

Wednesday, 20 March 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Welcome back to Chapter 4 of Phase 8, a chapter in  
5 which we are looking at the provision made for children  
6 and young people at Kerelaw and Larchgrove.

7 I think we are ready to start the proceedings this  
8 morning, is that right, Ms Forbes?

9 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, this morning we are going to start  
10 with looking at a sentencing statement from  
11 Lady Drummond, and the reference we have for that is  
12 JUS-00000001819. My Lady, this relates to the  
13 sentencing statement that was made in relation to the  
14 convictions in 2023, and the sentencing by Lady Drummond  
15 of Matthew George and John Muldoon.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, and this is a document extracted from the  
17 Judiciary of Scotland website, I think.

18 MS FORBES: It is, my Lady.

19 My intention would be just to read parts of this  
20 sentencing statement out and then supplement it with  
21 some more information as I go as a way of summary.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 Sentencing statements of Lady Drummond (read)

24 MS FORBES: My Lady, if we go to page 2 of that document,  
25 this is where the sentencing statement starts. It is

1 dated 13 January 2023, and Lady Drummond deals with  
2 Matthew George first of all, and she makes the following  
3 statement in relation to Matthew George:

4 'You have been convicted by this jury of 39 charges  
5 of physical and sexual abuse of 22 children in your care  
6 at Kerelaw School. You committed these offences over  
7 a period of 25 years, from 1975 to 2000, when you were  
8 in your late 20s through to the age of 51 years.

9 You were an art teacher at Kerelaw School,  
10 a residential school in Glasgow. You sometimes assisted  
11 in the units where children resided. You physically and  
12 sexually abused children within classrooms, in the  
13 residential units, at your home address, and elsewhere.

14 You were convicted of 11 charges of physical abuse  
15 of children involving threatening, hitting, punching and  
16 kicking them, seizing them by the neck, and hitting them  
17 with objects. You lined children up and struck them  
18 with golf balls.

19 You were convicted of 28 charges of sexual abuse  
20 against 17 children. The sexual abuse involved making  
21 sexualised remarks, repeatedly forcing children to  
22 masturbate you, masturbating in their presence,  
23 repeatedly forcing your penis into their mouths,  
24 repeatedly handling their genitals, and repeatedly  
25 anally penetrating them. On one occasion you induced

1 three other men to penetrate the mouth and anus of  
2 a child and recorded their activity. About half of the  
3 sexual charges involve penetration of some kind.

4 You have a record which shows that in 2006 you were  
5 imprisoned by the High Court for ten years for crimes of  
6 the same nature involving ten other pupils. You were  
7 convicted of ten charges of assault to injury and six  
8 charges of a sexual nature. These offences were  
9 committed by you at Kerelaw School over the same time  
10 period as the offences before this court today.

11 These young people were some of the most vulnerable  
12 in society. They were placed at Kerelaw School to be  
13 protected and looked after. As a teacher your role was  
14 to educate and guide them, but you flagrantly abused  
15 your position of trust for your own gratification. You  
16 took advantage of your position and your power within  
17 the organisation to bully, groom, manipulate, and  
18 physically and sexually violate vulnerable children who  
19 were too ashamed and frightened to speak out.

20 I have taken into account the victim impact  
21 statements from the people you abused, the trauma they  
22 suffered at your hands compounded what had already been  
23 a difficult start to their lives. They describe how  
24 your behaviour destroyed their childhoods and had  
25 a devastating impact on their adult lives. They have

1           suffered profound, lifelong impacts, physically,  
2           emotionally, and psychologically.'

3           If I can just go to the paragraph after the next  
4           one, Lady Drummond states:

5           'You deny all responsibility for these offences, as  
6           described by 22 different pupils named on this  
7           indictment. You have displayed no remorse, no empathy,  
8           or insight towards any of them.'

9           Then if I go over to the next page, at the top of  
10          page 3, Lady Drummond says:

11          'Having regard to the gravity and persistent and  
12          predatory nature of the offences of which you have been  
13          convicted, a custodial sentence is the only appropriate  
14          one.'

15          Then she imposed a sentence of 16 years'  
16          imprisonment on all those charges, which was backdated  
17          to December 2022, when he was first on remand.

18          She goes on to say, just before she moves on to  
19          John Muldoon, in the last paragraph in relation to  
20          George, she states:

21          'You will remain subject to the notification  
22          requirements applicable to sex offenders for  
23          an indefinite period, your name will be added to the  
24          list of persons deemed unsuitable to work with  
25          vulnerable groups.'

1           Then, my Lady, if I could step away from the  
2           sentencing statement just for a short while, just to  
3           summarise the situation in relation to the two  
4           convictions, the two separate indictments for  
5           Matt George.

6           By way of an overview to his offending I can put  
7           forward the following summary. By way of background,  
8           Matt George started at Kerelaw School in 1975 as  
9           a grade 1 instructor with general teaching  
10          responsibilities. He would have been about 26 years old  
11          when he started. The abuse by him commenced in the same  
12          year he started, and he was convicted of assaulting  
13          a boy known as A, who was aged 14 to 15 years, at  
14          Kerelaw School on various occasions between 28 July 1975  
15          and 31 January 1977. He punched A on the face, head and  
16          body, all to his injury. He also indecently assaulted A  
17          by placing his hand under A's clothing, touching on his  
18          thigh, and attempting to compel A to masturbate him.

19          Matt George was carrying out assaults not only at  
20          Kerelaw School but elsewhere, including his home at that  
21          time, and on various occasions between 5 February 1976  
22          and 13 January 1977 he indecently assaulted a boy, B,  
23          who was aged 15 years at Kerelaw School and at his  
24          house. He handled B's penis over his clothing, seized  
25          B's hand and placed it on his penis over his clothing,

1 exposed his penis to B, compelled him to masturbate him,  
2 pushed B under a table and forced his penis into his  
3 mouth, and placed B's penis into his mouth.

4 Then moving on to the period between 1977 to 1981,  
5 over those following few years he carried out offences  
6 which led to him being found guilty of ten charges of  
7 assault to injury, three charges of assault, two charges  
8 of indecent assault, three charges of breach of the  
9 peace, and one charge of lewd, indecent and libidinous  
10 practices and behaviour. These offences were all  
11 carried out towards boys ranging from 12 to 16 years  
12 old. They took place mainly at Kerelaw School, but also  
13 at other locations in Ayrshire, and in a motor vehicle  
14 at Glasgow Airport.

15 Moving then to the period between 1981 and 1985,  
16 during those years George carried out offences which led  
17 to him being found guilty of six charges of indecent  
18 assault, two charges of indecent assault to injury, and  
19 three charges of assault to injury. These offences were  
20 all carried out towards boys aged between 12 and  
21 15 years old, and mostly took place at Kerelaw School,  
22 including an occasion where he indecently assaulted  
23 a boy whilst acting with another, or others.

24 There were a couple of offences which took place  
25 outwith Kerelaw School during that time, including

1 Matt George indecently assaulting a boy at his home.

2 Going forward, then, to the period between 1985 to  
3 1990 Matt George moved from a grade 1 instructor to  
4 a teacher in 1985, but still had general teaching  
5 responsibilities. During that period he carried out  
6 offences which led to him being found guilty of 12  
7 charges. These were: one charge of lewd, indecent and  
8 libidinous practices, and behaviour; three charges of  
9 assault; three charges of assault to injury; four  
10 charges of indecent assault; and one charge of indecent  
11 assault to injury.

12 More offences were committed outwith Kerelaw School  
13 than in the previous years during that period, and  
14 offences were committed again within a motor vehicle and  
15 at his home, and there was an occasion at his home when  
16 he acted along with three other men and indecently  
17 assaulted a 14- to 15-year old boy.

18 Initially Matt George had only carried out offences  
19 towards boys, but then in 1989 he indecently assaulted  
20 a 15-year old girl to the point where she was left  
21 unconscious.

22 If I can just read out the details of that offence,  
23 my Lady, that related to a charge of:

24 'On various occasions between 23 January 1989 and  
25 24 May 1989, at Kerelaw School, Matt George assaulted

1 a girl, V, 15 years old, he did seize her by the neck,  
2 cause her head to strike a desk, sit on her, throw her  
3 to the floor, kick her on the body, and punch her on the  
4 head to her injury. On various occasions Matt George  
5 indecently assaulted girl V and did seize her from  
6 behind, place his arms around her, rub his genitals  
7 against her, place his hand within her lower clothing,  
8 touch her vagina, attempt to penetrate her vagina with  
9 his finger or fingers, penetrate her vagina with his  
10 finger or fingers, seize her hand and place the same on  
11 his erect penis over his clothing.

12 On an occasion Matt George did indecently assault  
13 girl V and did shut her in a cupboard, seize her by the  
14 neck, throw her to the floor, place his arm around her,  
15 touch her breasts over her clothing, remove her lower  
16 clothing, penetrate her anus with his penis, causing her  
17 to become unconscious to her injury.'

18 Then, my Lady, moving on to the 1990s, during the  
19 1990s Matt George carried out offences towards four boys  
20 and three girls. He was convicted of 11 charges, two of  
21 assault to injury, six charges of indecent assault, one  
22 charge of indecent assault to injury, one charge under  
23 section 5 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 1976 and  
24 one charge under section 6 of the Criminal Law  
25 (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995.



1 Matt George abused a boy at Cardross Children's Home  
2 in addition to abusing him at Kerelaw School and at  
3 Fairlie Moor. He continued to carry out abuse at his  
4 home address during this time, and the last offence for  
5 which he was found guilty of was for indecent assault on  
6 a boy at Kerelaw School and his home on various  
7 occasions between 30 August 1999 and 21 September 2000.

8 In the period 1995 to 2004 Matt George was  
9 an assistant principal teacher at Kerelaw.

10 Just by way of summary of the total convictions, my  
11 Lady, it is apparent that Matt George carried out  
12 offences over a period of 25 years, 1975 to 2000. In  
13 total he was convicted of 56 offences. These offences  
14 took place against 32 young persons, mainly boys, but  
15 included four offences against girls, and those were in  
16 the years 1989, 1993 to 1995, and 1998 to 1999. The  
17 locus was in most instances Kerelaw School, but he also  
18 often carried out abuse at his home.

19 In total, over those two indictments, he was  
20 sentenced to 26 years' imprisonment all together.

21 My Lady --

22 LADY SMITH: It might have been a total of 55 charges, not  
23 56, but you can check, Ms Forbes.

24 MS FORBES: My Lady, I am grateful.

25 LADY SMITH: I don't suppose it makes all that much

1 difference.

2 MS FORBES: Yes.

3 My Lady, if I can go back to Lady Drummond's  
4 sentencing statement, and it is at page 3, that's the  
5 JUS reference that ends 189, where it starts in relation  
6 to John Muldoon I am just going to read out what  
7 Lady Drummond says:

8 'You have been convicted of 16 charges involving  
9 physical and sexual abuse of vulnerable children in your  
10 care at Kerelaw School. You committed these offences  
11 over a period of 19 years, when you were aged between 32  
12 and 51 years. You committed these offences against 10  
13 pupils. You were convicted of nine charges of physical  
14 abuse. That involved punching and kicking children on  
15 the body to their injury, seizing and compressing their  
16 necks, and twisting pupils' arms up their back, forcing  
17 them to strip naked, hitting them on the face and body  
18 with implements, applying pressure to parts of their  
19 body, and burning them on the body with cigarettes.

20 Seven of the charges relate to sexual offending  
21 against five different children. Your offending  
22 involved sexual touching, making sexualised remarks,  
23 repeated oral penetration, and indecent assaults. You  
24 repeatedly raped one pupil over a period of almost  
25 two years. You repeatedly raped another pupil on what

1 she described at one stage as a weekly basis over  
2 an eight-month period.

3 You were a care worker within the residential units,  
4 described by witnesses as authoritarian and strict. You  
5 took advantage of your position within the residential  
6 units and abused the trust and power placed upon you to  
7 physically and sexually violate children at Kerelaw  
8 School. They were among the most vulnerable people in  
9 society and had been placed at the school for their  
10 safety and protection.

11 You were convicted in 2006 of four sexual offences  
12 against other pupils of Kerelaw and sentenced to two and  
13 a half years in prison.

14 I have taken into account the victim impact  
15 statements from the pupils who you subjected to abuse.  
16 Your behaviour has resulted in their physical,  
17 emotional, and psychological suffering and has had  
18 long-lasting effects on them.'

19 Then if I can go just to the last sentence of two  
20 paragraphs down, where Lady Drummond says:

21 'You accept no responsibility for your offending and  
22 show no remorse.'

23 Then going forward, after the next paragraph  
24 Lady Drummond states:

25 'Having regard to the gravity of the offences of

1           which you have been convicted, a custodial sentence is  
2           the only appropriate disposal.'

3           She then imposed a sentence of 12 years'  
4           imprisonment on all charges, and that was backdated  
5           again to December 2022, when he was first on remand.

6           Again, in relation to John Muldoon, my Lady, by way  
7           of an overview, I can now put forward a summary of his  
8           offending in total.

9   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: Looking at the first period of offending,

11           John Muldoon started at Kerelaw in 1982/1983, when he  
12           was approximately 30 years old. He was employed there  
13           as a care worker/unit manager. Within the first  
14           few years of him working at Kerelaw, and these are  
15           during the years of 1985 to 1989, he committed physical  
16           assaults on four boys aged between 12 and 16.

17           Going forward, then, there were further offences  
18           which took place between 1992 and 1996, but these  
19           involved girls and sexual assaults. During this time he  
20           sexually assaulted six different girls, some of whom he  
21           also physically assaulted. He was also found guilty of  
22           three charges of indecent assault, five sexual offences  
23           contrary to section 5 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland)  
24           Act 1976 involving indecent behaviour towards girls  
25           between 12 and 16, three physical assaults, and a breach

1 of the peace.

2 Looking, then, at the period after that,  
3 John Muldoon was convicted of two further charges of  
4 indecent assault, which involved rape. Those occurred  
5 on various occasions between 1996 and 1999. Up until  
6 then the charges John Muldoon had been found guilty of  
7 involved assaults that had taken place at Kerelaw. One  
8 of the convictions for rape included Kerelaw's locus,  
9 but also a lane between Kerelaw and Glasgow, the exact  
10 location was unknown. This sexual assault involved him  
11 handling a girl's vagina over her clothing, forcibly  
12 removing her lower clothing, placing his hand and  
13 a pillow over her mouth, pinning her arms down,  
14 penetrating her vagina with his fingers, compelling her  
15 to touch his penis, and penetrating her anus and vagina  
16 with his penis.

17 The other rape conviction involved John Muldoon  
18 removing a girl's clothing, repeatedly handling her  
19 breasts, watching her in the shower, seizing a towel  
20 from her, exposing her body, touching her, penetrating  
21 her vagina with his fingers, exposing his penis,  
22 masturbating in her presence, and penetrating her mouth,  
23 vagina, and anus with his penis to ejaculation. He was  
24 convicted of physical assault to the same girl, also  
25 making derogatory remarks towards her. The physical

1 assault involved pressing his knuckle into her chest,  
2 pressing his elbow into her back, and placing his knee  
3 into her chest and groin.

4 In the final period, my Lady, the last occurrence of  
5 assault for which John Muldoon was found guilty of, that  
6 occurred between 2001 and 2004. In relation to that he  
7 physically assaulted a girl aged between 13 and 16. He  
8 threw her to the ground, lay on top of her, twisted her  
9 arms up her back, placed his elbow into her back,  
10 applied pressure and forcibly pushed her into a shower,  
11 and dug his nails into her body.

12 In summary of his total convictions, then,  
13 John Muldoon committed crimes against 13 young persons  
14 over a period of approximately 19 years. He was found  
15 guilty of a total of 20 offences: nine involving  
16 physical assault; ten involving sexual assault, and  
17 five of those offences were indecent assault, and two of  
18 those involved rape; and five sexual offences under  
19 section 5 of the 1976 Act; and then also a breach of the  
20 peace.

21 Over those two indictments, he was sentenced to  
22 a total of, I think, 14 and a half years' imprisonment.

23 Separate from Matt George and John Muldoon, my Lady,  
24 there are another two individuals for whom we have  
25 information about convictions.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS FORBES: The first is Thomas Howe. He was a night shift  
3 residential worker at Kerelaw and he faced two charges  
4 on summary complaint of indecent assault of children  
5 under the age of 16.

6 The details of those two charges, my Lady, are as  
7 follows.

8 The first is:

9 'On an occasion between 8 November 1990 and  
10 22 April 2002 at Kerelaw Residential School you did  
11 indecently assault a female resident there who was born  
12 in [REDACTED] 1985 and a child had had not attained the age of  
13 16 years and did seize her by the body, rub your erect  
14 penis against her body, and thereafter repeatedly slap  
15 her on the buttocks.'

16 The second charge is:

17 'On an occasion between 10 October 2001 and  
18 14 October 2002 at Kerelaw Residential School you did  
19 indecently assault [this is a different female resident]  
20 born in [REDACTED] 1986, a child who had not attained the  
21 age of 16 years, and did touch her on the buttocks.'

22 He pled not guilty to that, but was found guilty of  
23 both charges on 25 April 2018, at Kilmarnock Sheriff  
24 Court and he received 10 months' imprisonment in  
25 relation to each charge.

1           The second individual, my Lady, is called  
2           James Boyd. He also was a residential worker at  
3           Kerelaw. He was convicted of assaulting a female  
4           resident at Kerelaw who was under the age of 16.

5           This was -- I should say, my Lady, she might have  
6           been 16 at this time.

7           This was on 19 April 2004, at Kilmarnock Sheriff  
8           Court, and he was fined £200.

9           The background, my Lady, we have been advised by the  
10          Crown in relation to this incident is that the police  
11          were returning this female resident to Kerelaw, due to  
12          her having absconded. She was still in handcuffs when  
13          she was placed before James Boyd and he placed both  
14          hands round her neck and squeezed and then shook her  
15          violently, and this was without any provocation or  
16          warning. This was done in the presence of two police  
17          officers, which is why it came to light. He was  
18          initially arrested for breach of the peace, but later  
19          charged with assault.

20          Apologies, my Lady. I do apologise, my Lady, I read  
21          that wrong. The female resident was initially arrested  
22          for breach of the peace.

23   LADY SMITH: Right.

24   MS FORBES: James Boyd was later charged with assault and he  
25          was given a final warning at a disciplinary hearing in



1 relation to that. It was a final written warning, prior  
2 to being convicted of the assault, and that, we are  
3 told, meant that he was not allowed to return to Kerelaw  
4 or any other care service to work.

5 LADY SMITH: And that was in 2004, I think you said?

6 MS FORBES: The conviction, yes, my Lady --

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MS FORBES: -- at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court.

9 My Lady, that deals with the summaries of the  
10 convicted former workers at Kerelaw that we wanted to  
11 get into the Inquiry today.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS FORBES: I do have some read-ins that we could start  
14 with.

15 LADY SMITH: Let's turn to that then, next, Ms Forbes.

16 MS FORBES: My Lady, the first read-in is in relation to  
17 an applicant who is anonymous, and his pseudonym is  
18 'Sandy'. The reference number for his statement is  
19 WIT-1-000001038.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Sandy' (read)

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Sandy' was born in 1948 and he talks  
23 about his life before going into care between paragraphs  
24 2 and 6 of his statement. He was born in Rottenrow in  
25 Glasgow, lived at home with his parents, and had four

1 brothers and three sisters. 'Sandy' describes life at  
2 home as being fantastic and that his parents were salt  
3 of the earth, but his family were so poor that they were  
4 sent to residential schools to give respite. He was  
5 sent to three homes over the years for some respite  
6 holidays from the age of about five years. He doesn't  
7 talk about any abusive behaviour in those places and he  
8 enjoyed his stays there in the main.

9 From paragraph 11 to 15 of his statement, 'Sandy'  
10 talks about how he ended up in Bellfield Remand Home.  
11 He states that when he was about 9 or 10 years old, he  
12 appeared before what he describes as a Marine Court. He  
13 was sentenced to Bellfield Remand Home, he thinks it was  
14 probably for fighting, but he is not sure. He describes  
15 Bellfield as being fantastic, and he loved it. He was  
16 only there for a few weeks before he was sent back home.

17 He then talks about how he came to be at Larchgrove,  
18 and that is, I think, from paragraph 16 of his  
19 statement. He was about 10 or 11 years old, my Lady,  
20 when he was arrested for what he describes as breach of  
21 the peace and other shenanigans, and this was at Glasgow  
22 Sheriff Court. He was sentenced to 28 days in  
23 Larchgrove and the car took him straight there.

24 Between paragraphs 16 and 51 he talks about his time  
25 in Larchgrove. In summary, my Lady, he states that he

1       slept in dormitories whilst there. There were about 12  
2       to 14 boys in each. There were boys the same age and  
3       a couple of years older, but he was one of the youngest.  
4       And the staff were all male.

5             If I could go to paragraph 19 of his statement first  
6       of all. My Lady, 'Sandy' says at paragraph 19 about his  
7       first day at Larchgrove:

8             'As soon as I went through the big doors there was  
9       a desk and five big blokes in sports jackets waiting for  
10      me. They told me to come in and ordered me to stand  
11      there in front of them. They asked me what my name was,  
12      and what I was in for. I was grabbed by the hair,  
13      attacked by them, and then put in a cell for three days.  
14      I was bleeding badly but never got a chance to wash and  
15      clean up my injuries until the first morning after I had  
16      slept in a dorm and went for a wash.'

17            In relation to that, my Lady, he is setting out his  
18      first day there at Larchgrove and what he experienced.

19            I think later in his statement, my Lady, about  
20      paragraph 32, he talks about bed wetting and says that  
21      boys were shamed by staff as a result of that. Staff  
22      would call them dandelions and would say 'step out the  
23      dandelions' and would hang their sheets out and hand out  
24      rubber sheets to them in front of everybody, and 'Sandy'  
25      says that other boys used to slag them.

1           At paragraph 37 he talks about discipline being  
2           a kick or a slap from staff, and he saw many lads  
3           getting a slap.

4           Paragraph 38, 'Sandy' states that he never ran away,  
5           but other lads there tried. They were caught by the  
6           police and brought back, and they got beaten up by the  
7           Larchgrove staff.

8           There is then a section, my Lady, from paragraph 39  
9           in his statement when he talks about abuse at  
10          Larchgrove, and I am just going to read from  
11          paragraph 39.

12       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13       MS FORBES: 'As soon as I went into Larchgrove, I was  
14          physically abused by the men in sports jackets at  
15          reception. They ordered me to stand in front of them.  
16          One of them grabbed me by the hair and pulled me  
17          backwards. Another one of them was in a cupboard and as  
18          he came over to me, I banged his hand away. I thought  
19          he was going to hit me and all hell broke loose.  
20          I later learned that he had cream for nits to put on my  
21          hair.

22          They battered me. I got kneed in the groin, they  
23          started punching and kicking me and I fell to the floor.  
24          They were kicking me all over and knocked my front and  
25          bottom teeth out. They burst the septum of my nose and

1 I still have breathing difficulties because of this.

2 I was lying on the floor and they dragged me by the  
3 hair and scruff of the neck to the other end of the  
4 building and into a cell. It was just a little room and  
5 I was surprised that somewhere that kept kids had  
6 an actual cell. There was no furniture and no sink.  
7 They pulled me into it and threw me in the corner.  
8 I was bleeding badly from my nose and my mouth and off  
9 they went. It was freezing in there. Instead of  
10 a window, there was a big steel plate with holes and the  
11 wind howled through it. I think it was about [REDACTED]  
12 because it was cold even though I still had my clothes  
13 on.

14 They kept banging the door with the keys to wake me  
15 up during the night. I was there for about three days  
16 and they never gave me anything to eat or drink, I got  
17 no medical treatment and nobody came in to see me.  
18 I wanted to clean my nose and my mouth out and I was  
19 finding it hard to breathe because my septum was broken  
20 and my nose was all swollen.

21 I couldn't understand why they did it. I can't  
22 remember for definite, but I think I had maybe been in  
23 Larchgrove before. I had a really distinctive shock of  
24 red hair and I don't know if the staff recognised me.  
25 I was just a young small guy, maybe a wee bit chubby,

1 but it didn't stop them battering me.

2 The next day I had been sleeping on the floor and  
3 I had a really bad pain in my groin. I was having to  
4 urinate in the corner, and I noticed when I did so that  
5 I was peeing blood. It was really sore and I was really  
6 worried. I hammered on the door and was shouting for  
7 help. Eventually two of them came into the cell and  
8 asked me what all the noise [was] about. I said I need  
9 a doctor or a medical orderly and they started slapping  
10 me about. I was pleading for a doctor and they just  
11 said all in good time. They just slammed the door on  
12 me. The bit that really broke me was I could hear them  
13 laughing about it as they walked away. I never got to  
14 see a doctor or get any medical help.

15 After three days they let me out and I went into the  
16 mainstream for the rest of my stay there.

17 I don't have a clue what any of their names were,  
18 but they were all at reception when I came in. I don't  
19 think I ever saw them again after that, other than when  
20 two of them came into the cell they put me in. Every  
21 time I saw staff after that, they gave me a slap or  
22 a kick when I passed them. That went on right up until  
23 the time I left.

24 When I left Larchgrove, I remember thinking I was  
25 lucky to get out of there alive after what they did to

1 me.'

2 He then goes on to say that after his four weeks at  
3 Larchgrove he was taken back to the Sheriff Court in  
4 Glasgow and he was sentenced to be detained at  
5 Balrossie. He talks about Balrossie between paragraphs  
6 52 and 91, and he calls Balrossie paradise. He says  
7 there were boys up there aged up to 15 and there were  
8 dorms, again about four or five boys in each. He was  
9 never abused by staff there and he didn't see any abuse,  
10 although he says some of the older boys would push him  
11 about and call him names, but staff came down hard on  
12 the bullies. 'Sandy' says he did get into fights with  
13 the bullies. He left Balrossie in 1962 when he was  
14 15 years old and he had a letter promising  
15 an apprenticeship. He said he thought it was brilliant  
16 that he was getting out, but he was sad as he loved it  
17 there.

18 He then talks from paragraphs 92 to 96 about his  
19 life after leaving care and he says he went from job to  
20 job, worked most of his life in construction, and has  
21 been engaged to his current partner for 40 years.

22 LADY SMITH: 40 years I think he said, didn't he, yes.

23 MS FORBES: He retired a few years ago and he said that he  
24 has never been in trouble since he left Glasgow. He  
25 talks about the impact of his time in care at paragraphs

1 97 to 109 and in summary he says that as a result of the  
2 injuries that he suffered on his first day at Larchgrove  
3 he believes he has tinnitus and gets dizzy sometimes.  
4 He has been diagnosed with labyrinthitis, he has dental  
5 issues, he didn't get any treatment for that at the  
6 time, and he got some ill fitting dentures in the 1960s,  
7 but a few years ago he paid £6,000 for new dentures. He  
8 has had difficulty breathing due to the damage to his  
9 septum, but he has never had that medically examined.

10 He also has had problem with his waterworks, but he  
11 doesn't know if that was down to the assault on the  
12 first day at Larchgrove or not, but he said his  
13 confidence suffered a lot due to his missing teeth.

14 If we go to paragraph 106, he states:

15 'I usually waken up with a startle a couple of times  
16 a week thinking about the beating I took and I always  
17 think: why did this happen to me? When this happens,  
18 I feel the roaring in my ears and the tinnitus. When  
19 I can't breathe through my nose it reminds me. When  
20 these things happen it makes me feel angry about what  
21 happened to me.'

22 And he feels that the time that he spent in care has  
23 affected his relationship with his siblings.

24 In relation to lessons to be learned, he talks about  
25 that from paragraph 115, and if I could go to



1 paragraph 117 he states:

2 'The staff in Larchgrove just treated us as if we  
3 were a nuisance. They saw me as just some "Glasgow  
4 Keely" and they thought they would teach me a lesson.  
5 These places should be run like Balrossie, where the  
6 staff were brilliant with us. They were better trained  
7 and better educated.'

8 He then goes on in relation to hopes for the  
9 Inquiry. At paragraph 118 he states:

10 'The Inquiry has achieved what I want as it has  
11 given me a peace of mind. I have got a lot of it off my  
12 chest by speaking to the Inquiry. I think the Inquiry  
13 is doing a grand job. I feel this has helped me bury  
14 what happened.'

