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Friday, 22 March 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

MS FORBES: My Lady, I think there are to be live witnesses later today, but I think between now and the first break the plan is to move forward with read-ins.

LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

MS FORBES: My Lady, the first read-in is from an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Peter'. His witness statement reference is WIT.001.003.0535.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Peter' (read)

MS FORBES: My Lady 'Peter' was born in 1953 and he talks about his life before care between paragraphs 2 and 6 of his statement. He was born in the Gorbals area of Glasgow and he lived with his parents and eight siblings, and he was the third eldest.

'Peter' described his early life as being all right. He moved to Maryhill and went to a Catholic school, but hated it. He tells us that there was a gang culture and he was told by the best fighter in school that he was going to batter him, so as a consequence of that he set about that boy, and he ended up being assaulted as a result of that, he said, by the [REDACTED] across the legs with a belt and he was expelled.

1 Sorry, I think he was expelled at age 10 for
2 assaulting the [REDACTED] as a result of that.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MS FORBES: He then went to Glasgow Sheriff Court but he
5 thinks the charges were dropped and he was sent to
6 a remand school. He thinks ultimately that was
7 something to do with theft of a hammer. It was
8 ultimately Larchgrove that he was sent to and he talks
9 about that between paragraphs 7 and 14.

10 'Peter' thinks he was aged 11 when he went there.
11 He states that you were assaulted by staff if you didn't
12 eat the food and he had his face pushed in to the plate
13 and called a bastard for not eating carrots. He had
14 been used to his dad punching him, he says, so in his
15 view by this stage no one could physically hurt him like
16 his father had.

17 He talks about abuse at Larchgrove from paragraph 13
18 and I will just read out that paragraph, my Lady. He
19 states:

20 'It is really only the bad place things I remember.
21 These places were made to break you. They would tell
22 you to act by the rules and that you couldn't act the
23 way you did outside. Really my memory of Larchgrove is
24 sketchy and I just recall the punches and kicks you
25 received from the staff if you stepped out of line.'

1 He ran away from Larchgrove, my Lady, and after the
2 sixth time he ran away he was told he was being moved to
3 Rossie Farm.

4 I think, however, though, if I just go to --
5 actually, I do apologise, my Lady, I think he was told
6 he was going to St Joseph's.

7 LADY SMITH: He went to St Joseph's.

8 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Didn't we touch on his evidence when we were
10 looking at St Joseph's in January?

11 MS FORBES: My Lady, that's correct, he was read in, that
12 part of his statement in relation to St Josephs between
13 paragraph 15 and 50 was read in on 16 January this year,
14 that was Day 406. I won't go through that again, my
15 Lady, but I think he talked about physical abuse from
16 staff, regularly being battered, punched, and kicked,
17 and being sexually assaulted by the Brothers there,
18 including rape.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MS FORBES: He was 14 when he left St Joseph's.

21 He talks about his life after care from
22 paragraph 51. He states that he went to high school
23 after leaving St Joseph's, he hated it, got into a lot
24 of trouble. He was only at school a few months before
25 he left and got a job in a bakery, but then he moved to

1 Coventry when he was 16. He worked for a short while
2 but was then in and out of prison until 1989, and
3 'Peter' says he didn't work after he got out of prison.
4 He got married in 1975 and had three daughters. He
5 talks about his impact from paragraph 53, but this is
6 mostly about his time after Larchgrove and relates to
7 St Joseph's.

8 If I could go to paragraph 62 of his statement, he
9 states:

10 'People looking after children should be vetted
11 more. Their backgrounds should be thoroughly checked
12 and inspections of such places should be carried out
13 regularly. I would even suggest that hidden cameras
14 wouldn't be out of order in such places. Anything that
15 helps keep children safe should be considered.'

16 He then says in relation to hopes for the Inquiry,
17 he is glad that the Inquiry is giving people a chance to
18 speak about their experiences and the awful things that
19 happened to them and it is important that such people
20 are given that opportunity. He also states:

21 'I was lucky that I had a mum and dad, but many
22 others didn't.'

23 He then makes the usual declaration, my Lady, at
24 paragraph 64 and has signed that, and it is dated
25 15 November 2019.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from
3 an applicant, again who is anonymous, and he is known at
4 'Scott'. The reference for his witness statement is
5 WIT.001.002.1102.

6 'Scott' (read)

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Scott' was born in 1956. He talks
8 about his life before care from paragraph 3 onwards to
9 9. He was brought up in Maryhill in Glasgow.

10 'Scott' says he remembers all the places he was in,
11 but not the details. He lived with his parents before
12 care, and his two sisters and a brother in a tenement
13 flat. 'Scott' says they all slept in a double bed and
14 life at the flat was horrendous. His mother and father
15 were never there. His father worked in the bookmaker's,
16 but if he wasn't there he was in the pub and he drank
17 and he gambled. 'Scott' talks about the electricity and
18 gas being cut off and his father having to do the
19 cooking over a coal fire.

20 He was made to break into coal bunkers to steal
21 coal, and his mum used to buy candles to light the
22 place, but it got to the stage where they couldn't
23 afford the candles and his father gambled all the money
24 away.

25 He was sent to a chapel to steal candles and he had

1 to steal clothes off washing lines. 'Scott' says he was
2 only a small boy whilst he was doing that, and he would
3 come home from school and there would be nobody at home,
4 so he would roam the streets. He was starving. He
5 broke into the school to get something to eat from the
6 dining hall and his mother would be away for weeks and
7 months at a time, and then come back full of drink. She
8 would bring back men. There were arguments that he
9 witnessed between his parents and he witnessed violence.

10 I think this is somebody, my Lady, that has been
11 read in a couple of times before, and this background
12 was set out a little bit as well. He talks about being
13 stripped naked by his mother when he was 7 or 8 and
14 beaten with a carpet beater and the neighbours coming to
15 help. That's when the police and social work became
16 involved and he was taken away from the family home at
17 that point.

18 Between paragraphs 10 and 31 of his statement,
19 'Scott' talks about being put into a children's home.
20 He thinks he was there twice. He thinks first time
21 maybe a year and then he was back again when he was 9.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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In between the times

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he was at this home he was sent back home to his

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parents, and whilst he was back there a neighbour

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sexually abused him. 'Scott' says he was nine or ten

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when he was sent to Larchgrove, and he starts talking

10

about that from paragraph 34 onwards. He thinks he was

11

maybe there for five to eight weeks for an assessment.

12

'Scott' says there wasn't anything good at

13

Larchgrove. He tells us about a Mr ^{GWD} [REDACTED], who ^{SNR} [REDACTED]

14

^{SNR} [REDACTED] there, and describes him as a 'wee

15

baldy guy'. He talks about Mr ^{MKI} [REDACTED], who was his

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classroom teacher on the education side of things, who

17

had red receding hair and wore thick bifocal glasses.

18

'Scott' thinks that he had a big club foot on his left

19

leg.

20

He talks about the abuse at Larchgrove from

21

paragraph 39, and if I could go to that part of his

22

statement. 'Scott' says from paragraph 39:

23

'Mr ^{MKI} [REDACTED] was a perverted man. He stuck out like

24

a sore thumb when compared to other staff. I was

25

molested whilst I was in Larchgrove by ^{MKI} [REDACTED]. I was

1 his pet in the classroom. His hands were never off me.
2 He would touch me in class and in the corridors. He was
3 always into me with his hands when I was in the shower
4 room. ^{MKI} was well known for doing that in the
5 showers by all the other residents. He would touch you
6 up. He would touch your bum and all that. His paws
7 were all over you. He would also say dirty things to
8 you. Mr ^{MKI} held a soft toys class at night, I think
9 between 6 o'clock and 7 o'clock. It was held upstairs.
10 We made the toys. ^{MKI} always picked me to go to
11 that. There would be maybe eight or ten of you that
12 were picked. He would talk dirty. I can't remember
13 whether he touched me during those classes.

14 Mr ^{GWD} leathered me with a belt. He took me
15 into an office and hit me with the belt over my
16 backside. I don't know what that was for. I had
17 probably done something. I think it was because I had
18 been caught smoking. You weren't allowed to smoke until
19 you were a certain age. We would all go out in the
20 playground at the same time. The guys who could smoke
21 would stand in the corner. I must have been caught
22 then.

23 Mr ^{GWD} got me out of bed in the middle of the
24 night. I don't know why he was picking on me. He took
25 me to his office. He molested me in there.

1 I remember that someone was murdered whilst I was in
2 Larchgrove. It happened up in the kitchen. It was one
3 of the residents who got murdered. One resident put
4 a big knife through another one. I never saw it,
5 I wasn't far away from it though. I was in the dining
6 bay right next to the kitchen when it happened. The guy
7 who did the murder was from the Gorbals.'

8 Then he talks about him not being able to remember
9 the boy's name and he says:

10 'I can't remember why he did it.'

11 He then said he went from Larchgrove to Balrossie,
12 and he talks about Balrossie from paragraphs 45 to 67,
13 and he was read in in relation to -- sorry, he hasn't
14 been read-in in relation to that.

15 LADY SMITH: Not for Balrossie, no, it was Balgowan,
16 I think.

17 MS FORBES: Balgowan, apologies.

18 Just in summary, my Lady, talking about Balrossie,
19 'Scott' says he was between 9 and 11 when he went there,
20 he says he was sexually abused by an older boy on
21 a regular basis whilst he was there, from the first day.
22 There was general abuse from the boys towards other
23 boys, and the bullies were horrendous, he ran away
24 because of the abuse. There were physical assaults by
25 staff, and he received injuries, as a result of that.

1 And was put in a segregation room on a couple of
2 occasions, until his injuries cleared up.

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

9 He says that at one point the resident who was
10 abusing him was moved to Thornly Park, but then after
11 Balrossie he was moved to Thornly Park.

12 He talks about Thornly Park between paragraphs 68
13 and 72. He thinks he was 11 or 12 whilst he was there.
14 He was there for a few months. 'Scott' says nothing was
15 good there, and that resident who had abused him at
16 Balrossie was there and he was put in beside him and the
17 same sexual abuse happened again. He was running away
18 again to get away from that. It was just him that was
19 doing that to him there. He talks about getting the
20 belt on his hands after running away, but it was nothing
21 like what had happened at Balrossie.

22 He then went to Balgowan after Thornly Park and he
23 talks about that between paragraphs 73 and 82 and that
24 was read in on 14 February of this year, Day 417.

25 Just in summary, my Lady, he was at Balgowan for

1 a couple of months between the ages of 12 and 14. He
2 talks about being abused by a member of staff. He saw
3 boys sexually abusing other boys and talks about there
4 being hard-core bullies. There was physical abuse by
5 the staff.

6 He then ended up in Barlinnie and Longriggend, and
7 talks about that from paragraphs 83 to 91. That was
8 read in during the Scottish Prison Service chapter on
9 8 November of last year, and that was Day 386. 'Scott'
10 says he was only between 12 and 14 when he was sent
11 there, and says he was the youngest boy in Scotland to
12 be sent to those places at the time.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MS FORBES: He was in and out of Longriggend in between
15 Approved Schools and he talks about abuse at Longriggend
16 and being assaulted by prison officers.

17 He was then sent to Oakbank in Aberdeen and his
18 description of what happened in Oakbank starts at
19 paragraph 92. 'Scott' says the bullying there was
20 horrendous, but there was no problem with the staff. He
21 ran away from Oakbank and stole a money box and was
22 caught by the police and he was given the choice to stay
23 in Oakbank or go to Rossie, and he chose Rossie.

