You couldn't sit down. I couldn't sit down
8 for maybe a couple of days. And I couldn't lie on my
9 back in the bed, try to get to sleep and that, because
10 it was painful.

11 Q. I think you tell us that there was an occasion where you
12 think your mum and your sister came to visit you, but
13 you didn't get to see them?

14 A. That was the worst day of my life.

15 Q. Could you tell us about what happened then?

16 A. I was put into the dormitory because I was just beaten.
17 And my mum -- the woman never had any money and that.
18 She went and pawned her engagement ring and the wedding
19 ring of my father's to get up to Dundee. She brought my
20 sister, [REDACTED], up. And I don't know what made me go
21 to the window, but I saw my mum walking up the big, long
22 big driveway. It must be 500 metres. The long
23 driveway, and they were just at the gatehouse, just
24 ready to go out. And I could see my mother, and
25 I banged, banged, banged on the window to get my

1 mother's attention, and she just kept on going.

2 Q. She didn't see?

3 A. So that night I ran away.

4 Q. She didn't see you?

5 A. She didn't see. The excuse was, 'I'm sorry, [QF] is
6 up to Glenhead Lodge'.

7 Q. They said that to your mother?

8 A. Mm-hm. But, see, two days prior to that, they knew my
9 mother was coming up to see me. It was Marjorie Ireland
10 that told me, the secretary. Because she said to me,
11 'How was your mum's visit?', and I said my mum's not
12 here. She said your mum's coming up to see you.

13 Q. Why do you think they lied to your mother?

14 A. Because of my wounds. If my mum had seen my wounds ...
15 That's the pain of Balgowan's main school, done the
16 punishment. The people who stayed in Dundee, the boys
17 who stayed in Dundee, it was in the annex, the cottage,
18 their parents were so close to the school, they never
19 got punishment like that, because their parents would be
20 right up to the door, right away. The people from
21 Edinburgh know that their parents wouldn't have the
22 money to come up to the school to complain.

23 MR SHELDON: My Lady, there is still probably ten minutes of
24 material.

25 LADY SMITH: I think we probably should break now.

1 MR SHELDON: All right.

2 LADY SMITH: 'Peter', I normally break for lunch at about
3 now, and we have been keeping you under pressure now for
4 about an hour and a quarter to give your evidence. We
5 can carry on after the lunch break at 2 o'clock and
6 finish it then, when you are perhaps a bit fresher;
7 would that work?

8 A. Thank you, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, then. Thank you.

10 (1.02 pm)

11 (The luncheon adjournment)

12 (2.00 pm)

13 LADY SMITH: 'Peter', I hope the break was some help to you.

14 A. Yes, thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Good. Are you okay for us to carry on now?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Mr Sheldon.

19 MR SHELDON: My Lady. So 'Peter', before the lunch break,
20 you were telling us about some of the abuse that you
21 suffered at Balgowan --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and in particular some of the beatings that members
24 of staff gave you. You had said as well that although
25 people like Ms Carrie clearly knew about the beatings,

1 nothing changed, nothing happened to stop that
2 happening?

3 A. Nothing stopped it from happening. I found the
4 discipline in school made it easier for the teachers to
5 control and, later on, when I got older, I said to
6 myself: well, that was one of the ways they thought to
7 keep discipline in the school.

8 Because, in reality, they were understaffed, because
9 there was over 100 -- it would be 120 plus laddies in
10 the school. At any one time, for the teachers -- during
11 the day there would only be about six teachers in that
12 school to handle 120 laddies. And the fear factor of
13 getting disciplined like that, I think that kept any
14 rebellion down from all the laddies, as being a block of
15 120 people starting to rebel against what's happening to
16 them.

17 So the discipline wasn't just willy-nilly. The
18 discipline was constant, to keep that control over the
19 section -- the laddies, the volume of laddies, because
20 they didn't have a lot of staff. They could have had
21 more staff, it would have been better. The school would
22 have been better, it would have functioned better.

23 Q. All right.

24 A. When I got older, I looked at it because -- when I got
25 older and I got married and that, I tended to go into

1 looking at why people behave like that, and why people
2 practically tortured people like that, and there is
3 a lot of that goes on in the world. So I have been
4 46 years in that, trying to find out why this all
5 happens, and why did it happen to me.

6 Q. So you felt there was not enough staff and that's why
7 there was this regime of control by fear; is that really
8 what you are saying?

9 A. It took me a few years to work it out, but that's one of
10 the reasons I thought, that was how to handle a volume
11 of people with less staff.

12 Q. All right. I think you told us before the break,
13 'Peter', that perhaps the one person that you could
14 speak to was this gentleman, LID [REDACTED] ?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. The army man. Did you tell him about what was
17 happening, and so on?

18 A. I used to tell LID [REDACTED] everything. I never kept anything
19 back from him, because when you are in a situation like
20 that you need somebody you can talk to. It was causing
21 him; stop running away. Because he sat me down -- when
22 my dad died, somebody should have sat me down, instead
23 they put me in a home. They should have sat me down and
24 explained to us why my dad died, why he's not coming
25 back, and try to sort the cause out of why I was not

1 going to school.

2 But LID was a person who I could go to and
3 confide in without him telling other -- I knew for
4 a fact he wouldn't tell other teachers. And he gave me
5 a chance as well.

6 Q. All right.

7 A. So I didn't want to keep running away, because I would
8 end up losing a friend.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. It helped me.

11 Q. But although you told Mr LID about being beaten, the
12 beatings just kept going; they didn't stop?

13 A. Oh, he knew.

14 Q. He knew about it?

15 A. He knew because he would be on the parade ground while
16 they were doing it to me.

17 Q. All right. Did he help you at all with the bullying you
18 had experienced?

19 A. LID, he was a military man, 'Fight back, son. Fight
20 back', and I did fight back.

21 One day at the sports, one of the main laddies,
22 from Govan, I couldn't take any more
23 from him. And I went to LID in the morning,
24 before the sports, and I said, 'I am going to do
25 something I will maybe regret for the rest of my life',

1 he said, 'What is it?', I said, 'I can't take any more
2 from [REDACTED]'.

3 Q. [REDACTED] was one of the people that stole your food; is
4 that right?

5 A. His minions came and took it for him. He sent his
6 laddies down to take my dinner.

7 So I was playing cricket and I got bowled out, and
8 [REDACTED] was coming in for the bat, and I hit him
9 with the bat. I went through a bad week after that.
10 Boys, or his helpers, and then for some reason he left
11 me alone. Maybe it's because I fought back.

12 Q. Okay. So the time came, 'Peter', when you left
13 Balgowan, at least for the first time. This would have
14 been about 1969; is that right?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. I think you got at least some warning of that, but it
17 was only about a week before you left; is that right?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. I think you got at least some warning that you were
20 going to leave the school, but it was only about
21 a week's notice; is that right?

22 A. It was just about a week's notice before I left the
23 school.

24 Q. And you were given a train ticket, you went home. How
25 was life once you got home? I think you went home to

1 live with your mother and stepfather, by that stage?

2 A. My mother had moved then to [REDACTED]. I was
3 met at the station by my brother. We went home.
4 I always remember walking down Downfield Road for the
5 bus in a pinstripe suit and a wee bag under my arm,
6 that's all I left with.

7 Q. The pinstripe suit was something the school provided you
8 with?

9 A. It was made in the school, mm-hm.

10 Q. And so you go back to school in Edinburgh, I think; how
11 was that?

12 A. I went to Ainsley Park and, within a month, I wouldn't
13 go back to it. I was getting -- I was just getting --
14 they all knew I came from an approved school, and they
15 took a bad light on that, and they were just calling me
16 names and all that. So I didn't go back to school. So
17 I ended up going back to Balgowan.

18 Q. Did they say to you that you were being recalled to
19 Balgowan at all?

20 A. I got recalled.

21 Q. And I think you say -- I am looking at page 21 in your
22 statement, 'Peter' -- but you say that at first things
23 were kind of the same as they had been the first time
24 you were there, but then things changed a bit; is that
25 right?

1 A. I don't know why. I don't know. My beatings totally
2 stopped, for some reason. I don't know why. And then
3 I got the boiler house job. I think it is because I was
4 14-years-old then. I think most of the laddies had
5 become 14. They were shipped out. That was their time
6 finished. 14, you were out.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But definitely my punishments -- other people were
9 getting punished, except me.

10 Q. Okay. So the beatings had stopped and you got the job
11 in the boiler house.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. I think you said earlier you got your own room, just
14 a private room for you; is that right?

15 A. It was in the main hall, up the stairs between the
16 two -- between the two dormitories. The two dormitories
17 that side, Wallace was on that side, Grant was on that
18 side. And you had a medical room, and then there was
19 a private room for the boiler house man, and then you
20 had the teacher who stayed overnight, and then you had
21 the entrance going up to the central spiral and then you
22 had other store rooms as well, and the library.

23 Q. Okay. What were you expected to do as the boiler man?

24 A. Make sure all the central heating was on until the
25 boiler house man came in. Make sure that the parade

1 ground was swept. All the syvers, all of the muck out
2 of the syvers, so the syvers were running, the water was
3 running freely away. So it wouldn't get clogged for the
4 guys on the parade ground.

5 Then, outside, I was allowed to walk outside. When
6 the boiler house man came in, he let me out the
7 backdoor, so I was freely given the walk of the place.

8 Q. Okay. Was it a coal boiler or an oil boiler?

9 A. It was an oil boiler, oil burner. That was my first way
10 of getting into engineering.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So the boiler house, I was giving him a hand to clean
13 the injectors and that.

14 Q. Okay. Were you paid for that at all?

15 A. Not paid, no.

16 Q. Okay, all right.

17 A. No.

18 Q. I think you tell us, page 22, that at this time you were
19 allowed to go home at the weekends. Ultimately, you
20 were promoted by Mr LID to regimental sergeant major
21 of the Cadet Force?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you say you were really proud of that?

24 A. It came to my head when they gave me the boiler house
25 job and I went home, I wasn't going to go back. And

1 I ended up going back. And I said to myself, 'Why
2 couldn't I have done that at the start?' Because
3 I didn't do it. I didn't want to leave my mother, and
4 I thought I was -- I needed to be with my mother because
5 my dad left us. And it is when I went back -- when
6 I went back to the school, I was getting the teachers
7 patting me on the back, saying, 'Well, you have learnt
8 your lesson now, you are back', and patting me on the
9 back. And I says to myself, 'Why could you not have
10 explained that to me years ago, instead of punishing me
11 all of the time? How can you not sit down, see what the
12 problem is, and try to sort it out, psychologically,
13 instead of trying to sort it out with a belt, a whip?'.
14

15 So I ended up being proud of myself, getting up in
16 the morning and going out to work, and keeping the
17 school going and that. And the same reality, when you
18 think about it, I walked up all that driveway when I got
19 released, turned about and there were tears in my eyes.
20 I didn't want to leave it, even though I was battered
21 silly. It is weird, but they gave me a bit of
22 self-respect, and it was hard for me to walk away from
23 it. And that's being really silly, that.

24 I ended up feeling sorry for the teachers, for the
25 way that they treated me, God rest their souls.

Q. So you left Balgowan. I think you were about 15 when

1 you left; is that right?