15 Then in the last paragraph he makes the usual  
16 declaration that he has no objection to his witness  
17 statement being published and that the facts stated in  
18 the witness statement are true and he signed that and it  
19 is dated 19 July 2022.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, there is another one I can do.

22 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, yes.

23 MS FORBES: In relation to the next applicant, my Lady,  
24 again he is somebody who is anonymous and his pseudonym  
25 is 'Bertie'. The reference for his statement is

1 WIT.001.001.5008.

2 'Bertie' (read)

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, parts of 'Bertie's' statement has  
4 already been read on two separate occasions, and I will  
5 alert your Ladyship which occasions those parts --

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: 'Bertie' was born in 1950. In paragraphs 2 to  
8 17 he talks about his life before care. He was brought  
9 up in tenements in Glasgow by his parents. He had eight  
10 siblings, he states it was just pure poverty, just about  
11 surviving. He says his home wasn't the cleanest, but  
12 there was love in the house.

13 'Bertie' describes himself as being intelligent but  
14 lazy, he went to school because his brothers did. They  
15 moved at one point to a larger house, but he started  
16 getting into trouble for petty things, but he was  
17 breaking into shops. He was then involved in gang  
18 culture, and was committing minor offences, but was  
19 carrying weapons. The social work became involved, and  
20 he talks about going to a Catholic residential school at  
21 the age of 10 or 12. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

22 **Secondary Institu.** But in 1964, when he was 14, 'Bertie' was  
23 charged with theft of scrap metal and he was taken to  
24 Larchgrove.

25 This is from paragraphs 31 to 44, where he talks

1           about Larchgrove. He was in Larchgrove first, and then  
2           he was sent to an approved school. He states that he  
3           was in and out of Larchgrove a few times. It was never  
4           for more than about two weeks at a time. He appeared at  
5           a Juvenile Court and was sent there, and whilst there he  
6           would fight a lot with the other boys.

7           If we go to paragraph 38 of his statement, this is  
8           where 'Bertie' starts to talk about abuse at Larchgrove,  
9           and I will read from there:

10           'There was physical abuse that happened to me at  
11           Larchgrove. We slept in dormitory type rooms with about  
12           four or five boys in each one.

13           I was often woken up by screaming and you could  
14           sometimes hear the staff members coming in at night to  
15           get the boys. It would usually be if the boys had done  
16           something during the day.

17           We were hit all over the body, anywhere, anywhere at  
18           all. If you were ever hit you knew to say you had  
19           fallen. You never spoke about it. It was a waste of  
20           time making complaints.

21           If they done it to you, fine, it was like that's  
22           what you deserved and that was the way you looked at it.  
23           No matter what, everybody was seen as guilty in there.

24           I never saw anything sexual at Larchgrove. There  
25           was talk of it amongst the boys, and I heard about it,

1 but you didn't know if that was true. It could have  
2 been gossip.

3 They had a cell called "The Peter" where they took  
4 them. They weren't away in there for that long, but it  
5 was all locked up and things like that.

6 I wasn't abused in any way at Larchgrove, and  
7 I don't have a great recollection. As I say, I wasn't  
8 there for long.'

9 Then he talks about going to St Mary's List D  
10 School.

11 My Lady, that part of his statement was read-in.

12 LADY SMITH: We have seen that already, yes.

13 MS FORBES: That was on 16 January 2024, Day 406.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS FORBES: Just in a brief summary in relation to that, my  
16 Lady, there was physical abuse from staff, punishment  
17 with a strap for bed wetting, and emotional abuse. But  
18 whilst there he was given a job in a warehouse in  
19 Glasgow, he was 15 or 16 years old by that time, and he  
20 was there for less than two years before he was sent  
21 back home.

22 Then from paragraph 3 -- because his statement about  
23 St Mary's, I think, is quite extensive -- then from  
24 paragraphs 103 to 110 he talks about his time in the  
25 Scottish Prison Service.

1           Again, the detail of that was read in, in full, on  
2           3 November 2023, and that was Day 384 of the Inquiry.  
3           He says that he had started drinking and getting into  
4           bother with gangs, and that's how he ended up in  
5           Polmont. And he was in Polmont for two weeks after  
6           an attempted car theft when he was about 17 and he talks  
7           about physical abuse from staff there.

8           He talks about his life after care between  
9           paragraphs 112 and 114, and he says he joined the army  
10          at 19, he was in the army for 12 years and reached  
11          sergeant. He met his wife whilst in the military and  
12          they have been together ever since. He talks about  
13          impact between paragraphs 115 and 147, so quite a lot of  
14          information in that section, my Lady. He talks about  
15          problems with alcohol whilst in the army, but says he  
16          has not taken a drink for 34 years. He has flashbacks  
17          and nightmares, but his impact section relates  
18          predominantly to St Mary's.

19          In relation to lessons to be learned, he talks about  
20          that between paragraphs 155 and 162, but in essence he  
21          says there needs to be more inspections at places of  
22          care and children need to be listened to.

23          Then at paragraph 162 he has made the usual  
24          declaration that he has no objection to his witness  
25          statement being published and believes the facts stated

1 in the statement are true and it is signed and dated  
2 31 October 2017.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS FORBES: I will just go on to another one, my Lady.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, please.

6 MS FORBES: The next applicant's statement I can take your  
7 Ladyship to again is an applicant who is anonymous, and  
8 his pseudonym is 'Duncan'.

9 The reference for his statement is WIT.001.003.0520.  
10 'Duncan' (read)

11 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Duncan' was born in 1958 and he talks  
12 about, paragraph 2, his life before care.

13 He was born in Bishopbriggs in Glasgow, has no real  
14 recollections of family life, very vague memories of his  
15 life before he even went into care.

16 From paragraphs 3 to 31 he talks about Larchgrove.  
17 He states that at the age of five he was taken into care  
18 by social services and was taken to Larchgrove. He  
19 describes it as being very frightening, and that he had  
20 never seen a building like it. He shared a dormitory  
21 with about ten other boys. He says there were about 30  
22 boys who were the same age as him, about seven or eight,  
23 and he never went to school whilst there. He had to do  
24 chores like cleaning and buffing the floors, and general  
25 cleaning of the place.

1           If you didn't eat the food you would be punished.  
2           You were allowed to watch TV but there were no toys or  
3           books and as a punishment you would have to clean  
4           toilets with a toothbrush. 'Duncan' states he had no  
5           contact with his family whilst he was there and he ran  
6           away about six times. He was punished when he was  
7           returned to the home by being put in a cupboard all day  
8           without food. The discipline there involved being  
9           slapped around the head with little or no notice. If  
10          you gave the staff too much cheek they would use the  
11          belt. He was also hit over the hand with a ruler. Food  
12          would sometimes be withdrawn by staff, or you would be  
13          sent to bed early.

14          There was a punishment for bed wetting and that was  
15          being hit around the head and called names, and 'Duncan'  
16          states that he regularly wet the bed until the age of  
17          14.

18          In relation to a section in his statement about  
19          abuse at Larchgrove, that starts at paragraph 26, if  
20          I can go to that part. 'Duncan' says:

21                 'Whenever I refused to eat my vegetables I would be  
22                 slapped around the back of the head. I was then locked  
23                 in a cleaning cupboard in the dark for up to three  
24                 hours. This would happen regularly. I saw it happen to  
25                 other boys as well. There wasn't just one cupboard,

1           there were a number of them just off the main door.

2           I was regularly called names by the staff. They  
3 would be cruel by saying that my mother didn't love me  
4 and didn't care about me. I can't recall who said these  
5 sort of things to me. It made [me] feel down.

6           I was regularly being slapped around the head for  
7 being cheeky. I couldn't tell anyone about my treatment  
8 as I wouldn't be believed. There was nobody that  
9 I trusted who I could tell. The boys never spoke about  
10 their treatment.

11           Sometimes staff would come into the dormitories at  
12 night and remove children from their beds. No one spoke  
13 about what had happened. As soon as the door would open  
14 you knew that somebody was going to be taken out.'

15           'Duncan' then says that after he ran away the sixth  
16 time he was told he was being moved to another home and  
17 he was going to be taken to Rossie Farm. He talks about  
18 Rossie between paragraphs 32 and 56. He said that there  
19 were -- I am not sure, my Lady, if he tells us his age  
20 at that time, but he says that the ages there were  
21 between 7 and 12 and there was about 100 boys. He got  
22 some schooling there, but he said he ran away on two  
23 occasions when he was about eight and he was severely  
24 punished for running away. He was assaulted by the  
25 staff, slapped, kicked and punched in the back, and he



1 regularly wet the bed, and he was punished for that, and  
2 kicked and slapped by staff and was black and blue with  
3 bruises.

4 He says at one point he was put into the closed  
5 block and it was a very sharp shock. He was terrified,  
6 was getting hit all the time, and spent all of the time  
7 indoors whilst there and he returned to the open block  
8 after about six months. There was some emotional abuse  
9 there. He talks about being put into a dark cupboard  
10 for several hours and there was also some bullying by  
11 the other boys.

12 He then says about his life after care, paragraphs  
13 57 to 61, that he went home at about age 10 and at that  
14 time his stepfather started to physically abuse him and  
15 after about two years of that he ran away to London and  
16 slept rough on the streets for two years.

17 When he was 14 he returned to his grandmother's  
18 house and he went to high school for about two years.

19 At 16 he got in trouble with the police and he was  
20 sent to Polmont, where he served two years. He says  
21 there the regime was strict and he felt there was mental  
22 abuse.

23 When he came out he took a number of jobs in Glasgow  
24 and that area and then he moved to Aberdeen to work  
25 offshore, and subsequently got married and had a family.

1 He talks about the impact of his time in care between  
2 paragraphs 62 and 66. If I could go to part of that at  
3 paragraph 62:

4 'When I left care I felt extremely depressed.  
5 I believed that nobody wanted me. I felt very alone.  
6 It would have been much better if I had had a sibling.  
7 I always felt sorry for myself.

8 I have shed many tears when I think back at what  
9 I have been through at Larchgrove and Rossie Farm. If  
10 I hadn't been in these places I am sure I would have got  
11 a lot further in life and been a better person. I have  
12 been quite aggressive to my peers all my life.'

13 In relation to treatment and support, from  
14 paragraph 67 he says that he has recently received, at  
15 the time of this statement, a 29-week course of therapy  
16 that was organised by Future Pathways. That gave him  
17 the opportunity to get things out of his system. In  
18 respect of lessons to be learned at paragraphs 70 to 72,  
19 he states that he has been unable to read and write and  
20 that children should have a loving and caring  
21 environment, and again that they should be listened to,  
22 and in 'Duncan's' view no child should be in  
23 a children's home.

24 He makes the declaration that he has no objection to  
25 his witness statement being published as part of the

1 evidence to the Inquiry and that he believes the facts  
2 stated in his statement are true. Paragraph 73.

3 He signed that 15 November, 2019.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: My Lady, going to the next applicant's  
6 statement, again it is from someone who is anonymous,  
7 and the pseudonym is 'Bill'.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS FORBES: The witness statement reference for 'Bill' is  
10 WIT-1-000000923.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 'Bill' (read)

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, part of 'Bill's' statement was read in  
14 previously in relation to Scottish Prison Service.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS FORBES: 'Bill' was born in 1957, and he spent his  
17 early years in Glasgow. He lived with his parents and  
18 his siblings. He was the oldest of five boys. His dad  
19 worked away from home but then left the family home when  
20 he was five. A stepdad came on the scene and there was  
21 three more children, and he considered his stepdad to be  
22 his dad.

23 They moved quite a few times and they ended up in  
24 Carntyne, he started getting into trouble and he was out  
25 stealing coal for the fire.

1           He was sent to a care setting for the first time at  
2           six or seven years old and that was for about three or  
3           four weeks. He states his mother was pregnant at the  
4           time with his youngest brother and was admitted to  
5           hospital and his father was working away from home. But  
6           then after that he went back to stay with his mum.

7           He talks about his life back with his mum between  
8           paragraphs 7 and 9, and moved again, I think at that  
9           time he is going slightly back and forward in his  
10          statement, but at that time his mum was seeing his  
11          stepfather, and then when he was nine or ten he got into  
12          trouble for breaking into cars and then into a bakery.  
13          He broke into a car and stole some money and he was  
14          caught by the police several times and given probation  
15          and warnings and at one time he was given three years'  
16          probation. He was then sentenced to an approved school  
17          in 1967 at nine years old. And it was to be between  
18          a one-and three-year sentence. He was initially sent to  
19          Larchgrove. He talks about that between paragraphs 10  
20          and 25.

21          'Bill' says that he remembers whilst at Larchgrove  
22          that he was only called by his last name. He was only  
23          there for six to eight weeks, but to him it was a real  
24          shock. There were boys in there aged up to 15. He  
25          describes the staff there as being loud and aggressive;

1 boys would be called names for wetting the bed. He was  
2 homesick and had to keep all of his emotions to himself.  
3 He saw kids crying and the bully kids, as he called  
4 them, would ridicule them, and staff would just tell  
5 those boys to man up.

6 He talks particularly about abuse in Larchgrove at  
7 paragraphs 21 to 23 and if I could go to that part of  
8 the statement, 'Bill' says:

9 'The staff ran a bullying regime at Larchgrove and  
10 there was bullying between the boys too. I was made to  
11 fight against other boys in a boxing ring against other  
12 boys as part of the PT class, which was once or twice  
13 a week. The staff made me put boxing gloves on and then  
14 put me in the ring. There wasn't a choice, I had to  
15 fight. The staff chose who you fought with and they  
16 were selected randomly. It was often with much older  
17 and bigger boys. Sometimes the boys were as old as 15.  
18 I can't remember how often this happened.

19 The staff --

20 LADY SMITH: He was about ten years old, was he, nine or  
21 ten years old when he went there?

22 MS FORBES: Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MS FORBES: 'The staff put a lot of pressure on you to do  
25 things the way they wanted. They would tell you if you

1 didn't do something properly the rest of the boys would  
2 have to do ten press ups. This really put pressure on  
3 you to do whatever it was, otherwise the boys would  
4 suffer. The staff would often say things in front of  
5 the other boys just to embarrass and ridicule you. They  
6 did a lot of things and said a lot of things just to try  
7 and toughen all of the boys up, but it was done in  
8 a cruel way. I was slapped, punched and kicked on  
9 occasions by staff. I was slapped if I was caught  
10 talking. I was kicked on the backside if I had  
11 forgotten something and had to go back for it.

12 I tried my best to keep my head down and make sure  
13 that I wasn't caught in a position that something might  
14 happen. I knew not to be last out of the showers,  
15 because the last boy out regularly got a slap on the  
16 back of the head. I didn't see any of the other boys  
17 being abused in any other way apart from being slapped  
18 and kicked by staff. I never witnessed, saw or heard  
19 about any sexual abuse. I don't think I was picked on  
20 or abused any more than any other boy.'

21 He then says that he was told he was going to  
22 St Ninian's, and he then talks about St Ninian's between  
23 paragraphs 26 and 64. This wasn't read in during that  
24 section of the Inquiry.

25 In summary, whilst at St Ninian's 'Bill' states that

1           there was physical and emotional abuse by staff. He  
2           names Brother Benedict as being one of them. There was  
3           punishments for bed wetting. He talks about  
4           Brother Benedict playing with himself under his robe and  
5           there was inappropriate touching by staff. There was  
6           boys crying at night and there was rumours that they  
7           were being abused by the Brothers, but he never saw it  
8           and it didn't happen to him. He was there for about  
9           18 months and then he was allowed to go home.

10           He then went home to stay with his mum and he talks  
11           about that at paragraphs 65 and 66. Back home with his  
12           mum 'Bill' states that he fell into old habits again.  
13           He was getting up to no good. The police got involved  
14           and he ended up before a Children's Panel. They decided  
15           he would be sent to St Joseph's. He had only been out  
16           for about six months at that time. He was at a couple  
17           of children's homes for a few weeks, and then at  
18           Larchgrove. He talks about being at Larchgrove for the  
19           second time at paragraph 67. He doesn't know how long  
20           he was there for, but it was exactly the same, although  
21           he was a bit older and wiser. He knew what to expect  
22           and how to behave.

23           'Bill' states it was still strict at Larchgrove but  
24           he knew how to cope.

25           He was then in some other children's homes and he

1 talks about that between paragraphs 68 and 74.

2 The first place he was in was for about four or five  
3 weeks and there was some emotional abuse.

4 He was in a children's home then for a matter of  
5 weeks, but he is not sure when this was in the  
6 chronology. His time there was okay, and it was a much  
7 more relaxed atmosphere.

8 He then went to St Joseph's in Tranent and he talks  
9 about that between paragraphs 75 and 84. By that time  
10 he says Brother Benedict had moved there and the  
11 behaviour from him continued as it had before, but he  
12 was more aggressive and more violent. He still played  
13 with himself under his robe and other Brothers hit the  
14 boys, but nowhere as bad as Brother Benedict. He said  
15 he was there for about 18 months, he was between 12 and  
16 a half and 13 when he left. He then went back home and  
17 he settled in and went to secondary school, but he says  
18 it was not long before he was back in trouble again.

19 This led to him being involved in the Scottish  
20 Prison Service establishments and he talks about them  
21 between paragraphs 86 and 102 and this part was read in  
22 on 17 November 2023, on Day 392.

23 Just in summary, my Lady, he was in Longriggend two  
24 or three times before the age of 16. The first time he  
25 was there before he went to Polmont, each time for about



1 two months, and he talks about physical assaults by  
2 a member of staff.

3 He was in the detention part of Glenochil, which was  
4 a tough regime, but he doesn't frown upon that and he  
5 doesn't consider anything there that happened to him to  
6 be abuse.

7 He was in Polmont for borstal for nine months and  
8 'Bill' states it is almost all positive in relation to  
9 that, he enjoyed the training and the working.

10 After care he talks about his life between  
11 paragraphs 103 and 106. He left Scotland, went down to  
12 London, got a job painting. However, he had further  
13 prison sentences, a four-year sentence when he was 19,  
14 and then a three-year sentence in 1982. But then he got  
15 married and divorced. He met someone else and had  
16 children. He states that that partner sadly passed away  
17 and he had to fight to get custody of the children he  
18 had with her.

19 He talks about passing some O-Levels in prison. He  
20 did a six-month vocational training course in the  
21 construction industry and he also got a City & Guilds in  
22 painting and decorating whilst in prison. He got a job  
23 in a machine shop later on and was involved in carpentry  
24 and he had his own company for a while, which employed  
25 over 20 people.

1           He talks about the impact from paragraph 107, and  
2           states he is bitter about St Ninian's and states that  
3           the struggle to get custody of his two sons was  
4           difficult because of his care past and his convictions.  
5           It is only in the last few years he has changed the way  
6           he approaches people or situations. He has had quite  
7           a lot of medical issues and some mental health problems,  
8           and in relation to reporting abuse he gave evidence at  
9           the High Court in the trial of Brother Benedict. In the  
10          last paragraph of his statement, my Lady, paragraph 135,  
11          he makes the usual declaration that he has no objection  
12          to his statement being published and that the facts  
13          stated are true. He signed that 1 March 2022.

14        LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15        MS FORBES: My Lady, there is then another statement from  
16          an applicant who is anonymous, and his pseudonym is  
17          'David'.

18                The reference for 'David's' statement is  
19                WIT-1-000001122.

20                               'David' (read).

21        MS FORBES: Again, 'David's' part of his statement that  
22          relates to the Scottish Prison Service was previously  
23          read-in.

24                'David' was born in 1955. His life before care is  
25          outlined at paragraphs 2 to 12. He was born in

1           Lennoxtown in Glasgow. He states he doesn't know  
2           anything about his life before going into care, except  
3           what he has been told years later by a family member.

4   LADY SMITH: If his dates are correct he would have been  
5           very young.

6   MS FORBES: Yes, very young. He thinks he was sent to  
7           Quarriers when he was very young, about two, but his  
8           mother suffered from mental health issues, he has been  
9           told.

10   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11   MS FORBES: My Lady, he talks about Quarriers, which I think  
12           was the first placement, between paragraphs 13 and 52.

13           His earliest memories, though, are from about age  
14           five, albeit he thinks he was sent there about two years  
15           old. He states that he suffered physical, mental, and  
16           sexual abuse while at Quarriers. 'David' sums his time  
17           up there as horrible and disgusting, and he left there  
18           in 1963 when he was about eight years old. He went home  
19           to stay with his mother and his mother's partner, but  
20           about a year later, when he was about nine years old, he  
21           was taken back into care.

22           'David' states this related to a prank, as he calls  
23           it, involving him and others taking money off someone  
24           and he was put before the court in Govan and he says  
25           sentenced to three years. He was taken to Larchgrove.

1           He talks about Larchgrove between paragraphs 60 and  
2           75. He was placed there temporarily until a place could  
3           be found for the three years. A staff member there  
4           called Mr MKI [REDACTED] slapped him on the jaw after he was  
5           cheeky to him, and 'David' says he changed whilst there  
6           and started fighting and sticking up for himself. He  
7           wasn't there long, but he was back and forward in there  
8           in between going to Dr Guthrie's and the Kibble.

9           He talks about abuse at Larchgrove at paragraph 71  
10          of his statement.

11          At paragraph 71 'David' says:

12          'The same things happened in Larchgrove that  
13          happened in Quarriers. I was made to masturbate several  
14          older boys in there. I don't know what age they were.  
15          This used to happen in the dorms and it was one boy at  
16          a time that I had to do this to.

17          I think the staff knew what was going on, because  
18          one time when I was meant to masturbate a boy I could  
19          hear somebody coming along the corridor that I knew was  
20          going to be staff. I ran back to my bed but before  
21          I could get into it there was Mr MKI [REDACTED] coming in and  
22          touching my heart. He called me a dirty wee bastard and  
23          gave me a skelp. I never told him or anybody else and  
24          have never told anybody since what was happening with me  
25          being made to masturbate them.

1 I tried to get out the windows a lot, but if you got  
2 caught you would get a slap and kick and the belt on  
3 your arse over your clothing.'

4 He then talks about going to Dr Guthrie's between  
5 paragraph 76 and 89. 'David' says that there was sexual  
6 abuse whilst there involving other boys. There was  
7 emotional abuse from staff, and he thinks he was there  
8 for six months, but it could have been longer.

9 He then went to another residential school. That  
10 was between paragraphs 90 and 114 that he talks about  
11 that. He thinks he was about 10 or 11 years old when he  
12 went there. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

13 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** he thinks that he left after the end of his  
14 sentence, but he is not sure if he did the full  
15 three years or got out early.

16 He was sent back to Glasgow to live with his mum.  
17 He was back getting in to mischief again. He was back  
18 in court for breaking into school and stealing the  
19 teachers' belts, and he said that he wrecked the place  
20 and stole all of the belts. He was sent to the Juvenile  
21 Court and then referred to the Children's Panel. The  
22 panel said he was unruly, and that he was going to be  
23 sent to an approved school and he was taken straight to  
24 Larchgrove.

25 He talks about Larchgrove for the second time from

1 paragraph 120. He says this was a short spell, it might  
2 have been 28 days, he was remanded or detained for  
3 reports and then he was back to the Sheriff Court and  
4 sentenced to two years in Dr Guthrie's. He thinks he  
5 was 13 or 14 years old the second time.

6 This time the boys who had abused him were no longer  
7 there, but he was fighting a lot this time. He got the  
8 strap on the hands as punishment from the head. It was  
9 usually three times with the same leather type of  
10 teacher's belt. 'David' said nothing happened the  
11 second time that he considered to be abusive.

12 He then went to Dr Guthrie's for the second time and  
13 he was there for 18 months. He says whilst there it was  
14 the same kind of sexual abuse from other boys, but he  
15 was 13 or 14, so he started to stand up for himself and  
16 it stopped. He was physically assaulted whilst there by  
17 staff and there was inappropriate behaviour like having  
18 to swim naked in the swimming pool. He left at the end  
19 of his sentence and went home. He was meant to be at  
20 school, but skipping it again and getting into mischief.  
21 He was breaking into things and stealing out of vans.  
22 He ended up at the Children's Panel a couple of times.  
23 He was given a warning to start going to school and  
24 behaving, but he didn't do either, 'David' says.

25 And when he was about 15, ish, he was back in court,

1 or the Children's Panel, and he was sent to Kibble  
2 Approved School. But he went to Larchgrove for a short  
3 period first.

4 So this was his third time in Larchgrove, and he  
5 talks about that between paragraphs 141 and 142. Again,  
6 this was a short period. However, 'David' says that  
7 there were gangs this time and he saw people getting  
8 stabbed in the legs. That never happened to him,  
9 though. By the time he went back there 'David'  
10 describes himself as bigger, stronger, and more  
11 streetwise.

12 He then went to Kibble and outlines his time in  
13 Kibble between paragraphs 143 and 162. He was meant to  
14 be there for two years, but he did about a year.  
15 'David' talks about a lot of fighting between the boys,  
16 of which staff wouldn't intervene. There was a lot of  
17 gangs and gang fights, there was also physical assaults  
18 from staff. He left Kibble when he was about 16 and  
19 went back home. Things were just the same.

20 At that time 'David' says he was drinking a lot,  
21 fighting with gangs and in trouble with police. He  
22 ended up at the Sheriff Court charged with attempted  
23 murder. That was dropped to serious assault and he was  
24 sentenced to three years at Polmont. He thinks that was  
25 in 1973, when he was 17. He was still at Govan High, he

1 says at the time. He says he met his wife there and  
2 they got married after he came out of Polmont in 1976.

3 He went to Barlinnie first and spent maybe three  
4 months there before being transferred to Polmont, and  
5 there was no issues of abuse whilst he was in Barlinnie.

6 In relation to Polmont, this was read in on  
7 16 November 2023, Day 391, and that's paragraphs 168 to  
8 178. In summary, 'David' talks about physical assaults  
9 by a member of staff. That was the time that  
10 Cornton Vale was being built and he volunteered as  
11 a plasterer, so he went to Cornton Vale for a while, and  
12 there was no issues when he left about at about 18. He  
13 did only one year of the three years and there was no  
14 issues at Cornton Vale.

15 After care his life is summarised between paragraphs  
16 181 to 202. He went back to his mum's, he was getting  
17 drunk and into trouble for breaches of peace and things.  
18 He couldn't get a job because of his convictions. But  
19 he moved in with the woman he married and the years  
20 following 'David' says were very hard. There was  
21 a number of deaths. His uncle died, his brother was  
22 murdered. He had three daughters and a son and his wife  
23 disappeared when one of his daughters was six months old  
24 and he was a lone parent and brought up the children on  
25 his own. He struggled with drinking but says that he



1 fought tooth and nail to try and make sure that nothing  
2 happened to his children. He got divorced but he got  
3 involved with the Govan Initiative who train people back  
4 into work. 'David' says disclosure rules prevented him  
5 from getting a job. He went to college. He started  
6 an HNC in community development but didn't finish it.  
7 Then his son was murdered. He struggled with  
8 depression.

9 He found out this information about his early life  
10 from one of his family members and also found out who  
11 his father was. He tracked down some members of his  
12 father's family but he never worked in a paid job since  
13 his son was murdered. 'David' says he has worked,  
14 volunteered at a soup kitchen and helped the homeless.

15 In relation to impact, 'David' outlines that at  
16 paragraphs 203 onwards, but that, and the latter part of  
17 his statement, my Lady, mainly relates to Quarriers.  
18 But what is clear is that he has had issues with  
19 drinking and drugs.

20 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, we can go to  
21 paragraph 265 of 'David's' statement. He says there:

22 'I hope that the Inquiry will ensure that there  
23 should be more vetting for people working in care.  
24 I also hope and think there should also be  
25 an independent body who come into care homes to speak to

1           those in care to see if they are okay. It shouldn't  
2           just be once every six months either it should be  
3           constantly.'

4           He does state in the next paragraph that if somebody  
5           that was independent and who he could trust had come  
6           into Quarriers or Dr Guthrie's he might have spoken to  
7           them.

8           He makes the usual declaration then at  
9           paragraph 267, and he has signed that and it is dated  
10          8 November 2022.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, it has come to my attention that the  
13          sentencing statement I read out at the beginning, I may  
14          have given the wrong reference for that, so just to  
15          clarify that, I think it is JUS-000000189.

16 LADY SMITH: That's our reference, that's the Inquiry  
17          reference.

18 MS FORBES: That's our reference, my Lady, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: It is also publicly available on the court  
20          website, if you search under Judiciary of Scotland.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think the next statement is quite  
22          long, so I don't know --

23 LADY SMITH: I think we have made very good progress.

24          What I am going to do is rise now and you can let me  
25          know when the first of the oral witnesses for today is

1 ready.