24 He then went to Rossie Farm and talks about that
25 from paragraph 97 onwards. By this time, 'Scott' says,

1 he was 14 or 15 when he went, and he was there for nine
2 months. He says he was put in a single cell for two or
3 three months, before being move to a dorm. 'Scott' says
4 there was also punishment cells for bad boys. When he
5 got to Rossie, he discovered that the resident who had
6 previously sexually abused him was there also and he was
7 again sexually abused by him on a regular basis. He saw
8 another resident being physically assaulted by staff and
9 being put into a punishment cell and when that boy got
10 out of the cell he wasn't the same.

11 He then went back to Oakbank, and he talks about
12 that for a couple of paragraphs, 107 and 108. He went
13 to Oakbank after Rossie Farm for a short time. He
14 doesn't know how old he was, but he says the place was
15 different the second time. There was no abuse, and it
16 felt different. And he was released home after Oakbank.
17 He thinks he was about 15 at that time. He went back to
18 his parent's house, by which time they had moved to
19 Possilpark. 'Scott' says things were horrendous when he
20 moved back home, his mother and father were still the
21 same way. He had never really been around his family
22 and had missed out on family life. He felt
23 institutionalised, so 'Scott' says he ran around with
24 older boys and was involved in crime.

25 He was then in Larchgrove for a short time and

1 Geilsland. He talks about Geilsland between paragraphs
2 114 and 129. Again, this resident who had been abusing
3 him earlier in his life was now at Geilsland and the
4 sexual abuse started again. He ran away because of
5 that. 'Scott' says he was also sexually and physically
6 abused regularly by a member of staff whilst he was
7 there. He was allowed home on leave from Geilsland and
8 broke into a bingo hall with two other boys and ended up
9 at Glasgow Sheriff Court and he was sent to Polmont.

10 'Scott' says he was about 16 or 17 when he was sent
11 to Polmont and he was there for about nine months.
12 Again that evidence was read in on 8 November 2023,
13 Day 386. Whilst there he experienced and witnessed
14 physical abuse by staff. That previous resident who
15 sexually abused him was there, and the sexual abuse
16 started again on a daily basis until he managed to get
17 into the cookhouse where he was able to get away from
18 him.

19 After leaving Polmont he got into trouble and was
20 recalled, sent to Barlinnie, he was 17 or 18 when he was
21 there, and was there for ten weeks. Again that evidence
22 was read in on the same day, Day 386. 'Scott' said he
23 had no problems or abuse at Barlinnie.

24 Talking about his life after care, from
25 paragraphs 145, 'Scott' says that Barlinnie operated as

1 a revolving door up until the age of about 21. He then
2 ended up in mainstream prison population. He got
3 married in 1981 and was allowed to leave Perth Prison to
4 attend the wedding. He then had three children and
5 later got divorced. 'Scott' says he was never there for
6 his children and has no contact with them now. He had
7 two daughters to a woman, they were both placed in care
8 and then he later had a daughter and a son with another
9 woman he was with for a long time. Scott says she kept
10 him out of jail and he had a great wee life and he still
11 sees both of those children.

12 In relation to impact, 'Scott' talks about that
13 between paragraphs 152 and 161. He says he was damaged
14 psychologically, physically, and sexually. That he is
15 mentally and physically not well. His life has been
16 ruined and that the resident who abused him is still
17 around and he has reported him to the police. 'Scott'
18 says he was never visited in the establishments he was
19 in, and he was used by people all his life. And he has
20 been passed about. He can't hold down a relationship.
21 He can't hold conversations. He has been on his own now
22 for a long time. He stays in his house and locks
23 himself away. He feels that he has been bullied all his
24 life by people and his family. He was never into drugs
25 but at the time of the statement had recently taken

1 crack cocaine, but was off it now.

2 At paragraph 162, 'Scott' talks about speaking to
3 the Glasgow Association for Mental Health, and the
4 mental health team in Glasgow. This was in 2003. He
5 told them about the abuse and then he reported a lot of
6 the abuse to the police.

7 In respect of lessons to be learned, between
8 paragraphs 174 and 177 'Scott' says that these places
9 were not nice, sexual abuse was rife, and if they had
10 cut out the bullying in these places it might have been
11 easier to report things.

12 Then at paragraph 178 'Scott' has made the usual
13 declaration and he has signed that dated
14 5 September, 2018.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
17 who is anonymous and known as 'John'. The reference for
18 his witness statement is WIT-1-000001035.

19 'John' (read)

20 MS FORBES: 'John' was born in 1955. He talks about his
21 life before care between paragraphs 2 and 8. He was
22 born in Glasgow, lived with his parents and an older
23 sister. His mother was a nurse and his father was
24 a labouring engineer. He grew up in the north of
25 Glasgow in Springburn, and he went to school there.

1 'John' says the school he went to was a great wee school
2 and he was clever and took it all in. However, he was
3 hanging about with 12- and 13-year olds when he was in
4 primary school and that's when it all went wrong. He
5 climbed into the funnel at the back of a launderette and
6 got stuck. The police had to come and get him out and
7 he went to Juvenile Court in Glasgow and was charged
8 with breaking into the launderette.

9 'John' says he was 10 years old at the time and was
10 sentenced to an Approved School but had to go for
11 an assessment first. 'John' describes this as being
12 a complete surprise and he was taken to Larchgrove
13 Assessment Centre straight from court.

14 'John' talks about Larchgrove from paragraph 9 onto
15 29. He was 10 years old when he went there and stayed
16 in Larchgrove for two months. If I can go to
17 paragraph 10 of his statement first of all 'John' says:

18 'I arrived with just the clothes I was wearing and
19 was given their uniform to wear, which was short
20 corduroy trousers. They weren't new and had letters
21 nipped into the front of them from people who had worn
22 them before.

23 I wasn't keen on the place and the atmosphere when
24 I got there. It was crazy because all of the boys there
25 belonged to Glasgow gangs. They all wore these short

1 corduroy trousers and would nip the cords and make their
2 gang name on the shorts, whether they were from Pollok,
3 Easterhouse, Maryhill, Springburn or elsewhere. Glasgow
4 was very violent in the 1960s.

5 Boys would automatically just sort themselves out
6 depending on what area you were from. I did the same
7 and gravitated towards certain older boys who were from
8 the same area as me. That was the way it worked.'

9 'John' then describes how they slept in dormitories
10 and he describes some of the staff there at
11 paragraph 15. At 15, 'John' says:

12 'All the staff wore these wee grey jackets, except
13 for one or two who wore suits. Mr ^{LGX} [REDACTED] was ^{SNR} [REDACTED]
14 ^{SNR} [REDACTED], but it was the staff on the ground who ran the
15 show, a bit like in prison. Mr ^{GIA} [REDACTED] was the
16 unofficial governor, if you like, and he wore a suit.
17 Mr ^{MKI} [REDACTED] was a supervisory teacher and had ginger hair,
18 wore glasses, and had wee piggy eyes.'

19 'John', in the following paragraphs, then describes
20 the daily routine. He says there was no structure to
21 the day, or no schooling, which he resented. 'John'
22 describes Larchgrove as being a regimented place, but in
23 a bad way. He says he was there to be assessed but he
24 doesn't remember anybody coming it talk to him about
25 anything, so doesn't know what kind of assessment they

1 did.

2 'John' then talks about abuse in Larchgrove from
3 paragraph 23, and he says:

4 'The place was really regimented, but in a bad way.
5 I think some of the staff had army service.

6 'I found the attitude of the staff overpowering.
7 There was just free use of violence, which started as
8 soon as I went in there. If you were standing in a line
9 and other boys were talking, Mr ^{LGX} would come over
10 and accuse you for talking. If you said you had hadn't
11 been, he would call you a liar and whack you with his
12 hand over the side of your head. He did that to me and
13 to other boys. He was also mad for giving boys the
14 belt, which he carried over his left shoulder.

15 Mr ^{LGX} reminded me of an SS general. He had
16 a horrible face, stone grey hair, dark eyes, and stood
17 really straight and upright, which was intimidating.

18 ^{GIA} wasn't shy about giving boys a whack.
19 Mr ^{MKI} didn't mind giving boys whacks and kicks. He
20 wore leather shoes and would tell you they were for
21 dragging down your shins, and he would look you in the
22 eye with his wee piggy eyes as he did it. He did that
23 to me and to other boys.'

24 'John' says he was told the day before that he would
25 be leaving and going to Dr Guthrie's. He then talks

1 about Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 30 through to 114.
2 'John' says he was only ten, still, at the time when he
3 went there, and says that staff treated boys as
4 subhuman. Corporal punishment was used on the hand and
5 the backside with the tawse, and there was physical
6 assaults from staff. He injured his knee as a result of
7 one of the assaults when he was aged 11, quite badly.

8 He witnessed racism towards another boy he describes
9 as being 'coloured'. He was battered and bullied by the
10 staff and other boys, he was threatened that he would be
11 sent to 'the farm', which was Rossie Farm. He also saw
12 what he thought was inappropriate conduct by staff
13 towards boys on trips. Older boys assaulted younger
14 boys, and in the swimming pool they would be naked in
15 the morning. Some boys would be running around with
16 erections, younger boys would be holding onto the side
17 of the pool whilst older boys were pressing up against
18 them. One of his friends there told him that he was
19 raped by two other boys.

20 He was at Dr Guthrie's for two and a half years, and
21 he was coming up for 13 years old, and he went back home
22 so he was still 12 at that time. He went to Colston
23 High School, where he did engineering and he liked it.
24 He was home for about a year and he got into a fight at
25 school and went back to court, and he was sent to

1 Larchgrove again for assessment, and then to an Approved
2 School.

3 He talks about Larchgrove the second time at
4 paragraphs 117 and 118, and this time 'John' says he was
5 13 and a half. Larchgrove was exactly the same as the
6 last time he had been there, but he was bigger this
7 time, though, and he knew the ropes. He says he got
8 a black eye from another boy, but states that that was
9 his own fault. And he describes it as being 'whacky' in
10 there. He was there for about six to eight weeks before
11 he was taken to Geilsland.

12 'John' talks about Geilsland between paragraphs 119
13 and 166. He was 13 and a half when he went there.
14 'John' describes Geilsland as being manual labour all
15 day. There was collective responsibility in that
16 everyone was punished for one boy not having their kit
17 laid out correctly or if an area wasn't cleaned
18 properly. There was physical assaults by staff, unusual
19 punishments, inappropriate games like murder ball. He
20 was made to climb cargo nets in the gym that were
21 30-foot high, and he banged his head on a concrete beam
22 at the top and thought he was going to fall and die. By
23 that time he says he was 14 years old. He ended up with
24 a lump on his head and had a dent in his head as
25 a result of that. He didn't receive any medical

1 attention for it, 'John' talks about excessive corporal
2 punishment there resulting in injuries and describes SNR
3 SNR there as battering the boys.

4 He left Geilsland when he was coming up for 16 years
5 old and moved home. He got a job at a knitwear company.
6 He started hanging around with older boys and left that
7 job. He then got in trouble in Dundee and appeared in
8 court just before his 16th birthday.

9 He talks about his time in Perth Prison and Polmont
10 Borstal between paragraphs 169 and 191. That part of
11 his statement, my Lady, was read in on 10 November last
12 year, Day 388.