2 A. No. I will tell you what happened.

3 I left Balgowan with the knowledge of engineering,
4 and I wanted to go and make up my father's name. I went
5 home, and my brother says --

6 Q. Sorry, 'Peter', would this have been about 1970, now?

7 A. This was ██████████ '70. My brother says to the ship's
8 husbands, 'My brother needs a job, wants a job'. They
9 said, 'What age is he?' and he says, 'Oh, he is 15', and
10 I was only 14 and a half. I shouldn't have been on the
11 trawlers. And the guy said, 'Well, go get your bags'.
12 So I asked my brother, 'What do I get?' I got jeans and
13 that. And my brother took me to the coastal suppliers,
14 got me jeans and jumpers and that, and I went away. And
15 the first boat I was on was the Duff Paignton, and the
16 skipper was Billy Brunton, and that was the start of my
17 career on the trawlers.

18 Q. I think you did that until you were about 29?

19 A. I was 16 years on the trawlers, until we joined the EEC
20 and the trawlers got finished in Granton.

21 Q. And I think, after that, you went to college for a while
22 and worked as a community worker?

23 A. I went -- I wanted to go -- I ended up -- I ended up
24 drinking heavily. But my daughter was born, I didn't
25 want my daughter to see me as a drunkard, her dad

1 a drunkard. So I went through a hard time giving it up,
2 and then I wanted to go and help people.

3 I got a job in the Manpower Service Commission in
4 Wester Hailes. It was Ron Beasley, who was the deputy
5 head of the Wester Hailes Education Centre, and I got
6 a job in Wester Hailes Park and Drive Community Centre.
7 And I got a year's contract with the Manpower Service
8 Commission, and I lasted nine years, because I was so
9 good. I could understand what people were going
10 through.

11 Wester Hailes, they can never build another
12 Wester Hailes. It's just -- what I feel is they took
13 the bad families out of areas of Edinburgh and put them
14 all in one. And once you start putting people on top of
15 each other, the people that stay at the top of the
16 building, their social -- or their nightmares, everybody
17 knows their nightmares and it affected everybody.

18 Q. And do you think your own experiences as a young person
19 helped you to speak to and deal with people you came
20 across in that line of work?

21 A. Yes. The biggest problem in Wester Hailes was drugs.
22 They were all coming from different colleges and trying
23 to help them and that, but I felt that the body is a --
24 once you get into drugs and it controls your life, you
25 need to -- it's -- I always say your brain is your

1 management system, it is just like a car management
2 system. You have to get into the -- once you get into
3 that, then you can help people.

4 So, what I done -- and Ron Beasley said it was
5 a brilliant thing -- I put them -- there were six drug
6 addicts and I put them round a table, and I gave them a
7 pen and a bit of paper and I said, 'I am going to ask
8 you a question, I need you to put your answer on that.
9 I know what your answer should be, so don't tell me
10 lies'. And I said, 'Here it is, here's your question,
11 and I am going to go out the door', and I just said to
12 them, 'If you can't beg, steal or borrow for your next
13 fix; would you sell your baby to a paedophile?'.
14

15 There were six people there. Four people said yes.
16 And those four people have never touched a drug again in
17 their life, because that stunned them, how they could do
18 that. That was me getting into their heads and
19 saying: this is what drugs pushes you to do.

20 The other two are still on drugs. And every year
21 I still get Christmas cards off of those four people.

22 Q. I think you stopped that after a while and you had your
23 own firm for a bit?

24 A. It came to a stage where people were starting to depend
25 on me too much. I was getting phone calls at 2.00 and
3.00 in the morning, and to help them I had to pull

1 myself away from it, because that's not the way to do
2 things. They should be dependent on themselves, not
3 other people.

4 And then I went and I started up a security firm
5 doing security for Technip, which is a diving support
6 agency. And I ended up working -- getting a contract
7 with Forth Ports Plc, doing their security. And I had
8 people in Rotterdam looking after their diving support
9 ships.

10 And then I had a massive heart attack and I gave the
11 company to my sons. And my sons thought that they could
12 sit in the office with their feet up, and everything
13 comes to them. No, your clients have to see you all the
14 time, and I ended up losing it.

15 Q. 'Peter', you have told us a bit about the impact, the
16 effects that your time at Balgowan had on you. I wonder
17 if you can just help us with the lessons that you think
18 we should be taking from experiences, like yourself and
19 other boys who were at schools like that?

20 A. The way this is set up, the Child Abuse Inquiry, when
21 there is groups like this set up, teachers do not get
22 out of line.

23 Way back then, we never had inquiries like this.
24 And way back then, if we did have inquiries like this,
25 it was either, 'Shut up', and, 'We can push it under the

1 carpet'. I have seen too much of that. I have even
2 seen that when I was a community worker out in
3 Wester Hailes. There was: if you do it that way ...

4 I was even asked one day: if you do it this way,
5 [QF], you will get promoted.

6 I don't want a promotion. I want this done right.
7 That is why I gave my life to try to help other -- there
8 are 4.6 million children per year goes missing and
9 nobody knows where they are. And that is all going to
10 change, because we are just around the corner from all
11 that stopping, because there is groups like this,
12 starting to dig into evidence, which is a good thing.
13 It is all going to stop, and it is going to stop. There
14 are things happening around the world that nobody knows
15 about that I know about. And it is going to be -- life
16 is going to be good for everybody.

17 Q. Well, I think we all absolutely hope that, 'Peter'.

18 A. It is. It is, and it is going to be within the next
19 six months. Please believe me.

20 MR SHELDON: 'Peter', I have asked you a lot of questions,
21 and pushed you for details of what happened to you.

22 I have nothing else that I want to ask you. Is there
23 anything else you would like to say to us that you feel
24 you haven't had the chance to say?

25 A. Well, I would like to thank her Ladyship for giving me

1 the opportunity to speak about my experience when I was
2 young. And the team, and [REDACTED], who is very
3 professional, and the people [REDACTED] put me on to,
4 Birthlink, who gave me all of the information. I got
5 more information through Birthlink than what I did from
6 any council that I asked for -- to give me information
7 on my time in Balgowan and that.

8 Even I was in the hospital three times. I asked
9 them to give me the evidence of my fractured skull, my
10 tonsils out, because I wanted to know who gave Balgowan
11 the permission to take my tonsils out. Did my mother --
12 was my mother asked about that? No, she wasn't.

13 And the information I got -- I have all of my
14 medical history, but it only starts with 1986. So the
15 Balgowan time is not there. They didn't even know that
16 I had my tonsils out or I had a fractured skull, and
17 I think that was wrong. Because I got more from
18 Birthlink about my ancestors, right back to 1870, and
19 they can't give me information from 1965, 1966, 1967,
20 1968, 1969. And it was one agency, Tayside Council,
21 labelled me as an inmate, but now I have big apologies,
22 saying it was the wrong word to use, when they called me
23 an inmate. I asked them: what was an inmate? I didn't
24 see myself as an inmate.

25 I never asked to go to a place where there was

1 people who stabbed people, or steal, or tell lies about
2 people or anything. I only skipped school. Sit me down
3 and work out the problems. Instead you are sending me
4 away to there, where my mother -- she lost her husband
5 that she loved and everything like that, and the
6 relationship I have with my family now is entirely
7 different to what I would have had, if they didn't put
8 me in Balgowan. That relationship is not there. That
9 was taken away from me.

10 But I want to thank her Ladyship for giving me the
11 chance to say my piece, and hopefully this will help me
12 for the rest of the time I have got left to helping
13 people.

14 MR SHELDON: Well, thank you, 'Peter'.

15 A. Thank you, David.

16 LADY SMITH: 'Peter', let me add my gratitude to you, for
17 coming along today and for giving us as much as you have
18 done --

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: -- in making your past come alive. I know some
21 of it was not good, but you have also been very fair to
22 make sure I understand what, as you look back, was good
23 about it. That of itself helps us to learn, so I am
24 really glad that I got that as well from you. Sounds
25 like Birthlink have done a good job, and it is nice to

1 finish on a good note such as that.

2 A. Thank you, your Ladyship.

3 LADY SMITH: I am able to let you go now, 'Peter', and try
4 to have a more restful day for the rest of the day than
5 you have up until now.

6 A. Thank you very much. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 (The witness withdrew)

9 LADY SMITH: Now, I will take a short break while we get
10 organised for the next witness. But, before I rise to
11 do that, some names of people who aren't to be
12 identified outside of this room. At one point, the
13 witness used his own name, but there was also Mr LIF ,
14 Mr LSB , LID [REDACTED] , Mr IQH , Mr IQI ,
15 Mr LIO , Mr ERM and Mr LUP and a boy called
16 [REDACTED] . They are all entitled to have their
17 identity protected and I ask that everybody respects
18 that. Thank you.

19 If I give you about ten minutes or so, ten or
20 15 minutes.

21 MR SHELDON: I believe ten minutes should be sufficient, my
22 Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 (2.27 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (2.36 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who is
4 anonymous and to be known as 'Chelsea'.

5 LADY SMITH: 'Chelsea', good afternoon. Can you hear me all
6 right?

7 A. Yes, I can.

8 LADY SMITH: Let me begin by apologising for keeping you
9 waiting because I know you were expecting to start at
10 2.00 and, in the event, the evidence of the previous
11 witness took a bit longer than expected.

12 A. That's okay.

13 LADY SMITH: If you are ready to start now, I am ready to
14 start now.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: I would like to begin, if I may, by asking you
17 to raise your right hand, as I have just done, and
18 repeat after me.

19 'Chelsea' (affirmed)

20 LADY SMITH: Now, 'Chelsea', a couple of things before we
21 start. It's really important to me to do anything I can
22 to help you give your evidence as comfortably as you
23 can. I know it is not easy agreeing to engage with us
24 and become involved in the presentation of evidence in
25 one of our Inquiry hearings. But I am really grateful

1 to you for agreeing to do that. You must let me know
2 if, for example, you want a break, or if you are not
3 following what we are asking. If you are not, it is our
4 fault, not yours, and we need to explain things better.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: Or if you have any questions about anything, at
7 any time, don't hesitate to speak up; okay?

8 A. Okay.

9 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to Ms Forbes
10 and she will take it from there; okay?

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

13 A. Thank you.

14 Questions by Ms Forbes

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, thank you.

16 Good afternoon, 'Chelsea'. I think you have
17 a folder with you, is that right, a red folder of your
18 statement?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If you could go to the last page of that statement,
21 please, it is page 38 and paragraph 177.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you see that? That's where you make a declaration,
24 and you say -- I will read it out:

25 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 And you have signed that and it is dated 6 February
5 of this year?

6 A. Yes. That's me, yes.

7 Q. Is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. If you could just go back to the beginning of
10 your statement now, and just for our records, 'Chelsea',
11 that statement has a reference number, so I am going to
12 read out the reference number, so we have it in our
13 records. It is WIT-1-000001383.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So, 'Chelsea', you have only recently given your
16 statement to the Inquiry. So thank you for coming
17 forward. I am just going to ask you some questions,
18 first of all, about your life, your early life before
19 you went into care. I think you tell us you were born
20 in 1973; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you lived in Dundee, I think originally with your
23 mum, your brother and your sister?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you were the oldest; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think, though, at times you were living with your mum
3 and at times with your nan, I think you call her; is
4 that right?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. Your mum's mum?