2 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: It will probably be nearer 11.45 am, because  
4 that's what they are expecting, but that's okay. Thank  
5 you very much.

6 (11.20 am)

7 (A short break)

8 (11.47 am)

9 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

10 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

11 My Lady, the first oral witness this morning is  
12 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and is  
13 referred to as 'Robert'.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 'Robert' (sworn).

16 LADY SMITH: 'Robert', do sit down and make yourself  
17 comfortable.

18 The microphone has a nice long arm, so it should be  
19 able to pick you up easily, 'Robert'.

20 A. Great.

21 LADY SMITH: A couple of things before we begin.

22 That red folder on the desk has your statement in  
23 it, so that will be available for you if you want to  
24 look at it at all. We will also bring parts of your  
25 statement up on the screen as we look at them.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: So you will have both there to refer to if you  
3 want to. You don't have to, but they are there.

4 Otherwise, 'Robert', I just want you to be clear  
5 that what I want to do is anything I can to assist you  
6 give your evidence as well as you can and as comfortably  
7 as you can. For example, if at any time you want  
8 a break, that's fine, you just let me know, and we can  
9 work out whether you just want to pause where you are,  
10 or go out of the room. Or if there is anything else  
11 that you are not sure about, please don't hesitate to  
12 speak up. We are here to try and help you give your  
13 evidence, as I say, as well as you can. So don't sit  
14 there quietly if anything is worrying you.

15 I do know it is not easy doing what we are asking  
16 you to do here in a public forum, going back to talk  
17 about things that happened a long time ago that were  
18 difficult, to say the least. So do just be aware of  
19 that. We do understand.

20 If you are ready, I will hand over to Mr Peoples and  
21 he will take it from there, is that all right?

22 A. Yes, that's fine.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24

25

1 Questions by Mr Peoples

2 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, 'Robert'.

3 A. Morning.

4 Q. Can I begin by asking you to just look at the statement  
5 that you have provided to the Inquiry. I will give the  
6 reference, don't worry about this, this is for our  
7 purposes, it is given a reference number.

8 A. Oh, okay.

9 Q. The reference is WIT.001.002.0067. So that is what,  
10 I think, is in front of you, your statement.

11 'Robert', first of all could I ask you to turn to  
12 the final page of your statement, page 23, and can you  
13 just confirm that you have signed this statement --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- that you have provided?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Also that you say on that page that you have no  
18 objection to your witness statement being published as  
19 part of the evidence to the Inquiry, and that you  
20 believe the facts stated in your witness statement are  
21 true?

22 A. That's correct, yes.

23 Q. Can I begin by going back to the start of the statement,  
24 and just getting some information. I will start with,  
25 first of all can you just confirm, I don't want the

1       precise date, but can you confirm the year of your  
2       birth, is that 1955?

3   A.  Yes, it is ██████████ 1955.

4   Q.  I didn't need the --

5   A.  Oh, sorry.

6   LADY SMITH:  It is okay, you have not done anything wrong,  
7       it is just you don't have to tell us if you don't want  
8       to.

9   MR PEOPLES:  You don't have to tell us, but don't worry, we  
10       will make ...

11         What I am going to start with is to ask you about  
12       a section that's headed 'Life before care', so we have  
13       a little bit of an idea of what your background was  
14       before you went into the care settings you tell us  
15       about.

16         I think, 'Robert', you tell us that you were born in  
17       Glasgow?

18   A.  Yes.

19   Q.  And your family lived in the Possilpark area of the  
20       city?

21   A.  Possilpark, yes, correct.

22   Q.  You also tell us, at paragraph 2 that you had nine  
23       siblings, four brothers and four sisters?

24   A.  Yes.

25   Q.  Some of whom are not, I think, with us any more?

1 A. Yes, passed away, a few.

2 Q. Just about your time with your family, you tell us that  
3 when you were about seven years of age that your father  
4 died?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that after that you lived with your mum and your  
7 brothers and sisters?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. From what you tell us, I think it was quite a hard  
10 situation because I think you tell us that there wasn't  
11 a lot of money?

12 A. Oh, no, no.

13 Q. And your mum was left on her own to look after a big  
14 family?

15 A. Yes, basically, yes.

16 Q. Did your mum have to go out to work?

17 A. From what I can remember, yes, she was working, she was  
18 some sort of cleaner or something like that.

19 Q. Yes, to try to get some money for the family?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us in paragraph 3 a little bit about your  
22 schooling, and you went to a local Roman Catholic  
23 school?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. There came a point I think when you tell us you started

1 skipping school?

2 A. Yes, yes, I was playing truant, yes.

3 Q. You were then, I think, at a point taken to -- I think

4 you say it was a Children's Panel, but I think in the

5 1960s, it was probably the Juvenile Court, but it might

6 have appeared to you to be a panel?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think the dates that you give, if you were aged about

9 12, I think that put you into a Juvenile Court?

10 LADY SMITH: A bit early, yes.

11 MR PEOPLES: Yes, it would be a bit early for the Children's

12 Panel.

13 A. Oh, was I?

14 Q. Not to worry, how you got to where you got to, don't

15 worry about that. You may well have thought it was like

16 a Children's Panel.

17 You tell us that what happened there was that you

18 ended up being sent to Larchgrove?

19 A. To Larchgrove, yes.

20 Q. Which was a remand home at that stage, I think?

21 A. I think it was, yes, some sort of remand home.

22 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 4, 'Robert', that you were

23 sent there for 14 days for truancy, so that was skipping

24 school?

25 A. Yes, that was the first time, yes.



1 Q. Was that the first sort of care setting, or  
2 establishment, that you had been in?

3 A. Yes, it was, yes.

4 Q. I think at that time, and don't worry about this, we  
5 found out, I think at that stage Larchgrove took in boys  
6 who had received a sentence from the court, the Juvenile  
7 Court, and some boys who may have just been taken in on  
8 care and protection grounds. I don't know if you knew  
9 that at the time, that not all boys got a sentence?

10 A. Oh, I didn't know that at the time.

11 Q. You didn't?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. You just come in and see --

14 A. I just assumed that everybody had done something,  
15 truancy for school, or whatever.

16 Q. They might have done. That was, I suppose, a form of  
17 sentence. But also they might have just been taken in  
18 because they needed some sort of protection away from  
19 their community.

20 A. Well, I didn't know that at the time, no.

21 Q. You tell us, I think, and we will come on to it, but you  
22 said your first period was 14 days, and you, when you  
23 were released, you say it didn't stop you skipping  
24 school, is that right?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. Yes. You have a memory, I think, at paragraph 5, that  
2 there was perhaps a period after that where you may have  
3 appeared before a Juvenile Court again, but you were  
4 getting maybe probation?

5 A. I got probation, yes, I had a probation officer.

6 Q. And a probation officer would come and see you and --

7 A. Well, I would go and see him.

8 Q. Sorry, it would be the other way round, you would go and  
9 see him?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. You would go, maybe, on a weekly basis?

12 A. I think it was every fortnight, or something like that.

13 Q. Yes. But you also tell us at paragraph 6 that you and  
14 a couple of other boys were breaking into shops and  
15 sorts of petty crime and things like that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that what you got into?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us the sort of things you were doing; you broke  
20 into a Woolworths on one occasion in Glasgow and you  
21 were taking, stripping copper boilers from factories?

22 A. Yes, anything just to get a bit of cash.

23 Q. Yes, because I was going to say you tell us why you were  
24 doing that.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you just tell us, why did you need the cash?

2 A. Well, it was just to buy clothes and things like that,  
3 whatever, you know what I mean, to try and keep up with  
4 the fashions, things like that.

5 As I say, my mum didn't have much money then, so you  
6 never got much, other than what you got yourself really,  
7 to spend on yourself.

8 Q. Did you give your mum any of the cash or did you keep  
9 it?

10 A. No, I kept it for myself.

11 Q. That's very honest of you.

12 A. I couldn't tell her what I had been up to.

13 LADY SMITH: I suppose you would then have to tell her where  
14 you got the money?

15 A. She used to just say, 'Where did that coat come from?'  
16 And, 'Where did you get those shoes from?' And things  
17 like that, you know what I mean.

18 LADY SMITH: What did you tell her?

19 A. I said I borrowed them off a friend.

20 MR PEOPLES: She would know that from time to time you were  
21 having to go to court, but maybe she was perhaps --

22 A. Yeah, well, when this came about, when we got charged  
23 for breaking into the Woolworths shop on Union Street,  
24 she knew it all by then, she knew.

25 Q. You tell us at paragraph 7 this is how I think you got

1 taken back to Larchgrove probably for the second time,  
2 you say that you were about 13 years of age, which would  
3 put you around 1968, or thereabouts, that you were  
4 caught breaking into a shop with some other lads?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. And that was on a Sunday, and you were taken to the  
7 local police station, presumably?  
8 A. That's correct.  
9 Q. And you appeared in court the following day?  
10 A. Mm-hm, yes.  
11 Q. You think it might have been the Sheriff Court on this  
12 occasion?  
13 A. I am sure it was, yes, I am sure it was the Sheriff  
14 Court.  
15 Q. You tell us a little bit, that two of the boys that you  
16 were with were in court as well, but they were a bit  
17 older, and you think they were probably over 16?  
18 A. Yes, they were a couple of years older than me, I think  
19 they were, yes.  
20 Q. So you were kind of running about with some of the older  
21 boys?  
22 A. Yes, yes.  
23 Q. I think -- well, you tell us you all pled guilty?  
24 A. We did, yes.  
25 Q. Did they end up going somewhere different to Larchgrove?

1 A. Yes, because of the age differences. I think they ended  
2 up going to borstal --

3 Q. Borstal, yes?

4 A. -- and I was send back to -- I was sent to Larchgrove to  
5 wait to be moved on to the approved school.

6 Q. Yes, because I think what they would have done was that  
7 you pled guilty, you would go back to Larchgrove while  
8 some reports were prepared before they decided you  
9 should go to an approved school --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- and things like that?

12 A. Yes. I think the routine was then you waited in  
13 Larchgrove for four to six weeks, something like that,  
14 until a vacancy came up for you to go into the approved  
15 school.

16 Q. Yes, because there wasn't always an immediate vacancy in  
17 the places at the approved school?

18 A. No, I don't think so, no, that's why you were sent to  
19 Larchgrove.

20 Q. Starting at paragraph 9 you tell us a bit about the  
21 remand home, and it was all boys in the home?

22 A. Yes, it was all boys, yes.

23 Q. You think that the age range was between about 10 to  
24 14/15 years of age?

25 A. Yes, the ages varied, yes.

1 Q. Yes, so you wouldn't be the youngest, but you wouldn't  
2 be the oldest?

3 A. No, I wouldn't be the youngest but I wouldn't be the  
4 oldest either.

5 Q. You reckon at that stage there was about 100 boys, or  
6 maybe more?

7 A. From what I remember, yes, around about 100 boys.

8 Q. So it was a big place?

9 A. Fairly big, yes.

10 Q. Am I right, so I get my locations right here, the  
11 geography, was it quite near Springboig St John's  
12 Approved School, was it across the road?

13 A. I think St John's was quite nearby, it was on the  
14 Edinburgh Road in Glasgow, yes.

15 Q. What you tell us is that there were wee groups of gangs  
16 in there, so was there a bit of a gang culture in the  
17 place, or --

18 A. Well, when I say there was gangs, it was wee groups of  
19 boys from different areas, boys from Shettleston, and  
20 they had their wee gang, boys from Possilpark, they had  
21 their wee gang, and The Calton and things like that.

22 Q. Would the boys from these different areas stick together  
23 then in Larchgrove, generally?

24 A. Yes, when you were out for your play time thing, they  
25 would be in wee groups in the yard, sort of thing.

1 Q. Because we know that approved schools at that stage were  
2 denominational, some took boys that were Catholic and  
3 some took boys who were Protestant, but Larchgrove just  
4 took everyone, didn't it?

5 A. Yes, Larchgrove was mixed, yes. Larchgrove was mixed  
6 religions.

7 Q. You say that you didn't have any problems when you were  
8 there on that occasion?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. Did the fact there were boys and gangs together, did  
11 that create any problems at all that you witnessed or  
12 saw, or remember?

13 A. Yes, a few fights would break out now and again in the  
14 yard, but they were soon broke up, or something like  
15 that. And that was just, like, different boys from  
16 different areas, different gangs.

17 Q. You tell us at paragraph 10, you have told us that when  
18 you were there on the second time you were waiting this  
19 vacancy, and you reckon you were there six, or you think  
20 maybe possibly eight weeks?

21 A. Yes, something like that.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Between six to eight weeks I think I was waiting for  
24 a vacancy.

25 Q. Yes. Then if I could move to page 3, if we could bring

1           that up, it is in front of you, you tell us a bit about  
2           the staff, and you say the people were called teachers?  
3    A.   Yes.  
4    Q.   Although I don't think you received any education, did  
5           you?  
6    A.   No, there was no education whatsoever, they were just  
7           giving you a reading book or a little sum to do or  
8           something like that, when you were supposed to be  
9           getting schooled.  
10   Q.   But they were wearing civvies, they weren't wearing  
11          uniforms or anything like that?  
12   A.   The only sort of uniform which I can remember was a sort  
13          of grey jacket.  
14   Q.   Yes?  
15   A.   Like a barber's jacket, that you see the barbers wear,  
16          it was something like that they had, and a bunch of  
17          keys, they always had a bunch of keys.  
18   Q.   Hanging out of their pockets?  
19   A.   Yes.  
20   Q.   Was it a locked institution, in the sense of that you  
21          had to open doors?  
22   A.   Oh, yes, the doors was locked, every time you went  
23          somewhere you went with one of the teachers.  
24   Q.   And did they ever use the keys for anything other than  
25          unlocking doors? Do you remember anything like that?



1 A. No, no.

2 Q. No, okay.

3 LADY SMITH: How did seeing these keys hanging out of their  
4 pockets, and hearing the keys as they moved around, make  
5 you feel?

6 A. Well, you sort of get used to it after a while.

7 LADY SMITH: Initially, what did you think?

8 A. I can't really say.

9 LADY SMITH: Did it bother you?

10 A. Not really, no.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

12 MR PEOPLES: But you hadn't really been in a place like  
13 that, or you had been once, for 14 days --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- but you were relatively new to these types of places.  
16 Did you just accept that at the time?

17 A. Well, you just accepted it, yes.

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. More or less.

20 Q. At paragraph 12 though, you do have a recollection of  
21 one particular member of staff, because you tell us what  
22 his name was, a Mr MKI ?

23 A. I think his name was MKI , yes.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. Mr MKI .

1 Q. Just at this stage, you are giving us a bit of  
2 a description of him, and saying that you reckoned he  
3 was in his mid 40s, and red ginger hair?

4 A. Yes, that's right.

5 Q. You remember that?

6 A. I remember him, yes, aye.

7 Q. And big glass bottle-bottomed glasses?

8 A. Yes, big thick glasses.

9 Q. Just looking at it just now, you say he was a weird  
10 looking man and then he was a horrible weasly man, and  
11 boys were wary of him. Can you maybe tell me why you  
12 are saying that and why that's your memory of him?

13 A. Well, he was always -- he was one of the teachers,  
14 teachers in the classroom, and he would shout individual  
15 boys up to his desk for some sort of interview. We  
16 assumed that he was assessing you for your move on to  
17 the next approved school, but when it was you and him  
18 sitting at the desk he would ask you smutty things about  
19 your sisters, and things like that.

20 Q. So when you would go up he would start asking questions,  
21 you say smutty things, and asking personal questions?

22 A. Yes, he would say, 'How many sisters do you have?' And  
23 'Do you ever watch them getting undressed?' And things  
24 like that.

25 Q. How did you react to those sort of questions, can you

1 remember?

2 A. I just says, 'No, I have never seen my sisters  
3 undressing'.

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Maybe I should have said to him, 'Well, why are you  
6 asking me that?' But ...

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: But you are quite young.

9 A. Yes, well, yes, you just answered the questions that  
10 were put to you.

11 Q. This class that you were in, there would be other boys,  
12 though in the class?

13 A. Oh, yes, yes, there be would boys sitting down reading  
14 their books, or doing their sums that he gave them to  
15 do.

16 Q. Would these boys in the class, would they be the same  
17 age, or older and younger?

18 A. Around about the same age, yes.

19 Q. You say, though, that it wasn't just you that would be  
20 called up to the teacher?

21 A. Oh no, yes.

22 Q. Other boys would be called up?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you know whether they were asked the same sort of  
25 questions?

1 A. Yes, they were asked the same sort of, type of  
2 questions, sure they were.

3 Q. Is that something that the boys discussed?

4 A. Yes, we would discuss it when we got out to the play  
5 time thing.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. That's when you would find out, you would say, 'He asked  
8 me this and he asked me that'.

9 Q. When you say boys were wary of him, why do you say that?  
10 Was it beyond just the fact that he was asking  
11 questions, or did they feel that they should be wary for  
12 any other reason --

13 A. Er --

14 Q. -- of what he might --

15 A. I can't really say. It was just rumours, you know what  
16 I mean, 'Stay away from him, he is a weirdo'.

17 Q. Who was saying that to you?

18 A. The other boys.

19 Q. Were these boys that had been there before?

20 A. No, well --

21 Q. Just the boys?

22 A. Yes, just the boys that was there then.

23 Q. Yes, so they were just giving a warning to stay away?

24 A. Yes, yes, be careful of him, you know, he is a bit of  
25 a weirdo, generally.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. A weirdo in what way I don't know, but just because he  
3 was asking these sort of questions and things like that,  
4 you know what I mean.

5 Q. Then if I can go on in your statement, you tell us  
6 a little bit about the routine at Larchgrove, and I will  
7 just ask you a few questions about that if I may.

8 First of all you say, you really didn't know a lot  
9 about Larchgrove before you went there, so it wasn't  
10 a place that you had any idea about, or --

11 A. No, just from the first time I was there, the 14 days.

12 Q. Yes. Also you say that before you went to Larchgrove  
13 you didn't really know anyone who had been in Larchgrove  
14 that you could speak to about it?

15 A. No, no, I never knew anybody who was there.

16 Q. I think when you arrived, did you see anyone that you  
17 knew there either, when you actually got there did you  
18 recognise people --

19 A. No, no, I never knew anybody.

20 Q. -- from Possilpark or other --

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. So you were pitched into a place where you didn't --

23 A. No, I was on my own, but you got friendly with some of  
24 the boys in there, you know what I mean.

25 Q. So you could get friendly?

1 A. Yes, yes, oh yes.

2 Q. Then you tell us about the daily routine, and presumably  
3 it was pretty much the same every day, was it, the  
4 routine?

5 A. Yes, it was just go to the classrooms, assembly in the  
6 mornings, have your breakfast, get --

7 Q. Yes, because -- sorry.

8 A. Get showered and things like that. It was just the same  
9 thing over, day in, day out.

10 Q. Yes, you say you would be shouted up out of your bed  
11 about 8 o'clock, that's your memory?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You would get washed, get yourself dressed and make your  
14 bed and then would you sit in your dormitory until  
15 breakfast was called?

16 A. Until breakfast was called.

17 Q. Then after breakfast, I think you tell us at  
18 paragraph 16, if we go to page 4, that you go back to  
19 your dormitory and you just wait there again, and you  
20 think there was a bed and locker inspection?

21 A. Yes, yes, I can remember that. They would come round,  
22 you used to make your bed a certain way, and they would  
23 come round, you would stand at the bottom of your bed  
24 and they would come around and inspect your bed to make  
25 sure it was made the way they wanted it to be made.

1 Q. What happens if they didn't like the way you had made  
2 it?

3 A. I think a few of the boys got the strap over the hand.

4 Q. So there was a punishment if it wasn't done --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- to the satisfaction of the staff?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. When you stood by your bed, how were you expected to  
9 stand?

10 A. Oh, like a soldier.

11 Q. So it was a kind of military-type situation?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. We have heard an expression sometimes called a bed  
14 block, when people have to make a bed in a certain  
15 way --

16 A. Oh yes, yes.

17 Q. -- was it a bit like that? In the sense it had to be  
18 done in a particularly precise way?

19 A. I think a bed block was when you put them on the bottom  
20 of the bed, all neatly folded --

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. -- no, this was a made-up bed, you had to --

23 Q. So you didn't do that, but you had to have it neatly  
24 made up?

25 A. You had to have it, yes, tucked in and all of that.

1 Q. You could still be punished if it wasn't done right?

2 A. Yes, folded down and whatever.

3 Q. You say after this, after breakfast and this inspection

4 that went on, the younger boys would go off to school

5 and I think is it the older boys would go off to some

6 sort of workshop or something like that?

7 A. Yes, I am not too sure what the older boys got up to,

8 but they used to take us to the classroom and that would

9 be the daily routine, as if you were at school. But you

10 didn't get taught anything.

11 Q. No, because you were still under the compulsory age at

12 school, you should be getting schooling --

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. -- you were 13 or about?

15 A. Yes, but you were just given a book, and told to read

16 it.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. And that's when MKI was there and he would shout you

19 up and interview you.

20 Q. So that was when he would be doing what you told us

21 earlier?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. He would have boys up and started asking questions?

24 A. Yes, when he was supposed to be teaching the boys in the

25 classroom, I assume.



1 LADY SMITH: Did I pick you up correctly that what was  
2 confusing, and maybe disappointing, was when he called  
3 people up to tell them where they were going next, that  
4 a decision had been made about them going on to another  
5 school, that was welcome in a way because they knew what  
6 was happening, but you didn't get that on these  
7 occasions, he just wanted to say embarrassing and  
8 inappropriate things to you?

9 A. Yes, he just asked you embarrassing questions. He  
10 didn't tell you when you got chosen to move on, it was  
11 announced in an assembly hall --

12 LADY SMITH: Right, I see.

13 A. -- the night before you went.

14 LADY SMITH: Would you be called up to somebody's desk for  
15 that, or was it announced to everybody?

16 A. No, your name was just called out in an assembly hall.  
17 Well, it was like a gym, we were all sitting in the gym  
18 and somebody would come in and shout out half a dozen  
19 names and you knew that is when you were getting moved  
20 on to your approved school.

21 LADY SMITH: So they might say the six names and then  
22 St Andrew's, or something like that?

23 A. Yes, they would tell you, ''Robert', you are going to  
24 St Andrew's'.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you, that helps me understand.

1 MR PEOPLES: Just going back to the class, obviously you are  
2 not getting any great education, and Mr MKI in his  
3 class, you are getting called up to his desk and asked  
4 all sorts of questions, personal questions, smutty  
5 questions, whatever. Did you ever see Mr MKI give  
6 any discipline in class?

7 A. Yes, oh yes.

8 Q. What did he do?

9 A. It was the strap.

10 Q. He would use the strap?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Would he do it in front of boys?

13 A. Oh yes, yes.

14 Q. Where would you get the strap?

15 A. On the hands.

16 Q. On the hands?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How often, or how many strokes? I know it is a long  
19 time ago, so if you don't know, please say.

20 A. It just depended on what you had done, what you were  
21 getting it for. It could be two, four, six.

22 Q. Yes. Did you get the belt in class?

23 A. I think I did, yes, I do recall, yes.

24 Q. Did it hurt?

25 A. Oh yes, of course it did, yes.

1 Q. Did you see other boys who appeared to feel the force of  
2 the belt?

3 A. Yes, some of them dramatised it.

4 Q. In the sense -- you say 'dramatised', but is that  
5 because they were just overacting or was it because it  
6 was really quite sore, or both?

7 A. It was quite sore, yes, but some of them would dance  
8 about the floor, shaking their hands and that, things  
9 like that.

10 Q. You said it would hurt you when you received it?

11 A. Oh yes, it did hurt, yes. I mean sometimes it would  
12 catch you up there, the top of the wrist.

13 Q. You say the hand, so it might catch you on the wrist or  
14 arm?

15 A. Yes, up there, you know what I mean.

16 Q. Would it ever leave any sort of telltale signs, like  
17 redness, or marks?

18 A. Obviously, yes, you were red and that, but it soon  
19 disappeared.

20 Q. Yes. And I mean I know it is going, again, back a long  
21 way, but can you help us with the sort of force that  
22 Mr MKI applied when giving the belt?

23 A. Oh it was forceful.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. Very forceful.

1 Q. Yes. So he meant it to be --

2 A. Oh yes, yes.

3 Q. -- a punishment and to at least for you to feel it?

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. Yes, okay.

6           Apart from using the belt with boys, did he ever

7           punish them in any other way?

8 A. Er, in the classroom, no, I don't think so. But when it

9           was bedtime and when you were in your dormitory, I have

10          seen boys being hauled out into the corridor and made to

11          stand in the corridors.

12 Q. Outside?

13 A. Yes, outside the dormitories.

14 Q. At night you are in the dormitory, is this when you are

15          in bed?

16 A. You are in bed, yes, lights out and just sleeping,

17          supposed to be sleeping.

18 Q. You can recall a member of staff, was it this particular

19          person or others?

20 A. It was him on a few occasions and there was other --

21          I don't know the other chaps' names, but there were

22          other teachers with him.

23 Q. They would come in and haul a boy out?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. One boy or more than one?

1 A. Well, it would be more than one boy on different  
2 occasions.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. You know what I mean.

5 Q. You say that, obviously, you saw this at times --

6 A. Yes, you could see the boys standing outside, there was  
7 glass.

8 Q. Glass?

9 A. Windows.

10 Q. And they were made to stand?

11 A. Into the corridor and they were made to stand in the  
12 corridors.

13 Q. How long did they have to stand there?

14 A. Well, I mean I could have fell asleep --

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. -- and obviously they were back in bed the next morning  
17 when I woke up, so I don't really know. But they were  
18 there for a good while --

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. -- before I fell asleep.

21 Q. Do you know whether they were taken anywhere else, or  
22 did they just simply stand in the corridor?

23 A. There was a few occasions when I would see MKI or one  
24 of the other teachers along and taking a boy away from  
25 the corridor. Where they took them, I don't know.

1 Q. No, but it wasn't just a case of everyone always just  
2 stood outside for a period of time --

3 A. No, no.

4 Q. -- there were some boys that would be taken away?

5 A. They would be took to wherever they were took to.

6 Q. You don't, obviously, know what happened next?

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. Did you ever get any -- I mean if you were still awake  
9 when boys got back into the dorm, can you recall what  
10 they were like?

11 A. Some of them came back and they were very upset, just  
12 crying.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. And crying themselves to sleep.

15 Q. Right. Was that just because they were made to stand in  
16 the corridor for a long time, do you think?

17 A. I don't really know why they were crying, whether --

18 Q. But they were?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Just going back to your routine, I think you tell us  
23 there was classes after breakfast, and you would have  
24 lunch and then you would go back to classes until 3 pm  
25 or 4 pm. You say that at lunchtime and after school you

1 had a bit of play in the yard, or you could, at night,  
2 watch a film or possibly television, is that really what  
3 the recreation was?

4 A. Yes, it was just there would be a big screen in the gym  
5 erected up and you would watch some sort of film.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Or a television programme, or something like that. That  
8 was all you had, that was the only rec.

9 Q. Was there any kind of organised activity for you or was  
10 it just the case of: there's the television you can  
11 watch?

12 A. No, that was it, there was no other activities.

13 Q. You say before bed you recall that everyone had to  
14 gather together in the big hall for assembly, so was  
15 that a sort of thing that happened?

16 A. That was a nightly thing, yes. That was a nightly  
17 thing.

18 Q. Do you know what the purpose of it was?

19 A. It was to announce who was going on to the approved  
20 schools that night -- the next day.

21 Q. In the morning would there have been some sort of  
22 equivalent to tell people where they were going that  
23 day?

24 A. Yes, the names that were called out at night they were  
25 told to -- I think they gave you your own clothes back

1 at some stage, I think it was the night before.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. So when you got up in the morning, then you changed --

4 when you got changed you put on your own clothes --

5 Q. And you went off to --

6 A. -- then --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- you would be waiting in the corridor outside the

9 office, until somebody came and picked you up and took

10 you on --

11 Q. To the next --

12 A. -- to the approved school you were assigned to.

13 Q. Okay. You tell us about the food and you describe it as

14 eatable, and I think you have explained that when you

15 come from a family that was very poor, any meal was

16 welcome?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So it is not necessarily that the food was great, but

19 you --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- didn't turn it away?