13 'John' was only in Perth Prison for three weeks and
14 then he went to Polmont. He was 16 by the time he went
15 to Polmont and he talks about life being hard and
16 regimented there. Staff were nasty and there were
17 physical assaults from staff. He spent six weeks in
18 Polmont, and then went to Cornton Vale, where he spent
19 six months, and that was as part of helping to build
20 Cornton Vale. His sentence was reduced as a result of
21 him volunteering to do that.

22 He then went back home and talks about his life
23 after being released from paragraphs 192 to 197. He got
24 a job in the construction industry. He travelled around
25 doing labouring work. He went to London. He ended up

1 in trouble there and was in jail a few times. But he
2 met an artist and became his personal assistant, and he
3 did that for eight years, but then left in 2019. He had
4 a knee replacement, and since then he hasn't worked.

5 'John' talks about the impact from paragraphs 198 to
6 206. 'John' says he resents not getting any schooling
7 in Larchgrove because he was clever and good at school.
8 He comments that there was no secondary education whilst
9 he was in care. He was made to do manual work in
10 Geilsland instead. 'John' comments that who knows what
11 he could have achieved if he had gotten an education.
12 He didn't have qualifications, even for the manual
13 skills he learned whilst in care, which held him back.

14 At paragraph 200 of his statement 'John' talks about
15 seeing an orthopaedic surgeon later in life as an adult
16 to get his knee checked, who asked if he had any bad
17 childhood accidents and said that he had a hairline
18 fracture the full length of his knee and 'John' thinks
19 the incident at Dr Guthrie's was where his knee was
20 injured and that was the only thing he could think of.

21 'John' comments that this all happened to him
22 because he climbed into a funnel to get some heat from
23 a dry cleaner's as a child.

24 At paragraph 206 of his statement 'John' comments
25 that as a parent himself he placed a lot of emphasis on

1 education to make sure that his son got the
2 opportunities that he never had.

3 In relation to lessons to be learned, between
4 paragraphs 208 and 212 'John' says that it is imperative
5 that secondary education is made available for young
6 people.

7 If I could go to paragraph 208 of his statement
8 'John' says at the end of that paragraph:

9 'Everyone can flower if they are shown light, but
10 they can't if darkness is always poured onto them.'

11 'John' also talks in that section about proper
12 registration of staff, proper structure of inspections,
13 and that children need to be asked how they are getting
14 on regularly.

15 At paragraph 213, my Lady, 'John' has signed the
16 statement. He has made the usual declaration before
17 that, and the statement is dated 11 July, 2022.

18 My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant,
19 again, who is anonymous, and also known as 'John'.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: The reference for this 'John's' statement is
22 WIT-1-000000880.

23 'John' (read)

24 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'John' was born in 1956 and he talks
25 about his life before care from paragraph 2 onwards. He

1 was born in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, lived with his
2 parents and siblings in a one-bedroomed house. He moved
3 quite a few times and went to several schools. 'John'
4 says he was in 12 or 13 different houses growing up. He
5 was injured a lot as a child and received stitches on
6 several occasions. He moved to Shettleston when he was
7 about eight and started breaking into shops, bakeries
8 and sweetie shops.

9 'John' says he got away with this for a couple of
10 years but was caught just after he turned ten and he was
11 taken to the Sheriff Court for assault and robbery.

12 'John' says it was his brother that had done it but he
13 took the blame, was given 14 days detention in
14 Larchgrove. This was the first time he was taken away
15 from his parents and 'John' remembers screaming his head
16 off. He was taken to the cells and was really
17 terrified.

18 'John' talks about Larchgrove between paragraphs 10
19 and 26. At that time he was 10 and that was his first
20 time in Larchgrove, and he was there for the 14 days.
21 He went back again for a second spell of about five or
22 six weeks when he was 11. Things were much the same the
23 second time he went there. 'John' describes there being
24 dormitories which were locked at night. Some of the
25 older boys would be fighting with one another, but he

1 took nothing to do with that. He can't remember doing
2 any school lessons, he remembers two boys escaping from
3 his dormitory. They were caught a couple of weeks later
4 and when they were brought back they were put into
5 a holding cell and they could all look through the
6 spyhole when they walked past.

7 At paragraph 23 of his statement, he starts to talk
8 about abuse whilst he was at Larchgrove, and I will read
9 from there.

10 When we were in the gym hall waiting for our
11 showers, an older boy kept giving me a wee kick.
12 I turned around and told him to stop it. The teacher
13 saw me talking to the older boy and I got a couple of
14 slaps. I got a slap on the back of the head. I told
15 the teacher that the boy was kicking me and I was
16 telling him to stop it. I was trying to explain myself
17 but then I got a slap on the back of the head. Five or
18 ten minutes later the pest behind me did it again.
19 I told him to stop it and the teacher booted me in the
20 side of my leg. I didn't expect that from a teacher.
21 The teacher said that he had warned me to stop talking.

22 I can't describe the member of staff that kicked me.
23 A kick or a slap didn't bother me. I saw that happen to
24 other boys. They would also get a slap or a kick. It
25 tended to happen to the younger boys. I never saw any

1 boys injured as a result of the kicks and slaps.

2 Eventually, I was moved away from that pest and there
3 were no more problems.

4 The second time I went to Larchgrove I didn't have
5 any problems. I knew that talking was not allowed and
6 I knew to keep away from the older boys. I had wised up
7 a bit.'

8 That first time 'John' says he went home afterwards,
9 and he was caught stealing sweets and biscuits from
10 a shop. He was caught hiding in the shop. He was
11 convicted of house breaking. It was just after his 11th
12 birthday that he was back to Larchgrove for the second
13 time, that was for the five or six weeks.

14 Then after that he was sent to Dr Guthrie's. 'John'
15 talks about Dr Guthrie's between paragraphs 27 and 58.
16 He was 11 when he went there. Whilst there he suffered
17 force feeding and would be sick as a result of that. He
18 was locked in a room, there was sexual abuse towards him
19 by another boy, and physical assaults by staff. He was
20 there for about 10 or 11 months. When he left his
21 parents had moved again, and he went to secondary
22 school, but he didn't know anybody. He was there for
23 a year and a half and then moved again and went to
24 a different secondary school. That closed down and then
25 he was sent to a third. And he left school when he was

1 15.

2 'John' says there was tough times at home. His dad
3 would rake the middens during the night and his dad used
4 to hire a horse and cart and went looking for metal to
5 sell. 'John' still broke into places but didn't get
6 caught for about five or six years. He started drinking
7 at 15 and by the time he was 16 he was drinking heavily
8 and not long after he turned 16 he was given
9 three months' detention and remanded to Longriggend
10 before being sentenced.

11 He then talks about Longriggend and Glenochil
12 between paragraphs 64 and 74. My Lady, that part of his
13 statement was read in on 10 November last year --

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MS FORBES: -- Day 388.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS FORBES: He was at Longriggend twice.

18 He then was in Glenochil for three months. He talks
19 about the short, sharp shock treatment, and the harsh
20 regimented regime, physical assaults by staff, but he
21 stayed out of trouble. You only had to do the two
22 months and eight days and when he came out he had to go
23 to court for a charge that had happened before he went
24 to Glenochil and he was found guilty and remanded to
25 Longriggend. The governor of Glenochil had given him

1 a great report and recommended deferred sentence, but he
2 was given borstal by the Sheriff.

3 He then talks about Barlinnie between paragraphs 90
4 and 111. He spent a few days at Barlinnie before going
5 to Polmont. He was still only 16 when he went there,
6 and he was there for about four to six weeks. He didn't
7 see any abuse there, and then after that initial period,
8 he went to Noranside, and he was at Noranside for about
9 12 or 13 months. There was nothing there that he would
10 describe as abusive, although it was hard work.

11 'John' describes that being a year that put him in
12 his place and after that he was charged with police
13 assault, and again remanded to Longriggend, and then to
14 Barlinnie young offenders for three months.

15 He went to Barlinnie in 1973. He was 17 years old.
16 He did about two and a half months. He didn't have any
17 issues. After leaving Barlinnie that time he never went
18 back to prison again afterwards.

19 He talks about his life after care from paragraphs
20 112 to 118. When he got out of Barlinnie at 18 he met
21 his girlfriend. She fell pregnant. They got married
22 before their daughter was born and he later had a son.
23 'John' says he worked for a while, but lost his job due
24 to stealing. He did some other jobs and later got
25 divorced. 'John' talks about having problems with

1 drinking all of his life and hasn't worked for the last
2 20 years. He has health problems.

3 'John' talks about the impact of his time in care
4 between paragraphs 119 and 125, but this is mainly about
5 Dr Guthrie's.

6 Again, the lessons to be learned are mainly again
7 about his time in Dr Guthrie's.

8 At paragraph 128 he has made the usual declaration
9 and signed his statement. However, there is a mistake
10 with the date and I am told it should be
11 15 December, 2021.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, I noticed that, yes, it couldn't have been
13 2001.

14 MS FORBES: No.

15 My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant who
16 again is anonymous, and is known as 'Aaron'. The
17 reference for his witness statement is WIT-1-000000019.

18 'Aaron' (read)

19 MS FORBES: My Lady, this applicant is someone who is
20 deceased. He passed away prior to signing his
21 statement, but is being read in according to the usual
22 process, which is that those who took the statement have
23 indicated that that was his position.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS FORBES: 'Aaron' was born in 1958 and talks about his

1 life before care between paragraphs 2 and 9. He was
2 born and brought up in Glasgow, and lived with his
3 parents. He was the oldest and he had four siblings.
4 His father was in prison, and his parents separated when
5 he was young. His mother became an alcoholic. He
6 started running away to stay with his dad when his dad
7 came out and was going backwards and forwards. His dad
8 had children with other people, and he had a lot of half
9 siblings.

10 However, 'Aaron' talks about being sexually abused
11 by his father on one occasion and that's when things
12 changed and he started to run away, just to be on his
13 own. 'Aaron' says that from the age of nine he was
14 basically on his own, and his parents didn't really care
15 where he was. And he was then put into care.

16 'Aaron' was put into a children's home in Fife. He
17 thinks he was at least nine when he went there and was
18 there for about eight months or so. Two of his siblings
19 were with him there. He doesn't talk about any abuse
20 there and he went back to stay with his mum in Glasgow
21 when he was roughly about ten. All the windows there
22 were boarded up and his mother and stepfather at the
23 time were drunk and he was just left there, he says, by
24 social work, and then he just decided to run away.

25 'Aaron' says he lived in various places, he walked

1 the streets, he lived in squats, and he was caught by
2 the police as stealing something. And 'Aaron' says that
3 he was classed from that day on as a delinquent, but he
4 he was just stealing to survive.

5 He was taken to court and he was then taken straight
6 to Larchgrove from there. He talks about Larchgrove
7 between paragraphs 49 and 100. 'Aaron' says he was nine
8 or ten when he first went to Larchgrove. He thinks
9 there was a second time he was there, but he is not sure
10 when that was. There was an eight-month gap between the
11 first and second time. Each time he was there it was
12 between about three and six weeks before he was then
13 sent somewhere else.

14 If I can go to paragraph 51 of 'Aaron's' statement
15 he says:

16 'To me, Larchgrove was hell on earth. I soon learnt
17 that you had to just shut up and get on with it. It
18 didn't matter if you were a good or a bad little kid.
19 It made no difference. Nobody was treated differently.
20 You were just a target for everything that went on.'