7 A. Yes, that's right.

8 Q. You say, from what you can remember, social work were
9 involved in your lives growing up?

10 A. Yes, I remember them from primary school. I started at
11 Longhaugh Primary School, in Dundee, and Whitfield, and
12 I remember social workers coming and taking me out of
13 school and things like that, taking me back to the house
14 to get washed. I must have been smelly, that kind of
15 thing. Or turning up at school, at all hours of the
16 morning, 4 o'clock, 5 o'clock, in summer time, not --
17 because I didn't know the time and things like that,
18 with my brother and sister. We would always be taken
19 back to the house for something, yes. Sometimes they
20 opened the door, sometimes they didn't. It just
21 depended what happened from there.

22 But that's the earliest I can remember the
23 involvement. They must have been close to us, and
24 things like that.

25 Q. I think what you describe in your statement, 'Chelsea',

1 is a sort of neglect at home from your mum; is that
2 right?

3 A. Yes, it was child abuse and neglect. It became child
4 abuse. It started with neglect.

5 Q. You tell us she was an alcoholic. So she had that
6 problem; is that right?

7 A. Yes, there was -- it is hard to explain. There were
8 three women. There was my mum and her two best friends,
9 and they all had issues, and they all had a certain type
10 of work, for want of a better word, so they'd be -- we'd
11 be on our own and they would be out all night and
12 whatever. Sometimes she'd be there when we got up,
13 sometimes she wouldn't, that kind of thing. Yes, she
14 definitely had major issues.

15 Q. I think you tell us, 'Chelsea', it was maybe the school
16 that got the social work involved to begin with; maybe
17 they were worried about you?

18 A. Well, I wouldn't know. I wouldn't know. All I remember
19 is them coming in and saying that I had to come -- they
20 were really nice. I was really young, so it was kind of
21 like, 'Do you want to come in the car? We will take you
22 over to your house', sort of thing, you know? So, yes,
23 that's when I remember it from, primary. Taking me
24 home. Yes.

25 Q. So it seems like, you know, things at home were a bit

1 chaotic, to say the least, at that time?

2 A. Mm-hm. Yes. It really was, yes.

3 Q. I think you then went on to high school, and that was

4 Morgan Academy, was it, in Dundee?

5 A. Yes, they took me to see Whitfield High School. But

6 because of the issues with bullying at primary school,

7 for the reasons that I would be taken home, being smelly

8 or whatever, they thought it would be better to move me

9 to a different high school for a fresher start.

10 So, yes, I went up to Morgan Academy. The catchment

11 was Whitfield High School, though, at that point.

12 Q. So you were having to travel outwith the sort of

13 catchment area for the school you were going to?

14 A. Yes, mm-hm.

15 Q. Does that mean the children from the school you went to,

16 at Morgan Academy, they weren't necessarily people in

17 your local area?

18 A. Yes. They weren't, they weren't.

19 Q. I think there came a time when your mum got a partner

20 and I think you say that's when things got worse for

21 you?

22 A. My mum had actually married when she was young to

23 somebody who was prolific -- my brother's father. And

24 he was prolific, in and out of jail. He ended up

25 committing suicide in Perth Prison, but there was

1 domestic abuse then, apparently, as well.

2 But, yes, she did, while I was going up to high
3 school, sort of thing, meet up with the new partner,
4 yes.

5 Q. I think you say, at that time, you were maybe up at your
6 nan's staying, but your mum wanted you back in the
7 house?

8 A. Yes, she had got -- because her partner, this one she
9 actually was moving in with, had three sons of his own,
10 they needed a bigger house, apparently, than the one in
11 Whitfield. So they were given a five bedroomed house or
12 something in another area in Kirkton, in Dundee. So it
13 was a case of -- I don't know why, but she wanted me
14 back. I believe it was to be a babysitter for all of
15 the younger kids, because that's what I turned out to be
16 at first.

17 So, yes, my nan couldn't say no, because I wasn't
18 living with her legally, if you know -- that kind of
19 thing. So, yes, I went back to live there. Sorry, yes,
20 in Kirkton.

21 Q. I think you say this new partner of your mum's was also
22 an alcoholic?

23 A. Yes, he very much is, yes. Was.

24 Q. And I think you then tell us that, you know, things at
25 home with your mum and him weren't great at that time;

1 can you tell us what was happening?

2 A. It was horrific, absolutely horrific. We would be
3 beaten day and night. I don't know if she was getting
4 beaten as well.

5 I don't call her my mum, because I don't see her as
6 my mum. I just say 'she'.

7 Yes, predominantly it went out to me and [REDACTED],
8 that got most of the beatings. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
9 would be starved or beaten. His kids were looked after,
10 his three boys. We were made to do everything, if you
11 know what I mean. Cooking, cleaning, the whole lot.
12 Babysitting. They would go from Kirkton back to
13 Whitfield every day for the pub that the -- that kept up
14 that side of things. So they would be gone and we would
15 be just left. And it was quite peaceful with the women
16 in the house at night, we quite enjoyed it, until they
17 were coming back. And then we would just be beaten to
18 a pulp again, dragged out of bed. We would be hiding in
19 the rooms. My brother would be trying to fight him off
20 with -- not my mum. My mum wouldn't be hitting us, it
21 would be [REDACTED], in the house. But my brother would be
22 trying to fight him with things and that, as well. It
23 was horrific. Every day. Without fail.

24 Q. So this was physical abuse from your mum's partner at
25 that time?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. Had you moved then to Kirkton High School from Morgan
3 High School?

4 A. Yes, just started there. I wasn't long at Kirkton High
5 School, yes. And -- yes.

6 Q. I think something happened that changed things for you
7 when you went to high school one day; can you tell us
8 about that?

9 A. I hadn't slept the night before because [REDACTED] had lost
10 his temper, for want of a better word. So we spent half
11 the night scared and getting hit and whatever else, so
12 we were tired. I was tired anyway. And I was black and
13 blue.

14 But I went to PE in the school. The first two
15 periods were PE, and I don't know what happened, but I
16 passed out, anyway. I fainted, and I remember the
17 ambulance, a bit of the ambulance, and then I must have
18 went to sleep again.

19 But I got up in hospital, in the bed, and there was
20 all kinds of folk around me. And my mum was trying to
21 get in to see me, and they were trying to stop her from
22 getting in to see me. And it was chaotic, I remember.

23 So, yeah, I was in there because -- and then --
24 I don't know how far you want me to go with this. But
25 I was bruised, and, yes, it took on its own life then.

1 Q. You were in Ninewells Hospital; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And they noticed you had injuries on your body; is that
4 correct?

5 A. Mm-hm, yes.

6 Q. Did you tell them how you got those injuries?

7 A. They asked my mum first. She had gotten in the room and
8 was telling me what to say and what not to say, and to
9 keep this shut and, you know what I mean, all the rest.

10 And by this time I wasn't -- do you know what
11 I mean, I didn't want her anywhere near me. And when
12 they came in, they were like, 'What's happened?', and
13 she's gone, 'Oh, I don't know what happened. She is
14 clumsy. She's doing this. She probably done that', and
15 then I said, 'Her boyfriend, he doesn't stop', sort of
16 thing. They knew anyway. By the looks of it, they
17 knew.

18 So they kept me in. They made sure she couldn't
19 come near me from that point. And then I had to stay in
20 the hospital. I think I was in for a few days, because
21 I had to go with -- I believe it to be an educational
22 psychologist, or psychotherapist or something, someone
23 like that. They took me down to a room and done these
24 testings and things with me.

25 And when I was released from hospital, there was

1 another social worker involved, but they wouldn't let me
2 go back to that house and they put (indistinct).

3 Q. When you left hospital; did you go first to your nan's
4 house --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- for a little while?

7 A. Yes, mm-hm.

8 Q. I think you tell us there was an incident where your mum
9 came to your nan's house and she wasn't happy about the
10 fact that --

11 A. It was within 24 hours of being out she first came over,
12 and she was letting rip. I don't know what happened
13 between that, with them and the police or social.
14 I don't know, because obviously I wasn't there. So
15 something must have happened. Or she must have been
16 fighting with [REDACTED], or something. But she came in,
17 she was absolutely raging, absolutely raging, and
18 I shouldn't have opened my mouth. How could I?

19 And she was just calling out my nan, and my nan is
20 trying to stop her from pulling and punching at me and
21 all kinds of stuff. I am trying to get out of the door
22 and my mum's on my head and she is on my face. My nan
23 accidentally hit me trying to get her off. By this
24 time, I got the door open, because it was one of those
25 turn Yale --

1 LADY SMITH: A Yale lock, yes.

2 A. Yes. I just turned it and I ran. I just ran. And
3 I was greeting by then, so I don't know where I was
4 going. But then I got to the end of [REDACTED],
5 which was my nan's road, then I went to the public phone
6 box. I had the social worker involved's number, and
7 I phoned him and said what happened. He told me not to
8 go far and he would come and get me.

9 Q. I think then, did he come and take you? I think first
10 you went back to your mum's house, but he left you in
11 the car, and he then took you to Burnside; is that
12 right?

13 A. Yes, Peter didn't drive, so it was somebody else
14 driving. And they took me back to Kirkton and stopped
15 at my mum's house. And it came down to -- they couldn't
16 put me back in the house with [REDACTED] there, I would
17 suppose, and they gave her the option of him or me and,
18 well, I went to Burnside. So it was a case of that's
19 how it went.

20 So Burnside wasn't far from the house anyway. I had
21 never heard of Burnside before, not even from Kirkton
22 High. I had never heard of Burnside. But he took me
23 literally [REDACTED] to
24 Burnside.

25 Q. 'Chelsea', how old were you at that time?

1 A. I would put me as 12 or 13.

2 Q. Okay. And were you told how long you would be staying
3 at Burnside for?

4 A. No, no, I wasn't even told it was an assessment centre
5 or anything like that. It was just like, I was going
6 there.

7 Q. Okay. So were you given any information about what was
8 going to happen to you next?

9 A. Not a thing. I just saw the high walls. At first
10 I thought it was a jail, the outside walls. And then
11 I just thought: I am away from them.

12 Nothing was told to me about what I was going to be
13 doing there, what it was like inside. It was too quick,
14 I think, the whole thing happening. So no.

15 Q. And I think there is a bit of your statement, 'Chelsea',
16 paragraph 17, just before I go on to talk about
17 Burnside, where you make a statement there, you say:

18 'The care system saved me. If I hadn't passed out
19 in PE that time I don't know what would have happened to
20 me.'

21 A. I kind of can figure now what would have happened,
22 considering what's happened to my siblings and his own
23 kids, so yes. Although it had its moments, it did save
24 me.

25 Q. So this is you looking back and knowing, with the

1 benefit of hindsight, what's happened to your siblings
2 and the kind of life they have had; that, for you, was
3 something that you think saved you?

4 A. Definitely. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. I am going to move on now, 'Chelsea', and just
6 talk about some of your time at Burnside. I think you
7 have said there that you thought it was sort of like
8 a prison; it looked like a jail or something, as you
9 went up to it?

10 A. Mm-hm. Yes. It didn't have, like, bars, or, but it was
11 high walls on the outside and it was quite bland
12 looking. It's grey, to be honest. But, yeah, it did,
13 yeah, for somebody that's no -- for a kid, yes, it looks
14 like a prison.

15 Q. I think you tell us a little bit in your statement about
16 the sort of units that they were in, in Burnside. This
17 is paragraph 20 I am looking at.