22 A. Oh, no, no.

23 Q. Were there boys that did?

24 A. Yes, think there was somebody that didn't like semolina,

25 or something like that, or custard or something like



1           that, do you know what I mean.

2   Q. Did anything happen if they didn't eat their food?

3   A. I think there were a few times when boys were told to

4       sit there and eat that and you are not moving until you

5       do eat it. Things like that.

6   Q. Did they do more than simply tell them to sit there and

7       eat or did they try to make them eat it?

8   A. I don't know, because as soon as you were finished

9       eating your meal you were took out and there were boys

10      left there --

11   Q. Okay.

12   A. -- who didn't eat certain things.

13   Q. You tell us that the sleeping arrangements in those days

14      were a dormitory, and you think there were maybe about

15      12 boys in your dormitory of different ages?

16   A. Yes.

17   Q. No, sorry, you said roughly the same age, I think,

18      sorry, my apologies. Do you think they were all about

19      your age?

20   A. I think so, yes, if I can remember, yes.

21   Q. Was there any problem between the boys in the dormitory,

22      because sometimes in dormitories things happen when some

23      boys maybe bully other boys, was there anything like

24      that going on?

25   A. Not what I have seen, no.

1 Q. Not in your dormitory?

2 A. Not in our dormitory, no.

3 Q. You tell us about washing and bathing and said you would  
4 have a shower maybe two or three times a week, in  
5 communal showers, supervised by staff and Mr MKI  
6 would be supervising as well as other staff?

7 A. Oh yes, yes.

8 Q. Did that cause any problems or did you see anything that  
9 you weren't happy with?

10 A. No, you just got in there and got showered as quickly as  
11 possible, and got out.

12 Q. Okay. You tell us that you had a uniform of sorts that  
13 all of the boys would dress --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- in the same way; is that right?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. Okay. If we go to page 5 of your statement, 'Robert',  
18 we see that you really didn't have anything personal at  
19 that stage and you told us your clothes would be taken  
20 away, you would wear the uniform, but you were  
21 allowed -- your visitors could put in money and that  
22 would be something you could spend at the tuck shop?

23 A. Spend at the tuck shop, yes.

24 Q. As for schooling, you have already told us, I think,  
25 that there was no real education. You described classes

1 as horrible. Is that, was it as bad as that? Not that  
2 you didn't get an education, you didn't enjoy it at all?

3 A. No, it was just a horrible place. Know what I mean.

4 Q. I suppose if you weren't getting taught anything, time  
5 might pass slowly?

6 A. Yes, yes, I suppose it did, yes.

7 Q. Do you think -- did you want to learn at that ... I mean  
8 not always boys want to go to school and learn  
9 something, but did you want to get a bit more than just  
10 a book being stuck in front of you?

11 A. Yes, yes, I think most of the boys did, yes, wanted some  
12 sort of --

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. -- education, yes.

15 Q. If you had got something that captured your  
16 imagination --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- it might have made it a better experience?

19 A. A better place to be, yes.

20 Q. You say that there weren't any chores, but you think  
21 some of the older boys were given chores to do?

22 A. Yes, there was a lot of cleaning going on with the older  
23 boys.

24 Q. Was that just a chore or was it a punishment, or both?

25 A. I think it was a bit of both, yes, because during the

1 day the cleaning would get done and I think that was  
2 what the older boys, they were told to do, to clean it  
3 during the day, but then at night, I mean when it was  
4 time for bed and things like that, there was still boys  
5 out there in their pyjamas.

6 Q. In their pyjamas?

7 A. In pyjamas, cleaning corridors and things like that.  
8 I take it that was a punishment.

9 Q. Yes, because that wouldn't -- that doesn't strike one as  
10 a sort of situation where you --

11 A. Volunteer for.

12 Q. -- are just doing a chore.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You told us about leisure time, you said there really  
15 wasn't very much, there was no pool tables as you  
16 remember or anything like that?

17 A. No, there was nothing like that.

18 Q. And no trips, I think, if we go to page 6 of your  
19 statement there was no trips either when you were there?

20 A. No, nothing. Nothing like that, not at school.

21 Q. You tell us about visitors, and I think you say at least  
22 a couple of your sisters would visit you, and you say at  
23 least that they could speak to you privately in a room,  
24 at least at Larchgrove, there was somewhere you could  
25 go?

1 A. Well, there was one big room where all of the visitors  
2 would be in and you would have your little -- your own  
3 desk with your visitors.

4 Q. Were the staff close to you when --

5 A. The staff was walking about, yes.

6 Q. Could they hear what you were saying, though?

7 A. Er, I suppose they could, yes, I suppose they could be  
8 listening.

9 Q. Were you ever told by staff what you should speak about  
10 during visits?

11 A. No, I wasn't, no. I wasn't, not me personally, no.

12 Q. Were you the type of boy at Larchgrove that at least  
13 tried to keep your head down, just get through it?

14 A. Yes, really, yes, really I was, yes. I just wanted for  
15 the approved school thing to come, and get out of  
16 there --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- because it wasn't a very nice place.

19 Q. No.

20 I think your statement tells us you don't have any  
21 memory of a social worker or any other official coming  
22 to the place when you were there?

23 A. No, no, none.

24 Q. So if they came you weren't aware?

25 A. Nobody interviewed me or anything like that.

1 Q. On bed wetting you have told us, I think, there that you  
2 didn't have a problem with bed wetting --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- but you have told us that the boys could be taken out  
5 to the corridors --

6 A. Yes, some of the boys, yes.

7 Q. So we have a situation where if you wet the bed you  
8 could be taken out to the corridor?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. But also you could be taken out to the corridor because  
11 the staff came in --

12 A. For whatever reason.

13 Q. -- for whatever reason?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And some boys stood in the corridor, but some boys might  
16 have been taken somewhere else?

17 A. Mm-hm, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: You say the boys that were taken out were boys  
19 that you could hear crying, is that right?

20 A. Yes, you could hear them crying in the corridors, and  
21 when they were brought back into the dormitory and put  
22 back into bed they would cry themselves to sleep, some  
23 of them.

24 LADY SMITH: How did that make you feel?

25 A. Oh, horrible. Horrible to hear that.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR PEOPLES: If we go to page 7, under the heading 'Abuse at  
3 Larchgrove', you say in paragraph 34 you didn't get any  
4 treatment that you would personally have said was abuse.

5 A. No, I was fine in Larchgrove, nothing like that, and  
6 some of the boys got --

7 Q. But you seem fairly certain that you think other boys in  
8 your dormitory were getting abused?

9 A. Yes, there were rumours.

10 Q. Yes, and obviously you can tell us at least what you saw  
11 in terms of boys going out to the corridor, hearing them  
12 crying, them crying when they come back --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- being taken from the corridor to somewhere?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that part of the reason why you think something was  
17 going on?

18 A. Yes, well, the next day some of the boys would tell you,  
19 'Oh, MKI got a hold of him last night', things like  
20 that, but they didn't go into details --

21 Q. No. What sort of things do you think MKI was doing?

22 A. Something sexual.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. It has got to be.

25 Q. Was that what they were saying suggested?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Something was going on like that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What about something physical, just getting beaten,  
5 slapped, kicked or punched?

6 A. Maybe that as well, but I think it was something sexual.

7 Q. That's what you picked up --

8 A. Why.

9 Q. -- from what they were talking about?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. There was something going on?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I will pass on from Larchgrove, because I think you have  
14 told us, obviously, about what was happening in the  
15 classroom with Mr MKI .

16 Then you tell us that you were told at some point  
17 the day before you went you were going to St Andrew's?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. Can I just ask you this, at paragraph 36 you say that  
20 before you went to St Andrew's you thought of approved  
21 schools as being places that were like holiday camps?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What made you think that?

24 A. Well, the boys when you were sitting there they were  
25 going like that, they would mention certain approved



1 schools, St Andrew's, and St Mary's, St Joseph's, things  
2 like that, and they would go, 'Oh, I hope I get  
3 St Andrew's', or, 'I hope I get St Joseph's, that's  
4 cushy there, and that's cushy'. Do you know what  
5 I mean? So you had a gist of what they were like or  
6 where you were going.

7 Q. So there was a bit of talk amongst the boys about the  
8 different places and where they hoped to go?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I take it if it was that sort of talk then there might  
11 be places that were talked up as being good places, but  
12 presumably there were places that had reputations as  
13 being not so good places?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Can I go to St Andrew's now, and you start with that  
17 on paragraph 38 on page 8, and you reckon you went there  
18 about 1968 or 1969, when you were around about 14 years  
19 of age?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. As we know, it is an approved school and it was an all  
22 boys' school?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. You reckon that the age group was about 12 to about 15  
25 or 16 at the time?

1 A. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. You put an estimate of around maybe 90 boys in total?

3 A. Yes, what I can remember, I think there was three houses  
4 and there was about 30 boys in each house.

5 Q. Okay. And again you make the point, a bit like  
6 Larchgrove, you didn't know anyone --

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. -- in St Andrew's when you went there?

9 A. No.

10 Q. But you did make some friends when you went --

11 A. Oh yes, yes.

12 Q. You say there were boys from all parts of Scotland, and  
13 some from Glasgow and Edinburgh?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. The bigger places?

16 A. Correct, yes, all over.

17 Q. Now, St Andrew's catered, I think, mainly for boys that  
18 were Roman Catholic?

19 A. Yes, yes, it was all Catholics.

20 Q. So you wouldn't have the same situation you might have  
21 in Larchgrove of maybe boys from Catholic schools --

22 A. Oh, no.

23 Q. -- or who were Catholics would go as well as boys who  
24 were Protestant who would go to Larchgrove, that wasn't  
25 the situation?

1 A. No, it was a Catholic boys' school.

2 Q. But was there still what I might call wee gangs, as you  
3 told us from Larchgrove, that boys from certain parts of  
4 a city --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- might group together, or was it like that?

7 A. No, not really, not in there.

8 It was -- because the boys were from all over  
9 Scotland, so there wasn't -- you might get somebody  
10 from, say, Possilpark and somebody from Maryhill was  
11 quite near one another, but there was never two or three  
12 people from the same area, if you know what I mean, that  
13 you could call a gang. So it was split from all over,  
14 they were from all over Scotland.

15 Q. Okay.

16 You tell us about -- you tell us there were three  
17 houses and they were called Shandon, Fruan, and Douglas?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And they were in separate buildings?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. And Shandon was in what you called a main house?

22 A. That was the main house, yes.

23 Q. That was also the Shandon part, the boys who were in  
24 Shandon stayed, is that right?

25 A. Yes, they stayed in there, but that's where the

1 headmaster had his office --

2 Q. Yes, the office. And would that be where the classes  
3 were?

4 A. Where the what was, sorry?

5 Q. The classrooms and things, were they in the main  
6 building?

7 A. Oh, we never had classrooms.

8 Q. At St Andrew's?

9 A. At St Andrew's no. You never attended school in  
10 St Andrew's.

11 Q. You were 14, that's 1968, you probably should have been,  
12 because I think, if I remember the school leaving age  
13 was 15 in the late 1960s?

14 LADY SMITH: It may still have been 14.

15 MR PEOPLES: Maybe I am wrong.

16 A. There was no classrooms.

17 Q. No classrooms?

18 A. No.

19 Q. That's fine, I am just trying to see. Were there  
20 workshops?

21 A. Workshops, yes.

22 Q. Where were the workshops, then?

23 A. They were up at the back of the grounds, at the back of  
24 the grounds there was joiners' workshop, painters'  
25 workshops --

1 Q. So the layout was essentially there was a big house  
2 which accommodated the Shandon unit that the boys  
3 stayed, the Shandon house --

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. -- there were two other separate houses, which were near  
6 to the main house --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and then there was workshops in the grounds?

9 A. Yes, the houses, the main house and down the side, they  
10 had Fruan and Douglas House, in the middle there was  
11 a square.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. An assembly square.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And that's where you assembled in the morning, before  
16 you went to your work, place of work.

17 Q. Yes, the assembly area was outside, was it, then?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. So almost like a, not an H, probably like a --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I get what you are saying. Okay.

22 You have said that there were maybe 30 boys in each  
23 house, and there were dormitories, I take it, that boys  
24 shared?

25 A. Yes, there was dormitories, yes.

1 Q. Within each house?

2 A. Within each house, yes.

3 Q. Was there more than one dormitory in a house?

4 A. Oh yes, yes.

5 Q. Yes. So how many were in a dormitory?

6 A. I think there was about four to each dormitory there.

7 Q. So they weren't large dormitories?

8 A. No, no, no. A large double room sort of thing, with

9 four beds in it.

10 Q. You tell us a bit about staff, I am going to perhaps

11 focus on one person, if I may, the housemaster -- you

12 were in Fruan House?

13 A. I was in Fruan House, yes.

14 Q. Your housemaster was a person called HQC [REDACTED] ?

15 A. HQC [REDACTED] .

16 Q. You reckon that at the time you were there he was maybe

17 between 35 and 40?

18 A. Yes, I think so.

19 Q. I know it is difficult, because young people --

20 A. Yes, it is hard to describe the age when you are that

21 young, but, yes, I think was around about that age.

22 Q. You think that generally speaking he would be there

23 during the week but there would be someone else there at

24 the weekends?

25 A. Yes, there was another -- somebody took over from him on

1 Saturdays and Sundays.

2 Q. I think apart from Mr HQC you didn't find any  
3 problems with the staff at St Andrew's, did you?

4 A. No, apart from HQC the rest of the teachers were nice  
5 blokes, good blokes.

6 Q. In fact if we go to page 10 of your statement, 'Robert',  
7 we see that you were asked about your -- you have given  
8 us some recollections of your first day there, and you  
9 actually put it:

10 'My first impression was that it was a nice place  
11 set in nice scenery. To me it felt as if we were out in  
12 the country.'

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Which you were, I suppose?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Because you would be used to the inner city in --

17 A. Glasgow, yes.

18 Q. That didn't bother you, that you were away from --

19 A. No, it was beautiful countryside, beautiful.

20 Q. Then you describe the daily routine, and I am not going  
21 to spend too much time today on that, but it was not  
22 dissimilar to routine at Larchgrove, except that I think  
23 instead of going to classes you went to workshops?

24 A. You went to workshops, yes.

25 Q. There was probably a bit more to do in leisure time, was

1           there, than there had been at Larchgrove?

2   A.   Yes, more activities at night after you had finished  
3       your day's workshop.

4   Q.   As far as the sleeping arrangements were concerned, if  
5       we go to page 11 of your statement at paragraph 53,  
6       I think you have already told us this, that you reckon  
7       there was four people in the room, and the other boys  
8       were roughly the same age as yourself?

9   A.   Yes, yes.

10  Q.   As far as washing is concerned, there was a shower room  
11       with seven showers, you think?

12  A.   Yes, seven/eight showers.

13  Q.   But there was curtains to give privacy?

14  A.   Yes, you had a bit of privacy in the showers, whereas in  
15       Larchgrove it was open.

16  Q.   Open. And it wasn't really supervised closely. You  
17       said that the housemaster might come in and out?

18  A.   Yes, no, it was -- the boys went in there and had  
19       a shower, and it was no housemasters running about in  
20       the showers.

21  Q.   Yes.

22           Then at page 12 you told us you didn't have  
23       a school, though, nobody went to school, there was no  
24       academic education, so you have told us about that.

25  A.   Yes.



1 Q. But you had a choice of things you could do, the  
2 workshops involved things like gardening, building,  
3 painting or joinery, so there was a choice?  
4 A. Yes, I think how it worked out, when you first got there  
5 you done a week in each one, then after the four weeks  
6 you choose which one you wanted to work in, and if that  
7 teacher in charge of that accepted you, then that's what  
8 you done.  
9 Q. Did you have a favourite workshop?  
10 A. Painting and decorating.  
11 Q. Were you accepted once you --  
12 A. I was, yes.  
13 Q. That's good. Then you were actually paid for work that  
14 you did?  
15 A. Yes, there was money went into some account which you  
16 could spend --  
17 Q. Mm-hm.  
18 A. -- in the tuck shop, and things like that.  
19 Q. If you did extra work, I think you tell us on page 12,  
20 in the evenings or weekend, you would get extra pay?  
21 A. Yes, you would get extra money.  
22 Q. And you said there was a bit of chores in the sense of  
23 you had to help keep the house tidy?  
24 A. In the house, yes, the boys had to do all the cleaning  
25 in the houses.

1 Q. If we go over to page 13, you tell us that there was  
2 certainly religious instruction, but you don't recall it  
3 being mandatory, you could go, but you said there was  
4 maybe a chance to go out and actually meet some girls,  
5 as well?

6 A. Yes, could you actually get out and meet other people at  
7 the chapel on the Sunday.

8 Q. Yes, okay. There was a bit more to do in leisure time,  
9 you say there was pool tables, you could play five-a-side  
10 football in the gym, there was a gymnastics team at  
11 St Andrew's, although I don't think that was your sport?

12 A. No, that wasn't my forte.

13 Q. And so forth and there was quite a lot of weekend  
14 activities, you mentioned things like canoeing, sailing,  
15 football, marathon running, camping, and trips out and  
16 days out, so there was quite a lot to do?

17 A. Yes, the activities were good.

18 Q. Now, can we move to page 14, and you tell us about  
19 an occasion, we already know who Mr HQC is, 'Robert',  
20 and you say that you remember one occasion when he took  
21 you to Glasgow to visit your mum?

22 A. Yes, the reason for that is I lost my leave. You used  
23 to go home every three weeks, and I think I was late in  
24 coming back from leave, or something like that, and  
25 I lost my leave that week. Just HQC took me

1 out and took me into Glasgow to go and visit my mum.

2 Q. And did you visit your mum --

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. -- on that occasion, I think you say with him there, for

5 about an hour?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. Then you tell us he took you to the centre?

8 A. Yes, on the way. We had to get a train back to

9 Helensburgh, so we had to get into the city centre and

10 he took me into a shop and says he would like to buy me

11 something, so at that particular time there was these

12 college jumpers going about, and so he bought me

13 a college jumper thing.

14 Q. You probably thought that was like the good old days

15 when you could buy clothing?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So he bought you this jumper?

18 A. He bought me the jumper, yes.

19 Q. You say that it was a college jumper, but you say you

20 have a memory of you couldn't wear the jumper at

21 St Andrew's, was that because of the school rules?

22 A. Yes, the school rules, you were issued a suit.

23 Q. So it wasn't anything that Mr HQC said to you, he

24 didn't say, 'Don't wear it when you are at school'?

25 A. No, that was the rules of the school, you weren't

1           allowed to wear any personal clothing.

2   Q.   Just moving on then, so that's the first time he had  
3           taken you out for a trip?

4   A.   Yes.

5   Q.   You tell us a bit about, you get home leave unless you  
6           had maybe lost it for any reason, is that right?

7   A.   That's correct, yes.

8   Q.   You would get that maybe every three weeks?

9   A.   Mm-hm.

10  Q.   I think you say you don't remember very many visits from  
11           family at that time?

12  A.   No, it wasn't a weekly visit thing or anything like  
13           that. It was just -- I suppose that's because you went  
14           home every three weeks, you know what I mean --

15  Q.   Yes.

16  A.   -- so but --

17  Q.   It was a bit of a way from Glasgow, and I suppose if  
18           your family didn't have a lot of money, it wasn't the  
19           easiest thing, is that right?

20  A.   Correct, yes.

21  Q.   You don't remember official visits either at this place?  
22           Like Larchgrove, you don't remember people who were  
23           official coming to look round the school?

24  A.   No, no, nothing like that, no, nobody came round to  
25           speak to you, or anything like that.

1 Q. Then you tell us, if we go to page 15, about running  
2 away, and you ran away a few times?  
3 A. Yes, yes.  
4 Q. Yes. You tell us -- well, tell us what the reason was,  
5 why were you running away?  
6 A. Well, it was because of this HQC  
7 Q. Right.  
8 A. This HQC.  
9 Q. Okay.  
10 A. I just -- it wasn't why I ran away from the home,  
11 because when I got out for leave, I just never returned.  
12 Q. Because you didn't want to go back?  
13 A. I didn't want to go back.  
14 Q. Because of him?  
15 A. Because of him.  
16 Q. Well, can we just maybe go to that, then. Maybe we can  
17 go to page 16. Well, maybe -- you tell us when you  
18 first arrived you were shown about by the housemaster,  
19 Mr HQC who gave you the house rules in effect?  
20 A. Mm-hm.  
21 Q. You then tell us about something that starts at page 82,  
22 and maybe you can tell me about it --  
23 LADY SMITH: Paragraph 82?  
24 MR PEOPLES: Paragraph 82, I'm sorry.  
25 LADY SMITH: Not page 82.

1 MR PEOPLES: No. Page 17. You tell us about something that  
2 happened when you were in the shower room --  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. -- involving Mr HQC Was that right at the start,  
5 when you were admitted to the school?  
6 A. Yes, that was the first night --  
7 Q. Right, okay.  
8 A. -- when I arrived there.  
9 Q. Can you tell us, if you are able?  
10 A. Well, I was took over to Fruan House, and introduced to  
11 HQC, I think there was another boy there, and  
12 two of us, that was our first night there, and he gave  
13 us our clothes, our uniform, whatever, and told us we  
14 could have a shower, because we had been travelling  
15 about all day. And he says, 'There is a bathroom up  
16 there, if you want a bath'. So I says, 'I will have  
17 a bath', because I had never had a bath, it was always  
18 showers, showers, showers, I said I will have a bath, so  
19 he took me up and showed me the bathroom, and I went  
20 into the bathroom and had my bath, and I think the other  
21 boy went for a shower.  
22 So when I finished bathing myself, washing myself,  
23 I was getting dried, and HQC come walking into the  
24 bathroom. He says, 'I will help you to get dried' and  
25 I thought it was strange, know what I mean, so he says,

1 'I will dry your feet'. So I sat down on the edge of  
2 the bath and he was drying my feet, and as he was drying  
3 my feet he got up and touched me in my private parts,  
4 and went, said something like, 'Oh, you are a big boy'  
5 and walked out the door. And I just didn't know what to  
6 do, you know what I mean, I didn't know whether to  
7 report it, whether to just keep my mouth shut. I just  
8 kept it to myself and never told anybody.

9 Q. Okay. Then that wasn't the last time that things  
10 happened with Mr HQC ?

11 A. Oh no, that was the first time, that was just the start.

12 Q. Because I think you tell us it got worse after that, and  
13 it wasn't in the shower room, and I think things  
14 happened in your dorm, is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you help us/tell us in your own words what --

17 A. It was a few times. You would be asleep and you would  
18 just feel somebody putting their hands under the covers  
19 and playing with your private parts.

20 Q. That was Mr HQC ?

21 A. That was HQC .

22 Q. Did that happen, how often did that happen when he was  
23 there?

24 A. It happened a few times, yes, a few times.

25 Q. How did you feel at the time? Because you were in your

1 bed, you sometimes had been asleep, and --

2 A. I just didn't know what was going on. I just pretended

3 I was asleep.

4 Q. So you didn't try to say anything --

5 A. No --

6 Q. -- to him?

7 A. -- I was too scared to move.

8 Q. Did you ever see him do anything like that to other boys

9 in the dorm?

10 A. No, not -- no. I never seen him doing anything like

11 that. But he was, apparently.

12 Q. Yes, okay, we will maybe come to that, then. You hadn't

13 seen it --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- but that was what he was doing to you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say it happened, obviously --

18 A. A few times, yes.

19 Q. Okay. Can we move on.

20 He has now done things, I think, something in the

21 shower, or the bathroom --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and then he has moved to doing things in your

24 dormitory --

25 A. In the dormitory.



1 Q. -- when you are there at night?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. At night, on his own?

4 A. This didn't happen straight away after the bathroom  
5 incident.

6 Q. No.

7 A. It was a few weeks, or maybe a few months, before it  
8 happened in the dormitory. It was certainly after he  
9 took me to see my mum --

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. -- in --

12 Q. After the trip to Glasgow?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then after that this started to happen?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. There was a bit of an interval between your first night,  
17 or your first day with the incident in the bathroom --

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. -- and then there was the shopping trip and then at some  
20 point after that this happened?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Started to happen?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay.

25 Can we move on, 'Robert', if I may. You also tell

1 us about a camping trip to Arran one weekend. I think  
2 you went on it because, your recollection is, you had  
3 failed to return from leave?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. You describe it as a punishment and it was a trip  
6 **HQC** was on. Why did you see it as  
7 a punishment, some people might say a camping trip was  
8 something to look forward to?

9 A. Exactly, yes. The boys that were there on the camping  
10 trip, the whole school had left to go on leave, so the  
11 school was more or less empty, it was only the boys who  
12 weren't allowed to go on home leave, so somebody came up  
13 with the idea that they will take us camping to the Isle  
14 of Arran, so I think there was about, maybe six, maybe  
15 eight boys that was left behind who wasn't going on  
16 their home leave, which they took camping to the Isle of  
17 Arran.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. But it was just **HQC**, he was the only teacher that was  
20 there.

21 Q. It was one member of staff?

22 A. One member of staff.

23 Q. Mr **HQC** and maybe six boys?

24 A. Six to eight boys, I think.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you do tell us when you got there there were  
3 a couple of tents for sleeping in?

4 A. Yes, we brought our own tents and things.

5 Q. Now, something happened there, didn't it, with  
6 Mr HQC ?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you give us, can you tell us what did happen?

9 A. Well, I think there was three to four boys in each tent,  
10 something like that. HQC was in another tent with  
11 two boys, or something. There was a couple of older  
12 boys there and I think he was in the tent with them and  
13 the rest of the younger boys was in the other tents.

14 So I don't know whether it was the first night,  
15 I think we were only there for a long weekend, so  
16 I think it was the second night or something like that,  
17 maybe the third night, in our tents, going to sleep.  
18 And again, I woke up and this HQC was all over me and  
19 ... he tried to rape me. So with that I wasn't having  
20 that, I jumped up, told him to get out the tent. But  
21 none of the other boys heard this, none of the other  
22 boys, if they did hear it, none of them --

23 Q. They stayed silent?

24 A. They were all either pretending or they were sleeping.

25 Q. When you said this to him what happened? Did he --

1 A. He left the tent, yes.

2 Q. He did leave the tent?

3 A. Yes. By this time -- it was around summer time, so it  
4 was getting light, but it could have been 4 am/5 am. It  
5 was getting light, and he left the tent, yes.

6 Q. Obviously you had had experience of him before in the  
7 dorm, and in the bathroom --

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. -- what were you thinking now, when this had happened?

10 A. Oh, I just went this is not happening anymore, it's not  
11 going on.

12 Q. You tell us a little bit about the following day, and  
13 you say that when you left the tent you were in you saw  
14 **HQC**, and he was sitting on the edge of a hill top  
15 with his knees up and his head in his hands?

16 A. Yes, that's what he done when I told him to get out the  
17 tent. He went outside, because I kept looking out the  
18 tent to see where he was, and I could see him just  
19 sitting on the edge of the hill with his knees up to his  
20 chest and his head in his hands. Just sitting there.  
21 And he was still sitting there the next -- well, a few  
22 hours later when the rest of the boys woke up.

23 Q. You are saying that some of the boys were saying things  
24 like what's the problem, or --

25 A. What's the matter with him, yes.

1 Q. And you just said --

2 A. I never said anything to them.

3 Q. I think after that you tell us on page 18 that he didn't

4 speak to the boys much that day. You state the trip

5 continued for a further day or so and he didn't say

6 a lot?

7 A. No.

8 Q. At least to you, or to anyone?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You tried to stay away from him and avoid him?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Nothing more happened on that trip to you?

13 A. No, no.

14 Q. Then when you get back to the school you tell us that

15 you spoke to another boy at the school, I think who was

16 called [REDACTED]?

17 A. Yes, another boy there, [REDACTED].

18 Q. The conversation got round to HQC [REDACTED]?

19 A. Yes, well, when we got back to St Andrew's, HQC [REDACTED] went

20 on holiday, apparently, and me and [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] was

21 actually on the camping trip as well, and when we got

22 back, for some reason, I don't know why, but HQC [REDACTED], we

23 started talking about HQC [REDACTED], and I wasn't going to say

24 anything to [REDACTED], but it was actually [REDACTED] who told me

25 what he was doing to him. So when [REDACTED] told me that

1 I opened to [REDACTED] and he opened up to me, and the two of  
2 us decided we were going to report it.

3 Q. When [REDACTED] told you what was happening to him, was it  
4 along the same lines as what was happening to you?

5 A. Yes, more or less, yes, more or less the same line.

6 Q. You decided together to go and speak to the headmaster;  
7 is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that's what you did?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you saw him separately, I think you tell us in  
12 your statement --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that you asked to see him, and you saw him  
15 separately, and you told him what was going on?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say in your statement that the headmaster did write  
18 things down?