21 'Aaron' then talks about the layout of Larchgrove
22 and what the staff and the routine was like. 'Aaron'
23 says everything was done sergeant major style. If you
24 were deemed to be a bigger delinquent you didn't go to
25 classes. You were allocated certain things to do

1 instead. That was mostly scrubbing and doing the pots.
2 And that's what he had to do. 'Aaron' says he didn't
3 mind that instead of going to school. They were locked
4 in dormitories overnight and left to themselves, which
5 he describes as being basically a free for all, and
6 everyone had fights with one another.

7 If I could go to paragraph 68 'Aaron' says:

8 'I can't remember being involved with working in or
9 cleaning the kitchens. I think some of the older boys
10 did that. However, I remember scrubbing floors and
11 walls elsewhere. That went on all of the time whilst
12 I was in there. The staff would come in behind you and
13 give you abuse whilst you would do that. They would
14 make you do things again. They would kick your bucket
15 of water over or beat you up. They would mostly slap
16 you or hit you with their keys. They slapped or threw
17 their keys wherever they could. There wasn't one set
18 place where they tried to hit you. I don't know what
19 the staff were thinking when they did that. I think
20 they just thought that was how they kept you in line.
21 Looking back it wasn't the right way to be treating
22 people.'

23 'Aaron' says, after that, there was some schooling
24 but they never explained things to him. But there was
25 no books, games or toys to play with in Larchgrove.

1 Sometimes they were allowed to play with a football
2 outside in the summer. Whilst he was in the medical
3 centre after he had been assaulted one time he was told
4 to 'shut his whining face'. 'Aaron' says that bed
5 wetters would be targeted by members of staff. They
6 were treated like crap and staff members would embarrass
7 them.

8 He talks about abuse in Larchgrove from
9 paragraph 86. If we can go to that paragraph.

10 Sorry, my Lady, I think this is just slightly before
11 that discipline and punishment section, paragraph 86.

12 'Aaron' says:

13 'You never got told anything in Larchgrove. We
14 weren't treated like human beings. There weren't
15 conversations between the staff and the boys.
16 Everything was low key and done in silence. It was all
17 "Shut up you are a delinquent". You were expected to
18 respond to things like "Yes, sir, no, sir, and three
19 bags full sir". You would only be told what you had
20 done wrong if you ended up in the headmaster's office.
21 It was only then that the headmaster would tell you.
22 You were there to be punished and that was it.

23 There was a cell that they used as punishment. Boys
24 were locked in that room on their own. They would lock
25 you in there for a while then give you a big lecture

1 about your behaviour when they let you out. I was once
2 locked in there. I can't remember exactly what that was
3 for, but it was probably for speaking out of turn or
4 line. I don't remember anything further surrounding
5 that incident.'

6 He then goes on to talk about abuse at Larchgrove,
7 'Aaron' says:

8 'It was only really the staff who worked with the
9 boys directly who abused the boys. They were like
10 animals. It was always them rather than the teachers,
11 the headmaster or anyone else in Larchgrove. There was
12 always someone getting hurt, beat up or crying. It was
13 either the kids themselves beating each other up or it
14 was the staff.

15 I was kicked and punched by staff members at
16 Larchgrove. I would say that I was either punched,
17 kicked, slapped or had keys thrown at me every single
18 day I was there. I suppose I was weak when I first went
19 there but I soon learnt to be strong. I learnt to keep
20 my mouth shut and get on with things. It seemed to be
21 the boys who were weak who were picked on by the staff.
22 You would see those boys get given hell by the staff
23 members. There was nothing you could do. You would
24 have to sit back and watch it happening.

25 It seemed to me that the only place that you could

1 get peace was when you were in the gym or the courtyard.
2 They never seemed to bother you there unless you really
3 stepped out of line. You never seemed to be punished
4 for anything when you were in those areas. I think that
5 was because the staff members would be seen if they did
6 anything. We were all in those places at the same time
7 so they would be noticed if they did things. I think,
8 because of that, we felt we could speak and do our own
9 thing.

10 Everybody saw what the staff were doing. It wasn't
11 hidden. It was just part of the regime. I guess we all
12 kind of accepted the way we were treated. We knew that
13 if we didn't shut up then we would get punished. You
14 kind of got used to it because you thought that was the
15 way things were meant to be. I don't think we viewed it
16 as being abused. We just thought we were getting
17 a beating for being bad little shits. Looking back, the
18 staff members abused the position they were in.
19 I realise that they had to keep a large numbers of boys
20 in line, but they didn't have to use brutality to do
21 that.

22 All of the staff had keys. They were all quite good
23 at hitting you with them from a distance. Staff members
24 would hit boys with their keys because they couldn't get
25 to reach them quick enough. It was usually for things

1 like talking out of turn. You would be hit wherever the
2 keys landed. It could be either the head or the body.
3 It was normally the head they would go for. Being hit
4 by the keys was sore. I remember it happening to me on
5 my back for speaking.

6 I remember staff carrying clipboards as a sort of
7 check-list type thing when they were around. I remember
8 the staff using their clipboards against us in the
9 dining hall. If you were close they would hit you with
10 their clipboard. If you were far away they would throw
11 them at you. I don't think they aimed for any
12 particular place, they just did it. It wasn't as easy
13 for them to get to you if you were sitting in your
14 booths. So they would throw their clipboards at you.
15 They would sometimes have parades where you all had to
16 line up. The staff would walk around with clipboards
17 ticking everybody off. Sometimes, if you didn't answer
18 your name or did something, you would be whacked with
19 a clipboard by a member of staff. I remember that you
20 felt lucky if someone in front of you got hit by a staff
21 member. It meant you would be left alone.

22 The staff bullied you when they inspected the dorms
23 in the morning. If your bed wasn't done properly you
24 were beaten up by the staff member. They mostly did
25 that by throwing their keys at either your head or body.

1 Sometimes they would slap or punch you with their hands.
2 Their favourite spot to aim for was the back of your
3 head but it could be wherever really. That was the same
4 for any other boy in the dormitory. You soon learnt how
5 to do it properly and keep everything in order.

6 I remember helping other boys to do their beds
7 properly so they would avoid being bullied by the staff.
8 Sometimes, even if had you done your bed properly, you
9 still got a slap. It all depended on the mood the staff
10 member inspecting your bed was in. I think the bed
11 making was all an excuse for the staff members to keep
12 you in line.

13 They gave you gym as part of your schooling.
14 Everybody was made to do that, even if they had been
15 detailed to do scrubbing. There was a lot of brutality
16 during the gym classes. The staff would play us against
17 each other. There was a game they made you play called
18 murder ball. They would encourage the older boys to
19 fight the younger boys.'

20 'Aaron' then talks about his first day in Larchgrove
21 and an incident, he says:

22 'As I walked into the front door on my first day
23 a staff member hit me and smashed my head off of
24 something. I remember blood spewing from my face all
25 over the front door. Some of my blood ended up on

1 a brass plaque by the front door. I never found out why
2 that was done to me. I probably spoke out of turn or
3 something. It was a member of staff who did that but
4 I don't know who it was. I think most of the kids were
5 hit as they went in the entrance. It was part of the
6 initiation.

7 I was taken to the matron to be cleaned up before
8 being taken up to see the headmaster. I didn't say
9 anything to the headmaster about being hit. I just got
10 on with it. I don't know whether he knew what had
11 happened. I remember I was made to scrub that plaque
12 everyday from then on during my time there the first
13 time. I did that seven days a week, whether it needed
14 it or not.

15 The bigger boys did pick on the younger boys. They
16 had probably been through Larchgrove when they were my
17 age and had experienced the same things that I had.
18 They had likely been back and forward between Larchgrove
19 and other places.'

20 'Aaron' then says he didn't report anything while he
21 was in Larchgrove and he said he learnt quickly it was
22 better not to speak and to hold it all in.

23 But he says that they used to talk about things
24 after they happened amongst themselves, and kids being
25 kids, they would criticise the boy who got punished, but

1 really they all knew it was the staff members not acting
2 properly.

3 He then realised that he wasn't going to get out
4 after Larchgrove, and was going to be going somewhere
5 else. And he thinks he was taken to a court hearing,
6 where he was essentially sentenced to go to Balrossie.

7 LADY SMITH: There wouldn't necessarily have had to be any
8 hearing at that stage.

9 MS FORBES: No.

10 LADY SMITH: He obviously remembers being moved.

11 MS FORBES: Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: It is something that struck me in a number of
13 these cases -- not particularly this applicant -- but
14 others say they don't remember being assessed --

15 MS FORBES: Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: -- at Larchgrove, or other assessment centres.
17 I don't think we have records that show any set form of
18 assessment or particular criteria being applied, am
19 I right about that?

20 MS FORBES: Yes. There might be some brief records, my
21 Lady, but it is not commonplace, I don't think.

22 LADY SMITH: Possibly not much more than deciding that the
23 person is going to go to X Approved School. Otherwise
24 the impression could be that the assessment centre was
25 just a big holding cell waiting for a space to be

1 available for the child. Yes. And meanwhile these
2 sorts of things happening.

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, and also the irony is that these people
4 are being sent there a lot of the time because they are
5 not going to school, but whilst they are there they are
6 not receiving any education.

7 LADY SMITH: They are not going to school, yes.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Aaron' then goes on to tell us about
9 Balrossie between paragraphs 102 and 149. 'Aaron' says
10 he was nine or ten at the time and was there for between
11 eight months and a year. Whilst there, there were some
12 general chores but it wasn't like Larchgrove where you
13 would be scrubbing and cleaning all day.

14 He talks about some dental abuse, as he saw it,
15 whilst he was there, and that kids who wet the bed were
16 shunned, shouted at by staff, called names, and made to
17 wear the wet sheets wrapped around them.

18 'Aaron' says he wasn't sexually abused but says that
19 that went on there. And he talks about boys being taken
20 out of the dorms at night.

21 He does talk about physical assaults by staff, and
22 that it was the same sort of physical abuse that he got
23 in Larchgrove. There was also inappropriate touching by
24 staff, and he saw a boy beaten severely by staff. And
25 'Aaron' talks about bullying by boys and that he himself

1 took part in that to avoid being bullied.

2 After Balrossie, 'Aaron' talks about what happened
3 to him between paragraphs 150 and 153. He left
4 Balrossie, he says, because his time was up but he is
5 not sure how old he was. He didn't stay with his mum,
6 although I think he was supposed to, and he ended up, as
7 he says, staying with his toerag pals, and he was
8 running here, there, and everywhere, and in 'Aaron's'
9 words he became 'a wee ned', and started to get
10 regularly into trouble. He was recognised by the police
11 and when they picked him up they called him
12 a delinquent, and unruly. He ended up in trouble and
13 says he was put before a court and sent for a three-week
14 assessment at Howdenhall, or Liberton as it might have
15 been called then, in Edinburgh.

16 He talks about that from paragraph 154. 'Aaron'
17 says he was 10 or 11 at the time. He was there three
18 times. The first two were for short periods, but a lot
19 of the abuse he experienced there came from the third
20 time he was there. By the time he was there the first
21 time, he had decided that nobody was going to hurt him.
22 'Aaron' describes himself as a bully by this point, and
23 he says he stayed that way in all of the places he was
24 in after Balrossie.

25 After he left there, he was in trouble for breaking

1 into a barber's shop, and so he was 11 when he went back
2 the second time. He was in there with his younger
3 brother the second time and his younger brother would
4 only have been seven, 'Aaron' says. He says that they
5 attacked the social worker in the car on the way back
6 home after leaving Liberton, and that made her stop the
7 car, and they escaped. 'Aaron' says he didn't want to
8 go back to an alcoholic household but he was caught and
9 he was taken back to Liberton the same day.