18 It says there was a junior unit for the young ones,
19 and there was an assessment unit. You say that's where
20 most folk ended up, and that was your age group mostly.
21 Then there was a PA 1, who were a couple of years,
22 a year or two older?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And a PA 2, who were the kids who were ready to leave?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. At that time, when you were there, that's how you
2 remember the set up being?

3 A. Definitely, yes.

4 Q. I think you say, first of all you went to the juniors;
5 is that right?

6 A. I did. I went down when I first went in -- I don't
7 know. I mean, when you first go in Burnside, you open
8 the front door and then there is a locked door, but in
9 between that there is the office. They let you in the
10 other door. But, yes, so I went into assessment, to
11 juniors. That was the first unit I was in, yes.

12 Q. So, just thinking, then, 'Chelsea', back to your first
13 arrival at Burnside; how did you feel arriving there?

14 A. Very small. Very -- I remember looking at Peter, the
15 social worker looked like Columbo, he had the jacket and
16 the (indistinct), so I felt very safe with him, because
17 I knew that he was nice.

18 But, yes, I remember thinking: with a locked door
19 and that in the office.

20 And staff were nice, but I remember thinking: no,
21 no, where am I going?

22 But yes.

23 Q. I think you mentioned you had to go through the locked
24 doors; is that when you started wondering what kind of
25 place it was?

1 A. Yes, because you initially go through the front door and
2 then there is a locked door the staff let you through.
3 The rest of the doors are open.

4 But you had to go left to go up the stairs for
5 assessment, in PA 1 and 2. But, to go to juniors, you
6 will to go through another door and to your left to the
7 kitchens and down. So I got to experience all that
8 first, the bottom floor at Burnside, and it is big.

9 So, when I was going through the kitchen, I was
10 trying to take everything in. And then when I went
11 through the door and down the ramp, the ramp threw me at
12 first, I remember that, because I thought, 'Oh',
13 I remember thinking this must be for disabled. And
14 then, yes, I remember going in the units. The unit is
15 quite bland. It was rubber seats and everything like
16 that, and a couple of bedrooms. Again, the staff were
17 lovely.

18 Q. Okay. I think you say this junior unit, where you were
19 initially, you were given a bedroom there; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that was on your own?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At paragraph 28, I think you say that was clean and you
25 had never had that before?

1 A. Yes, it was clean, clean bedding. There was nothing in
2 the room. It was the wipeable floors, there was a bed
3 and the unit, but it was the best thing for me. Yes,
4 and it was right next to the lounge, as well, the room
5 that I was in.

6 Q. Was that an issue, the fact that it was right next to
7 the lounge?

8 A. No, I just -- it was a small area, juniors. So, yes --
9 no, it wasn't an issue. It was quite handy. I could
10 hear people. So, yes, it was okay.

11 Q. I think you tell us, 'Chelsea', you were only in there
12 for a week and then you were put to the assessment unit?

13 A. I was, yes. Yes, I went there. But, I mean, a lot
14 happened in that week, like things I had never
15 experienced before. Like I put on the notes, clothing
16 grants and things like that. A lot had changed in that
17 week, yes.

18 Q. You are talking about the fact that you were given
19 a clothing grant to go and buy clothes, and you were
20 able to have -- to do that?

21 A. Yes. It was really the case because the staff come --
22 because I had nothing. I had no belongings. So, in
23 Burnside, they gave me my uniform, so I just thought
24 that's how it went. I didn't know you got any other
25 clothes or things like that.

1 But once staff had come along to say that they had
2 gotten some money and they were going to take me down
3 town for clothes, and I thought they were lying, but
4 that's what happened, yes. So it was a big thing. It
5 was a huge thing, because I had never picked clothes, or
6 done anything like that.

7 Q. Were you also given some clothes by Burnside? I think
8 you described it as a sort of uniform-type --

9 A. Yes, there was a uniform. It was a uniform, we all had
10 it, yes. We were allowed to wear our own clothes if we
11 had meetings or were going out the building, but if you
12 were in you had to wear the uniform.

13 Q. You tell us about that. You describe it at
14 paragraph 37:

15 'It was Husky jumpers, Husky t-shirts, flared jeans
16 and Barcelona trairers.'

17 A. Terry towelling socks, and it had your number -- you had
18 your number and it was pinned on to your clothing.

19 Q. So each person was given a number; did you have to sew
20 it into your clothes?

21 A. No, no, you were given it. I think it was predominantly
22 for laundry.

23 Q. This clothing grant was for you to go and buy other
24 clothes you could wear at different times?

25 A. I got fashionable clothes, yes. They took me down town

1 and let me pick things, yes. I actually met my sister
2 when I was out doing it, and that broke my heart, yes.
3 It was such a different world, do you know what I mean.
4 It was an eye-opener.

5 Q. And so this was new to you?

6 A. Oh yes, mm-hm.

7 Q. This is all happening in the first week?

8 A. Yes. They got me clothes and underwear, and, yes,
9 everything.

10 Q. I think you tell us that once you moved from the junior
11 unit you went to the assessment unit. I think there,
12 again, you are given your own room; is that right?

13 A. Yes, it had two beds in it. So I did think, obviously,
14 someone would be put in there with me, because there was
15 a room across from me with the same and they had two or
16 three people in there. So, yes, I did think that
17 somebody would be moved in with me. But, yes, I had it
18 to myself.

19 Q. So the whole time you were in that unit that was your
20 bedroom on your own; is that right?

21 A. There was somebody in for a night, I believe, at some
22 point, but just a night, yes.

23 Q. And --

24 A. It had a bathroom within it.

25 Q. So there was an en suite in the room?

1 A. I'm going to say -- I have thought about it, and I would
2 think it would have been a staffroom at some point,
3 rather than -- because of the bathroom, though. The
4 other rooms had that, so maybe it was that at some
5 point.

6 Q. So, from what you saw at Burnside, your room was
7 a little bit different, in that you had this extra
8 facility of a separate bathroom for you only?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. I think you describe it as being quite modern as well,
11 at that time?

12 A. Underfloor heating was modern. I have never experienced
13 that before. The floors were warm and it had a dial,
14 yes.

15 Q. Maybe some people still don't have that now.

16 A. Yes, there you go, it was modern. That's what leads me
17 to believe somebody else would have had that room;
18 staff.

19 Q. We move forward in your statement a little bit,
20 'Chelsea', but I want to go back to a point in your
21 statement, paragraph 24, when you tell us about the
22 staff in general. One of the things you say is, when
23 you were there the staff were all male; is that right?

24 A. In assessment. In juniors, they did have a female. For
25 the life of me, I will never remember a female in

1 assessment. Night staff they did, who would sit at the
2 end. There was one. You never interacted with them.
3 They sat at the end of the assessment unit, in the
4 corridor.

5 But, yes, there was no female staff in assessment.
6 It was all male. Yes, different sizes, and, yes.

7 Q. Okay. I think you describe them as sort of ex-prison
8 officers, ex-army types?

9 A. Oh yes. We had -- yes, there was definitely -- there
10 was a body building one. There was a shorter one.
11 There was all types. [REDACTED] was one, [REDACTED].
12 Yes, it was all types.

13 Q. Okay. Just thinking a little bit forward; did that
14 cause you a little bit of issue, particularly when it
15 came to things like having to buy underwear as you got
16 older and talk about things that a girl would need to
17 talk about with someone?

18 A. It did become -- as you will see further on, it did
19 become an issue. I had never thought about it, because
20 I was a child, so I never thought of it in that way,
21 until some things started changing with me.

22 Q. This is you going in, aged about 12 or 13, then things
23 are going to change over the years for you while you are
24 there, physically?

25 A. Yes, yes. Hitting puberty, yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us about the routine, 'Chelsea'. I am
2 not going to go into too much detail about that. But
3 I think what you say is, you would get up in the morning
4 and the way that they would wake you up is they would
5 knock on the the window of the room?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. So there was a window that looked out from the room into
8 the hallway?

9 A. Yes. You opened the door, and my bed was to the left of
10 the door and the window was above the bed. So it was
11 one of the windows with the little wired bits in it,
12 that look like little squares. It was quite a big
13 window, so they would just knock and say, 'Up'.

14 Q. I think you described it as sort of safety glass; is
15 that the case?

16 A. Yes, it would be, yes.

17 Q. And I think you said there wasn't any locks on the
18 bedroom doors?

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. So you couldn't lock it from the inside?

21 A. No. I could the bathroom. It had the little turn, but
22 I couldn't. If I was in a bad mood, I would put the bed
23 up against it.

24 Q. I think when you tell us about the routine, you say you
25 would get up in the morning, go for breakfast; where did

1 that take place?

2 A. Down in the kitchen. So it wasn't a very -- I mean, it
3 was a big enough kitchen, but I don't know how they did
4 it with all the units. Us and juniors met up a lot in
5 the kitchen for meals. So PA 1 and PA 2, I don't know
6 if they ate in their units, or you know what I mean. I
7 don't know how they worked it, but we predominantly ate
8 at the same time as juniors.

9 Q. Then, after breakfast, you would go up to the lounge;
10 was that the lounge in the assessment unit?

11 A. Yes, I know what's coming.

12 Q. I am not sure; is there something --

13 A. Oh, sorry. I thought you were going back up the -- I am
14 sorry.

15 Q. I'm just going through the routine a little bit with you
16 'Chelsea'.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. I think you said the staff would bring you a cigarette?

19 A. That's it, yes.

20 Q. Oh, right, okay.

21 A. Yes, there had to be, as I believed at the time -- I
22 mean, I didn't smoke. I wasn't even round it or
23 anything like that, but because everybody else was doing
24 it, I tried it, and all the rest. I got in to it.

25 So everybody said, the staff, had to have the smoker

1 form signed by the social worker at 14. So I wasn't
2 quite 14, but he signed it anyway, so, yes. And I was
3 allowed 6 cigarettes a day. So your first one was after
4 breakfast, sorry, yes.

5 Q. Okay. You didn't smoke before you went in, but, once
6 you were in Burnside, you kind of took it up?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. I think then you say there was some schooling,
9 then, but I think you talk about that a little bit
10 later. We will come to that in a minute.

11 I think you say then after school you would have
12 your; is it your dinner?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. And then there would be some free time?

15 A. Yes, you would come up, you would have a break in the
16 morning from the school, you would have a break around
17 10.00/10.30. 10.30 I would say. You would maybe get
18 a cigarette then, that would be your second. And then
19 your lunch, 12.00/12.30. We will get in to it about the
20 school, but it is not what you are imagining a school
21 would be. It was kind of a place where we went while
22 they done stuff, changed the beds or -- so, yes, and
23 after lunch I don't even remember going back half the
24 time, so I think it was a half day --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- half the time, yes.

2 Q. I think, 'Chelsea', in your statement, at about
3 paragraph 42, you say in the afternoons you would
4 generally just be in your rooms or at meetings, perhaps,
5 if there was a meeting in relation to you.

6 A. And in the lounge, yes.

7 Q. But I think you point out that it wasn't the case that
8 you could just go somewhere and leave the building, go
9 to a shop or something like that?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. The whole entire unit was locked.

12 A. That one door was the -- the one door to the outside was
13 always locked, where the office was. So you couldn't
14 get out there without them, unless you went out the fire
15 exit, you weren't getting out; do you know what I mean?

16 Q. And what about things to do in there?

17 A. They had the rec, that was at the bottom of the school.
18 And that had, like, climbing frame, you could play with
19 a ball in there. There was nothing, there was nothing.