19 A. Yes, he was sitting on his desk, and --

20 Q. Did he appear to be taking the matter seriously, or not?

21 A. Yes, I think he was, yes. He was just constantly  
22 writing.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And I was just telling him more or less what I told you.

25 Q. Okay. Then you tell us that the headmaster then told

1           you and ██████ -- who he had seen separately -- to go  
2           back to your house and not to say anything to anybody  
3           about it, is that --  
4    A.   Yes, that's correct.  
5    Q.   Do you know why he felt you shouldn't say anything?  
6    A.   No, I don't know. I think he just meant don't say  
7           anything else to the rest of the boys, like, you know.  
8    Q.   I think you say that you and ██████ did agree that you  
9           wouldn't say anything to anyone about what had gone on  
10           or what you had said to the headmaster, is that what you  
11           had sort of agreed between you?  
12   A.   That's what we agreed, yes.  
13   Q.   But as it happened then, there was some questions being  
14           asked about why you wanted to see the headmaster and you  
15           say that ██████ actually did tell some of the boys?  
16   A.   ██████, yes, I found out that ██████ did tell.  
17   Q.   Did you find that very embarrassing?  
18   A.   Yes, yes.  
19   Q.   Because, as you tell us in your statement, you didn't  
20           get the sympathy, and they were taking the mickey --  
21   A.   Yes, yes, they would wind you up and shout things, you  
22           know what I mean.  
23   Q.   You say that none of them certainly were indicating that  
24           that had happened to them?  
25   A.   No, just ██████.

1 Q. I suppose if it had, they might not have reacted in the  
2 same way?

3 A. Maybe, yes.

4 Q. Unless they were trying to put on a good act?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. In fact you never heard anyone other than you and [REDACTED]  
7 suffering the same way?

8 A. No, never heard anything from anybody else, no.

9 Q. Then can we just take the thing through, I think that  
10 you say a couple of days after reporting this to the  
11 headmaster, HQC [REDACTED] showed up at the house again,  
12 although you had hadn't thought you would see him again  
13 after you had spoken to the headmaster?

14 A. No, I didn't think I would see him again, no.

15 Q. Did you think the headmaster would take some action  
16 to --

17 A. I assumed, yes, I was expecting somebody else to come  
18 and see me or something like that --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. -- but no.

21 Q. After the conversation with the headmaster, and once the  
22 boys found out, the next thing was HQC [REDACTED] turns  
23 up?

24 A. A few days later he returns from his holidays, or  
25 whatever he was.



1 Q. He seems to have spoken to you in an office somewhere?

2 A. Yes, it was late at night, 9 o'clock or something, and  
3 I remember we were sitting watching television in the  
4 television room, and he popped his head in and he shouts  
5 me out and he took me into his office. And he says,  
6 I can't remember exactly what was said, but I didn't  
7 even look at him, I just kept my head, staring at the  
8 floor.

9 Q. I think you tell us in the statement that it was to the  
10 effect that he was leaving?

11 A. Yes, he did say, 'You won't be seeing me after tonight'.  
12 And I just said, 'Right, fair enough', and he says,  
13 'I brought you something back from holiday' and he tried  
14 to give me some chain, or a cross or a St Christopher,  
15 or something, he tried to give me that. And I said,  
16 'I don't want it' and he went 'Fair enough'.

17 Q. And then left?

18 A. And then I left the office, and apparently he called  
19 ██████ in as well, and I don't know what he offered  
20 ██████, but he offered him a gift.

21 Q. Something similar?

22 A. Yes, he offered him a gift as well.

23 Q. After that you never saw him again, I think?

24 A. I never seen him after that, no.

25 Q. You don't know what happened to HQC ██████, but he

1 left St Andrew's?

2 A. He left that night, apparently.

3 Q. You have no idea whether he left having been dismissed,  
4 or voluntarily, or whatever?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You were not told anything?

7 A. No, there was no information after that, that was it, it  
8 was just --

9 Q. You were never told where he went or what was happening?

10 A. No, it was never mentioned again.

11 Q. You tell us I think in your statement at page 19, you  
12 don't know whether the headmaster reported it to anyone,  
13 in particular reported it to the police?

14 A. I don't know, no. As I say, it was never spoke about  
15 again.

16 Q. Certainly the police never came to speak to you at the  
17 time?

18 A. No, nobody came to interview me.

19 Q. I think you have reflected on how things happened then,  
20 and you believe, looking back, you think that it may  
21 have been swept under the carpet?

22 A. Well, that's the way it looks to me now, yes. It was  
23 just covered up.

24 Q. Because based on what you have told us, it sounds like  
25 it was the sort of matter, serious enough to tell the

1 police what was going on?

2 A. Well, I would have thought so, yes. I just regret not  
3 going to the police myself when I was released. I just  
4 didn't think, I just tried to block it out of my mind.

5 Q. You don't know whether the headmaster even told your  
6 mum, but she never raised it with you?

7 A. My mum never mentioned it anyway, so I don't think she  
8 knew.

9 Q. And you never told her?

10 A. I never told her, no, I never told anybody.

11 Q. No.

12 Maybe we can move just briefly to a happier note.  
13 Once you left, you tell us towards the end of your  
14 signed statement on page 20 that you were at St Andrew's  
15 for quite a bit after that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You reckon for maybe a year and a half?

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. But you describe your time at brilliant then, you were  
20 more relaxed, you enjoyed the activities, everything was  
21 good, I think you put it, you enjoyed it and generally  
22 had a good time?

23 A. Yes, it was.

24 Q. So it was his --

25 A. After he left, it was -- as I say, the rest of the

1 teachers there were great, they were good guys.

2 Q. The only thing that you have left as a puzzle I think in  
3 your statement is knowing why it took so long to be  
4 released from St Andrew's, because you felt you were  
5 getting knocked back each time when you were being  
6 assessed for release?

7 A. Yes, well, thinking back now, even then I was wondering  
8 why, because you went up to a board every three month,  
9 and every time I went in I was getting knocked back and  
10 knocked back and knocked back, and as I say, I was  
11 working outside, they gave me jobs outside, I was  
12 travelling to Helensburgh on my own, travelling back,  
13 doing a day's work, and yet they still would not release  
14 me.

15 Q. Did you get any explanation why this was happening?

16 A. No, you never did.

17 Q. No. But you did get out, I think, eventually, in about  
18 1970, you say?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Then you were just over 15, I think, at that time?

21 A. Yes, just turning 16.

22 Q. You started getting various jobs and you got married  
23 quite young at 17?

24 A. Yes, I was married at 17, yes.

25 Q. Three children?

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. You were together with your wife for around 15 years,  
3 I think you tell us?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But that didn't work out in the end, and you separated?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. You went to London for a while in the early 1980s?

8 A. Yes, I ended up living and working in London.

9 Q. After that, I think, how was your employment situation?  
10 Did you manage to hold down work?

11 A. Oh yes, yes, yes. I've never been idle.

12 Q. Yes. You tell us on impact, on page 21, obviously you  
13 feel that you were held back as a child because you went  
14 to Larchgrove and St Andrew's, and you say there wasn't  
15 really any follow up to help you when you left these  
16 places?

17 A. No, you were just released and left to get on with it.  
18 There was nobody came to see you or tried to help you  
19 get a job, or anything like that. It was just: there  
20 you go.

21 Q. You do say, though, that at paragraph 106, that you  
22 don't think the time in care, and what you have told us  
23 happened to you, has affected your health, and you say  
24 you didn't have any counselling and didn't feel you  
25 needed it, so you just got on with things. That's how

1           you felt, you just got on with it?

2   A.   Yes, well, I just blocked it out, I didn't want to think  
3           about it.

4   Q.   Then you tell us at 107 that you didn't want to tell  
5           anyone and you didn't want to speak about it, you were  
6           ashamed and embarrassed. So you obviously did have  
7           feelings about the whole thing that kept you from saying  
8           anything?

9   A.   Yes. Well, the only reason I did speak up about it was  
10          my partner, ██████, was seeing about the Inquiry on the  
11          news, and I opened up to her about it, told her, and she  
12          says, 'I think you should go forward and tell them what  
13          happened', and that's what I done.

14  Q.   That's why you have come here today, to --

15  A.   Yes.

16  Q.   -- tell us, and no doubt hope that some good comes of  
17          it?

18  A.   Well, hopefully some good comes of it, and this isn't  
19          going to happen to anybody else.

20  MR PEOPLES: 'Robert', these are all the questions I have  
21          for you today, thank you very much for coming today --

22  A.   Thank you.

23  MR PEOPLES: -- and telling us what happened. So thank you.

24  A.   Lovely, thank you.

25  LADY SMITH: Can I add my thanks, 'Robert'. Your written

1 statement, of course, is already evidence to me, but  
2 having you here talking about your experiences yourself  
3 has been enormously helpful and it has certainly added  
4 to the reality of what you have explained in writing  
5 before today. As I said at the outset, I appreciate we  
6 had to explore a difficult area with you, and thank you  
7 for coping as you have done.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: I am now able to let you go, but you go with my  
10 thanks.

11 A. Thank you.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: A couple of things I want to mention before  
14 I rise for the lunch break.

15 Again, we are following the usual practice of using  
16 the names of some people who have the protection of my  
17 General Restriction Order insofar as disclosure of their  
18 identities is concerned in the hearing room. But those  
19 identities cannot be disclosed outside the hearing room  
20 'Robert' has just used two names, MKI [REDACTED] and  
21 HQC [REDACTED], and they are both covered by my  
22 General Restriction Order and they can't be identified  
23 elsewhere.

24 2 o'clock?

25 MR PEOPLES: 2 o'clock would suit.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

2 MR PEOPLES: Thank you very much.

3 (1.08 pm)

4 (The luncheon adjournment)

5 (2.00 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

7 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady.

8 The next witness is an applicant who is anonymous

9 and his pseudonym is 'Scott'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 'Scott' (affirmed)

12 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable,

13 'Scott'.

14 'Scott', thank you for coming along this afternoon

15 to talk to us about your evidence. I already, of

16 course, have your signed statement --

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: -- which is evidence to the Inquiry, but it is

19 really helpful to have you come along to add to it in

20 person.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Before we start, that red folder has that

23 statement in it and you will be able to use it if you

24 want to as we are going through your evidence, but we

25 will also bring it up on the screen --



1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: -- in front of you, so that you will see it  
3 there too.

4 But, 'Scott', I do appreciate that what we are  
5 asking you to do is not straightforward and having  
6 somebody come along and speak in a public environment  
7 about their own lives and in particular about difficult  
8 things that happened in their own lives --

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: -- so long ago is a big ask.

11 A. Aye.

12 LADY SMITH: If you want an extra break at any time, please  
13 just say so. I will take a break at around about  
14 3 o'clock anyway --

15 A. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: -- so that our hard-working stenographers can  
17 get a breather. But at any other time just speak up,  
18 whether you just want to pause where you are, go out of  
19 the room or whatever, that's fine.

20 A. Okay.

21 LADY SMITH: If you have any questions at any time please do  
22 speak up, if you don't understand the questions that's  
23 our fault not yours, okay.

24 A. Right, okay.

25 LADY SMITH: All right.

1           If you are ready, I will hand over to Ms Forbes and  
2           she will take it from there.

3   A.   Yes.

4   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5           Ms Forbes.

6                           Questions from Ms Forbes

7   MS FORBES: Good afternoon, 'Scott'.

8   A.   Hiya.

9   Q.   The statement that you gave to the Inquiry is in the red  
10       folder and if I could ask you to just have a look at  
11       that and go to the very last page, which should have  
12       a paragraph 179.

13  A.   The last page?

14  Q.   The very last page, yes.

15       Do you have that there now?

16  A.   Yes.

17  Q.   This is where you make a declaration at the end of your  
18       statement and you say you have no objection to your  
19       witness statement being published as part of the  
20       evidence to the Inquiry and that you believe the facts  
21       stated in the witness statement are true. You have  
22       signed that and it is dated 21 May 2021, is that right?

23  A.   Correct.

24  Q.   Thank you.

25       If you could go to the front of that statement, now,

1 'Scott', thanks. For our purposes we have given that  
2 statement a reference number, and I am just going to,  
3 for the record here, read out that reference number, but  
4 it is nothing for you to worry about, it is  
5 WIT-1-000000695.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Actually, it might be seven zeros -- no, I think it's  
8 six.

9 A. Excuse me, I am just going to switch my phone off,  
10 I forgot to do it before I came in.

11 LADY SMITH: That's good of you, thank you.

12 A. I just heard it beeping there.

13 MS FORBES: Is that you all set?

14 A. That's it, aye.

15 Q. 'Scott', you were born in 1960, is that right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You tell us in your statement a little bit about your  
18 life that you know of before you went into care, and  
19 that kind of starts from paragraph 2 onwards.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you tell us that you were very young when you  
22 were adopted; is that right?

23 A. Six weeks, I believe.

24 Q. But that's not something that you were aware of until  
25 you were a teenager; is that right?

1 A. I wasn't aware of it until I was in Geilsland, actually,  
2 it was the social worker in Geilsland that told me and  
3 that was the first I knew I had been adopted.

4 Q. So for all you knew, the people who adopted you, you  
5 thought they were your birth parents?

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 Q. I think you tell us you lived in Mount Florida with  
8 those parents and then in Castlemilk and when you were  
9 about six they also adopted a little girl?

10 A. I was about five.

11 Q. Okay, five or six.

12 A. Five.

13 Q. Five.

14 I think you say, 'Scott', that you went to primary  
15 school, and that was something you quite enjoyed?

16 A. Yeah, it was Croftfoot Primary, it was -- I had a decent  
17 wee social life with my friends, I suppose, you know,  
18 maybe not as much in the house. It wasn't terribly bad  
19 then, the father wasn't a great father, that's all we  
20 can say about that, you know. And he was away most of  
21 the time, he was like a travelling rep, or whatever, so  
22 we didn't see him a lot so ...

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And then one night, I don't know what happened, he just  
25 left and that was it.

1 Q. Okay. And then I think you tell us that your parents  
2 split up at that point?

3 A. Well, he had left and the mother was shattered, and she  
4 became an alcoholic, and not a very nice person, a very,  
5 very bitter woman, you know, didn't try to move on in  
6 life, or meet somebody else, just -- I don't know, you  
7 know, she should maybe have spoke to somebody, but  
8 I don't know. She wanted me to go and stay with him,  
9 but it was nothing to do with me, it was to punish him,  
10 so she didn't want him and his new girlfriend going out  
11 all the time at the time, you know, and this is why she  
12 had made an effort to send me there, and it was  
13 horrendous.

14 Q. How old were you then, 'Scott'?

15 A. Er, I would be nine.

16 Q. So you went to live with your dad. And your younger  
17 sister, she stayed with your mum?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Was it ever explained to you why you were sent to stay  
20 with your dad?

21 A. No.

22 Q. But I think you tell us that living with your dad wasn't  
23 great going forward?

24 A. Oh, it was absolutely hell, to be honest with you. It  
25 was -- his girlfriend didn't want me there, she had kids

1 of her own and she had left her kids and she didn't see  
2 why she should leave her kids and have to bring somebody  
3 else's up, you know. I heard all of these things, you  
4 know.

5 Q. And I think you said that she actually started behaving  
6 in a way towards you that excluded you from parts of the  
7 house?

8 A. Yes, and she would also tell lies, and he would come in  
9 and I would get battered for doing something that  
10 I never done, you know, regularly.

11 Q. This was your dad you are saying that battered you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I think you tell us that your dad was always violent,  
14 but that things got worse?

15 A. Oh aye.

16 Q. Was that after he was separated from your mum and with  
17 his new partner?

18 A. Yes, mm-hm.

19 Q. I think you tell us as well about him using a belt to  
20 punish you; is that right?

21 A. All the time, all the time.

22 Q. What would he punish you for?

23 A. Who knows, I mean in their head it was absolutely  
24 something, but in mine I hadn't a clue what I had done,  
25 or maybe if I had asked for something, you know, more

1           than once. Anything, it could be anything, they would  
2           just lose their rag with you quite quickly. Then she  
3           was, 'Either he goes or I go', that was --

4   Q.   So that was the ultimatum that was given?

5   A.   Yes, and at that you would have thought he would maybe  
6           have phoned my mother, but no.

7   Q.   I think you say that there was a couple of particular  
8           incidents that happened before you were taken away. At  
9           paragraph 8 you tell us about one day when you maybe  
10          ripped your jeans?

11  A.   Aye.

12  Q.   What happened in relation to that?

13  A.   It was actually other boys -- my back pocket was hanging  
14          off and he grabbed the pocket and the jeans just ripped,  
15          you know. And it was such a big deal made of it, you  
16          know, and I didn't want to say what happened, so I just  
17          said I didn't know where they were, and it was her that  
18          says to him, because I had been wanting a pair of  
19          Wranglers, 'Oh, we are not spending that money on him',  
20          and all that, she just hated me, didn't want me there,  
21          and he wasn't the kind of guy who would have fun with  
22          children, or play with you. He had been a professional  
23          footballer, you know, and my whole life he never kicked  
24          a ball to me. Just wasn't interested in ...

25  Q.   As a result of those ripped jeans were you punished by

1 him?

2 A. Aye, he had come in from work, and I was actually in the  
3 bath at the time, and he kicked the bathroom door and  
4 held me under the water, he held me under the water,  
5 I pulled the plug out with my toes, you know, but it was  
6 touch and go, I would say, for that to escalate to a lot  
7 more serious.

8 Q. Was it after this that there was something at school  
9 where they noticed that you had injuries on you?

10 A. Well, he belted me, he actually held me down, pulled my  
11 trousers down and brought her in and gave her the belt  
12 to belt me as well. And there were marks on my back and  
13 one of the teachers at the gym had seen it and took me  
14 into the office, that was at Knoxland Primary School and  
15 they asked what had happened, and I just said that boys  
16 had done it. To this day I cannot tell you why I lied.  
17 I don't know. I was ashamed, or ... I really can't --  
18 it bothers me to this day why I couldn't have just told  
19 the truth. I was maybe scared of what would have  
20 happened if they had said anything to him, it might have  
21 escalated, I don't know. But I didn't tell them what  
22 happened.

23 Q. I think you say that it wasn't long after that that you  
24 decided you would try and get back to see your mum?

25 A. Yes, I tried to leave, and I skipped on a train, because



1 obviously I had no money, and I got caught at Queen  
2 Street Station, and the police took us back to  
3 Dumbarton, and when I got back there, two girls who came  
4 with me, pals from school, and they kind of knew what  
5 was happening with me, and they decided for whatever  
6 reason they were going to take me, come up to my mum's  
7 with me, and the three of us got caught and we got taken  
8 back and he was waiting for me at the station.

9 Q. And what happened as a result of that?

10 A. Oh, when I got home I got belted again that night, got  
11 quite a heavy doing that night. And about three days  
12 later, I reckon, maybe more, but no more than a week,  
13 I was going to the dentist and they told me that, 'Oh,  
14 you are not going to school this morning, I am taking  
15 you to the dentist', that was what he said to me, and  
16 then I seen him packing my suitcase, I am thinking my  
17 suitcase for the dentist? But you were too feared to  
18 ask him or talk to him, because you would just get hit  
19 anyway, you know, and the next minute I was taken, he  
20 took me to Dumbarton Social Work Department, I didn't  
21 know what it was then, and he said, 'There, he's there',  
22 put the case down and walked out the door. Never said  
23 cheerio or anything. That was it.

24 Q. You had no idea before you went that that's what was  
25 happening?

1 A. I had no idea, and the social workers took me in the  
2 car, took me to Cardross Park Assessment Centre, and  
3 never spoke to me the whole way there, told me nothing.  
4 'What's happening?' I was petrified, you know? I was  
5 crying, and so, 'You shouldn't have been a bad boy then,  
6 should you?' I hadn't been a bad boy, I hadn't done  
7 anything wrong in my life up to that point.

8 Q. Up until that point when he takes you to the social  
9 work, had you ever had social work involvement in your  
10 memory?

11 A. No.

12 Q. That was your first experience of social work?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You say that you got taken to Cardross Park, you weren't  
15 told that was where you were going on the journey?

16 A. No, nothing.

17 Q. Were you given any information about how long you were  
18 going to be where they were taking you?

19 A. No, not on that day, no. Later on it would maybe be the  
20 first time I went to the panel, I think, because I never  
21 went to the panel when I went to Cardross Park, it was  
22 just the social worker took me straight there, and I am  
23 not sure how long it would be, maybe two or three weeks  
24 after it I was up at the panel and then there were  
25 things explained to me.

1 Q. I think you tell us that when you got there, to  
2 Cardross Park, that you were just left there by the  
3 social worker that took you there?

4 A. Yes, she's just, 'There, he's there', and she got back  
5 in the car and ...

6 Q. Okay. When you first arrived, you tell us that you were  
7 met by a woman, is that right?

8 A. It was a woman and a guy, aye, and the woman took me  
9 into this room and she told me to take my clothes off.  
10 I am like, what? She said there's a place to put the  
11 clothes on, I said, 'I have my own clothes, there's my  
12 suitcase'.  
13 'No, you are not allowed to wear your own clothes.'  
14 And again nothing was explained to me, what was  
15 happening, why I was there, where I was, or anything.  
16 It wasn't until I got in with the other boys and they  
17 started telling me things, you know. I learned more  
18 from them than I did from the staff.

19 Q. You refused to take your clothes off, and what happened  
20 after that?

21 A. The guy came in and battered me.

22 Q. Was this somebody that worked there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you see him again when you were at Cardross?

25 A. Yes, every day. He was kind of like SNR [REDACTED], if

1       you like, or SNR, I don't know what you would call  
2       him, whether -- because they never, and Cardross Park  
3       was a terrible, terrible institution, horrible building,  
4       it was really failing everywhere, it was cold, it was  
5       just a horrible place, you know.

6   Q. 'Scott', when you say that he came in and he battered  
7       you, what was he doing?

8   A. He just came in and started slapping me about the head  
9       and he started forcing my clothes off.

10  Q. Okay.

11  A. And shouting and bawling at me, and he was telling me,  
12       'When you get in there the boys will eat you in there,  
13       you had better get your act together and stop this  
14       crying', and then he hit me again, you know.

15  Q. Were you crying at the time?

16  A. Aye.

17  Q. So whilst he is assaulting you --

18  A. Yes, I was devastated, to be honest with you, you know,  
19       I hadn't a clue what was happening to me, and I was  
20       scared, I suppose, you know.

21  Q. How old were you at this point?

22  A. Ten.

23  Q. Ten, okay.

24               So he is assaulting you and he is talking your  
25       clothes off at the same time?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Then you are made to put on different clothes?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What kind of things were they?

5 A. It was like an old jumper that had seen better days,  
6 obviously, you know, and the smell, the whole place,  
7 I didn't know what the smell was then, now I know it was  
8 damp, that it was an old building that hadn't been  
9 looked after for a long time, you know.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. It was all -- it was in a real bad state of disrepair,  
12 that's when I was in it, you know.

13 Q. I think you tell us it was a really run-down building?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. From what you recall?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. After this assault happens, where were you taken?

18 A. I was just put into, there was just like a big room,  
19 It had maybe, I don't know, maybe 20 chairs, a couple of  
20 couches, there was a piano in it and a television, they  
21 put you in there, locked the door and that was it, you  
22 didn't see the staff until it was feeding time.

23 Q. Then did there come a point later where you were put  
24 into a dormitory?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That was with other boys, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were some of them quite a bit older than you?

4 A. Oh aye.

5 Q. You being ten?

6 A. Aye, I was the youngest in there, there was another boy  
7 who was maybe about a year/year and a half older than  
8 me, he was the next youngest. Most of them were about  
9 14/15.

10 Q. What was the attitude of the other boys towards you when  
11 you first arrived?

12 A. You got a bit of bullying, a lot of kidology, and then  
13 the older ones were making all the wee guys fight with  
14 each other for their entertainment, that kind of thing,  
15 you know.

16 Q. I think you tell us, 'Scott', this is at paragraph 14,  
17 that they took the mickey out of you not only because  
18 you were new but because you were there for care and  
19 protection?

20 A. Care and protection, as they said, you are in for CP,  
21 I didn't know what it was, you know, and because you  
22 hadn't been a bad boy, because you hadn't done anything  
23 bad, that you weren't sort of -- they looked down on  
24 you, if you know what I mean.

25 LADY SMITH: You hadn't done anything to impress them?

1 A. Yes.

2 MS FORBES: I think you say, 'Scott', at paragraph 14:

3 'I wish I had done something wrong to get there as

4 I might have been bullied less.'

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is that how you felt?

7 A. That's how I felt at the time.

8 Q. That you would have fitted in more if you had actually

9 done something wrong?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Later, 'Scott', you describe the dorm at Cardross as

12 having about 11 or 12 boys, and it was being divided

13 into two sections?

14 A. Two -- it was like there was a door connecting two rooms

15 together and there was toilets that went off this side

16 that done the two rooms. That was the only two rooms

17 that were getting used in Cardross at that point. There

18 wasn't a lot of boys in it, there was only, about maybe

19 15 at the most, if there was that. I can't really

20 remember. But I can't remember any of the names of any

21 of the boys I was in with at all. None of them.

22 Q. You say that the age of the boys was with the oldest

23 being about 15.

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Most were around about that age?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And there was nobody the same age as you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You tell us a bit, 'Scott', about the sort of routine,  
5 the mornings, the bedtime, and things like that.  
6 I think you tell us that you were sort of in this day  
7 room, or TV room all day, is that right?

8 A. That's right, there was no exercise, there was no  
9 getting out, nothing like that happened in there.  
10 I think it must have been coming up -- it would be just  
11 about [REDACTED] I went in there, [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED], and it was cold, the  
14 only time we ever got out was they came in and asked us  
15 if anybody wanted to volunteer to go out and saw logs,  
16 it was on a Saturday, I think, and I went out with  
17 another boy and we were sawing logs and chopping them  
18 for their firewood. That was the only time I got any  
19 exercise in Cardross.

20 Q. You would still only be about 10 at that point?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You tell us a little bit about what would happen in the  
23 day, I think you say there was no play time and no  
24 schooling?

25 A. No, it wasn't even an option for school, you weren't



1 tested, nothing in Cardross, absolutely nothing, the  
2 same with Larchgrove, it was exactly the same.

3 Q. Also I think you remark that there was no supervision  
4 and you would just be left with other boys?

5 A. No, the only time somebody came in was when -- if we  
6 were making too much noise or too much of a carry on,  
7 and two of them would come in and just start slapping  
8 people about and that, you know, shouting at you and  
9 then they would go out the door and leave you again.  
10 I don't know what they were getting paid for, the staff,  
11 but they were getting away with murder, absolute murder.

12 Q. The slap about the head, did that happen to you?

13 A. Sorry.

14 Q. You talked about the staff coming in and slapping boys  
15 about --

16 A. Oh, aye, regularly, aye.

17 Q. -- did that happen to you?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. I think you also say about what happened at night, there  
20 was a night watchman, this is at paragraph 18.

21 A. Night watchman, yes.

22 Q. He was supposed to be looking after you, but did that  
23 actually happen?

24 A. No.

25 Q. What did he do?

1 A. He would come up, he would supervise you having your  
2 showers and that and getting you into your bed. It was  
3 meant to be 9 o'clock, but he was wanting you in bed  
4 earlier than that, and then it was the older boys that  
5 told me, because he used to get up and have a pure carry  
6 on, and he is like, 'No, he is away, he goes to the pub,  
7 he likes to get the last pint before the pub shuts', and  
8 you knew he was away for a while, but sometimes he came  
9 back early and he would maybe catch you having a carry  
10 on, and that's when all hell would break loose, you  
11 know.

12 Q. I think you say there was an incident with an older boy  
13 who was in there for something quite serious?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. What happened in relation to the night watchman in  
16 respect of him?