10 He was then taken to an unknown home in the west of
11 Scotland, and he is not sure why, he was only there for
12 a matter of weeks. He doesn't say there was any abuse
13 there.

14 He was then taken to Thornly Park, and he talks
15 about Thornly Park from paragraph 221 to 265. 'Aaron'
16 says he was about 13 by the time he went there, and he
17 recognised boys there from his time in Larchgrove,
18 Balrossie, and Liberton. He ran away twice whilst
19 there, and was caught the same day and he talks about
20 whilst he was there two boys committing suicide.

21 'Aaron' says that the staff there at Thornly Park were
22 all bullies, there was verbal abuse and physical abuse,
23 and by the time he left there he was more wild and
24 aggressive, and by this time his life had started to get
25 out of control. He was getting involved in more serious

1 crime. By that time he was 13 and he was supposed to be
2 living with his dad and his stepmother, but he didn't do
3 that. He got in trouble with the police a lot and was
4 in the cells every week, and he was caught with his
5 cousin and sent by the court to Liberton again for
6 assessment.

7 He talks about Liberton this time from paragraph 266
8 onwards, and he was about 13 then. This was the third
9 time, he says, and he was there for much longer. He
10 thinks five months or longer. He ran away whilst there,
11 but was caught the same night and put in a cell. He
12 talks about excessive corporal punishment while there.

13 And after that period he was taken to Rossie Farm.
14 'Aaron' talks about Rossie from paragraph 282 to 339.
15 He was there at some point, he says, between the age of
16 14 and 15 for about eight months, but it might have been
17 as long as a year. 'Aaron' says a lot of the discipline
18 there was verbal, it was emotional abuse, and there was
19 sexual abuse, though, towards boys by a female member of
20 staff, who was in a relationship with one of the boys.

21 'Aaron' talks about that boy being broken up with by
22 the member of staff and that shortly after that the boy
23 committed suicide.

24 'Aaron' says he was 15 by the time he left there and
25 he went back to his dad's, got into more trouble

1 stealing and was sentenced to between one and three
2 years in Polmont. That was only four weeks after he
3 left Rossie that he ended up in Polmont. 'Aaron' says
4 he would have been 16 by then.

5 'Aaron' talks about Polmont between paragraphs 342
6 and 388. He ended up doing between nine months and
7 a year there. It was a strict regime, and he talks
8 about verbal abuse from staff, physical abuse from
9 staff, and there being segregation and bullying from the
10 other inmates.

11 'Aaron' talks about life after being released from
12 paragraph 395 onwards. He got married a couple of
13 months after he left Polmont. He moved to England. He
14 got a job. Had two kids. But the criminality didn't
15 stop and he was in and out of prison. That marriage
16 lasted about five years, and he didn't have contact with
17 his children after. He did manage to stop the
18 criminality: he came back to Scotland with a girl who
19 had four kids and 'Aaron' says he treated them like his
20 own. They waited five years before they had children
21 together and they were back and forward living in
22 England and Scotland. They were together 35 years, but
23 then split up but it was all amicable. He met someone
24 else. He found out later that what his father had done
25 to him when he was younger he did to his other children,

1 and he reported him to the police, but his father died
2 before there was a prosecution.

3 In relation to the impact and lessons to be learned,
4 'Aaron' talks about that between paragraphs 403 and 436.
5 Over those paragraphs, 'Aaron' says a lot about his
6 entire time in care and family background. I won't
7 rehash that, you can read that, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MS FORBES: In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, he does
10 say something particular at paragraph 437. 'Aaron'
11 says:

12 'Speaking to the Inquiry is probably one of the most
13 important things that I have done. I have been hanging
14 on for 30 years to speak about what happened in my life.
15 I don't really want anything for myself. I took the
16 decision to speak out and to say what's meant to be
17 said. I just want to get it out in the open. I want as
18 many people as possible to come forward to the Inquiry.
19 The more people that come forward, and the more people
20 speak out, the harder it is for the Government to ignore
21 what has been going on. The abuse side needs to be
22 sorted. I don't know whether it ever will. I don't
23 know how people can live amongst each other with this
24 going and continuing to happen. I want justice to be
25 served. For me the Government are the biggest crooks of

1 them all. They have known this has all been going on
2 for years and they haven't addressed it. It is still
3 going to go on unless people like myself come forward
4 and talk. That probably isn't enough to solve the
5 problem, but it is a start.'

6 Then the declaration is there, but unfortunately he
7 died before he was able to sign it.

8 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes.

9 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
10 again who is anonymous, and is known as 'Alexander'.

11 His witness statement reference is WIT-1-000000958.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 'Alexander' (read)

14 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Alexander' was born in 1958 in
15 Glasgow. He talks about his life before care at
16 paragraphs 2 to 3. He remembers living with his mum and
17 one of his sisters, he then moved in with his stepdad
18 and his children and all together there were about 12
19 children. 'Alexander' says he got on with his stepdad
20 and other children and that life at home was pretty
21 good. He was happy. His mum then left his stepdad and
22 he moved with her to Bridgeton in Glasgow. His brother
23 and him joined the army cadet force and he would have
24 been about 12.

25 However, he says he got in tow with a couple of what

1 he calls scallywags and he started skipping school and
2 then went to a Juvenile Court. He was sent to
3 Larchgrove for seven days. 'Alexander' says this was
4 [REDACTED] 1968, so he was only nine years old at that
5 point. 'Alexander' outlines his time at Larchgrove
6 between paragraphs 4 and 18. He says he doesn't have
7 any good memories from Larchgrove.

8 If I could go to paragraph 17 'Alexander' says:

9 'I didn't wet the bed. If the staff in the morning
10 found that someone had wet their bed they were slapped
11 to the side of the head. Their wet bedding was then
12 rubbed into their faces, then they were paraded down to
13 the laundry, carrying their wet sheets. All of the
14 other boys could see and knew they wet their bed.
15 I don't know the names of the staff that did this.

16 'I saw quite a few boys getting skelped by staff on
17 the side of the head if they had done something they
18 weren't supposed to or if they did something stupid.
19 Sometimes they would be grabbed round the neck. It
20 never happened to me because I kept myself to myself and
21 tried to behave.'

22 He was told the night before that he was leaving the
23 following day and his mum came for him and they got the
24 bus home.

25 He went back home to stay with his mum and he was

1 there for a while and went back to school, but got into
2 trouble, was charged by the police with theft by house
3 breaking, and went to Juvenile Court. He was told he
4 was going to an Approved School for between one and
5 three years.

6 He was then taken back to Larchgrove and he talks
7 about that at paragraph 22. He was only there for eight
8 days that second time. 'Alexander' says it was just the
9 same as the first time he had been there, and then he
10 was taken to Balgowan.

11 'Alexander' talks about his time at Balgowan between
12 paragraphs 23 and 59. This was read in, my Lady, on
13 14 February of this year, Day 417.

14 'Alexander' talks about physical assaults by staff
15 there, emotional abuse, bullying by other boys, he was
16 there for 18 months. He was about 11 years old when he
17 left, and he went back home and started secondary
18 school, but within a week he was skipping school and was
19 referred to the Children's Panel.

20 He was sent to Thornly Park School, and it was about
21 1973 or 1974 at that point he thinks. 'Alexander' talks
22 about Thornly Park between paragraphs 61 and 73. He
23 describes one incident that he says wasn't dealt with
24 properly whilst he was there. He took unwell, there was
25 something wrong with his leg, and he was in the sick

1 area for about six weeks before someone called for
2 a doctor and he was eventually diagnosed and given
3 medication for it. There was no physical abuse whilst
4 he was there, but he did run away, and he was on the run
5 for about a year, and then his mother got a letter
6 asking her to take him to the Children's Panel. He was
7 told he could stay with his mum and go to the local
8 school. 'Alexander' thinks he was 13 and a half or 14
9 by then. So he is back with his mum for six months. He
10 went to school initially, but he then just wouldn't
11 stay. And he would leave. He was taken back to
12 a Children's Panel and then sent to Kibble, but he
13 thinks he was close to 15 by this time.

14 'Alexander' talks about Kibble between paragraphs 75
15 and 86. He says that by the time he got to Kibble he
16 was, as he puts it, 'a hardened Approved School boy' and
17 he knew how to stay out of trouble. There was bullying
18 from older boys and physical assaults resulting in
19 visible injuries. He was there for about three months.
20 Again he absconded and says he was on the run for about
21 a year.

22 Life on the run, he managed to get a job and had
23 digs. He was managing to keep out of trouble and just
24 get on with it. And he says a year later, his mum got
25 a letter from the social work saying that now because he

1 was 16 they were no longer responsible for him and he
2 went to a Children's Panel and they formally let him go.

3 Life after care for 'Alexander' is outlined between
4 paragraphs 89 and 94. He said he carried on with what
5 he had been doing. Got his own garage. He started his
6 own business. He was charged with a number of road
7 traffic and construction and use offences though, and
8 spent some time in Longriggend on remand, Glenochil for
9 a 60-day sentence, and then Noranside Borstal.

10 His last sentence was 60 days in Barlinnie. He
11 would have been an adult by the time he was in these
12 places. He does talk about abuse there. He met his
13 wife in 1982 and says after that he was never in trouble
14 again. They got married in 1989. He went to college
15 and did a business management course. He built up his
16 business and was doing well for a while. But
17 unfortunately as a result of an accident he lost his
18 business. His health was affected and he couldn't work
19 because of that, and that's why the business was lost.
20 'Alexander' says his wife died several years ago at the
21 time of this statement.

22 In relation to impact, 'Alexander' talks about that
23 between paragraphs 95 and 103. He talks about Balgowan
24 being the worst place out of everywhere that he has ever
25 been, and says he had a lot of trust issues and health

1 problems.

2 In relation to lessons to be learned, that's at
3 paragraphs 107 and 108. 'Alexander' says staff have to
4 be trained to identify the signs of child abuse before
5 it is too late. Children must be spoken to at their own
6 level.

7 Paragraph 112, he has made the usual declaration and
8 'Alexander' signed that dated 7 April 2022.

9 LADY SMITH: It is interesting at paragraph 107 he makes
10 an important point which is it is not just a question of
11 listening to a child if a child complains, you need to
12 observe them, you need to be engaged with the child to
13 an extent, and understand them to an extent, so you can
14 see that the child might be communicating something
15 through the way they are and the way they behave. Such
16 as if the child appears isolated, and on their own all
17 the time, even for play, then it could be something's
18 not right.

19 MS FORBES: Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement might be quite long,
22 so I don't -- the person was in both Kerelaw and
23 Larchgrove.

24 LADY SMITH: I think rather than try and rush it, so we are
25 ready for the next witness we should stop there. We

1 have made very good progress through read-ins this
2 morning and we can take a break.

3 Before I do that, some names that have cropped up of
4 people whose identities are protected by my
5 General Restriction Order need to be mentioned there.

6 Mr ^{LQT} [REDACTED], Mr ^{MKI} [REDACTED], Mr ^{GWD} [REDACTED], Mr ^{LTJ} [REDACTED], and
7 Mr ^{GIA} [REDACTED]. Thank you.

8 I will stop now for the break.

9 (11.20 am)

10 (A short break)

11 (11.45 am)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, we have a live witness next.

14 He is an applicant who is anonymous and is known as
15 'Iain'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Iain' (sworn)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Iain', do sit down and make yourself
19 comfortable.

20 Before I hand over to Ms Forbes, 'Iain', one or two
21 things.

22 I hope the microphone is in a good position for you,
23 but if you can just be conscious of it and using it that
24 would be very helpful.