20 But, in the assessment, I suppose we had it a bit
21 better. There was a pool room table, just off the
22 lounge, through a door and there was a pool room table.
23 Predominantly boys in there, though, playing the pool
24 and doing their things.

25 From that point of view, it was a boring place. You

1 weren't allowed out in the grounds. There wasn't
2 anything to do in the grounds anyway. And it was a big
3 place, so they had loads of grounds, but we never used
4 them.

5 Q. So large outside grounds, but you weren't allowed
6 outside to have a walk in them?

7 A. No, no, no.

8 Q. 'Chelsea', I think --

9 A. I didn't even see the older ones, sorry, the PA 1s and
10 PA 2s, they weren't even out there.

11 Q. So that was the sort of standard, nobody got out?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you say you weren't allowed to go to the cinema, the
14 shops, things like that?

15 A. No, there was none of that. We had two outings while
16 I was in there, but that was it the whole duration I was
17 in there. Until we started, like, going to outside
18 school and things.

19 Q. Before I leave that part about things to do, I think you
20 mention, at paragraph 43, there was an art room. But,
21 from your point of view, that was never used, nobody
22 used any of the things in there?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. So just moving on, then, 'Chelsea', to the
25 'school' that they had at Burnside, I think you just

1 said earlier in your evidence it wasn't like what you
2 would imagine a school?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Can you describe what would happen there?

5 A. Yes, I feel sorry for the teacher, you know what I mean,
6 but it was just noise. Flying about, throwing stuff.
7 It was a mixture of everybody in there. So, aye, it was
8 chaotic. It was a mess. The teachers were -- the
9 teacher was brave.

10 But, no, there was no work being done, absolutely
11 not. She had a phone in the room, so if anybody was
12 kicking off she would phone up somewhere. And we
13 couldn't get out of the school, but you would be locked
14 in that -- not in the actual school room. You had to go
15 through a hall, they would open the door, and then you
16 would go down to the school rooms and the gym, the rec.
17 But, yes, there was -- we weren't doing no work, no.

18 Q. And this was all age groups that were in Burnside mixed
19 together?

20 A. Not the bigger ones, PA 2 and that, we didn't see them
21 there. It was some PA 1, some PA 1, but mostly juniors
22 and us, yes.

23 Q. I think you tell us that after a few months of that
24 there was a staff member there who put you back into
25 mainstream school and you went back to Morgan Academy;

1 is that right?

2 A. We had a meeting, yes. It was actually after the
3 Children's Panel, because they discussed it at the
4 Children's Panel as well, about going to school outwith,
5 and I was up for it.

6 So, yes, we tried it. But, by this time, I was --
7 I think I was gone, and I didn't know how to handle any
8 of it. And it was Morgan Academy still, so I had to get
9 the bus from -- it was a bit different. I had to walk
10 up to the top of Kirkton from Burnside, find out what
11 bus to get on, get all the way to the Hilltown to get
12 off, to get another bus. It was quite a -- yes, it was
13 different.

14 Q. So that didn't work out, even though you were initially
15 keen to go and get some schooling?

16 A. Yes, I tried it and I tried it, and, yes, and that ...

17 Q. Then did you go to a one-to-one place?

18 A. Yes, I went -- well, I actually did some lunch clubs and
19 that, they put me out for some lunch clubs. That was
20 further on, further on down the line.

21 I went to one-to-one schooling. But, yes, that
22 worked, that worked, but I think it closed down. I
23 think that was the reason then.

24 Then a few things happened and I went to Ann Street,
25 and I did go to school from there.

1 Q. You mentioned that there were a couple of trips out
2 later on, they were sort of ones that you were taken by
3 staff to; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The first one you tell us about is at paragraph 50. You
6 say that there was someone who took you down to watch
7 the Tayside Tigers, or, back then, the Dundee Rockets?

8 A. Yes, he took the whole unit. Yes, I think he had to get
9 the permission for a while, because we knew about it
10 before it actually happened. But there was a minibus as
11 well. And I don't remember it being Burnside's minibus,
12 because I don't ever remember seeing a minibus sat
13 there. But it happened anyway, and it was the best
14 thing ever, yes.

15 Q. So that was your first trip out from Burnside?

16 A. Yes, yes, and I think the staff that took us was
17 a trainer for the Dundee Rockets, at that point, which
18 made it better, because he knew them all, and we got to
19 see them.

20 Q. So, from what you were saying, I think you explained
21 that was the greatest thing that had happened at that
22 point?

23 A. It was a good match, yes. It was really good, because
24 I had never seen it before or heard about it, you know.
25 Yes, we all enjoyed it, yes.

1 Q. Then you mentioned another trip out, 'Chelsea', where
2 you went to the Edinburgh Playhouse to see the
3 Proclaimers, and out for an Indian meal at the same
4 time?

5 A. Yes. Yes, that was unreal, because we had never been
6 out of Dundee. So, yes, we went away to Edinburgh. It
7 was night time. Never heard of the Proclaimers then,
8 either. But we went up there, and we were up in the
9 aisles dancing, and it was a good night, yes.

10 Q. So, from that point of view, there was a couple of fond
11 memories from that time at Burnside, anyway?

12 A. Yes, yes, there were.

13 Q. But you never went away on any holidays as such with the
14 centre?

15 A. No.

16 Q. I think you tell us that there weren't any chores that
17 you were expected to do whilst you were there. It was
18 sort of this education, if you went to it, or meetings.
19 But, apart from that, there wasn't anything formal that
20 you were expected to do?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. You say that there was a time that you built up trust
23 with the staff there, and then they would let you out at
24 the weekend; that was after some time?

25 A. Yes, mm-hm. It wasn't like in your first couple of

1 weeks for everybody. It was -- yes, you had to have
2 a permission pass, and you had to -- yes, that kind of
3 thing. And then you would be let out for some hours,
4 yes.

5 Q. And I think you ended up going to work at a fifty plus
6 lunch club in Whitfield?

7 A. Yes, it kind of ties in, because the person who went on
8 to foster me had something to do with that anyway. So,
9 yes, I did, and it was in Whitfield again. So I had to
10 travel from Kirkton to Whitfield, and I loved it, loved
11 it.

12 It was every Thursday lunch club, and he would come
13 along and meet me there, and go back to work when I went
14 back. So, yes, I loved it. It was good. And I got to
15 know all the people, and it gave me a sense of purpose
16 at that point. I remember thinking it was big, yes,
17 doing all this stuff for people.

18 Q. And were you about 13 at that time 'Chelsea'? Can you
19 remember?

20 A. Yes, 13. Would have been, yes, definitely.

21 Q. Whilst you were in Burnside; did you ever have contact
22 with your family?

23 A. None. And I didn't come to think about it until all
24 this. But there was none. I never seen them again.

25 Well, I seen them up the town in some states when

1 I was with staff, but that was it. I never seen them
2 from the day I went into Burnside.

3 Q. You mentioned just there, 'Chelsea', in your evidence,
4 a man who got you involved with this club in Whitfield,
5 and he then later went on to foster you.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us about him a little bit more, just a little
8 bit back in your statement, at paragraph 22; is that
9 [REDACTED]?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. So who was he in relation to Burnside?

12 A. He was -- well, something else had happened, and he was
13 the man who came when something else was happening, and
14 I met him through that. And I believe he was [REDACTED]
15 there, [REDACTED], whatever you want to call it. He was [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED], whatever it's called. [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED], I don't know. Still don't know his title, but
18 he was [REDACTED].

19 Q. Okay. So he was somebody [REDACTED], anyway, at
20 Burnside?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. And I think you have alluded there to a time when you
23 first met him. I think he wasn't somebody you met on
24 your first day or anything; is that right?

25 A. No, I was in there a wee bit by then. No, I hadn't met

1 him before.

2 Q. Now, this is a little bit later in your statement, but
3 we can talk about that just now, and I will ask you some
4 questions.

5 I think you tell us, in paragraph 65 of your
6 statement, about a time when, at night, when you were
7 sitting in the lounge in Burnside, not long after you
8 had arrived there; can you tell us about that,
9 'Chelsea'?

10 A. Right, I was sitting in the lounge. It was after tea
11 time. And I was on my own, so the telly was on, and
12 I can't remember what I was watching, but I was in there
13 anyway. And **KHX**, a member of staff, had come along.
14 I heard somebody coming along the corridor. He came
15 into the lounge and asked if I could come with him
16 because he wanted to have a chat. So you do, because he
17 is staff. So I did.

18 And I followed him along the corridors, through the
19 doors, and then we went through where the night staff
20 sit. There is another corridor, we went through there,
21 and there was a room that was locked, and he unlocked
22 this room, told me to go in and came in and locked the
23 door behind me. And it had art supplies in it, like you
24 have seen before. So I assume it was the art room it
25 had everything arty. So I am in there and he is telling

1 me to sit beside him, so I sat beside him. And he is
2 here on the table, and I was at this bit of the table,
3 beside him, and he was trying to cuddle me, and he was
4 like, 'Right, you have a Panel coming up', and I was
5 like, 'What do you mean? What's that?' because I --

6 LADY SMITH: Wondered what it was.

7 A. He was like, 'It's like you go to this meeting and they
8 decide if you stay or go, or what happens to you'. But
9 he was basically saying there was no room at the inn and
10 I would have to go home to my lot. I'm like, 'I can't
11 go there', I physically couldn't breath at one point.
12 I was crying, screaming, and he said, 'No, it's okay,
13 I can help you with this, come here', and I said, 'Get
14 off me, I can't go home, I can't go home'.

15 And he was like, 'Come here', he was standing up to
16 pull me back in to him, and I was like, 'Stay away from
17 me. I am not going home and I am not coming to sit
18 beside you', and he was trying -- he said, 'I could help
19 with you this, I could help you with this. Just come
20 here and sit down and talk to me quietly. Come here'.
21 And he was pulling me in, and I turned and had my arm to
22 him and I was like: no.

23 So I had a chair and all this, and I was screaming
24 at him to unlock the door. Because at some point I was
25 trying to unlock the door, but I couldn't unlock the

1 door because it was locked and I said unlock the door
2 because it was locked. I'm trying to get out, 'Unlock
3 the door', and he was like, 'Just come and sit', and he
4 kept trying to pull me back in.

5 By this time, I am really -- and I mean really
6 screaming, because at that point I clicked that he was
7 up to something, rather than -- well, no click. I had
8 a feeling, if you know what I mean, that there was more
9 to this and: why is he not opening the door? Do you
10 know what I mean?

11 And this went -- like -- it felt like this went on
12 for ages.

13 But, anyway, I was still going, and he was still
14 going, 'Come here', and trying to get me to go beside
15 him. I am still screaming and all of a sudden this man
16 opens the door, and he's saying, 'What the hell's going
17 on?', and he never said 'hell'. He said, 'What's going
18 on?', and then he told **KHX** to go to his office, and
19 then he sat in there with me, with the door unlocked and
20 open. And he just sat there for a while, calming me
21 down, and do you know what I mean, telling me that's not
22 how it worked, that's not how it is. And they weren't
23 saying I had to go home because that's not how it works,
24 and trying to explain the Panel.

25 So he sat a while with me in there, trying to calm

1 me down. I was a mess. But, anyway, I was telling him
2 that, 'He is not getting near me again' and all that,
3 you know, 'He is dodgy', and things like that, as you
4 say at that age.