17 A. Well, he had -- we were all too busy having a carry on  
18 and he had, you kind of make the best of your  
19 environment, if you know what I mean, so I don't know  
20 what we were doing, play fighting or whatever, you know,  
21 it was just a carry on, and he had heard him coming in  
22 so he jumped into his bed and kidded on he was sleeping  
23 and when he came in the door he looked up and he is  
24 kidding on as if he has just opened his eyes, and he is  
25 like, 'I know, sir, I have been telling them to keep

1 quiet', and I just couldn't believe that he was doing  
2 this to us, I thought he was our pal, you know. It was  
3 a side of human nature I hadn't really seen before  
4 I think, you know, and he thought it was funny getting  
5 us into trouble and me and another boy getting battered  
6 off the night watchman because of what he had said, you  
7 know.

8 Q. When you say 'battered', again what was he doing to you,  
9 are you able to tell us?

10 A. Just slapping you.

11 Q. That was you getting in to trouble?

12 A. When I say 'just slapping you', I mean heavy slaps, you  
13 know, it wasn't the way people would hit a child, it is  
14 the way that they would maybe hit another adult, you  
15 were getting hit heavy.

16 Q. And he is a full-grown man and you are ten years old?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you tell us that whilst you were there, there  
19 was some leisure time, this is at paragraph 22, but  
20 there was stuff that went on with the older boys during  
21 that leisure time, are you able to tell us about that?

22 A. I don't know what you are ...

23 Q. Sorry, 'Scott', it is at paragraph 22. I think you say  
24 that during this sort of down time that you would have,  
25 if there was any, that the older boys would --

1 A. It wasn't to do with leisure time, it was just you were  
2 locked in the room, I don't know what they called it,  
3 the reception room, or something. You were just locked  
4 in this big room. The room would be -- it was a fairly  
5 big room, maybe from the end of the bench there to that  
6 back wall, and kind of this square, you know. There was  
7 quite a lot of furniture in it right enough. They had  
8 us all fighting each other, you know, and I had never  
9 had a fight in my life until I went in there.

10 Q. This was the older boys getting you and other boys to  
11 fight each other?

12 A. Aye, and then you were, like, tagged. It was meant to  
13 be a carry on, but it was getting quite real, you know.  
14 It did get real.

15 Q. I think you say to survive you had to get better at  
16 fighting?

17 A. Well, I didn't know I could fight until then, then  
18 I realised I had a wee talent for it, a natural,  
19 whatever you want to say.

20 Q. When you were there, you say that your dad didn't visit  
21 you when you were there, but your mum came?

22 A. My mum eventually came, I think I was in there for about  
23 maybe three weeks before I seen her, two and a half  
24 weeks. My mother didn't drive or anything, so I suppose  
25 it would be quite hard for her to get there. It was

1 kind of in the middle of nowhere as well, it would have  
2 been difficult.

3 I didn't know she was coming, she just arrived, and  
4 she was like greeting and all, seeing me in there,  
5 'What's this place like?' I said it was terrible. 'How  
6 can you not get me out?' I couldn't understand how my  
7 mother couldn't come and take me home. I think it was  
8 another 12 weeks or something before I eventually got  
9 back home.

10 Q. But when she came to visit you, she was telling you that  
11 she was trying to get you out?

12 A. She said she was trying to get us out and that my father  
13 hadn't contacted her, or spoke to her and told her what  
14 he had done or anything.

15 Q. So as far as you were aware, your mum didn't know that  
16 you had ended up there because of your dad taking you to  
17 the social work?

18 A. I don't know when my mother found out, or how she found  
19 out, or who told her, you never even -- I wasn't given  
20 access to writing, to write my mother a letter, or  
21 access to a phone, or nothing. It just, I was given  
22 nothing, you know.

23 Q. I think you say there were a couple of cousins of your  
24 dad who did come to see you?

25 A. My dad's cousin, yes, my dad's cousin and his wife came

1 to visit me there. When they found out about it, they  
2 were absolutely disgusted with my father, you know.

3 Q. Now, just looking, I think you were asked, I think, when  
4 you were giving your statement about what would happen  
5 to boys who wet the bed, and I think you tell us about  
6 that a little bit later in your statement at  
7 paragraph 27, and there was something that would happen  
8 to the boys as a result of that, is that right? What  
9 would go on?

10 A. They would get embarrassed, it wasn't, like, it was,  
11 they would talk about it in front of everybody, you know  
12 what I mean, and mock them for it, you know.

13 Q. It is not a problem you had --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- but you saw that happening?

16 A. Aye. On more than one occasion, in more than one  
17 institution it happened, you know.

18 Q. You were taken back to the panel after that, and then  
19 told that you would be released back to stay with your  
20 mum, is that right?

21 A. I was eventually released back into the care of my mum.  
22 I can't remember the exact, how it works, but it wasn't  
23 quick. Every time they wanted to do more, and that you  
24 needed to get reports, and I waited for somebody to come  
25 and speak to me about reports, and nobody ever did, but

1           then when I went back to the panel the reports were  
2           there, and this woman, I am talking about, she had never  
3           met me. I just couldn't get my head round it. What  
4           she's saying is not true.

5   Q.   When you went to the panel on these occasions whilst you  
6           were at Cardross Park, were any members of your family  
7           there?

8   A.   Sorry?

9   Q.   When you went to these children's panels?

10  A.   My mother was there.

11  Q.   Okay, your mother was there, but your dad wasn't there?

12  A.   No.

13  Q.   They kept telling you they needed to look at these  
14           reports, but did anyone come and speak to you --

15  A.   No.

16  Q.   -- to do a report?

17  A.   No.

18  Q.   How long did you stay in Cardross Park for, roughly?

19  A.   I think it was between 12 and 16 weeks, I can't really  
20           remember. I can't be exact. But it may even have been  
21           slightly longer. It was a lot longer than what I was  
22           expecting, because when I first went there the boys told  
23           me, 'Aye, you will be up in three weeks, you will  
24           probably get out then', and it didn't happen. I never  
25           even went up in three weeks, I think it was six weeks

1           was the initial, and then it was back for reports, and  
2           reports weren't ready, and it just went on, and  
3           I couldn't wait to get out, you know, I absolutely hated  
4           it in there.

5   Q.   How many times do you think you went to the panel whilst  
6           you were there?

7   A.   Three.

8   Q.   Okay.

9   A.   At least three.

10  Q.   So you got back living with your mum after that, and  
11          social work were still involved, is that right?

12  A.   Yes.  I had a social worker, or probation officer,  
13          whatever you want to call them.  But he never really  
14          spoke with me, he would come in and speak to my mum,  
15          probably she needed more help than I did, to be honest  
16          with you, she was a broken woman, there was no two ways  
17          about it.  She was never, ever, the same again, you  
18          know.

19  Q.   Was your sister still with her at that time?

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   You told us earlier, 'Scott', about your mum starting  
22          drinking.  Did that continue when you went back to live  
23          with her?

24  A.   She was -- that's when it, I don't know when it started,  
25          but I maybe didn't notice it then, I would be, maybe



1           12/13, when I knew.

2    Q.    Would she do anything towards you in relation to having  
3           a drink?

4    A.    I suppose when I started getting to be a teenager she  
5           would just shout and bawl at you all the time, there was  
6           no talking, it was just everybody was shouting at you,  
7           you know, and she wasn't really interested in what was  
8           happening in your life, or, like I say, she was just so  
9           bitter, a total man hater, she hated all men, they were  
10          all the same, you know, that's the way she seemed to see  
11          it, you know.

12   Q.    So kind of verbal abuse towards you?

13   A.    Yes.

14   Q.    And --

15   A.    She would try to hit you, but she wasn't able to hit me,  
16          to be honest with you, you know, I just laughed at her  
17          when she hit me.

18   Q.    When you say she wasn't able to hit you, do you mean  
19          that she made contact but wasn't hurting you?

20   A.    Aye, I had been used to guys punching me all over the  
21          place, and her hitting me was nothing, you know.

22   Q.    Did she work at this time?

23   A.    Yes.

24   Q.    I think you say that was a Sub-Post Office?

25   A.    She worked for the Sub-Post Office, aye.

1 Q. I think you tell us she never looked after herself or  
2 the house?

3 A. No, the house was really dirty, and I don't know, I have  
4 always been quite a tidy person, I have obviously got  
5 loads of other faults, but I have been tidy, I was very  
6 tidy and clean, and I hated the house dirty, I was  
7 embarrassed, I wouldn't bring my pals in and stuff like  
8 that, so I started doing a little bit. But you got no  
9 thanks for it. To be honest, I don't think she even  
10 noticed, you know.

11 Q. I think you stayed with her for several years, into your  
12 teenage years, is that right?

13 A. For then it would be two and a half years, aye, before  
14 I went to Larchgrove.

15 Q. Okay. But I think your time there, as you got older,  
16 was more involved in trying to look after your younger  
17 sister, is that right?

18 A. To a degree, my sister was quite a clever girl, you  
19 know, she kind of done her own thing, was very quiet,  
20 and she was a bit of a swot, done well at school, she  
21 went to Hutchie. She was different from me, you know.

22 Q. Talking about school, 'Scott', at that time was that  
23 something you were involved with? Were you going to  
24 school?

25 A. When I first went back to my mother's, aye, when I went

1 to secondary that's when things started going south.  
2 And most of the people I went to school with came from  
3 quite affluent families, and well dressed, and I was in  
4 rags, and I just didn't like, you know, people making  
5 fun of you, talking behind your back, so that's when  
6 things started going wrong for me at school, aye.

7 Q. You were going less and less, does that sum it up?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Also what about the people you were spending time with  
10 outside of school?

11 A. Er, wrong'uns, really, to be honest with you.

12 Q. Yes. Were these older boys that you were hanging about  
13 with?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. Did you end up getting into trouble as a result of that  
16 with them?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you tell us that you were caught by police  
19 breaking into cars and there was a time when you were  
20 picked up by the police where your mum wasn't able to  
21 look after you, and your dad wasn't willing to take you,  
22 and so you had to spend a weekend in the cells, is that  
23 right?

24 A. Yes, I had to spend -- it was [REDACTED] and  
25 I think they lifted me on the Thursday, there was no

1 Children's Panel on the Friday or the Monday, so they  
2 couldn't get the social work department as it was shut  
3 so I was in Craigie Street Police Station for four days,  
4 I was 14.

5 Q. At 14?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. Yes. How did you feel about that at the time?

8 A. Er, I was -- I had mixed feelings. I was kind of glad  
9 to be out the house, I think. So it wasn't as bad  
10 a shock as it could have been, I think, you know. But  
11 obviously it was extremely boring, it was a terrible  
12 place to be for four days, you know. It is bad to be  
13 there for a day, but four days is really terrible.  
14 Anybody that ever goes to prison will tell you the worst  
15 part is the police station. Once you are out of the  
16 police station, prison's prison, but you get into  
17 a routine and ...

18 Q. When you did get taken to a panel on the Tuesday, there  
19 was a decision made, and that was to send you to  
20 Larchgrove?

21 A. Larchgrove, yes.

22 Q. Were you taken straight from the panel to Larchgrove by  
23 the social work?

24 A. Yes, there was a bus, I think there was four of us taken  
25 at the same time, it wasn't just me.

1 Q. You describe Larchgrove in your statement, 'Scott', and  
2 you say this was a much bigger place than Cardross?  
3 A. Oh, aye.  
4 Q. And there was about 250 boys split into four houses?  
5 A. There was three houses, it was Arran, Bute, and I think  
6 the other one's Islay, they are all after Scottish  
7 islands anyway, the three houses, and I am sure there  
8 was five dorms per house, ten boys a dorm. So at least  
9 150, there could have been more, though.  
10 Q. So a lot bigger place than Cardross, and a lot more  
11 boys?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. You tell us a bit about some of the people you can  
14 remember from Larchgrove at the time, and you name them  
15 in paragraph 36 of your statement. I think you say  
16 there is a PT instructor, you tell us his name?  
17 A. Aye.  
18 Q. There was also --  
19 A. Mr Tinlin, aye, he was a PT instructor, but to be honest  
20 he was -- most of the time I was in, I only seen him  
21 a few weeks, because he was on the sick for, I don't  
22 know what for, he was actually one of the better ones in  
23 there, he was a decent guy. It was good that, you know,  
24 you had a bit of activity, because he would be bored,  
25 just sitting in the staffroom, so he would take you down

1 the gym, you didn't have to go, it was volunteers, and  
2 he was a boxer and he was teaching you boxing and stuff,  
3 I liked it, and quite liked him, but he wasn't there  
4 very often.

5 Q. Wasn't there very often whilst you were in Larchgrove?

6 A. While I was in Larchgrove, yes.

7 Q. So you didn't get that opportunity to spend time?

8 A. No, it was later on in my time at Larchgrove, when I was  
9 nearly finished, that I kind of got introduced to him.  
10 He had been on the sick for a long time, I don't know  
11 why, he never -- I never asked and he never told us, you  
12 know.

13 Q. 'Scott', you name some more people. There is two senior  
14 members of staff that you name there, a Mr HDW and  
15 a Mr HDV ?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. But you say they were on different shifts and didn't  
18 normally work together?

19 A. No I think they were, like, the senior member of staff,  
20 so whatever one, they wouldn't be on together because  
21 they were SNR . But sometimes there was  
22 a cross-over, maybe from a day shift to back shift and  
23 the two of them would be there for the same time for  
24 a wee while at tea time, or whatever, you know.

25 Q. You also name -- sorry, you describe, sorry, that

1 Mr HDV in particular, I think you say he is a really  
2 big guy and a rugby player?

3 A. Aye, when he hit you, you knew you had been hit, you  
4 know, like the cartoons, you are seeing the wee birds  
5 and that, that's what it was like when he hit you, you  
6 really, you couldn't hear or anything if he hit you. He  
7 was about six foot four, ex rugby player, heavy, heavy  
8 built guy.

9 LADY SMITH: Was that hitting you with his fists, or his  
10 hand?

11 A. Aye, his hand.

12 LADY SMITH: Open hand?

13 A. Open hand, aye.

14 LADY SMITH: On your head?

15 A. Aye.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS FORBES: I think you say, 'Scott', as well, that he was  
18 so strong if you were given a slap by him you would be  
19 knocked to the ground.

20 A. Oh aye, you wouldn't stay on your feet if he slapped  
21 you, no chance.

22 Q. You also mention another member of staff, who was  
23 a young and trendy guy who fitted in with the boys in  
24 the home?

25 A. Aye, Mr McGee.

1 Q. I don't think you tell us anything bad about him?

2 A. No, he was -- by all accounts he was a pretty decent  
3 guy, you know. But he was limited in what he could do,  
4 there was quite a few decent people, they weren't all  
5 bad people that worked there, you know. But the bad  
6 ones kind of run the place. So people that came in and  
7 wanted to maybe make a difference, do good, they weren't  
8 getting the chance to, they weren't allowed to. They  
9 maybe came in with ideas and their ideas were getting  
10 shot down, you know.

11 Q. Was he a residential care worker, or something like  
12 that, Mr McGee, do you know what his job was?

13 A. I think that's what you would call him, a residential  
14 care worker, social care worker or something. They are  
15 not social workers, but I do know that, you know.

16 Q. I think you comment, 'Scott', there was a lot of turn  
17 over of staff from what you saw?

18 A. There was a lot of turn over and there also seemed to be  
19 a lot of staff on sick all the time.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I was in there over a year, and there was a woman that  
22 worked there and I think in that year I seen her, like,  
23 two weeks and then she was off for months and then she  
24 was back for a few weeks and then she was off again.  
25 Again, I don't know what it was, you know.



1 Q. Yes. You give us a bit of a description of the layout  
2 and say that next to the reception and the headmaster's  
3 office there was a long corridor and that led to the  
4 different houses?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. And in each of the houses there would be about five or  
7 six staff on duty?

8 A. At least, aye.

9 Q. You have already sort of described this day shift/back  
10 shift sort of system --

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. -- a rota system.

13 You tell us the only exception were the night staff,  
14 who were the same all the time?

15 A. Yes. It was always the same people.

16 Q. It was like a permanent night shift that they did?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You tell us when you got there you were allocated to  
19 Bute House, you said, named after one of the Scottish  
20 islands?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. And in that there were about 30 boys and you give their  
23 ages as being between 12 and 17?

24 A. More than 30, it would be at least 50 in each section.

25 Q. Then there was a number of dormitories within that

1 section?

2 A. Yes, there is the dormitories and the day room, that's  
3 all that was in the section, so there was nothing else.

4 Q. You slept in bunk beds in these dormitories?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say, I think, at paragraph 39, just the last  
7 sentence there, the boys were a mix of real bad boys and  
8 other boys who should never have been in that kind of  
9 place?

10 A. There was a lot of boys that, maybe a hospital they  
11 needed, you know, they had mental issues, they weren't  
12 bad people, they were just, nobody was listening to  
13 them, or could be bothered with them, I don't know, but  
14 there was boys there that you could tell, and they  
15 really needed looked after, you know.

16 Q. Yes. So when you were in Cardross, you commented that  
17 you were there for care and protection --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- this time when you go to Larchgrove you are there  
20 because you have got into a bit of bother?

21 A. I got in to a bit of bother, but my pals got into the  
22 same bother as me, they were never sent there, it was  
23 just me, you know.

24 Q. Were there other people, boys like you, who had just got  
25 into a bit of bother as well who were in there?

1 A. There was different kind of boys in there, there was  
2 boys in there that wanted to emulate their fathers, and  
3 wanted to be gangsters, you know, and then there was  
4 other boys that had maybe stole something because they  
5 were hungry or whatever, you know. It is a different --  
6 people say you are breaking the law, you are breaking  
7 the law, it is not as simple as that, there is more to  
8 it than that. There are some people they know what they  
9 are doing, they want to break the law, and that's what  
10 their career's going to be, they have already decided  
11 this.

12 Then there are other boys that were maybe starving,  
13 whatever, weren't getting enough to eat. Stuff like  
14 that.

15 A lot of boys in for truant, as well, you know,  
16 maybe getting bullied at school and didn't go, and stuff  
17 like that, you know, and they eventually get put in  
18 there.

19 Q. I think you say that the first night you were there you  
20 had your tea in the dining room but you were trying to  
21 keep your mouth shut until you found out what life was  
22 like?

23 A. Aye. I was a bit -- it wasn't like when I went into  
24 Cardross Park, I was quite a big boy, I was quite  
25 capable, I knew I was, by that time. I wasn't so scared

1 of the other boys anymore, you know, and you just keep  
2 quiet and sussed things out yourself, try and learn how  
3 to behave, what you can do, what you can't do, you know  
4 what I mean.

5 Q. Is that you trying to get the lay of the land --

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. -- before you decide what you are going to say?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. I think you tell us everyone would have been asking you  
10 what were you in for?

11 A. Aye, to a degree, aye, but by that time I was in for,  
12 you know, stealing motorbikes, and what not, so ...

13 Q. You go on to tell us, 'Scott', about the sort of  
14 routine, the morning, evenings, things like that. One  
15 thing you say at paragraph 42 is that the bedtime was at  
16 9 pm, but if you smoked --

17 A. You got an extra 15 minutes' rec.

18 Q. You got a bit extra?

19 A. I didn't smoke when I went in, and I started smoking so  
20 I could get an extra -- because my pal was in  
21 a different dorm, so I could get an extra 15 minutes  
22 with him, and that was why I started smoking. And  
23 nobody -- there was boys nine years old in there that  
24 were going in for their fags, and nobody seemed to think  
25 that was wrong.

1 Q. And the cigarettes, were they supplied to you by --

2 A. You got four a day, you got one in the morning, one

3 after breakfast, one after dinner, and one at night

4 time.

5 Q. That was a chance for you then to get a bit extra time

6 before you went to bed, but also speak to people that

7 you knew that maybe weren't in the same dorm?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you comment, 'Scott', that in relation to food,

10 some days the food was good, some not so good?

11 A. I would never say it was good, some days it was edible,

12 other days wasn't, you know, it was like bad school

13 dinners, I would say.

14 Q. I think you comment, you compare it to Cardross, you

15 said it was better than being in Cardross, so that gives

16 us a measure of what Cardross must have been like?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. In relation to what you had to do on a daily basis,

19 I think you tell us at paragraph 46 that you would be

20 allocated duties after breakfast, is that right?

21 A. No, you weren't allocated duties. It was -- I never

22 really, I wasn't getting visits or anything, so if

23 I wanted money for the canteen I had to work for it, and

24 the only work there was was cleaning. So I volunteered

25 to go out and clean, and I can't remember what my wages

1           were, it was maybe £1.95 a week, something around about,  
2           maybe £1.65, I can't remember, and I could spend that  
3           money at the canteen.

4           So I was out cleaning most days, aye, and that would  
5           take you up to just after dinner time, and it also  
6           passed your time, because time was so slow in there, you  
7           know, you really needed -- there was no activities, you  
8           never had, you couldn't say can I get a pen and a pad,  
9           and draw, or anything like that, there was nothing like  
10          that, it was, 'You can't get a pen, you might stab your  
11          pal with it', you know, and you just weren't allowed  
12          anything.

13        Q. So this was a way for you to get some money to buy  
14          things inside Larchgrove?

15        A. Aye, you get to spend it at the canteen.

16        Q. But I think you say that was always virtual money in  
17          a book, you never actually got handed it?

18        A. No, you didn't get the cash in your hand, you know, it  
19          was just that you went to the canteen and they had it in  
20          the book that you had so much money in your possession,  
21          and I maybe had a wee bit of money on me when I got put  
22          in there, so that would be in your property as well.

23        Q. Did people get to bring in money and give it to boys  
24          that were in there?

25        A. Yes.

1 Q. And did you get any money like that --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- from family? No.

4 A. No.

5 Q. Unless you were doing the chores you wouldn't have had

6 that money to spend?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. I think you say, was it right, that the boys within

9 Larchgrove did all of the cleaning --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- of the building?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. It wasn't as if they had outside cleaners coming in?

14 A. No, no, there was no outside cleaners, no. The only

15 place that we didn't clean would be the kitchens, and it

16 was the women in the kitchen, you never get to know

17 them, or know their names, because there would be one

18 handing you your dinner, but the rest of them were all

19 in the kitchen, you never really seen them, it was kind

20 of separate, it was away at the other end of the

21 institution, so they had nothing to do with disciplining

22 you, or anything like that, you know. Like I say, you

23 never really got to know any of them, or anything, so

24 ...

25 Q. I think you say that there were classrooms in

1 Larchgrove, but whilst you were there did you receive  
2 any education?

3 A. None whatsoever. None at all. You weren't -- nothing  
4 in Larchgrove, they never had a teacher for a kick off.  
5 But there was classrooms, but nobody -- there wasn't any  
6 activities at all, there was just, it was just mind  
7 numbing going in there, you know. That's all I can say.

8 Q. So if you weren't cleaning there wasn't anything else  
9 for you to be doing?

10 A. Sitting in and watching the telly, that was it.

11 Q. You comment, I think, 'Scott', that there was a time  
12 when a woman came in for a while to teach basket  
13 weaving, but that was about six times in total whilst  
14 you were there?

15 A. Aye, because she was on the sick all the time, aye.

16 Q. An unusual --

17 A. She used to make baskets, and they made other stuff, and  
18 then they would sell it at the visits, people's family  
19 would come, and say oh, I made that basket, and they  
20 would buy it, you know.

21 Q. I think you mentioned that PT instructor who was off,  
22 but when he came back you did get gym sometimes for  
23 two hours and you mentioned that he taught you how to do  
24 boxing, is that right?

25 A. Aye, because he was bored, there would maybe be four or



1 five members of staff, and it was usually at the  
2 weekend, and he would say, 'Any boys want to go to the  
3 gym and that?' And he would take you down there, maybe  
4 six or seven of us would go down with him, sometimes  
5 a wee bit more.

6 Q. In relation to healthcare, I think you say there was  
7 an incident where you were taken, was it out of  
8 Larchgrove to a dentist?

9 A. Taken out of Larchgrove, yes, I was taken, I am sure it  
10 was Shettleston, and it was to get a tooth out, and just  
11 the way the guy, his attitude with you, he knew where  
12 you came from and he had already made his mind up what  
13 you were like and he extracted a tooth. It was the  
14 wrong tooth, and I seen the tooth, I knew it was the  
15 wrong tooth after he took it out, I says to him and he  
16 started shouting and bawling as if I was my fault that  
17 he has taken the wrong tooth out. I could see the tooth  
18 and there was clearly there was no disease in it, there  
19 was nothing wrong with it. So it took a perfectly good  
20 tooth and then he took the other tooth. And then two  
21 days later they had to take me to the doctors, it was  
22 a jag I got, for the -- it was an infection in my mouth,  
23 it wasn't actual toothache, it was the gum boil that  
24 was, whatever, was in my mouth, and the doctor gave me  
25 a jag, and it went away, and the pain went away hours

1 later after I got the jag, but I was in terrible,  
2 absolutely terrible pain for days and days. It took  
3 them a long time to even take me there, you know.

4 Q. I think you say that to you it felt like the dentist  
5 couldn't be bothered --

6 A. No, he wasn't interested.

7 Q. -- as you were from the home. That was the impression  
8 you got from him?

9 A. A horrible man, an absolutely horrible man, that's all  
10 I can say about him.

11 Q. I think you say that there was a nurse who maybe had to  
12 stitch you up at one point, because you had a cut in the  
13 home, is that right?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. You say that was after you had been fighting with  
16 another boy?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. Was that something that went on in Larchgrove --

19 A. All the time.

20 Q. -- between the boys?

21 A. More than once a day, most days of the week, you know.  
22 But you have all of the boys, and nothing, you are not  
23 giving them anything to do at all, and it is, you are  
24 just sitting there, and you are already bored and then  
25 somebody does something that is annoying you and you

1 react to it, and you might not like the way they have  
2 reacted to you. In these places you can't give anybody  
3 a minute, if anybody says anything to you you have got  
4 to go for it, because if you don't your life will just  
5 be a -- they will take everything off you, you know.

6 Q. Is this the kind of thinking that if you show some  
7 weakness, then people think they can take advantage of  
8 you?

9 A. Aye, or they are going to play on it, aye.

10 Q. You go on to mention this issue about bed wetting again,  
11 and we talked about that from Cardross as well, what  
12 would happen in relation to that, but I think this was  
13 an issue here as well, at Larchgrove, not a problem that  
14 you had, though?

15 A. No.

16 Q. But --

17 A. It would surprise you, it would surprise you how many  
18 boys were bed wetters, it would surprise you how many  
19 guys were totally, and I mean I am talking about guys  
20 who couldn't read or write at all, used to get boys and  
21 you used to have to read their letters from their mums  
22 and that, they couldn't read it themselves.

23 Q. I think you say there was a member of staff who would  
24 make a big deal about bed wetting?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Who was that?

2 A. HDW was the worst.

3 Q. What would he do?

4 A. He would just mock them, he thought it was funny to

5 absolutely -- and he would do it if front of everybody,

6 and he would get other people joining in, it was

7 terrible for the people it was happening to, you know.

8 Q. I think you describe a situation that on the dormitory

9 doors there was name cards that showed who was in each

10 room?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And that had some information about the boy?

13 A. Yes, if they were a bed wetter it would be 'WB' would be

14 on their door. Even in prison, that's the same in

15 prisons, as well.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. They have your religion, and if you were a bed wetter it

18 would tell them that on the door, on the door card on

19 the prison cells.

20 Q. When you are talking about leisure time, as you said it

21 wasn't really leisure time, it was just --

22 A. It was all leisure time, if you like.

23 Q. You mention that there was a lot of violence, because

24 there was nothing to do?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. I think you talk about one particular instance, where  
2 there was a boy who was injured in relation, somebody  
3 had used a broken plate?  
4 A. Aye.  
5 Q. And --  
6 A. It was in the dining hall, aye, and they were arguing at  
7 the dining table, I think it was the second day I was in  
8 Larchgrove and it was the first time I had ever seen  
9 somebody getting slashed, and it was a steel tray you  
10 got for your dinner, but your pudding plate was like  
11 a china plate and the guy smashed the plate and then  
12 slashed him with the plate and I was like, wow,  
13 I wouldn't -- I would never have even thought of  
14 anything like that, you know, just everything was  
15 a weapon, whatever came to hand.  
16 Q. Where was the boy slashed?  
17 A. On his face, right down his face, aye.  
18 Q. I think you say the boy who was responsible for that  
19 was, you were aware that he was transferred to  
20 Longriggend after that happened?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. You mention another boy who caused some trouble there  
23 who had a nickname, a particular nickname?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. Who was that?