25 The red folder on the desk there has your written

1 statement in it. You may find it helpful to use it as
2 we go through your evidence, but you don't have to. We
3 will also be bringing up parts of your statement on the
4 screen, so that will be available for you as well.

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 LADY SMITH: But apart from those practicalities, 'Iain',
7 I want to make it clear from the beginning that I know
8 what we are asking you to do isn't easy. We are asking
9 you to talk in public about very personal matters
10 relating to your life when you were a child, all these
11 years ago. So you are mining your memory and you are
12 dealing with things that could be quite emotional. I do
13 understand that, and if at any time there is anything
14 I can do to assist you to give your evidence as
15 comfortably as you can, please don't hesitate to let me
16 know. If you need a break, just say. If you need
17 something explained better, just say. Or if there is
18 something that I can't think of at the moment that
19 arises, but it is bothering you, don't just sit there
20 not saying, let me know, would you?

21 A. Thank you, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to Ms Forbes
23 now and she will take it from there. Thank you.

24

25

1 Questions from Ms Forbes

2 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, 'Iain'.

3 A. The statement that is in front of you in the folder, if
4 you are able to just have a look at that for a moment
5 and go to the very last page.

6 The very last page of that should have a paragraph
7 number.

8 LADY SMITH: Just before we take that, for the transcript
9 can we put the reference for the statement in,
10 Ms Forbes?

11 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

12 The reference for your statement, 'Iain', this is
13 just for our purposes, we give it a reference number, is
14 WIT.001.002.2326.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS FORBES: The very last page, I think there is
17 a paragraph 177, and that's where there is a declaration
18 that you make at the end of your statement where you
19 say:

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

24 Then you have signed that and it is dated
25 13 October 2018; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that still the position?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. If you just go back to the front now of your
5 statement, if you want to, that's fine.

6 'Iain', you were born in 1966, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think you tell us in your statement a bit of
9 background to your life before you ended up in care that
10 you can remember, that is that you were living with your
11 parents and siblings?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that right? And I think you had five siblings?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. This was in Nitshill, is it, in Glasgow?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say, I think at paragraph 3 of your statement, that
18 when you were living with your parents and your siblings
19 you didn't really see much of your dad, is that right?

20 A. No, he worked all the time, no.

21 Q. And if it wasn't working was he out playing darts?

22 A. Yes, he didn't come in until midnight, something like
23 that, after midnight, and then he was out at 5 am in the
24 morning again.

25 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', that your mum couldn't

1 cope --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- on with her own with all of the kids and all the

4 people that were coming to the house?

5 A. No, she couldn't cope at all, aye.

6 Q. You tell us that she was prescribed Valium from the

7 doctor and she also was drinking as well during the day?

8 A. Yes, very heavily, yes.

9 Q. You tell us about a nervous breakdown she had when you

10 were about nine?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You also say with regards to finances that the family

13 really didn't have anything?

14 A. No, no, my dad drunk all of the money, he went to the

15 pub after work, drunk all of his wages, so my mum didn't

16 have the money to pay the electricity bills or the gas,

17 so we were disconnected, so we lived by candlelight.

18 Q. I think you say that that caused you a problem, other

19 than the obvious ones, which was that you didn't really

20 want to go to school because the clothes you were having

21 to wear --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- were making you self conscious, is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You kind of comment, I think, paragraph 5 there, that

1 other people seemed to have decent clothes but you said
2 you were dressed like a tramp?

3 A. Yes, I was, yes, I was a tramp compared to the rest of
4 the kids, yes they had all of the latest, like, gear,
5 and my stuff came from, like, Glasgow markets ...

6 Q. You did have a social worker who was involved at that
7 time?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know how the social work came to be involved?

10 A. Er, how ... I think a neighbour phoned once when me and
11 my brother were making toast on the coal fire, because
12 we didn't have a cooker, our electricity and gas was cut
13 off, so we cooked our meals on a coal fire and she came
14 in one day when my mum was out on the street drinking,
15 and she seen us making toast and I think she called the
16 social work, but I am not 100 per cent sure, but
17 Ms Penders just appeared, like.

18 Q. This social worker was involved and would see you and
19 try and talk you into going to school?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I don't think that worked, did it?

22 A. No.

23 Q. As a result I think you tell us your dad would get
24 fines?

25 A. Yes, £50 at a time, yes.

1 Q. That would have been quite a lot of money at that time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Particularly for a family who didn't have much?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you say you were taken into care, essentially

6 because you wouldn't go to school --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and --

9 A. I refused point blank to go to school, because every

10 time I went I was fighting, I was getting bullied or

11 fighting, even the teachers like would bully us, and

12 I just wouldn't go. And I was very worried about my

13 mum, so I would just run home and be home before her,

14 like, she would try her best, she tied me to the pram

15 once took me to school, but I asked her to let me go as

16 we got to the gate and then ran home.

17 Q. I think all of that resulted in you having to, at some

18 point, go to a Children's Panel?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And this was for truancy?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So it wasn't for anything that you had done?

23 A. No, just for not going school.

24 Q. And the decision was made that you would go to

25 Larchgrove?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think originally that was supposed to be for
3 an assessment?

4 A. Yes, three-week assessment, 21-day assessment.

5 Q. Yes. But I think you tell us that was sort of extended?

6 A. Yes, extended to six weeks, because it was the maximum,
7 and then they let me out to go back to school, and then
8 like a week later they would send the police to arrest
9 me for not going to back to school, take me back to
10 Larchgrove. Then after six weeks they would release me
11 and then ...

12 I was there eight months, I think, on the whole.

13 Q. I think from what you tell us, there was a couple of
14 periods whilst you were at Larchgrove where they sort of
15 sent you back home as a trial period to see if you would
16 actually go to school?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But that ultimately that didn't work and you weren't
19 going to go?

20 A. No, I was never going back to school, no.

21 Q. So you ended up in Larchgrove for a lot longer?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You say overall about eight months or so?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', that you think you were

1 about, maybe, ten when you went to Larchgrove, but it
2 doesn't really matter about the dates, but I think we
3 have some records that say that you were maybe about 13
4 by the time we have seen the records of you being put on
5 the supervision requirement of being in Larchgrove, and
6 again that was for the truanting.

7 In relation to that, I think the application said
8 that since you had been enrolled in school in 1978 you
9 had only made 14 appearances, and this was now
10 January 1980. So we can see from that how few occasions
11 you actually went to school during that period.

12 So from the records we have, 'Iain', it looks as
13 though by the time you went to Larchgrove at this time,
14 in any event, you would have been about 13?

15 A. Yes, I would have to take your word for that.

16 Q. We won't worry about it too much. You think you were
17 a wee bit -- you think you were younger --

18 A. Yes, I do, yes, but you would know. You would know
19 better.

20 Q. You tell us about Larchgrove and your time there from
21 paragraphs 9 onwards in your statement. And I think you
22 say that first of all you went there, it was a big, it
23 was a place in its own grounds and it had a big wire
24 fence around it?

25 A. Yes, it had a big brick wall with wire on the top of it,

1 yes.

2 Q. It was a locked institution, you call it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So the front door was locked?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And the dorm rooms were locked at night?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And I think you tell us at paragraph 10 about your first

9 impressions of Larchgrove, and what you say there is

10 that you came from quite a rough and violent area, but

11 that didn't prepare you for Larchgrove?

12 A. No, no. No, it did not.

13 Q. I think you comment it was brutal, is that how you saw

14 it?

15 A. Yes, it was a bear pit, yes.

16 Q. You say that this was a real shock to the system when

17 you got there?

18 A. Yes, total, yes.

19 Q. Just when you arrived, I think you tell us at

20 paragraph 11 that there was a staff member, a PE teacher

21 who took you to the office of the person who was in

22 charge at the time --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and you sat outside there until you were called in?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you say that that staff member's name was
2 Mr ^{HHW} [REDACTED] ?
3 A. Yes, his father -- do you know what, I am not
4 100 per cent that was his name, but that was the name
5 I have in my head, is Mr ^{HHW} [REDACTED] .
6 Q. You give as you description of him, 'Iain' ...
7 A. Yes, he looked like a boxer, he had like kind of
8 collar-length hair with grey through it, like always
9 wore Adidas track bottoms, sporty gear, and he was into
10 boxing, he liked his boxing.
11 Q. I think you say he was quite a short man, as well,
12 between 5-foot 2 and --
13 A. Yes, he was about 5-foot 7, 5-foot 8.
14 Q. A wee bit taller.
15 I think you say you don't know or don't remember who
16 was in charge at Larchgrove when you were there, but you
17 do remember being in his office?
18 A. Yes, I remember being in his office and I remember him
19 being bald.
20 There was another member of staff there called
21 ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED] there, and I don't know, but I assumed they were
22 related, because -- I don't know if they were been
23 brothers, I might be wrong, but I just don't remember
24 who was in charge at all, because we didn't see much of
25 him. We seen the housemasters, but we didn't see who

1 ran the three houses.

2 Q. Yes.

3 You tell us that this social worker, I think you
4 name her Ms Penders, she was with you at this time, is
5 that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And she and this teacher, I think, you think was
8 ^{HHW} [REDACTED], came into the office with you, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You tell us then about what happened in that office, can
11 you describe that?

12 A. Well, when I first went into the office, like ...

13 Q. I think you say, 'Iain', that the man who was in charge,
14 this bald man, and ^{HHW} [REDACTED] were shouting at you, telling
15 you what you would be doing the next day, and that you
16 said something silly to them, maybe said a swear word?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Told them to fuck off, or something like that?

19 A. Yes, I did, yes.

20 Q. Then the one in charge said to you, 'Take that paper and
21 read it' and then as you bent over to look at the paper
22 you say that this teacher, Mr ^{HHW} [REDACTED] --

23 A. Yes, he smacked my head off a chair and said, 'Never
24 bend down in here, boy.' Off the table, sorry.

25 Q. So he smacked your head off the table and said to you

1 never bend down in here?

2 A. Yes, as I said something, he took the back of my head
3 and banged it off the table and says, 'Never bend down
4 in here, boy'.

5 Q. Did anyone say anything when that happened?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What about Ms Penders, the social worker?

8 A. No, which shocked me, because she was a really nice
9 lady.

10 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', at the end of paragraph 12
11 there, that that is when reality hit and you knew it was
12 going to be difficult in there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think you go on to tell us you were taken for a shower
15 by ^{HHW} [REDACTED], and I think this other staff member you have
16 already mentioned, is it ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED]?

17 A. Yes, his name was pronounced '^{ZLTE} [REDACTED]', actually, but
18 I later found out later it was ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]. I didn't connect the name,
20 because they pronounced it '^{ZLTE} [REDACTED]', and [REDACTED], we
21 called him '^{ZLTE} [REDACTED]'.

22 Q. Okay, so you later found out how his name was written,
23 if you like, because that's why you were, whilst you
24 were still a child, is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You saw him later on?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And we might come to that.

4 At that time I think you tell us what his position

5 was there, and I think you say he was a housemaster?

6 A. Yes, housemaster, Jackson House.

7 Q. That was the house you were put it in to?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You think he was maybe -- he could have been SNR [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] of Larchgrove?

11 A. He could have been a lot more, because he went about the

12 three houses and he kind of walked about with more

13 authority than most.

14 Q. You describe him a bit as well at paragraph 13, and you

15 say that he wore a suit and was always immaculately

16 dressed?