5 But, yes, that's how I come to meet [REDACTED].

6 Q. So [REDACTED] is the person that came into the room and opened
7 the door, when this was going on with [REDACTED] KHX?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How long was it that you were at Burnside before this
10 happened?

11 A. Well, in between going in and the Panel, there couldn't
12 have been that long. It was a space of weeks; do you
13 know what I mean? I am going to go -- I will go three.
14 Because there wouldn't have been long in it. Three
15 weeks a month, maybe. I don't know.

16 Q. And you say he was saying to you, when you were getting
17 upset, 'Oh, I can help you with this'; did you have any
18 idea about what he meant by that?

19 A. He was like, 'Come on, I could help you with this, come
20 on, just come here'. So, no, I just felt -- not
21 initially felt dodgy, but towards the end very dodgy.

22 Q. 'Chelsea' --

23 A. He never got near me again.

24 Q. Sorry, 'Chelsea'.

25 When you were telling him, sorry, to open the door;

1 was he doing that?

2 A. No. No, he was still trying to grab me to come and sit
3 under his arm, you know what I mean. He just wasn't
4 listening.

5 Q. So this is him, from what you are describing, trying to
6 pull you in towards him for a cuddle?

7 A. Yes, that was exactly it. Pull me back into him, yes.

8 Q. But when [REDACTED], who you later find out is someone who is
9 [REDACTED] in some way in Burnside -- when [REDACTED] came in
10 and interrupted this, from what you have said, he then
11 explained to you that that wasn't the case; that you
12 wouldn't necessarily be going home?

13 A. Yes, like he didn't know what -- he would have to go and
14 talk to [REDACTED] KH[X]. He didn't know why he was saying that,
15 and that's not how it works. It is up to -- he
16 explained there was three people on the Panel, there was
17 a report, and that kind of thing. And then talked me
18 down, and he asked me if I was all right, if you know
19 what I mean. And if he had done anything, that kind of
20 thing.

21 And then, yes, I mean, I still didn't know who he
22 was at the time, [REDACTED]. He was just somebody that
23 unlocked the door, do you know what I mean. And I was
24 up to high doh, so, yes.

25 Then when I calmed, he did come and check on me

1 later as well, to see if I was okay. Because I didn't
2 go back to the lounge; I went to my room. And [REDACTED]
3 never came near me on that unit again, do you know what
4 I mean. He still worked there, but he never come near
5 me.

6 Q. He left you alone after that?

7 A. Aye, he never asked me to come to him again, or sit
8 beside him, he never -- nothing.

9 Q. Was there a time when he tried to apologise to you for
10 what had happened?

11 A. Yes, I think [REDACTED] made him, to be honest, yes.

12 Q. When was that? Was it close in time to what happened,
13 or was it --

14 A. Aye, it would have been the same night, I think, yes.
15 It would have been. I would have said something
16 like: stay away from me.

17 Q. From your perspective, 'Chelsea'; was there any reason
18 for him to lock that door that he took you to?

19 A. None. At the time, I didn't think nothing of it, going
20 into the door, but why did he not just sit in the
21 lounge?

22 Now, a few years later, why didn't he just sit in
23 the lounge and talk to me? I was the only one in there.
24 Why did I have to go to that room? I was 12/13, like
25 I said, so I didn't think anything of it. I just done

1 what the staff told me.

2 Q. When you had other meetings with the staff while you
3 were in Burnside, did that ever happen, them locking the
4 door with you?

5 A. No, nothing. No, never.

6 Q. So after [REDACTED] interrupts, this is somebody that you start
7 to build a good relationship with as a member of staff;
8 is that right?

9 A. Aye, I wouldn't say it was like then. I don't know if
10 I seen him the next day after that or the week after
11 that, I can't remember. But, yes, I suppose in time,
12 I don't know how or why, or whatever, but he became my
13 every day life in Burnside. Not in that kind of creepy
14 way. He was, like, in a nice, caring, sort of way.
15 Yes, he became a big part, yes.

16 Q. I think, 'Chelsea', you tell us about what would happen
17 in relation to discipline at Burnside, and that's
18 a little bit earlier in your statement, at paragraphs 59
19 and 60. I think the first you say was you would be
20 threatened with getting sent to Rossie Farm if you
21 didn't behave?

22 A. I didn't know what that was at the time when they
23 started saying it to me, until some of the other kids
24 had told me. But, yes, that was definitely one: if you
25 do that, you were told you were going to end up there.

1 There was Rossie Farm and the girls one was Balnacraig.

2 Q. So those were the two that were mentioned to try to keep
3 you under control?

4 A. Yes, we got that. And some of the people from there
5 went to Balnacraig and some of the people came from
6 Balnacraig, do you know what I mean.

7 Q. So did you get to hear what those places were like?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. And I think you say that they would also take your
10 cigarettes off you, if you had been misbehaving?

11 A. Yes. They did, yes.

12 Q. And as you said earlier, you had started smoking when
13 you got there. So you were then addicted to smoking, so
14 that was an issue, if they were going to take them off
15 you?

16 A. You got £10 a week, I think it was, pocket money. But
17 you never physically got the £10, the staff would keep
18 a list of your cigarettes and sweeties, and then they
19 would go get them. They had a red box for the
20 cigarettes, the red bin box, and everybody would just go
21 there and, obviously, they would have your names on it,
22 and the staff would give you your six a day.

23 But, yes, that would be used for bad behaviour as
24 well, yes, it was. And, yes, you never physically got
25 the money, they'd deal with that.

1 Q. You also say, 'Chelsea', that when people -- I think it
2 was the way you described it -- were sort of kicking
3 off, that there was restraint used by members of staff
4 towards --

5 A. It wasn't just for kicking off. Mm-hm. It wasn't just
6 for kicking off.

7 Q. Okay. I think you say sometimes it was a control thing,
8 you felt like, as well?

9 A. Definitely. And you knew -- after time, obviously, you
10 would know who was going to be doing that more than
11 other ones, do you know what I mean. Yes.

12 Q. And you describe it at paragraph 69, about what would
13 happen when you were restrained; can you tell us about
14 that?

15 A. Well, for me, it was different. I had seen it done,
16 being in assessment, but I had never had it done up
17 until that point. For me, it was KHZ, the member
18 of staff that had done with me.

19 It was just simply I had to do something, and
20 I didn't want to do it, and he was telling me to get
21 back down to the school and I said, 'I will, but I need
22 5/10 minutes', and he said, 'No, now', and I said,
23 'I need 5/10 minutes', and he was, 'It is not
24 happening'. So it's a pull and a push. Then he came in
25 the front of me, got me down on the floor, has his legs

1 over me, my hands behind my head, so his face is here.
2 I'm getting his drool and whatever. He is just
3 screaming at me.

4 By this time, I am trying to kick and push to get
5 him off. I don't know if he is getting hurt, because I
6 was in it. And I am lying between the door between the
7 lounge and the pool room -- so I am in between the door
8 as well. But, yes, so that was it.

9 And I am screaming, 'Get off'. He goes, 'I am not
10 getting off, you should have done what you were told in
11 the first place'. He is making me worse, and he is
12 getting worse and stronger with the hands and legs,
13 holding me in. So it went on for about 10/15 minutes.
14 Then he pulls me up and drags me to my room and I'm put
15 in there.

16 Yes. I didn't tell him why I wanted the 5/10
17 minutes, because I couldn't tell him, but that was my
18 experience. It wasn't a nice one, do you know what
19 I mean.

20 Q. Was the reason that you needed the 5/10 minutes before
21 you would do what he -- or go where he wanted you to go;
22 was that to do with becoming a woman, puberty, things
23 like that?

24 A. Yes, just started that day, yes.

25 Q. So, at that time, you didn't feel able to say that to

1 him as a male member of staff?

2 A. There was no way I was telling him, because I didn't
3 know what was going on myself, at that point, do you
4 know what I mean?

5 I knew -- I kind of knew, but I wasn't going to be
6 saying to a grown man, 'I need to go and ...'.

7 I didn't even have a towel. I didn't have a towel
8 for it. I didn't ask for towels from a man. So, yes,
9 it was a weird one.

10 Q. And was it a problem, 'Chelsea', that the staff would
11 have to go and buy the things that you needed and you
12 weren't able to tell them that you needed feminine
13 hygiene products, for example?

14 A. There was no way I was telling them. It was all men,
15 there was no way. And it would have come off your
16 pocket money as well, which was a big chunk.

17 At that time, it wasn't going far, anyway. So at
18 that stage I wouldn't have even known what to ask for.
19 It was just starting, so I wouldn't have known which way
20 it was going to go, if you know what I mean. So
21 I wouldn't have known what to ask.

22 Q. What did you do?

23 A. One of the juniors I was friends with, [REDACTED], she kind
24 of helped me through all that, so ...

25 Q. You say [REDACTED], she knew what to do?

1 A. Yes, yes, she was younger than me, but she had
2 already --

3 Q. Gone through it?

4 A. Yes, and wee bras and things, as well, sizes and things.
5 She helped with that, too.

6 Q. You were able to get that from her. But, in relation to
7 the staff, you just didn't feel --

8 A. No way.

9 Q. -- you were able to do that?

10 A. There was no way. Not even the social worker.
11 I wouldn't have gone to Peter and ... there was no way.

12 Q. The incident with the member of staff that you called
13 KHZ ; is this somebody the first name you said was
14 KHZ ?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That incident where he restrained you; is that the only
17 incident that happened in relation to restraint or are
18 there other incidents?

19 A. That was the one. For me, that was the one. I mean
20 I would get told off and things like that, normal stuff.
21 But that was the one for me, yes. I had seen it done to
22 other people all the time, but that was mine.

23 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 69, 'Chelsea', that
24 when you saw it happen to other people, or when it
25 happened to yourself, you were basically thrown to the

1 floor and a member of staff would sit over you and hold
2 your hands above your head.

3 A. Yes. That was it.

4 Q. And they would put --

5 A. And they would hold your feet together with their feet.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. They would hold you in.

8 Q. So that your legs couldn't move?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you say that people would be in tears when that
11 was going on?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Because they wouldn't let you go until you were subdued
15 and quiet and whatever, and lost everything. Do you
16 know what I mean, they wouldn't let you go.

17 Q. I think you said earlier some staff were stricter than
18 others, so it wasn't all the staff that would behave in
19 that way?

20 A. Oh, no.

21 Q. But you knew which ones would do it?

22 A. Yes. Mm-hm, yes. Usually ex-army, ex-prison, you know
23 what I mean. And then you'd got the other ones that
24 would -- like, if I had had said to maybe Norrie, the
25 other member of staff, 'I need 5/10 minutes', he would

1 say, 'Right, you have 5/10 minutes, and you go down
2 now', you know what I mean. So you knew.

3 Q. So there were other members of staff that could have
4 dealt with that situation you described in a different
5 way, that wouldn't have led to the incident with you
6 being restrained?

7 A. And probably a lot that was happening to other people in
8 that way. Yes, yes, definitely.

9 Q. That occasion when you were restrained by the person you
10 call KHZ, he was asking you to go somewhere, and
11 you were telling him that you would go, but not just
12 now, is that right?