1 A. [REDACTED]

2 Q. What did he do?

3 A. He set about me and another guy in the toilets and

4 Mr HDV [REDACTED] came in, and he gave him some tanking. This

5 was a different level. It was a beating. He gave him

6 a total punishment beating. I mean at the time I was

7 quite glad [REDACTED] was getting beaten, he wasn't exactly

8 my pal, but at the same time I would say he went right

9 over the top with him.

10 Q. You say he was a really big guy, but do you know how old

11 the guy you were talking about was, [REDACTED]?

12 A. [REDACTED], he would be 15/16 at the time, I think he was

13 about 6-foot 8 or 6-foot 9, he was a big guy, and that's

14 why he got the nickname [REDACTED], you know, and that boy

15 has been in prison his whole life, he has more or less

16 spent his whole entire life in an institution of one

17 description or another.

18 Q. That was Mr HDV [REDACTED] that came in and --

19 A. Oh, aye, it was Mr HDV [REDACTED] that leathered him that day,

20 aye.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, I don't know if that's a good point for

22 a break.

23 LADY SMITH: Would that be a good point to break?

24 I will take the mid-afternoon break that I told you

25 about at this point --

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: -- if that's all right with you, 'Scott'.

3 Then sit again in between five and ten minutes.

4 A. Okay.

5 (3.01 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.11 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Is it okay if we carry on, 'Scott'?

9 A. Yes, fine.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 Ms Forbes.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady.

13 'Scott', just sticking with Larchgrove just now,

14 I think you tell us that whilst you were there, there

15 were a few occasions when you took the opportunity to

16 run away?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think one time you tell us you had climbed up

19 a drainpipe and you were away on that occasion for

20 a couple of months?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That was for most of the summer holidays?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You spent your time staying with mates, you didn't go to

25 any of your parents' houses?

1 A. No, I went to -- I ran away with a boy that came from  
2 Blackhill, and ended up staying up in Blackhill, and he  
3 got caught a few days later, but I didn't, and I had  
4 made contacts by then and I was out most days working  
5 doing scrap. In those days you could still hire the  
6 horse and cart and it was £3, and that's what it cost  
7 you to hire it, but they let you pay that when you  
8 brought the scrap back, you know, so they took it off  
9 whatever you were getting for the scrap and that's how  
10 I kind of survived and I also had a dinner ticket, one  
11 of the guys from Blackhill had given me it, because  
12 during the summer holidays a lot of the kids were  
13 deprived in that area and they weren't getting fed, and  
14 they done it, although the school was shut, the primary  
15 school in Blackhill, you went in with your dinner ticket  
16 and you still got a dinner there, if you had. It was  
17 obviously mothers, single mothers, or whatever, I don't  
18 know what the criteria was to get it, but this guy had  
19 one and didn't need one to use it, and he gave it to me,  
20 so I was getting school dinner every day, you know.

21 Q. But at that time would you be about 14?

22 A. 15.

23 Q. 15, okay. That's how you kept yourself going that  
24 summer?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. You also tell us about another couple of occasions where  
2 you were away sailing for a week, was that arranged by  
3 Larchgrove?

4 A. That was -- yes, I don't know if it was arranged by  
5 Larchgrove, it was arranged by the social work  
6 department. It was a guy -- at the time it was the  
7 biggest sailing schooner still sailing in Britain at the  
8 time, in fact the boat's still there to the day. I am  
9 not sure who owns it, it is not one person that owns it,  
10 it is like a --

11 Q. A consortium, or something?

12 A. Aye. And they use it for different things now, but it  
13 is still children from troubled backgrounds and that  
14 that they take them out sailing on it. It was a good  
15 experience.

16 Q. I think you were away for a week, and then you went to  
17 get picked up at the central station in Glasgow and  
18 nobody came to pick you up?

19 A. Nobody came to get us, no.

20 Q. So you took that opportunity to just go?

21 A. There were two of us there, we waited a while and then  
22 nobody came and we ... well ...

23 Q. I think you say that later the police came to the house  
24 and picked you up?

25 A. I got caught, it was actually wee boys that had broken

1           into a baker's and it was Wagon Wheels, boxes of Wagon  
2           Wheels they had stolen, I had never seen a Wagon Wheel,  
3           that was the first time, they were just new out then,  
4           you know --

5   LADY SMITH: You are talking about the round chocolate  
6           biscuit, not the wheel of a wagon?

7   A. Aye, the chocolate biscuits, aye. These wee boys had  
8           stolen them and they had stole too many, I think they  
9           had ate as much, and they said, 'Are you wanting them?  
10          Take them', and we all had a box of Wagon Wheels walking  
11          up the road, and that's when the police came, and the  
12          police had already got the wee guy, they knew we hadn't  
13          broken into the baker's, but they knew that we had taken  
14          some of the stuff, you know.

15   MS FORBES: I think another time you say that you had been  
16          taken out by one of the staff from Larchgrove with  
17          others and you took the chance and just ran off?

18   A. Aye.

19   Q. So that was three times, when you were brought back from  
20          running away to Larchgrove what would happen?

21   A. Sometimes -- it wasn't the same every time, it seemed to  
22          be I got the belt once when I got brought back and I was  
23          held and they put me in the cell for, I don't know how  
24          long I was in the cell for, it seemed a long time, it  
25          might not have been as long as I thought it was. But

1 I was in overnight once, I was brought back in to  
2 Larchgrove, the police took me back there about maybe  
3 9 o'clock at night, and they just put me in the cell and  
4 I was there until the next morning, and it was the nurse  
5 that came in and she was the first to open up the cell.

6 Q. You would be put in the cell and you say one time you  
7 were there overnight, and then was there any punishment  
8 apart from that?

9 A. Not -- no, not really, no.

10 Q. Because I think you talk about SNR there at  
11 Larchgrove --

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. -- who was somebody who would be able to give you the  
14 belt?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did that ever happen as a result of you running away and  
17 being brought back?

18 A. I had the belt once for running away, but I have had the  
19 belt a couple of times for fighting.

20 Q. Okay.

21 I think you say, when we get to paragraph 65, that  
22 if you had been in trouble for something such as  
23 fighting, that that's when you would get the belt from  
24 SNR?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Yes. You tell us that happened to you a couple of  
2 times?

3 A. Yes. You also signed a punishment book when that  
4 happened to you.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. You signed it and a witness signed it. I don't know if  
7 **SNR** signed it as well, but a member of staff  
8 had to come in and witness it.

9 Q. I think you tell us that was always between about four  
10 and six strokes on the backside?

11 A. Yes, aye.

12 Q. And it was always over clothes?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And there was always another witness there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You comment if it was for fighting then both boys would  
17 get punished?

18 A. Yes, the thing is, they had one cell, so me and the guy  
19 that was fighting, what they do is they put the two of  
20 you in the cell, but they wouldn't put the light on,  
21 there was no windows in the cell, so you were in  
22 darkness, you couldn't see anything, you know. There  
23 was a lot of young boys that were petrified of the dark  
24 and they were getting stuck in there, and crying and  
25 everything, you know.

1 Q. You would be put in that cell if you did anything wrong?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you say that there wasn't any -- that you turned the

4 light off and that, was there a window or anything in

5 the cell?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What about furniture?

8 A. No, it was like benches, kind of, it was like a police

9 station cell, if you like, same, much the same.

10 Q. Did it have a toilet in it or anything like that?

11 A. There was a toilet, aye.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But you couldn't see it.

14 Q. Would it be that the light was always turned off when

15 you were in there?

16 A. No, not always.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Just some of them done it for badness, you know.

19 Q. I think you say that there was also something else that

20 SNR would do, apart from hitting you with

21 a belt, if you were having an argument with some other

22 boy in the home then SNR would sometimes do

23 something to you, do you remember what that was?

24 A. No, not SNR.

25 Q. Just so we know if this is right or not, 'Scott',

1 I think at paragraph 66 I think you say if you were  
2 having an argument sometimes with another boy, SNR  
3 SNR would hit you on the head?

4 A. No, it was just a staff member, it would not be SNR  
5 SNR, because SNR never, you had to get  
6 taken to him, he was never up in amongst the houses or  
7 anything like that, you know. He didn't -- I don't  
8 know, his job would be more admin I think than actual  
9 hands on. You would only really see him when you were  
10 getting the belt, basically.

11 Q. So he administered the belt in the way we talked  
12 about --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- which was the four to six strokes over clothes, but  
15 he wasn't involved in hitting you on the head or  
16 anything like that?

17 A. No, no.

18 LADY SMITH: Are you saying another staff member did that,  
19 or other staff members did that?

20 A. Oh aye, loads of staff members would have done it.  
21 There was quite a few of them that would have hit you,  
22 aye.

23 LADY SMITH: You give an example that if you and another  
24 child were arguing --

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: -- somebody could come up behind you and you  
2 didn't know they were there and the next thing that  
3 happened was you got clocked on the head?  
4 A. Aye, that's right, aye.  
5 MS FORBES: You also mention Mr HDW , who you talked  
6 about earlier, and you tell us what your feelings were  
7 about him.  
8 A. I absolutely detested that man. I mean he was just  
9 a horrible guy, you know, trying to describe -- just  
10 a nasty piece of work, you know. He was the type of guy  
11 that, I don't know, nobody liked, you know, not even the  
12 other staff members liked him. He was very abrasive,  
13 very -- he shouted all the time, he couldn't speak, he  
14 couldn't be pleasant in any shape or form, to be honest  
15 with you, and shouldn't have been anywhere near  
16 children, you know.  
17 Q. You describe him, 'Scott', as behaving like an old-style  
18 sergeant major --  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. -- is that how he seemed to you?  
21 A. Yes, I think a lot of them had been in the army, at that  
22 time, probably National Service wasn't long abolished  
23 then, you know, so most guys had been in the army, and  
24 that was what he was like.  
25 Q. Was he one of the staff members who would come up behind

1           you --

2   A.   Aye.

3   Q.   -- and hit you on the head?

4   A.   Aye, he assaulted a lot of people in there.

5   Q.   I think you say that he would come up behind you and

6           slap you on the head, and sometimes even punched you

7           there?

8   A.   I have been punched, I have been kicked, kneed, kneed in

9           the face. I even had somebody stick their head on me.

10  Q.   Is that not just Mr HDW [REDACTED] we are talking about, this

11           is other members of staff too?

12  A.   Mr HDW [REDACTED] and Mr HDV [REDACTED] were the two worst in

13           Larchgrove, there were other guys, and to be honest with

14           you I can't remember their names, that's the only names

15           I can remember, you know.

16  Q.   Just so we are clear before we move on from Larchgrove,

17           from your recollection, 'Scott', SNR [REDACTED] at that

18           time wasn't someone who was involved in this kind of

19           gratuitous violence of slapping you across the head --

20  A.   No, like I say, you never seen him, sometimes you would

21           maybe -- because the dining hall was up the stairs, and

22           there was a couple of boys that actually stayed up there

23           as well, because they had turned 17 and they weren't

24           getting out and they hadn't found them -- they hadn't

25           got a vacancy for them to go to a List D or whatever,



1 and it was just on the border of going to prison and,  
2 you know, because they were over 16 they weren't allowed  
3 to be with us, because one of them was the sort of guy  
4 I kind of ran about with in there, and then when it was  
5 his birthday they took him and he had to go up the  
6 stairs, so we never seen him.

7 When we were up for dinner we would see him, but  
8 that was the only time we would see him, he wasn't  
9 allowed to associate with us because they classed him as  
10 an adult then, rather than a child.

11 Q. Okay. I think then you are saying that they were  
12 waiting on going somewhere else, and I think that's what  
13 you were doing, really, in Larchgrove as well?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. The time came when it turned out you were going to, is  
16 it Geilsland?

17 A. Aye, Geilsland.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. It is pronounced Geilsland, but spelt Geilsland.

20 Q. Okay, Geilsland.

21 How long do you think you were at Larchgrove for?

22 A. Just over a year.

23 Q. So by the time you go to Geilsland are you still 15 or  
24 are you over 15 at that time?

25 A. No, I am still 15.

1 Q. Okay. Just moving on then, 'Scott', just to Geilsland  
2 and what happened when you went there, I think you tell  
3 us that you go there and a social worker takes you  
4 there, is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. This is after you had gone to a panel?

7 A. No, I never went to a panel. Not -- they don't, you  
8 have already, the panels have been all finished and done  
9 with by then. What it is you are waiting for a vacancy,  
10 and it's whatever vacancy comes up, they can't say you  
11 are going to Geilsland, because they might not get  
12 a vacancy. So obviously they can only hold so many, so  
13 it could have been -- there are all different ones  
14 I could have went to, I could have went to Rossie Farm,  
15 I could have went to Kibble, I could have went to  
16 Geilsland.

17 Q. But a space came up to Geilsland and that's where you  
18 were taken?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think on the journey there they stopped for  
21 cigarettes, and you thought about running away, but you  
22 decided against it?

23 A. Yes, you had heard all of the stories about Geilsland,  
24 you know.

25 Q. I take it these weren't positive stories that you had

1 heard?

2 A. No, not at all.

3 Q. It was not somewhere you were looking forward to going

4 to?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Would you have rather stayed where you were in

7 Larchgrove?

8 A. I don't know, it was different, Geilsland was different,

9 You weren't -- you didn't have the boredom factor there,

10 because you had so much to do. It was basically -- it

11 was run on the same basis as army detention, like the

12 jail in the army, so they kind of beasted you, and when

13 you first went in you were in ... they called it the

14 rookie house, or allocation house, and you went in there

15 and you were there until they got a vacancy in one of

16 the other houses for you.

17 Q. Okay, when you say, 'Scott', the phrase 'Beasted you',

18 what did you mean by that, can you tell us a bit more?

19 A. You had to march and drill all about the place, they

20 would have you double marching, and PT was a real big

21 thing, they had an assault course and all of that there,

22 as well, it was just like the army. You had to do a kit

23 inspection every week, you had to pass your kit

24 inspection, or you weren't getting rec, and stuff, but

25 you never really had time for rec, you washed all your

1 own clothes, it was like a scrubbing brush and a bit of  
2 carbolic soap, like the green soap. Then you had to  
3 iron creases in your shirt, and all the rest, put  
4 creases in your jeans and all that kind of stuff.

5 Q. I think you say it was run sort of like a military  
6 camp --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- then you tell us about SNR [REDACTED] there that you  
9 met when you arrived and that was, you say,  
10 EZD [REDACTED] ?

11 A. EZD [REDACTED], yes.

12 Q. He was an ex-military man himself?

13 A. Yes, he had been [REDACTED], aye, [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED].

15 Q. When you were to address him did he tell you how you  
16 were to address him?

17 A. Yes, you had to call him SNR [REDACTED] 'sir'.

18 Q. When you arrived did he set out the sort of lay of the  
19 land, the rules of the school?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did he tell you anything else about what would happen if  
22 you didn't follow them?

23 A. Aye, you were going to borstal, he made that perfectly  
24 clear, and he was quite aggressive in your first meeting  
25 with him, you know, other times -- the man was a nutter,

1       you know, that's what we all called him that, you know,  
2       we called him ██████████, that was what we called him.  
3       Some of the things he done was terrible, you know. He  
4       had us out doing PT in our swimming trunks in the snow,  
5       for like, two hours. Drilling us all about the snow,  
6       just wearing swimming trunks, things like that.

7   Q. Was there any reason why that happened, that you could  
8       tell?

9   A. No, just, like, we were in the reception house and  
10       I thought it was just us, we were in there, but it  
11       wasn't, it was every other, like -- reception is you  
12       would be in there for maybe eight or ten weeks and then  
13       they would move you on to another house and then new  
14       boys come in when there were places and when the new  
15       guys came in they went through the same as you did.  
16       They said we were not getting up quick enough in the  
17       morning, so after tea that night we were to kid on it  
18       was bedtime and we were to go and get into our beds,  
19       then we were to get up, we had to make our bed block,  
20       and we had to go in and we had to get a shower, but it  
21       was a cold shower and you had to sing a song before you  
22       got out of the shower, or you had to take six of the  
23       stick, I couldn't sing, so I had to take the stick, and  
24       this went on maybe four or five nights on the trot they  
25       were doing this.

1 Q. This was at the beginning, when you --

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. -- were at the reception, is that something you called

4 rookie house, is it?

5 A. Rookie house, aye.

6 Q. You if didn't sing the song to get out, you had to take

7 the hits with the stick?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Who would administer that?

10 A. SNR ██████████, EZD ██████████.

11 Q. In relation to sticks, did he have more than one?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What can you tell us about the issue with the sticks?

14 A. It was bits of wood, different thicknesses, and a lot

15 of, he made out, was a game. He would come into the

16 dinner hall with a stick and he would walk about and

17 pick somebody out and he would try and make a joke of

18 it, but it was sore, you know, some of the different

19 thickness of wood, I don't know, maybe from 20 mm to

20 maybe 60 mm, you know, different, the girth of it.

21 LADY SMITH: Were any of these sticks the ones you used to

22 square off your bed block, were they that sort of size?

23 A. Oh, they were much heavier than the bed block sticks.

24 The bed block was like a thick ruler, if you like, all

25 the bed block will be the exact same size, all the cases

1           and your sheets at the front, etc.

2           Some boys took to it no bother and other boys it

3           took them a lot of practice to get there, you know, but

4           they totally were on top of you all the time until you

5           got there.

6   LADY SMITH:   Okay, but these sticks were bigger?  These

7           sticks that **EZD** had were bigger, heavier?

8   A.   Oh aye, much heavier than a bed stick.

9   MS FORBES:   You say they were different widths, 'Scott', did

10          they have different colours on them?

11  A.   Aye, different colours of electrical tape on them, and

12          sometimes, he would hit you with the stick, and then you

13          would need to sign the punishment book but if he gives

14          you a belt he need a witness and you have to sign the

15          punishment book, so the stick was for the more informal

16          punishment, if you like.

17  Q.   Whereabouts on the body would he hit you with the stick?

18  A.   Aye, bend over, and hit you on the backside.

19  Q.   In the showers, obviously you wouldn't have any clothes

20          on --

21  A.   Yes.

22  Q.   -- but at other times when you were clothed were you

23          able to keep your clothes on when you were hit with the

24          stick?

25  A.   Oh, aye, aye, aye.

1 Q. Were there times when people would be asked to go and  
2 get the stick from his office?

3 A. Yes, aye.

4 Q. What would be the circumstances surrounding that?

5 A. It could be anything. You just didn't know from day to  
6 day, you know. It was -- like I say, the man was as mad  
7 as a hatter, you know, sometimes he could be good fun,  
8 you know, not very often, but now and again you did see  
9 that side of him.

10 I remember I was out doing something and SNR  
11 SNR had a house, SNR  
12 SNR and his family, his wife and his  
13 kids stayed there and I remember seeing him with his own  
14 kid and how nice he was to them, and I am thinking is  
15 that the same guy? You know. And I often wondered  
16 would he treat his children the way he treated us,  
17 I used to think that all the time.

18 Q. If a boy was sent to go and get a stick from his office,  
19 would he say which coloured stick?

20 A. He would tell them it would either be the white, yellow,  
21 red, blue, green, that was the colours he had.

22 Q. That was to get the stick for him to be able to hit  
23 somebody with it?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. I think you talk about some other people, 'Scott', who



1 were there at the time, at paragraph 72. There was a --  
2 I think you mention SNR, but I think you say  
3 he is Mr HDX, is that a mix up?

4 A. [REDACTED]. There was one  
5 we called Mr [REDACTED], him and his wife worked there as  
6 voluntary, absolutely lovely people, nicest people you  
7 could have met.

8 He actually died when I was in there, Mr [REDACTED], he took  
9 a brain aneurysm, they were lovely people, they were  
10 kind of part time and they would come in at the weekend  
11 and they actually worked in the New Vic, which was where  
12 I was housed, there was the New Vic, the White House and  
13 the Rookie House, and Mr [REDACTED], we used to, nobody gave them  
14 grief, because they had us to deal with if they did, you  
15 know, we wouldn't let any boy try to over step the mark  
16 with them, they would be put in their place, because the  
17 people were so nice to you, you know.

18 Q. So they were respected and sort of protected from any  
19 nonsense?

20 A. Nobody gave them any abuse.

21 Q. [REDACTED] there was SNR  
22 called Mr HDX?

23 A. SNR Mr HDX.

24 Q. Was he a joiner, you said, as well, is that right, was  
25 he also a joiner?

1 A. He taught the joinery school, aye but he also done  
2 weekends, not so much at night, but he would do every  
3 third weekend, I think he done. It was either him,  
4 EZD or HFA, it was one of the three that was on  
5 at the weekend.

6 Q. This HFA, was he a sort of SNR?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. There was a person that you have talked about in your  
9 statement, ?

10 A. Aye, HDY

11 Q. Who was a residential care officer?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. He was somebody I think that you had some issues with?

14 A. I have never hated anybody on this planet as much as  
15 that man. He wasn't physically abusive to you, but it  
16 was psychological with him, you know. He used to -- the  
17 things he would say to you, and he would try and wind  
18 you up. He would never hit you, but he would go and  
19 tell HFA or EZD, and they would come and do it  
20 for him, you know what I mean, and you used to see  
21 him -- he would get pleasure watching you getting hit,  
22 I know he was, he was sniggering, just a horrible,  
23 horrible man.

24 Q. I think you say he was always finding fault with  
25 anything you did?

1 A. Aye. Absolutely despised him. I have never been good  
2 at kidding on, so if I don't like somebody, they know  
3 I don't like him. And he knew I hated him, he  
4 absolutely, I left him in no doubt about it. In fact  
5 I told him to his face, because he asked me one day, and  
6 I said, 'That's right, I do, I absolutely despise you'.  
7 Q. You mention, 'Scott', about the fact that you were so  
8 busy in Geilsland, and I think you describe at  
9 paragraph 77 that after you arrived you were given  
10 a sort of test to see if you could read and write and if  
11 you could then that was it?  
12 A. Yes, you were given, it was a -- I suppose it was  
13 a basic IQ test. And if you were below a certain level  
14 then would you get schooling. But they had one teacher,  
15 so I think there was like -- when I was there there was  
16 only three boys went to school, and none of them could  
17 read and write. So the teacher wouldn't have had any  
18 time to teach anybody else anything, because that's all  
19 they had, and I think she was a primary school teacher,  
20 she wasn't --  
21 Q. They were looking for basic reading and writing and if  
22 you could do that then you were given a trade?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. I think you comment, 'Scott', the standard of trade that  
25 you were getting taught when you were there was not

1 something that was ever good enough for you to get a job  
2 doing it on the outside?

3 A. No, no, it was something an apprentice would get in  
4 their first couple of weeks, you know, it was all kid  
5 on, really.

6 Q. You had an interest, I think, in engineering, but first  
7 you were allocated to the building section?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. But when you indicated you had an interest in  
10 engineering you were able to move to that; is that  
11 right?

12 A. Aye, me and the building instructor didn't get on, you  
13 know, and he used to hit you with drain rods and all  
14 that, you know, and he was an older man by this time,  
15 you know, he would maybe be in his late 50s, I would  
16 say. I suppose he had been kind of a strong wee guy in  
17 his day, you know, but he was kind of getting past it.  
18 But he wasn't a nice man, you know, and I just didn't  
19 like him, he didn't like me, and I was getting beaten  
20 all the time and I got sick of it and I went to SNR  
21 SNR and I said I wanted to be in the engineers,  
22 but the engineering guy, Mr Rooney, I had been talking  
23 to him, he wasn't a -- he didn't take anything, he only  
24 took you for the engineering, he wasn't a residential  
25 social worker or whatever.

1           So Mr Rooney kind of liked me, you know, and so  
2       EZO asked him if he would take me and he said aye, so  
3       that's how I got transferred out, and HEB couldn't  
4       have cared if I was there or not, you know, he was glad  
5       to see the back of me, I think.

6   Q. I think you say as well that there were times apart from  
7       that that you would be taken out from the school and you  
8       would have to do things like collect money for  
9       charity --

10  A. Yes.

11  Q. -- or do jobs like cutting gardens for people?

12  A. Aye.

13  Q. Were you supposed to receive money in respect of these  
14       jobs that you were taking, the kind of out sourcing that  
15       the school was doing with you?

16  A. I was an out worker, like I say, I never got any visits,  
17       or, you know, I had no family coming up to see me or  
18       bring me money or anything. So they had about eight  
19       places for out workers, between ██████████ and  
20       ██████████ removals, they used to take, mostly in  
21       the summers they would take you, and that's when  
22       I started my removals, when I was 15, you know. And  
23       I quite enjoyed it, it got you out for the day and  
24       I wanted to get out of there, I was just so happy to get  
25       out of there, they were just on top of you all the time,

1       you didn't get any time to yourself, you didn't get  
2       a minute, and it was just great to get out there.

3               And I did all right, and I worked hard when I was  
4       out, and the people kept asking for me back, you know.

5   Q.   You were supposed to earn some money as a result of  
6       that?

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   Again, it is this virtual money that's just recorded  
9       somewhere?

10  A.   Yes.  They opened a -- you used to get a Post Office  
11       savings account, it was a Post Office savings account  
12       that they opened for me, they took X amount off me,  
13       I can't remember what the figure was, but they took  
14       money off my wages for digs, for being in there, for  
15       whatever it was.  The wages weren't very much at that  
16       time, maybe about £13/£14 a week, they were taking maybe  
17       a fiver of that, and then every third week I would get  
18       out at the weekend, and I would get out for the day, and  
19       I got a fiver to get out with.

20  Q.   They would give you that yourself?

21  A.   And the rest of the money was put into the Post Office  
22       savings account, aye.

23  Q.   But were you able to go to that account and take any  
24       money out yourself?

25  A.   No, no.

1 Q. It was something that they held for you?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. But they would give you money from it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. From your point of view you would --

6 A. Well, I don't know if they gave me money from that,  
7 because you actually got wages, like, because [REDACTED]  
8 paid you in cash in those days, nobody had bank accounts  
9 and that back then, that didn't exist. So your wages  
10 were always in a wage packet, and you used to take the  
11 wage packet to them, and they would open it, well, they  
12 never opened it in front of you, I was paying National  
13 Insurance and income tax at 15.

14 Q. But from your point of view, you thought that was money  
15 that was there for you --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- for after that you would be able to use?

18 A. Yes, I know I ended up, it was £365 and so many pence  
19 that I had in the account eventually.

20 Q. Just before we talk a little bit about whether you got  
21 that later on, but just on Geilsland, I think you say  
22 that there was a time that you had this dental problem  
23 that you were able to go and get a plate made, but it  
24 was something that was ill fitting?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Is that right and it was only when you were out of care  
2 later on in life that you were able to get something  
3 proper?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. Just thinking about this issue, we have talked about  
6 before, 'Scott', about bed wetting, I think you say in  
7 Geilsland there was no physical punishment, but again  
8 boys were ridiculed by the staff for that?

9 A. The guy in the next bed to me, wee [REDACTED], he got up in  
10 the morning and he told me, and he was totally, like,  
11 distraught, he said I have never done this in my life, I  
12 don't know why, but it was obviously the trauma he is  
13 going through in there, but it is the change in his life.  
14 But you find these things out later on in life actually  
15 what causes it, but at the time he just couldn't  
16 understand why he had done, you know.

17 The other thing they used to do is they used to get  
18 when boys when they were sleeping, they would get  
19 a glass, fill it up with water, put their hand in the  
20 water, and that can make you pee the bed, so they  
21 thought.

22 Q. Who would do that?

23 A. Other boys.

24 Q. So they did that as a joke?

25 A. Aye.



1 Q. In relation to what would happen with those who wet the  
2 bed, was that something that was brought up by SNR  
3 SNR ?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. Where would he bring it up?  
6 A. Assembly, in front of everybody.  
7 Q. Again, was that something that would be written beside  
8 the boy's name on the card?  
9 A. No, we didn't really have cards in there, you know. It  
10 was -- no, there was nothing written.  
11 Q. You also tell us, 'Scott', about a boy who had  
12 a nickname there, who actually fell off some  
13 scaffolding --  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. -- whilst you were there, was he one of these out  
16 workers as well?  
17 A. He was, aye, and ██████, his name was, and he fell off  
18 the scaffolding and died, fractured his skull, just died  
19 instantly. So they had a ██████ memorial day, and they  
20 made him out to be the best boy ever. He was the same  
21 as everybody else, he wasn't anything different to  
22 anybody else that was in there, he wasn't anything  
23 special, but EZD ██████, because he died, he had made a big  
24 thing about him.  
25 So the first anniversary of his death, they are

1       having the ██████ memorial day, and they have invited his  
2       family through, and they have got us marching about and  
3       doing the different things for it. And we are getting  
4       the gym hall set up for it, and one of the boys who is  
5       pretty good on the piano, a good singer, there is  
6       another guy who is not a bad singer, and he is playing  
7       the piano and this guy is singing and ██████ hears it  
8       from down the stairs, and he comes up, and he starts  
9       going mental, absolutely mental.