17 A. Yes, like a sergeant major, like a proper grey

18 moustache, a little grey moustache, and I have

19 photographs of him.

20 Q. I think we can come to that a bit later as to why you

21 have a photograph of him. I think you say, though, you

22 think he had a brother that also worked there, but you

23 are not sure?

24 A. Yes, I am not sure, I am not sure if that was the man

25 [REDACTED].

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I am not sure.

3 Q. When you say the man ^{SNR} [REDACTED], is that the
4 bald headed man you are talking about?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. You don't know if they were brothers?

7 A. Yes, because they were always together, talking a lot,
8 joking, laughing, and I don't know where I have the
9 memory, but I have that memory he was his brother.

10 Q. I think you comment, though, that you remember the
11 brother, if he was the brother, being nice?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. Is that --

14 A. Yes, never, ever did that man do anything bad or say
15 anything bad, or anything, bar sit there when that
16 happened, that was the only ...

17 Q. He was there when your head was smacked off the desk?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us, 'Iain', that when you were taken to go to
20 the showers, that you had to stand there in the showers
21 naked, is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Then some gel's put on you?

24 A. Yes, it was like -- it was in big tubs and it was white
25 and they took a brush, brushed it on you, and then used,

1 like, I don't know if you know, the ablutions, they were
2 called, when you did the toilets you had a squeegee and
3 you had a deck brush to scrub the floor and then you had
4 a squeegee that dried the floor, so they would use the
5 deck brush to scrub this white stuff on you, which was
6 really painful, because it stung, it had some sort of
7 chemical in it that stung your skin, like, you know.

8 Q. This is whilst you are in the shower, you are naked and
9 you are describing being scrubbed with a deck brush --

10 A. Yes, the shower isn't turned on though, you are just
11 standing there naked.

12 Q. And they are scrubbing this stuff on you that is nippy?

13 A. Burning my eyes and everything, yes, stinging where the
14 brush scratched me, yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me, 'Iain', the sort of brush
16 they were using is what in the old days that I remember
17 people might have used for scrubbing a floor?

18 A. Yes, that's what it is for. If you were put on to clean
19 ablutions you used that, aye, clean the floor and then
20 use the squeegee to put the water down the drains.

21 LADY SMITH: Really tough bristles.

22 A. Yes, very tough bristles, yes, like a scrubbing brush,
23 yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS FORBES: Who was doing this to you?

1 A. Mr ^{HHW} [REDACTED].

2 Q. Was there anyone else there at that time?

3 A. Mr ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED].

4 Q. There were the two of them, but it was Mr ^{HHW} [REDACTED] that

5 was doing the scrubbing?

6 A. Doing the scrubbing, yes, ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED] was throwing the white

7 stuff on us, like splattering it on us, and he was

8 scrubbing it.

9 Q. How did that feel when that was happening?

10 A. Agony.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But I was so terrified of the culture change that,

13 I don't know, it is hard to explain. You stand and take

14 it, don't you, like.

15 Q. Did ^{HHW} [REDACTED] do anything else with the brush, apart from

16 scrub you?

17 A. Just give you a poke at your genitals, a poke in the

18 knee, a poke in the neck or that, and just scream at

19 you, 'Stand still, don't move, turn around', and then he

20 would do your back, your buttocks, the back of your

21 legs, and make you stand with your hand on the wall,

22 'Put your other feet up', scrub the bottom of your feet,

23 and your other feet, scrub that, like

24 Q. I think you say, 'Iain', that there was one point that

25 ^{HHW} [REDACTED] turned the brush round so the side that's not

1 got the bristles on it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And cracked it off the top of your head?

4 A. Yes, yes, not only the head, the shoulder, your back,

5 buttocks, it was never with the brush, but he always

6 flipped it and used the wooden bit, like, same if you

7 were cleaning the toilets and you hadn't done it

8 properly, he would pick it up and turn it round, and he

9 would give you a crack, like.

10 Q. Do you know why he was doing that?

11 A. Sorry, I don't know what to say, he was just an animal,

12 like.

13 LADY SMITH: Going back to the brush, that was the side of

14 the brush that was a flat, but quite thick, piece of

15 wood?

16 A. Yes, little bristles, but really, really thick, kind of

17 like for scrubbing like marbly floor, kind of thing.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS FORBES: I think you say, 'Iain', there was stuff put on

20 you for, you think for lice, is that right --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- on your head? But there was also this other stuff,

23 which was like painting you with a white emulsion?

24 A. Yes, it was like a white emulsion, I don't know, why and

25 they gave me a big tub of orange juice, which I found

1 strange, the other boys wanted that, but they gave me
2 a big gallon of orange juice, told me I had to drink it
3 all the time, and they painted this white stuff all over
4 me, and then laughed because they wouldn't put the
5 shower on to wash it off.

6 Madness.

7 Q. The white emulsion, had you ever heard of anything like
8 scabies, or anything like that, could it be to try to
9 prevent that?

10 A. I could have had scabies, even, like.

11 Q. Yes, because I think you tell us, 'Iain', at
12 paragraph 15 that before they painted you, that a nurse
13 came in and had a look at your body?

14 A. Yes, she had a look in between my fingers, in between my
15 toes, under my armpits, around my wrists, and stuff like
16 that. And then I was sent with them two into the
17 toilets.

18 Q. Then after that, that's when you get the white emulsion
19 on?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you say after the nurse came, that they all
22 started laughing before they brought the big bucket of
23 emulsion in?

24 A. Yes, they found it hilarious, painting somebody white.
25 Which I find it quite funny myself, sorry. When I think

1 of myself standing there, painted white, sorry. Why
2 would you allow someone to do that? I just don't know.

3 Q. Were you told that you had to keep that stuff on you
4 overnight --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- and then wash it off the next day?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then you say, 'Iain', that after you were taken down, is
9 that down from the level that you were on for where the
10 showers were?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And issued with some clothes, which was a sort of
13 uniform?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that the same sort of thing that everyone had to wear
16 in there?

17 A. Yes, they were different for each house, like Larchgrove
18 had a yellow circle round the neck, Bute had a sky blue,
19 and Arran had a red, like.

20 Q. So was it Jackson that you were in, did you say?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Jackson, was that something like a green jumper with
23 yellow?

24 A. Yes, yellow round the neck.

25 Q. Is that how, when you were in Larchgrove, you could tell

1 which boy was in which house?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think you tell us after that you were taken to the

4 dorm and introduced to other boys, and you tell us

5 a little bit about the layout there, the dorm, that

6 there was about 22 single beds, and there was a little

7 locker at the side of your bed to keep your stuff in?

8 A. Yes, and a Gideon Bible, yes.

9 Q. The Gideon Bible is the one that you had there; is that

10 right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us there was about 14 to 22 boys in that dorm,

13 and you think that other houses had had probably similar

14 numbers?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It was just boys?

17 A. Yes, just boys, yes.

18 Q. You tell us, then, 'Iain', you go on to tell us a bit

19 about the routine when you were in Larchgrove, and you

20 say that you got up in the morning about 7.30 am, is

21 that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You would do some exercises?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. One of the issues that would happen in the morning,

1 though, is that some of the kids might have wet the bed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That was something you, when you first went in, had

4 a problem with?

5 A. Yes, for the first month or so.

6 Q. Yes. How was that dealt with by ^{ZLTE} and ^{HHW}?

7 A. It was humiliating, actually, because you are just there

8 and you don't know any of the lads, and you know you

9 have wet the bed, you wake up and, you know you have wet

10 it, and then they come into wake you up, and they would

11 rip the blanket off, see that you had wet the bed and

12 then the sheet would go over your head or sometimes they

13 would whip you with the sheet, but what I hated most was

14 when they held it over your head and held it and you had

15 to breath it in, like, your own kind of urine.

16 Q. Who would do that to you?

17 A. Mr ^{ZLTE}.

18 Q. What about ^{HHW}?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So both of them?

21 A. He was more like he would whip you with it. ^{HHW} was

22 like sadistic. ^{ZLTE} was cruel, but not as sadistic as

23 ^{HHW}. ^{HHW} would tie it in knots and beat you

24 with it, or if you were in PE and had wet the bed, we

25 had PE, like the old gyms when you pulled the thing out

1 of the wall and the ropes fell, he would tie the ropes
2 and he would beat you with that. And then you would be
3 called 'piss the bed' all day, or whatever.

4 Q. Who would it be that called you that?

5 A. All of the staff, any of the staff could call you that,
6 like.

7 Q. I think you also say, 'Iain', that you could be grabbed
8 by the ankles and dragged into the shower?

9 A. Yes, right along the hall, yes, very painful, yes.

10 Q. One of the problems was that the mattresses there were
11 quite thin?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. So that if had you wet the bed it would end up in
14 a puddle?

15 A. Yes, a puddle under your bed, yes.

16 Q. I think you say you did get clean sheets if you had wet
17 the bed, but the boys there had to do the laundry?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. Okay. I think you say that after this morning sort of
20 routine and exercises you would get your breakfast and
21 then you would get given a cigarette out of a biscuit
22 tin?

23 A. Yes, I never smoked until I went to Larchgrove, but it
24 was the social worker who bought me 40 Benson & Hedges
25 and says, 'You will need these'. So I just took them

1 and then every morning, like after the breakfast, you
2 would be taken into the front of the room and you would
3 sit there and you would have a biscuit tin and every
4 cigarette packet had the name on it and he would open it
5 and give you your cigarette, and you had so long to
6 smoke it, by the time he walked round with a can to put
7 it back out again. Depending on what mood he was in,
8 you would maybe get a couple of puffs in and you would
9 have to put it out, or if he was in a good mood he would
10 let you finish the whole cigarette. Else he just
11 whacked the tin off your head if you said something
12 cheeky.

13 Q. This was, Ms Penders, was it, the social worker, who
14 bought you your first packet of cigarettes?

15 A. Yes, 40 Benson & Hedges, yes.

16 Q. Was that on the way to Larchgrove?

17 A. That was on the way to Larchgrove -- no, that was the
18 first visit, I went in a van from the Children's Panel
19 they took me in a grey van, a big six-foot man, he
20 terrified me.

21 Q. It wasn't something you had done before you got to
22 Larchgrove --

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. -- but it was something you took up once you got there?

25 A. I couldn't afford to smoke.

1 Q. I think you say that then after that you would go to
2 your cleaning duties, and as you have kind of mentioned
3 already, the ablutions were something that you would --
4 A. Yes, I was always on ablutions all the time, yes.
5 Q. But you would also sometimes have to clean the hall?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. I think you tell us they were quite fussy about the hall
8 and how it was cleaned?
9 A. Yes, very fussy, yes.
10 Q. And if there was a punishment you had to clean the tiles
11 with a toothbrush?
12 A. Yes, a magic square, yes.
13 Q. I think what you tell us is that the cleaning really in
14 Larchgrove, looking after the place, was done by the
15 boys?
16 A. Oh yes, yes, it was kept in mint condition by the lads,
17 yes.
18 LADY SMITH: 'Iain', tell me what you meant when you said in
19 relation to cleaning tiles with a toothbrush, that, yes,
20 it was a magic square.
21 A. The magic square is a square in the hall, like, and if
22 you had done something bad you were gave either the head
23 of a deck brush or a toothbrush and made to scrub that
24 tile and it had been scrubbed that much it had a bevel,
25 very similar to Glenochil, Glenochil had the same sort

1 of practice, as well.

2 LADY SMITH: How big was it, do you remember?

3 A. About 12 by 12 inches.

4 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

5 A. And there was a brass -- like, grout, it was brass that

6 was in between them all.