13 A. I told him I needed five minutes, because that's
14 what I thought. Five, ten minutes. And he was like,
15 'No, you will get back down', it was the school, he was
16 telling me to get down to the school, and I said, 'No,
17 I need five, ten minutes', and he was like, 'No, you
18 don't, move!'. Know what I mean. And I was like, 'I need
19 five, ten minutes, I am not going'. He was like, 'You
20 are, move!' It went back and forward, you know him
21 pulling, me pulling away, that is when he eventually
22 came round, took me by this and wellied me down and
23 I went down. And he is not a tall man but he was built,
24 that's why we called him KHZ. But yes, and he
25 was angry, always angry looking. So yes.

1 Q. That was really a situation where he just wanted you to
2 go somewhere, and he was physically trying to take you
3 there, and you were resisting?

4 A. It was his way, aye, it was his way, and that was it,
5 yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. He was the boss, you know what I mean, he was the boss.

8 Q. There is another incident that I just want to ask you
9 about, 'Chelsea', that's in relation to someone you talk
10 about from paragraph 76 of your statement, and this is
11 someone you say was quite high up in the council, you
12 think he was senior to [REDACTED] that you have told us about?

13 A. Yes, I do. I don't know who he was, I have always
14 maintained that, I don't know who he was, he came in and
15 out of there. Had a briefcase. I was in the kitchen.
16 He started speaking to me one day. Don't know why he
17 was there. I don't know why I was in the kitchen,
18 I must have been back from somewhere or going somewhere,
19 or something. No, but I must have been back from
20 somewhere. Anyway, he started talking to me in the
21 kitchen. Lovely person, really friendly, [REDACTED] KIR ,
22 that's why I have a thing about [REDACTED]. "You up
23 and away?" Telling me he told me he loved photography.
24 It was a really normal conversation. It went on for
25 ages, and I liked him, I thought he was funny, and we

1 were sitting talking in the kitchen and he asked me --
2 he had his camera in his bag, showed me his camera in
3 his briefcase thing. He said he loved photography and
4 stuff like that and did I want some pictures taken of
5 me? And I was like yes, all right, you know what
6 I mean. I had my new clothes on and I was wanting
7 a picture. So he was like, well, if we go in the
8 grounds, because you come through the kitchen, through
9 the laundry, there's a fire exit door you go down the
10 steps and in the big grounds at the back, which my
11 window looked down on, there was trees there, really
12 nice, that area. He goes if you stand at the tree,
13 behind the tree -- and I still have one of the pictures,
14 the one I was allowed to keep -- but he said you stand
15 there, I will take some pictures. So he did, and he was
16 making me laugh and stuff like that. And then we came
17 back in through the fire exit into the kitchen, sat, and
18 yapping again. And he was going on about how they
19 were -- I have said this before, it sounds silly, but
20 I was young -- inexpensive proof quality prints.
21 I thought it sounds very posh at the time, because
22 I didn't even know what that meant, at the time. But
23 then I don't even know how it got to this, and I didn't
24 even think of it anyway, or think anything weird of it,
25 but in the kitchen there was a mural of, I don't even

1 know, do you want me to, or?

2 Q. You have told us first of all about this incident where
3 he takes you out into the grounds, this is outside
4 through the locked door to Burnside?

5 A. Fire exit.

6 Q. And he takes some pictures of you by some trees, and
7 that was fine?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And then you come back in to the assessment unit again
10 and there was this mural on the wall somebody painted,
11 and is this one that had some sort of nursery rhyme
12 where there was a whip involved for stealing jam tarts?

13 A. That's it, yes, yes.

14 Q. And what did he say to you in relation to taking
15 a photograph with that?

16 A. Well, it wasn't right away, we were back in the kitchen,
17 he asked me if I wanted a drink or what from the
18 kitchen. I said I am fine. He was yapping about the
19 prints and that. And he said it would be funny if you
20 took a picture at that wall. And I looked at it, never
21 thought nothing of it, and I was like okay, and then he
22 pushed the table, because it had all of the tables in
23 the kitchen, he pushed the table up against the wall
24 where the mural was, told me to get on, he would take
25 a picture, that would be funny. It looked like it was

1 me getting whipped, and I am just smiling on it,
2 I think, at the time, you know what I mean. I was
3 clothed and things like that, I don't think he said,
4 like. And he took a good few pictures in different ways
5 and I got off the table and he pushed the table back.
6 And I never asked him if I was getting the pictures, or
7 what he was doing; I was a kid, you know what I mean,
8 I never even thought. But yes, so that was that. And
9 then --

10 Q. 'Chelsea', just about that, did he tell you to get into
11 a certain position on the table in relation to the whip?

12 A. Yes, yes, it was like, turn that way, or do that, or
13 look this way, with your head. There was, yes.

14 Q. And were you on your knees at one point when he was
15 taking the picture?

16 A. I was on my knees on the table, yes.

17 Q. So when that's going on, you at the time didn't think
18 there was anything wrong with that and you didn't feel
19 any, anything about that, in particular, is that right?

20 A. Nice guy. He was a nice guy.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But I think then about a week later he came back to
24 Burnside and he had the pictures and he gave you one of
25 you in the grounds and one of you on the table, is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes, I was laughing on the one on the table, and I mean
3 obviously he would have had a lot more than the two he
4 gave me, but thinking now, you know what I mean, the
5 amount we took. But yes he did give me the one in the
6 grounds and he gave me the one on the table, and then
7 [REDACTED] was on, I don't know if he was on at that moment or
8 a couple of hours later, but that day, anyway, I said
9 [REDACTED], look, I got the pictures from that [REDACTED] KIR, you know.
10 And it twiggled then because he said that's
11 inappropriate, and he took off me, this picture. Just
12 like [REDACTED] KHX, I never had anything to do with
13 that [REDACTED] KIR from then on either and I never saw that
14 picture again, but I got to keep the one on the grounds.

15 Q. So [REDACTED] thought it was inappropriate and unacceptable?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And he took the picture of you on the table being
18 whipped with the mural behind you off of you and you
19 didn't see it again after that, is that right?

20 A. Or [REDACTED] KIR, I didn't see him again either.

21 Q. And this person you have named as [REDACTED] KIR, he wasn't
22 a staff member at Burnside as far as you were aware, was
23 he?

24 A. No he wasn't, he was a shirt and tie man, he told me he
25 worked for Dundee City Council, sorry, Tayside House.

1 Q. Okay, but he was in Burnside that day and he was able to
2 take you outside through the locked door out into the
3 grounds?

4 A. Yes, when I think about it now I think wow, but then he
5 was there, he was trusted, do you know what I mean.

6 Q. Now, I just want to move on 'Chelsea' to I think there
7 was a time when they were trying to find you foster
8 placements from Burnside. That was perhaps about a year
9 into your time there, is that right?

10 A. Yes, mm-hm.

11 Q. And you talk about that from paragraph 80. I think
12 there was a couple of families that you went to see, one
13 in Arbroath, and then one in Broughty Ferry, is that
14 right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Was it the case that [REDACTED] went to both of those with you?

17 A. No, it was a different member of staff for the Arbroath
18 one, yes. It wasn't [REDACTED] for that.

19 Q. Okay. But the second one in Broughty Ferry, [REDACTED] was
20 with you, and I think you tell us that when [REDACTED] was
21 there, he told the family that you were there to see
22 that you needed time to think about it, but you also
23 knew that that place wasn't for you, is that right?

24 A. We were in the room and at the end of the meeting, I was
25 actually sitting on [REDACTED]'s knee all of the way through

1 the meeting in the living room, that's how close we were
2 by then, but at the end of it the family, the woman, it
3 was a man and a woman, they were older, had said well,
4 what do you think, then, do you want to come and live
5 with us? And [REDACTED] had said well, that's not how it
6 works, she gets time to think about it, and things like
7 that. But I knew through the conversation -- I don't
8 know, maybe it was just at that point where I didn't
9 want another family, I just wanted to be on my own, do
10 you know what I mean, I didn't want to be in
11 a stranger's house, it was that kind of feeling, where
12 it was all set up.

13 The one in Arbroath, when we went to see them, they
14 already had about six or seven kids and it was kind of
15 like the life I lived before I went into care, it was
16 chaotic, mess everywhere, that kind of thing, and I felt
17 they were in it for the money, that's what I thought of
18 the Arbroath ones.

19 But the Broughty Ferry ones, no, I don't think they
20 were in it for the money. Their son had grown up and
21 moved out and they genuinely wanted someone to nurture,
22 and take to night school, and things like that, and
23 I was no, my head space wasn't there. I think they
24 should have had somebody a wee bit older than me at that
25 point, yes.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. After that second meeting, that is when [REDACTED] asked you if
4 you wanted to come and stay with him and his family, is
5 that right?

6 A. Yes, [REDACTED] didn't drive either, so the taxi from
7 Broughty Ferry to take us back to Burnside, he stopped,
8 like, at the bottom of Kirkton, about ten minutes walk
9 round from Burnside. And we got out the taxi, and
10 I wondered why we got out the taxi at first, and he just
11 stopped and he said what would you think about coming
12 home to stay with me, my wife, and my three daughters,
13 and I didn't know he had three daughters at the time,
14 and I was just, like, oh, at first I thought he was
15 joking, and then second, I just thought this is weird,
16 and then third I was like, well, I like [REDACTED], and if he
17 will say, yes, fine. And we walked back to Burnside and
18 I still didn't believe it, I wasn't believing it, and it
19 was just surreal, that's what I remember thinking; this
20 is weird.

21 Q. Looking back, was that quite a difficult situation for
22 you to be put in, to be asked by this person that you
23 trusted whether you wanted to come and stay with him and
24 his family?

25 A. I thought it was weird, but I didn't think I had the

1 brain capacity to think what that was going to do to my
2 life. And how it was going to change things, and
3 I think it should have been left alone the way it was.
4 But it must have taken a lot for him to do that, as
5 well, do you know what I mean. So yes, I didn't have
6 the brain capacity to think past 'he just asked me to
7 live with him'. And I wish I could have taken it fully
8 in, how it could have not worked out as well.

9 Q. But was it a couple of days after [REDACTED] asked you that
10 you, and you have talked about [REDACTED], you have talked
11 about [REDACTED], ran away together up to Aberdeen?

12 A. Yes, [REDACTED] was from Aberdeen, but she was in Burnside,
13 she had been through assessment centres in Aberdeen.
14 She was street wise and I wasn't, she had run away
15 before plenty of times. There was no rhyme or reason
16 for me other than her saying let's do this, do you know
17 what I mean. But yes, we ran away a couple of days
18 after he asked me. In hindsight, yes, there was no
19 rhyme or reason. So we did, yes, we run away.

20 Q. And I think you were kind of hiding out, was it in
21 a pigsty or something, but you were found by the police?

22 A. We had our Burnside clothes on, and like I said in the
23 notes and that, [REDACTED] knew of snow dropping, and we, she
24 had got some clothes off the line, snow dropping, across
25 from Burnside, because we had to get out of our Burnside

1 clothing, because the police knew it. So yes, we done
2 that, and then she sold some stuff at a market in Dundee
3 and we headed up to Aberdeen and stayed in a pigsty.
4 I don't know how or why, we got found, we were a day
5 from death, we had to get checked in the hospital,
6 because of the fumes in the tanks. We were found and
7 put into a place in Aberdeen and transferred the next
8 day to Brimmond Hill.

9 Q. Was it Brimmond Hill? Yes.

10 A. Yes, totally different from Burnside.

11 Q. Different in a bad way?

12 A. Yes, I was going to say that was (indistinct), yes.

13 Q. So at that time, then, would you have been about 13, is
14 that right?

15 A. 13/14, ish, yes, still about the same, yes.

16 Q. And then I think there was a bit of an introduction to
17 [REDACTED] and his family, but you did end up going to stay
18 with him and his family?