10    Q. What did he do?

11    A. At that time he was just shouting and bawling at us, he  
12       didn't do much until the next day, so he wanted to know  
13       who was playing the piano:

14               'I don't know.'

15               'What do you mean you don't know?'

16               'I was looking that way, I never seen.'

17               So nobody, the other boys in there, they all stuck  
18       together in Geilsland, because we are all getting  
19       treated the same, really, I never had a fight with a boy  
20       in there, you know, that never happened, very -- I think  
21       maybe once in two years, was there a fight between boys,  
22       because, like I say, we were all pretty close. So  
23       nobody was telling what happened, so it was the next day  
24       at reception, and he went round three times he done it,  
25       and he was exhausted at the end of it, and he is

1 absolutely running in slapping, and boys crying, nearly  
2 knocked out, he went round everybody, and he was  
3 slapping everybody until somebody would give him the  
4 name of who was playing the piano, and nobody told  
5 anything, three times he went round and slapped  
6 everybody. Some people didn't get the third slap  
7 because he was too tired by that time, he was exhausted,  
8 sweat running off him.

9 Q. But he is slapping the boys across the face?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Trying to get somebody to admit to, or tell who was  
12 playing the piano?

13 A. Who was playing the piano. He done it to every single  
14 boy in the place, why he done it to every boy in the  
15 place, I don't know, there was only about 10 of  
16 us/a dozen of us who was there, so if he had picked us  
17 12 out, but I don't know if he didn't remember who was  
18 there, he did it to every single person in there.

19 Q. I think you tell us that after about six months when you  
20 were there, you got work at the weekends and that was  
21 delivering flour to, is it bakeries and things like  
22 that?

23 A. No, that wasn't at the weekend, that was --

24 Q. During the week as well?

25 A. During the week, aye.

1 Q. I think you tell us, 'Scott', at paragraph 100, that  
2 there were some social workers who came to the school,  
3 and you were involved in showing them around?

4 A. Yes, it was trainee social workers, actually.

5 One of them had actually been a school teacher of  
6 mine, and he recognised me, he was telling me that he  
7 got fed up with teaching and wanted to be a social  
8 worker. I think he was the guy that thought he could  
9 make a difference, and all that, you know, but when you  
10 get into the real world other things hold you back, your  
11 ideas, 'No, you can't do that, you are not allowed to do  
12 this, health and safety', and all this kind of stuff,  
13 stops people doing what they wanted to do, you know.

14 Q. Were you warned at all, or told by anybody in Geilsland  
15 what to say or not to say to those social workers?

16 A. You were warned, aye, EZD --

17 Q. What was that?

18 A. EZD warned you to be on your best behaviour, you  
19 weren't to badmouth the school in any way, shape or  
20 form, and that would get back to him if you did, and  
21 there would be hell to pay.

22 Q. When you say get back to him, who are you talking about?

23 A. EZD .

24 Q. SNR , EZD , okay.

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. I think you said that joining the army was something you  
2 were interested in doing --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and just before your 16th birthday the staff arranged  
5 for you to take a test?

6 A. I can't remember who it was, I am trying to remember his  
7 name. It was a young guy who worked there, and he is  
8 like, aye, so he took me down to the army recruiting  
9 office. I never really had a lot of options in my life,  
10 and the army would have been a great option for me.  
11 One, I had nowhere to go and stay, you know what I mean,  
12 so the army would have taken care of everything. So he  
13 took me down to the army recruiting office, somewhere in  
14 Glasgow, and the sergeant took me in, and he gave me the  
15 test that everybody joins the army has to do, you know,  
16 and the guy told him that I might not manage it, my  
17 schooling's not that great, and what not, I done the  
18 test, and he says he has flew it, he is way ahead of  
19 most of the people we are getting in here, you know. So  
20 that was a very good option to me, that's what I was  
21 intending to do.

22 Q. But because you were in Geilsland you needed some  
23 approval for that; is that right?

24 A. No, to join the army you have to be 17 and a quarter, if  
25 you are under 17 a quarter then you are a boy soldier,

1 so a boy soldier, you need a parent or guardian to sign  
2 you in, and Geilsland, because they were run by the  
3 Church of Scotland, they weren't up for signing into the  
4 army, because that was against their religious beliefs,  
5 whatever, and it was that HDY [REDACTED], that

6 HDY [REDACTED] just everything -- I mean you have no  
7 idea of the things that guy done to me and how twisted,  
8 just for a grown man, you know, that is supposed to have  
9 been [REDACTED], I couldn't get my head round it.

10 Anyway, they wouldn't sign me in, so I had to wait  
11 until I was 17 and a quarter, and by that time it was  
12 too late.

13 Q. When you say they wouldn't sign you in, was it

14 HDY [REDACTED] that was the one who was given that  
15 task?

16 A. It was one that told me that and then told me the  
17 reasons for it was that he couldn't sign up to sending  
18 somebody somewhere he might be asked to kill somebody,  
19 you know.

20 Q. I think you have said there was a lot of things he did.  
21 You tell us about another thing that he did, which was  
22 in relation to a girl that you had met, who invited you  
23 to a party she was having --

24 A. Aye, when I was getting out on my odd Saturday, there  
25 was a couple of us used to go out together, sometimes

1 I would be out by myself, but not that often, sometimes  
2 three of us would get out together, and we had to get  
3 the bus back to Beith, it was 9 o'clock it got back into  
4 Beith, so we were getting the bus to the Anderston Bus  
5 Station at that time, and just a few times we were on  
6 the bus there was always this girl on it, and she was  
7 about 16, I think, she was a carer for, I can't remember  
8 if it was her mother or her auntie or something like  
9 that, and she used to go and take her to the bingo, the  
10 wee woman there was not too clever on her feet, you  
11 know, she had a stick and whatnot. I just used to talk  
12 to her on the bus all the time, and one thing led to  
13 another, and she invited me to a party, aye, it was, it  
14 must have been her 16th, actually.

15 Q. I think you tell us that HDY ██████████ read the  
16 letter from her, because she asked for the school to  
17 give permission, and he telephoned her --

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. -- and then told you what he had done?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What had he said to her?

22 A. He told her that he had asked me if I wanted to go and  
23 I told him that I didn't want anything to do with her,  
24 which was far from the truth. I was so, so angry, and  
25 then he was laughing, laughing in my face, that he

1 thought this was hilarious, and then he was like,  
2 anyway, you have been told you are not allowed to have  
3 anything to do with a girl from the village. She didn't  
4 stay in this village, aye, but it is not that far down  
5 the road. But I get released to a town right next to  
6 it. I was just released out of the door, didn't know  
7 anybody where I was going, I had nobody, it was just me,  
8 and staying in digs, it was costing me £10 a week, and  
9 I was earning £14, so I had £4 a week to try, it was  
10 impossible, absolutely impossible, an accountant  
11 couldn't have done it, lived on £4 a week, by the time  
12 you travel to work and get your piece and all of the  
13 rest of it, you know.

14 Q. Just before we leave Geilsland, you are saying that you  
15 eventually left and you were out working, but you tell  
16 us a little bit more about some things that went on at  
17 Geilsland at paragraph 105, and you talk about one of  
18 the teachers who was called Mr HEB ?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Is he somebody that would hit you for talking back, or  
21 doing something --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- or not doing something that he wanted you to do?

24 A. Well, it was kind of somebody tells me to do something,  
25 if I think it's a stupid thing to ask you to do, I would



1 ask why, I would want to know why:

2 'Because I am telling you to do it.'

3 That's not good enough for me, I want to know more,  
4 what am I doing this for, what is the reason I am doing  
5 this? Why are you asking me to do something? I can't  
6 even remember what it was.

7 And, aye, you got leathered with a drain rod for it,  
8 you know.

9 Q. Is this the brick -- the person that taught, is it  
10 building?

11 A. Building, aye.

12 Q. Building, sorry. He was the person?

13 A. He also worked in the houses as well. Some of them that  
14 were teaching you trades didn't work in the houses and  
15 some of them did.

16 Q. He is the one you talked about not getting on with and  
17 wanting the move to engineering?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You have said there, 'Scott', that you were, you know,  
20 about 16 at this time, nearing the end of your time.  
21 Were you told that you would be released on licence for  
22 a period of three months?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And you had this money that you thought was there  
25 for you when you got out?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. This £365, and you tell us, 'Scott', you saw this advert  
3 for some local digs, but it was HDY who  
4 went and checked it out for you and he said it would be  
5 okay --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- but actually it wasn't ideal?

8 A. Far from okay.

9 Q. That is because there was a 56-year old alcoholic that  
10 you would be sharing with?

11 A. I would be sharing a room with him, yes.

12 Q. Then you did leave to go to that, obviously you didn't  
13 know what the situation was at the time?

14 A. When I had the opportunity to get out of Geilsland  
15 I couldn't wait to get out, I ran out, but I never  
16 really thought things through, and in hindsight  
17 I shouldn't have been so quick to leave ...

18 Q. And I think you tell us at paragraph 111 that when you  
19 were leaving Geilsland that SNR, Mr EZD, said you  
20 could come back any time and visit and you told him no  
21 chance?

22 A. I says, he says, just to me:  
23 'If you are ever passing, just come in and see us.'  
24 And I said:  
25 'That's unlikely.'

1           He said:  
2           'Why?'  
3           I said:  
4           'People would think I maybe like the place.'  
5           And he went absolutely mental and set about me for  
6           that.  
7    Q.   When you say that he set about you, I think you tell us  
8           that he grabbed you by the neck and pinned you against  
9           the wall?  
10   A.   He was punching, hitting me, and everything. He  
11           absolutely went mental.  
12   Q.   Then moving on from Geilsland, 'Scott', you say that  
13           after you left you started working as an apprentice, is  
14           that right?  
15   A.   Yes.  
16   Q.   Unfortunately you lost that job, there was a fight?  
17   A.   Yes.  
18   Q.   And you were needing this money, this £365 that you  
19           thought you were due?  
20   A.   I lost the job a wee bit after that, at the time I still  
21           had the job, I tried to get access to my money a few  
22           times. Now, I went into Geilsland, at 14, I was 16 and  
23           a half by this time, starting to fill out, getting  
24           bigger, all of the clothes were tight and most of them  
25           were worn out, because I had been wearing them for the

1 last two years, you know, we were having to scrub them,  
2 my jeans, having to clean them, so the jeans were  
3 starting, the seams were splitting and everything,  
4 I needed everything, I never had anything.

5 I only had three pairs of socks, that was all I had,  
6 so I had to finish my work at night, wash my socks in  
7 the sink, I never had access to a washing machine or  
8 anything, put them on a radiator and hope they were dry  
9 for the morning, that was the way I was living.

10 Couldn't really afford to buy anything else, like  
11 I say I hardly had enough to even get me to work, I was  
12 walking miles sometimes, like four miles to get to work  
13 in the morning because I couldn't afford public  
14 transport.

15 Q. I think you tell us that you got in touch with Geilsland  
16 a few times to try to get this money --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and ultimately it was HDY [REDACTED] that came and  
19 picked you up and drove you to the school?

20 A. HDY [REDACTED] came to my digs a few times looking  
21 for me, and the guy I shared the room with, his name was  
22 Jock, and I hadn't been there most of the time HDY [REDACTED]  
23 had been looking for me, but this time I was there, and  
24 I seen his Land Rover pulling up, and said to Jock,  
25 'Tell him I am not here', and he went to the door, he

1 was like that, 'I am looking for 'Scott'', and he is  
2 like, 'He is not in just now', and he says, 'I think  
3 there is something bothering him, I should really be  
4 talking to him', and he says, 'Bothering him', he says,  
5 'If you'd (inaudible) would you not be bothered?'

6 And I am just trying not to laugh, I'm in the living  
7 room, and he is like, what, Jock's steaming, and just  
8 shut the door on him, a couple of days later, he got me,  
9 and he said you need to go back to the school, we have  
10 the right, we are still responsible for you, we can call  
11 you back any time and you need to come back.

12 He took me back up to Geilsland, EZD was on  
13 holiday, so it was HFA that was SNR, and  
14 there are two offices, the front office, the main office  
15 and then SNR offices, you go through the  
16 front office to get to his. He is talking me through,  
17 and he is like, 'All right, Mr HDY', and he went  
18 away, and he locked the door, the front office, and then  
19 came in and shut the door, and that was unusual.

20 Q. That was Mr HFA?

21 A. HFA, but I am sitting with my back to him and he is  
22 behind me, and whack, he punched me right off the chair  
23 and started on top of me, I am, it was a different  
24 level, really weighed me in, and he was saying what they  
25 were saying, I had to sign my money away to them, what

1 they were saying was I was stealing overalls and boots  
2 out of the school and selling them to people at  
3 [REDACTED], which it never happened. It  
4 happened once, one guy asked could you get him a pair of  
5 boots and they got him a pair of boots, and the guy was  
6 going to buy them off him. It wasn't me, it was my  
7 predecessors, two boys, [REDACTED] and  
8 [REDACTED] their names were.

9 And their story was different, because I was,  
10 I ended up in borstal with [REDACTED] and he says, he didn't  
11 know what I was talking about, his story was totally  
12 different from HFA [REDACTED]'s, but what they said happened  
13 was -- they allegedly sold a pair of boots to this guy  
14 and they decided they were going for a bar lunch at  
15 dinner time, but the guy never -- the guy was away at  
16 a different site so they took a fiver out of wee  
17 [REDACTED]'s wages, he only worked one day a week, and they  
18 went for a bar lunch, and then the guy never gave them,  
19 never paid for the boots, so they couldn't put the money  
20 back, and that's how they got caught.

21 Then the next news I got lifted and they take me in  
22 and they say that I was the brains behind it and they  
23 take over my business. They had done a stock check and  
24 there was X amount of overalls and X amount of boots  
25 missing, how they -- I don't believe it that it could be

1 accurate, but HDY was behind all of this, and  
2 HDY was telling them it was me -- that I was the  
3 boss and it was my business.

4 So I got leathered for that, and he was telling me  
5 that he recommended that I got borstal unless I signed  
6 that money away and I just wanted out that room then,  
7 and I did, it it was the biggest regret of my life.  
8 I don't know what it would have been like back then, but  
9 now I think I should have phoned the police then, he  
10 would have gone to jail. Now he would, but I don't know  
11 what would have happened, I think he would have talked  
12 his way out of it and the police would have taken his  
13 side.

14 Q. £365 was a lot of money back then?

15 A. It was an awful lot of money to me at the time, because  
16 I had absolutely nothing.

17 Q. But because of this I think you signed it over and that,  
18 unfortunately for you, meant you didn't get it?

19 A. Aye, I never seen anything.

20 Then the next time I was at a Children's Panel, when  
21 I was getting released, and HDY was there, and  
22 a girl I was seeing at the time, she came with me, and  
23 he started talking to her, and then he pulled me aside  
24 and was like, 'Do you know she is a Catholic?' I am  
25 like:

1           'What? What?'

2           'I am just saying, but you are not.'

3           'I am not nothing.'

4           You know, and it really angered me, and anyway,  
5           after the panel reduced me, he is standing outside and  
6           he went to shake my hand, and I spat in his face and  
7           just walked away. That was the last of it.

8    Q.   After this, you are released from the panel and you tell  
9           us, 'Scott', we have it there, about the kind of journey  
10          you had from sort of having somewhere to stay and not  
11          having somewhere to stay --

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   -- and then getting some work.

14          I think particularly you got a job at a coachworks,  
15          working on cars and bikes, but I think the guy there was  
16          using you to steal bits of cars --

17   A.   Yes.

18   Q.   -- and somebody passed your name to the police as  
19          stealing a bike. I think you tell us you weren't  
20          involved in that, but you just admitted to it because  
21          you had nowhere to stay?

22   A.   No, it wasn't me who did it, but I know who did do it,  
23          I knew exactly who did do it, by this time I was  
24          homeless, I was staying in a van. The thing is I lost  
25          my digs, it was -- really, it was digs I had, I lost my



1 first digs because when it was summer holidays, in those  
2 days it was like in the building trade it was building  
3 stamps you got, and I never had any stamps to have any  
4 holiday pay, so I had no holiday pay, but the company  
5 shut down for two weeks. The boss said to me, 'Don't  
6 worry about it, son', he says here and he gave me this  
7 letter. He said:

8 'Take that to the brew, take it to the brewers, just  
9 go in to see them and they will pay you for the two  
10 weeks you are off, you will get brew money.'

11 I thought better than nothing, I think it was £9 or  
12 something you got back then for brew, I went and signed  
13 on the brew, but I didn't know you see the landlady, she  
14 was on the social, and I didn't know this was the digs  
15 HDY had approved, and she went absolutely tonto,  
16 because she had been caught with the brew and threw me  
17 out the digs so I was homeless.

18 I went to the Social Work Department and there was  
19 nothing much they could do for me, and I had went to the  
20 council, they didn't want anything to do with me,  
21 nothing at all. The Social Work Department said there  
22 is a woman that used to take people in, I don't know if  
23 they are still do, they gave me the number, I went to  
24 the door, and it was the nicest -- the woman was nice  
25 enough, her husband was a school janitor, and the woman

1           was like, I don't really do this, but eventually she was  
2           okay, she took me in, and it was somewhere to stay.

3           A girl had got assaulted, me and another boy had  
4           intervened and the police came to get a statement off  
5           me, I hadn't done anything, I was a witness, and when  
6           they came to this guy's door, the guy went mental,  
7           I don't want the police at my door, and threw out of my  
8           house, I was homeless again.

9           Then a pal took me in, but his girlfriend had just  
10          had a wee baby, it was all right at first, because the  
11          baby was in the room, but as the baby's getting older  
12          they want their room, and she is fed up with having me  
13          in the house, wanting her privacy, and stuff, which is  
14          understandable, and he is like she is wanting you to go  
15          by the end of the month. And I couldn't get anywhere to  
16          stay, and I bought an old Hillman Husky van, so I was  
17          sleeping in the old van.

18         Q. I think you say that when you admitted about this bike  
19          theft that there was going to be -- it was winter, it  
20          meant that you would be locked up --

21         A. Aye.

22         Q. -- you would be fed and kept warm --

23         A. That's it.

24         Q. -- and it was just before you are 17. So you are still  
25          young at this point?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. 'Scott', you tell us then about your journey through  
3 various establishments at the Scottish Prison Service.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I am not going to go through them in detail, because in  
6 the chapter of evidence we have already heard about  
7 Scottish Prison Services we did read in word for word  
8 everything you said in your statement about that, but  
9 just to summarise briefly, I think you were at  
10 Longriggend for seven days, and you tell us a bit about  
11 what you saw there, and then you were at Barlinnie for  
12 seven days, you didn't have any issues, and then  
13 Glenochil, and I think that was for about six weeks,  
14 then you were at Polmont?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you were there again for six weeks, and you  
17 indicated you wanted to be a mechanic. That wasn't  
18 available at Polmont, so you were able to go to Castle  
19 Huntly?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. And then you spent the next seven months there, and you  
22 don't have any complaints?

23 A. Castle Huntly, not at all. Don't get me wrong, it was  
24 a few prison officers that weren't the best, you know,  
25 would go to the bullying. But the big Chief, there was

1           one prison officer bullying boys on a regular basis and  
2           the Chief found out, and he treated him the way he would  
3           have treated a prisoner; he went mental at him, and he  
4           wasn't having that. The prison officer was terrified of  
5           him, he actually got sacked a few weeks later. He had  
6           been in the police and got dismissed from the police as  
7           well, and then they eventually dismissed him from the  
8           Prison Service. But it was over bullying boys, like  
9           really bullying them.

10    Q.    So the Chief officer at Castle Huntly wasn't standing  
11           for that at the time you were there?

12    A.    No, he expected more, he wasn't having it, and this guy  
13           was a probationary, so he wasn't going to make it  
14           anyway, and at the time there was a song, Jilted John  
15           was on the thingy, and the whole borstal was singing  
16           Jilted John to this prison officer. He wasn't there  
17           very long.

18                    That's how I respected the Chief, because he  
19           practised what he preached, and he expected everybody to  
20           behave, not just --

21    Q.    Yes.

22                    Whilst you were there I think you did train as  
23           an engineer and you got a distinction in the  
24           City & Guilds?

25    A.    City & Guilds, aye.

1 Q. That was in association with Perth Polytechnic?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. And you comment, 'Scott' at paragraph 149 that you were  
4 so good at fixing cars that prison officers would bring  
5 their cars in for you to fix --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and even the Chief Officer would bring his car in for  
8 you to fix it together?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you would get paid in cigarettes for that?

11 A. Yes, tobacco.

12 Q. Before you left, I think you got a weekend job at  
13 a hotel as a kitchen porter and then you were told by  
14 the governor, you tell us, that there was going to be  
15 a full-time job available at the hotel, but they needed  
16 someone immediately, so you got to be released?

17 A. I got released a month early, aye.

18 Q. Just to briefly go through your life after you left  
19 care, 'Scott', I think you say that initially you had  
20 this job at the hotel, but you ended up doing a lot of  
21 hours for little pay?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you talk about then going to work in a saw mill, and  
24 you had to get a new social worker because there was  
25 problems with that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But at 18 you got a job in a garage and they took you on  
3 as a second-year apprentice --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- at first, but then you got taken on properly with  
6 full pay. I think the issues with that were that you  
7 didn't do the official City & Guilds in relation to that  
8 apprenticeship?

9 A. I never done part 3, aye.

10 Q. So you didn't have the paperwork?

11 A. The guy that gave me the job, he wasn't willing to pay  
12 for me to go to college, as well, you know.

13 Q. So that caused a little issue trying to get jobs later  
14 on, but I think you tell us, 'Scott', you moved later to  
15 Glasgow, got a council house, were able then to get  
16 settled a little bit, work with Kwik Fit and then  
17 a garage and you got your class 1 licence and you have  
18 been working with HGVs most of your adult life, is that  
19 right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you still do that now?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think you tell us, 'Scott', paragraph 161, that since  
24 you got to about 50 you have been very settled?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you have had children in different marriages --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- but you have been married now for the last  
4 ten years --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- at the date you give in the statement, so maybe  
7 a little bit longer now, is it, than ten years?

8 A. Well, I have been with her longer, but it is, [REDACTED] is  
9 our tenth wedding anniversary.

10 Q. Okay.

11 In relation to the impact that your time in care had  
12 on you, 'Scott', you tell us about that from  
13 paragraph 164.

14 I think one of the things you say is you never had  
15 any education in any of the places, and that's something  
16 that held you back, that's at paragraph 167?

17 A. I was always -- I would hide a lot of things, you know,  
18 I was not -- I would never like start reading out loud,  
19 I would read it into myself before I would read out loud  
20 to make sure I didn't make a fool of myself, you know,  
21 I get embarrassed easy. I get embarrassed, then I get  
22 angry after that, and it is uncontrollable anger,  
23 sometimes.

24 Q. This issue about the City & Guilds, although you had  
25 this City & Guilds from Perth Polytechnic, I think you

1 tell us at paragraph 172 that when you had a job  
2 sometimes on the back of that, some people would make  
3 enquiries and then they would find out that you actually  
4 got it when you were in Castle Huntly and then would you  
5 lose your job?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. That's one of the things you picked up on from your  
8 experience of that?

9 A. They would say you are losing your job because you lied  
10 to them, not because you had been -- if you tell us the  
11 truth, not that it would have been any different, they  
12 are kidding you on if they are saying that, you know,  
13 I don't believe that, anyway, but --

14 Q. Yes.

15 When we get to the section on lessons to be learned,  
16 I think you tell us, at paragraph 176, that you don't  
17 think you should ever have been sent to Cardross because  
18 your mum was prepared to take you in?

19 A. Yes, my mum would have taken -- Cardross changed me,  
20 I was not the same person that came out that went in.

21 Q. That was the start of where things went wrong?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think you comment there, paragraph 176, you say when  
24 you were in the local school you were never in trouble  
25 and you never received the belt at school?



1 A. No.

2 Q. You feel as though social workers let you down all your  
3 life?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If we look at paragraph 177, I think you say that  
6 Geilsland and places like that should never be allowed  
7 to exist?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Staff there, you thought, were power hungry?

10 A. Yes. Not them all, but, aye, a lot of them were.

11 Q. And they never achieved anything for the people that  
12 were in their care?

13 A. No, you used to -- like, I remember talking to other  
14 boys, and, like, in Geilsland, and you would say, 'As  
15 soon as I get out of here, if I see him in the street  
16 I am going to do ...'.

17 This is the thought you had in your head, you know.  
18 I never, ever did bump into any of them.

19 Q. No.

20 A. That's a good thing.

21 Q. I think you say in borstal, though 'Scott' -- sorry,  
22 I talked over you there, 'Scott', were you about to say  
23 something?

24 A. No, on you go.

25 Q. Sorry.

1 I think in relation to borstals though, 'Scott',  
2 I think you have mixed views about that, because you  
3 have the opinion that they did have some ideas that were  
4 right and some people after borstal never offended  
5 again?

6 A. Yes, quite a lot. I think if you check that up you will  
7 find that there is more of them didn't get into trouble.  
8 There is a certain -- like I say, there is boys that  
9 when you meet them they are going to be a criminal, they  
10 are telling you that, that's what they want to do,  
11 that's what their ambition is, their da was and they  
12 want to be better than him, and you are a product of  
13 your environment, aren't you, that's the bottom line,  
14 you know.

15 Q. I think you also tell us, 'Scott', on a positive note  
16 that when you got the chance you went down the road of  
17 trying to put your life back together, and that's what  
18 you did?

19 A. Oh, you see things in there that you don't want to see,  
20 you know, I have seen loads of things in prison. That's  
21 just an experience, but you don't want to be living like  
22 that, you know.

23 Q. Once you left Castle Huntly you were never in trouble  
24 again --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- in that way. So for you, you were able to get out of  
2 that --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and get away from it --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- and make something of yourself?

7 A. Well, because I wasn't out long and the girl I was  
8 seeing ended up pregnant, so then you are a dad, and  
9 that changes you, you know.

10 Q. That was something that made you -- that helped in  
11 a way, in some ways, even though it would have put added  
12 pressure on?

13 A. I didn't get help from anybody, I just had to use what  
14 I was good at to, you know.

15 Q. It was an incentive to get doing something?

16 A. As I got a wee bit older, I started working in the pubs  
17 and clubs, doing the doors, and done that for a long  
18 time, more or less earned a living for a long time.

19 MS FORBES: 'Scott', I have asked you a lot of questions  
20 today and you have been able to give us a lot of  
21 information, so thank you very much. I don't have any  
22 more questions for you --

23 A. Right.

24 MS FORBES: -- I just want to thank you for taking the time  
25 to come here today and tell us what happened to you.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: 'Scott', let me add my thanks, would you.

3 Hearing from you yourself in person, in addition to  
4 having read your statement, has been really valuable for  
5 me, I am very grateful to you for doing that.

6 A. Okay.

7 LADY SMITH: As Ms Forbes said, we have really enquired long  
8 and hard into what you can tell us.

9 A. Well, hopefully some good comes out of the Inquiry.

10 LADY SMITH: That's what we hope too.

11 Every witness like you who gives us such valuable  
12 evidence really helps with our task here.

13 A. If you are putting children into these institutions they  
14 are not coming out the same, they are not coming out  
15 whole people. Their whole lives they are going to be  
16 paying for it one way or another. I used to think that  
17 I am okay, but then other people would say:

18 'No, you think you are okay, you are not who you  
19 would have been, you are not doing what you would have  
20 been doing, you would have been so much different.'

21 LADY SMITH: Well, you have obviously learned that behind  
22 the front of a lot of people there may well be something  
23 not at all okay in their background --

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: -- but I am glad to hear the last decade has



1 (4.15 pm)

2 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10 am

3 on Friday, 22 March 2024)

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I N D E X

Sentencing statements of .....1  
Lady Drummond (read)

'Sandy' (read) .....17

'Bertie' (read) .....26

'Duncan' (read) .....30

'Bill' (read) .....35

'David' (read). .....42

'Robert' (sworn). .....51

    Questions by Mr Peoples .....53

'Scott' (affirmed) .....120

    Questions from Ms Forbes .....122