19 A. Sorry, it happened quicker than it maybe would have.
20 I told [REDACTED] what had happened with [REDACTED] when I was on
21 the run, and she had went back and told a member of
22 staff what I had said, because they didn't believe it,
23 and then they asked [REDACTED] and that's how it became a bit
24 quicker. We had to go round the units telling
25 everybody, you know what I mean. But yes, that's what

1 happened, he came with his wife into Burnside with his
2 children to meet me. He bought perfume and that for me
3 to give her her favourite perfume, and that's how we
4 met.

5 Q. Okay, but that was only in place for a few weeks,
6 I think you say it just wasn't what you thought it would
7 be, and actually [REDACTED], who you felt safe with, wasn't
8 there at the house because he was working at Burnside,
9 ultimately?

10 A. Ultimately that's what it was; he was always there and
11 never there, and I was in with his three daughters who
12 were strangers to me, similar ages, but strangers, and
13 his wife, who was trying her hardest, and taking me to
14 work, do you know what I mean, he was gone.

15 Q. So that didn't work out, and I think the situation was
16 you were told you couldn't go back to Burnside because
17 it wouldn't be appropriate because [REDACTED] was there, so you
18 had to go somewhere else?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So I think you tell us that that was a blow to you,
21 because really you would have preferred just to stay at
22 Burnside?

23 A. I remember saying to the social worker when I called
24 them that I wanted to go home, which meant Burnside.
25 But yes, I couldn't, so I went to Ann Street.

1 Q. So I think then, I won't go into too much detail,
2 'Chelsea', about what happened after that, but I will
3 just briefly take you through it. I think you went to
4 the children's home in Dundee because you couldn't go
5 back to Burnside, and I think you were there for
6 a while, and this part of your statement is redacted out
7 because it is not part of the case study we are dealing
8 with, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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19 Q. You say, though, you were there for about a year Secondary Insti

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 Secondary Institutions - to be publ but you were 15 by the time you left
22 there?

23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

24
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1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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5 Secondary Institutions - to be p so I went to Perth, to Nimmo Place.
6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
7
8
9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later I think,
10 'Chelsea', you say you were only there for about ten to
11 12 weeks and then you went back to a children's home in
12 Dundee?
13 A. Yes, I think it would have been sooner if I had a bed,
14 but they had to wait on the bed.
15 Q. That place, you tell us, had a different feel to it, to
16 other places, you say, do you know what you meant by
17 that, a different feel?
18 A. It was a nice place, it was half empty, it was small, it
19 was homely, it had a warmer feel.
20 Q. So it was positive, a positive place?
21 A. Yes, a lot of positives came out there for for me, yes.
22 Q. And I think they helped to get your first YTS when you
23 were nearly 16 at that point, is that right?
24 A. Yes, that's right, yes.
25 Q. That was painting and decorating?

1 A. For Dundee City Council, yes.

2 Q. I think you tell us that was the time when you felt like
3 somebody; you would leave in the morning with your
4 overalls and go down the road to your work?

5 A. Yes, I would go down the road to get the bus to work to
6 meet everybody, yes, I was achieving, I was getting £30
7 a week, I was living life.

8 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Chelsea', that your last Panel
9 was when you were nearly 16 and you didn't need any of
10 the orders that were in place any more, and you got your
11 first flat, there was some issues with that, in that
12 I think there was a bit of a time back in a home for
13 a while until you could be ready to stay in a flat?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. Finally you did make it out and you were independent
16 after that. So I am just going to talk a little bit
17 about what you say in relation to that, one of the
18 issues was that you didn't have advice and help that you
19 might have needed to be able to do the right things with
20 the money that they were giving you?

21 A. Yes, the money was always there but the input wasn't.
22 The skills wasn't. How to pay bills and bank accounts
23 wasn't. And anything like that wasn't, because you
24 didn't have a key worker any more, it was kind of
25 I think they called it independent living, the money was

1 certainly called independent living money, and you would
2 go to Tayside House to pick it up, that was literally
3 how it was.

4 I had Charlie Mathers, the children's rights
5 officer, he was there through the later years, but he
6 wasn't there to put an input, he was there for guidance
7 and stuff, and compensation and stuff. But yes, there
8 was no one-to-ones, or ... I still had the social worker
9 and they said that they had a duty of care until I think
10 I was 21, because they did still have input until I was
11 21, so it must have been in a round about way. I never
12 seen them much through the later years, but I knew they
13 were there if I needed them. But I never had someone
14 coming to the house to help me to cook, I never had it
15 before I left care, how to cook, take care of things,
16 bank accounts, or stuff like that.

17 Q. I think you say that you then moved up north eventually
18 and I think at 21 you had your first child?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I know you tell us about some struggles that you had
21 afterwards, in relation to coping and mental health.
22 But I think ultimately you ended up having to look after
23 your sister's children for a while when she was going
24 through some problems, is that right?

25 A. Well, I have never -- I was actually, I had postnatal

1 depression, but the health visitor hadn't picked it up,
2 and I slipped into clinical depression, so I had to be
3 hospitalised, I was 5 stone, and things like that, I was
4 a mess, a total mess, I was in hospital, and I went from
5 there to a rehab unit through SAMH, because I had lost
6 all coping skills. I never had much to start with, but
7 I lost what I had. And I got a call whilst I was in
8 here. The police from Dundee had contacted where I was,
9 found us through tracers, and said [REDACTED] needed to get
10 out of Dundee with her kids and would I be alright if
11 she come up, because I never had contact with her since
12 I went into care, I was like, fine, but she had issues
13 by the time she got up, and went to Women's Aid there,
14 so yes, it was an experience.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. But yes, it was all good.

17 Q. You said at paragraph 150 you think if your brother and
18 sister had gone into care it would have benefited them,
19 looking back in hindsight?

20 A. Very much so. Definitely. 100 per cent yes.

21 Q. And you tell us when we were looking at the impact, you
22 say at 153 because of what you had and your upbringing,
23 you wanted something different for your children?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You wanted to say that you loved them, you wanted to say

1 that you cared for them, and you wanted to tell them
2 that every day, and wanted them to know it.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You have six children, and some of them have some issues
5 that are not easy to deal with that you are dealing with
6 just now, is that right?

7 A. Yes, four of them have got ASN, and they have all been
8 diagnosed, and I believe, obviously, I had it too, but
9 back in the day they wouldn't have been looking to
10 diagnose you, especially in Burnside, with anything.
11 But definitely so.

12 So yes, a lot of people that I grew up with in
13 Burnside and that have gone, either died, AIDS, drugs,
14 and I never went that path, thankfully, and I think
15 that's maybe the one thing from growing up with my
16 family that had done some good in me, instilled some
17 good; that I didn't want that.

18 So yes, I have been, obviously I went into
19 relationships where I have been abused, and I have had
20 their dad's -- and been moved around the country -- they
21 have removed his parental rights in the last
22 three years, it has always been me and the kids, do you
23 know what I mean, they know they are loved, they know
24 they are wanted, and are not going into any care
25 setting, anything like that. And I have a 12-year old

1 now, so to think back it is kind of like, I do believe,
2 for want of a better phrase, what's in the cow is in the
3 calf, there has been genetics done on one of my kids,
4 and I wish it had been picked up.

5 Q. 'Chelsea', I think you say, looking back, you try to
6 look at in a positive way, in paragraph 162 of your
7 statement, you say you think back to your time in care
8 in a good way try to think of it as a positive and if
9 you had been left at home you would have become
10 an alcoholic, in and out of jail or maybe even dead?

11 A. Definitely.

12 Q. And I think you made the comment there wasn't maybe the
13 physical caring aspect in care but on the whole for you,
14 from what you have come from, it was a good thing?

15 A. Yes, Burnside, the building, gave me the care, if you
16 know what I mean, the actual building; safety feel.

17 Q. Okay. And I think you go on to tell us, lessons to be
18 learned at paragraph 167, you think there should have
19 been more female staff in Burnside, because that
20 obviously caused some issues for you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And there should have been better schooling and maybe if
23 they let you out more there wouldn't have been as much
24 chaos?

25 A. Yes, because it is a shame, because I think most of the

1 people in there just wanted to be wanted, do you know
2 what I mean, but especially when I was going through the
3 foster thing with [REDACTED] and went round the units and kids
4 were saying "can you take me home?" Most kids wanted to
5 be wanted, and that was it, and they weren't getting
6 that, physically, there you know, and it's a shame.

7 Q. I think, 'Chelsea', you tell us at paragraph 176 about
8 other information that you had seen a video of
9 Lady Smith talking about places on YouTube, and you were
10 listening to see if it was just for the bad stuff, and
11 when you knew it wasn't, that's when you contacted the
12 Inquiry?

13 A. Yes. I actually, I done a Google on Burnside, because
14 I didn't know it was gone, the building, so I did a
15 Google on Burnside to see it had turned into something
16 else now, and then I saw about the Inquiry, other
17 inquiries, and then I saw Burnside was one. But yes,
18 when I was listening to some awful stories, and then
19 I actually heard about Fort Augustus Abbey, I had been
20 there. Burnside ... I did think it would be
21 predominantly about the bad, and although I had the two,
22 I call them idiots, [REDACTED], for me Burnside was my
23 home, yes, so it was the good side, there was more of
24 it, yes.

25 Q. So looking back, then, your overall experience in care

1 was a positive one from your point of view?

2 A. Yes, yes, definitely. Yes. There is no doubt for that.

3 From what I came from, yes.

4 MS FORBES: 'Chelsea', that's all the questions I have to

5 ask for you today so I am really grateful to you for

6 answering them. Unless there is anything else you

7 wanted to tell us that you haven't been able to.

8 A. No, it is all there. All there.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Chelsea', can I add my thanks to you for

10 engaging with us so frankly as openly as you have done

11 today. I am struck at how fair you are regarding things

12 that went well, and how straightforward you are about

13 what wasn't great. And whilst I see your overall

14 judgment is it was a good thing to be in care, it wasn't

15 all great, and I get that.

16 A. No.

17 LADY SMITH: It has all really helped me understand, and it

18 has helped to improve my learning. So thank you so

19 much.

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: And just before you go, can I add that I am

22 also struck at the intelligent reflection you are able

23 to engage in now. Keep up the good work, it is very

24 impressive.

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: So please feel free to go, and know that you go
2 with my thanks. Thank you.

3 A. Thank you, I appreciate it.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Three names to mention before we move on with
6 the plans for tomorrow. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] KHX, and a man
7 called [REDACTED] KHZ, known as [REDACTED] KHZ. None of them are to
8 be identified outside of this room because their
9 identities are covered by my general restriction order.

10 Now, that finishes the evidence for today, I think,
11 and just leaves us to check in. 10 o'clock tomorrow
12 morning?

13 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, at the moment it is planned there
14 will be three live witnesses tomorrow.

15 LADY SMITH: And all here in person, none of them video
16 links?

17 MS FORBES: I think, yes, they are all here in person.

18 LADY SMITH: Probably, at the moment we think they will all
19 be here in person. Very well, my thanks to everybody
20 and I will rise now until tomorrow.

21 (4.01 pm)

22 (The hearing adjourned until 10 am the following day)

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