7 LADY SMITH: I have the picture. That's very helpful.

8 MS FORBES: 'Tain', I think you say that's what you remember

9 most about the day and what you did during the day there

10 was just cleaning.

11 A. Yes, yes, clean, clean, yes.

12 Q. That sometimes though you could get extra cleaning

13 duties or cigarettes taken away as punishment?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. I think you say that most of the punishments were more

16 than that; is that right?

17 A. (Nods)

18 Q. And they involved violence?

19 A. Yes, loads of violence, yes.

20 Q. Just continuing on just now, a little bit more about the

21 routine, before we go further.

22 I think you say that there would be a stop for

23 lunch, go back to cleaning duties, and then you would

24 have dinner, and you also got some supper, and then you

25 would be in bed for 8 o'clock and then it would be

1 lights out?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think, 'Iain', you say you don't remember any
4 schooling once you were in Larchgrove?

5 A. No, none at all.

6 Q. You don't remember receiving any education whatsoever?

7 A. No.

8 Q. The only thing you can remember is PE?

9 A. Yes, boxing, that was it, yes.

10 Q. I think you talk about some monthly Bible classes?

11 A. Yes there was an old minister or priest, I think he was
12 a Protestant, Church of England minister, actually, he
13 would come and give us Bible studies, like the Gideon
14 Bible, so we would have to read the Bible to answer the
15 questions, kind of thing.

16 Q. The irony is that you were in Larchgrove because you
17 weren't going to school?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But when you were in Larchgrove you didn't get any
20 schooling?

21 A. No.

22 Q. I think you say that there was, in relation to leisure
23 time, really there was a rec room with a TV, but it
24 didn't get used a lot?

25 A. No, it didn't.

1 Q. And you were really only allowed to watch TV for about
2 an hour?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The only book you had access to was this Gideon Bible we
5 have talked about?

6 A. The Gideon Bible, yes.

7 Q. There was no other books in there?

8 A. Not that I can recall.

9 Q. I think you mentioned PE, and you say at paragraph 26,
10 'Iain', that you did a lot in the gym, there was also
11 football --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- against the other houses?

14 A. Yes, against the other house and there was a care home
15 next to it called St John's and we would play them at
16 football sometimes.

17 Q. Was that St John Bosco's?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Was it across the road or next door to it?

20 A. It was in the same gate, you came in the same gate, you
21 went left to Larchgrove, you went right to St John's --

22 LADY SMITH: Okay.

23 A. -- but you came down the same main gate to get to both.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

25 MS FORBES: I think you tell us there was some boys who got

1 to play football outside but you never did; is that
2 right?

3 A. No.

4 Q. There was also some mini orienteering in the forest
5 grounds --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- but you had to build up a level of trust before you
8 were allowed to do that?

9 A. Yes, I eventually got that just before I got my List D
10 School, I enjoyed that, yes.

11 Q. Although, as you have described, this was a locked
12 institution, within Jackson House you could move around
13 during the day --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- but you couldn't go into the other houses, Bute or
16 Arran, freely?

17 A. You could not get into them at all, like you couldn't
18 get out of Arran once you were in the door and it was
19 locked up, that it was it, you were in there.

20 Q. I think you then go on to say you got perks if you fell
21 into line. What do you mean by 'perks'?

22 A. Extra cigs and extra dessert, and like put on helping
23 the kitchen staff, stuff like that, like there was
24 certain lads that always got that, I don't know, why
25 they were favourites.

1 Q. When you say fell into line, what do you mean by that?
2 Can you --

3 A. Just done what they told you, no matter what it was,
4 without complaint, like.

5 Q. I think you say that you were never taken out on any
6 trips, or out to the movies, anything like that?

7 A. No, no, I wasn't allowed to do that in Larchgrove.

8 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 29 that there were some
9 boys who seemed to get privileges?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you give us a view as to why you think that was?

12 A. I have my views, I don't know if they are true. I can
13 only give my views, but I think that they were giving
14 sexual favours to Mr ^{H-H-W} [REDACTED], really, because he was
15 a paedophile.

16 Q. You think that some of the boys who were getting
17 privileges were being sexually abused in there?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. You have named the member of staff that you think might
20 have been involved in that?

21 A. Yes, I know he was involved in it, yes, but I don't know
22 if he was involved in it to give the privileges. But
23 I know he was involved in sexual assault and ...

24 Q. I think you say you knew who the boys were?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you talk about some boys having apples and
2 oranges, you always thought that they were the ones?

3 A. Yes, you knew, when they were out, got took out the dorm
4 at night, then the difference was we would get taken
5 out, we didn't come back with apples and oranges, we
6 would come back with black eyes. When they would get
7 took out at night, they would come back with an apple
8 and an orange, and a sad face.

9 Q. You say that your mum came to visit you once when you
10 were at Larchgrove?

11 A. Yes, only once, yes, she bring me up a pair of training
12 shoes, yes.

13 Q. I think you say that you think that she had quite a lot
14 on her plate?

15 A. Yes, she did, yes.

16 Q. After a while you tell us that you got home for visits;
17 is that right?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. As we have said earlier, there was this sort of trial
20 period a couple of times when you got to go home to see
21 if you would go to school --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- but that didn't work out and you came back again.
24 When you were home, you weren't committing any
25 offences, or anything like that?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. It was just the fact that you weren't going to school
3 that meant you were coming back to Larchgrove?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', that you got home first for
6 once a month and then you got every second weekend?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then just before you moved to Loaningdale you were going
9 home every weekend?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think this is at paragraph 32, I think you say that
12 there came a time before you went to Loaningdale where
13 you accepted that you had better start, the way you have
14 put it is 'screwing the nut', or you would just end up
15 getting beat up forever?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Apart from your mum visiting you, I think you say this
18 social worker, Ms Penders, would come to see you quite
19 regularly?

20 A. Quite regularly, yes, every two weeks, something like
21 that.

22 Q. That she was nice, but she was a bit naive?

23 A. Very naive, but a very nice lady, yes.

24 Q. And she was allowed to take you out in her car?

25 A. Yes, she had a little ... a wee mini, yes, she took us

1 out, yes.

2 Q. Then what would happen when she would stop at the
3 lights?

4 A. I ran away, I just opened my door and run. Which was
5 a shame, it wasn't right.

6 Q. Were you picked up then after and brought back?

7 A. Yes, yes, the police would come straight to the house
8 and get me, take me straight back, yes.

9 Q. When you ran away would you just go home?

10 A. Straight home, yes.

11 Q. You tell us, 'Iain', that you remember there was a few
12 people who came in from the outside, at one time, and
13 asked the boys questions about the staff?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That one of the people who was asking those questions
16 was a minister?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That was about a month or two after you went in?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If we are sort of going by the dates and the records
21 that we have here it might have been at some point early
22 1980 that would have happened?

23 A. Yes, if you say so, yes.

24 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', you don't know why they
25 were carrying out any inquiry?

1 A. No, we were never told, they just came in and asked us
2 how it was, what the staff was like, but we were told
3 before, the night before they came, just to keep our
4 mouth shut, like. If anybody told anything about boxing
5 matches, or the other kids, or the punishment for
6 wetting the bed, then they would be in trouble after
7 they left, like.

8 Q. Who was it that said that to you?

9 A. Mr ^{ALTE} [REDACTED].

10 Q. Okay. I think you say after speaking to some of the
11 boys who were asked questions by these outside visitors
12 that as far as you were concerned you thought they told
13 them what was going on?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. But you don't know if they were spoken to, I think you
16 say, in front of staff, or if they were spoken to on
17 their own?

18 A. No, no, I don't know.

19 Q. As far as you are concerned nothing changed as a result?

20 A. Nothing changed at all, and I don't think it was in
21 front of staff, because the two lads, they were twins,
22 and they would have got in trouble, and I would have
23 known about that, like.

24 Q. These were two boys you were very close to during this
25 time?

1 A. Yes, they were good friends, yes.

2 Q. Then later in Loaningdale, is that right?

3 A. Yes, they came to Loaningdale, yes, when I was in as
4 well, yes.

5 Q. I think you are talking about running away,
6 paragraph 35, you said that you managed to do that
7 a couple of times and the police would take you back
8 from your mum's, and that there were a couple of times
9 that you refused it go home after your leave?

10 A. Yes, yes, in Loaningdale, yes.

11 Q. Was that in Loaningdale? Was that later?

12 A. Yes, Larchgrove I always wanted out, Loaningdale I would
13 do things to stay, because they took you to the cinema.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And my mum had just had another baby, so she had enough
16 to cope with, she didn't need -- plus she had already
17 taken someone in off the street and gave them my bed, so
18 when I came home I had to sleep on the floor.

19 She was always taking other kids in that had run
20 away from a carer, just homeless, like so she would
21 always bring them in, give them a bath, give them
22 somewhere to sleep. That's my mum.

23 Q. That was when you were in Loaningdale you didn't want to
24 go home at the weekend; is that right?

25 A. Some weekends, depending on what movie we were getting

1 taken to see.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Like if it was a good movie, then we would put sugar in

4 the petrol tank of the van, like.

5 Q. Yes, I think you tell us about that later, that the

6 sugar in the petrol tank meant that nobody got to go

7 home that weekend?

8 A. No, it was quite sad.

9 Q. But this time when you were in Larchgrove, I think you

10 say at paragraph 35, 'Iain', there were a few times when

11 you went home then you didn't really want to go back to

12 Larchgrove, is that right, is that how you remember it?

13 A. Oh, when I went home I didn't want to go back there?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. Every time, every time.

16 I had it the wrong way round, sorry.

17 Q. As a result I think you say your dad would just phone

18 Larchgrove?

19 A. To come and get me, yes.

20 Q. And it would be HHW that would come and get you to

21 take you back?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think you described that he was nice in front of your

24 parents --

25 A. Yes, very nice.

1 Q. -- but was it a different story after he got you in the
2 van?

3 A. As soon as you get in the car, the van, whatever he came
4 in, then everything was a slap on the back of the nut,
5 like, and then called ...

6 Q. I think this is where you tell us a bit more about some
7 of the abuse that happened when you were at Larchgrove.
8 First of all I am just going to talk to you about
9 the physical abuse that you tell us about. At
10 paragraph 36 I think you say that at that time back then
11 it was the sort of the norm for kids to get a slap and,
12 as you put it, a kick up the arse?

13 A. Yes, it was, wasn't it, it was normal. For me it was,
14 because my dad always done it. My mum done it, so it
15 was normal to get a slap if you had done something
16 wrong.

17 Q. So for you that was a sort of norm --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- but I think you comment that that was not what was
20 happening at Larchgrove?

21 A. Yes, there is a difference from a slap and a punch, and
22 a kick and a stamp, a big difference.

23 Q. I think you say violence was inflicted daily and was
24 extreme at times?

25 A. It just could come at any moment, you could be walking

1 back from the rec room and could be walking by in the
2 hall and he would just rabbit punch you in the side of
3 the head as you were walking by, just thought it funny,
4 I think.

5 Q. You say that it was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were the ones
6 who would hit you all the time?

7 A. Yes, they just hated me, I don't know what it was.

8 Q. It wasn't just you, you saw it happening to other boys
9 as well?

10 A. Yes, I seen it happening, I seen [REDACTED], especially,
11 with other boys. [REDACTED] I didn't see so much except
12 boxing, he sometimes got carried away at boxing, but
13 [REDACTED] was just an animal, like an animal of a man.

14 Q. I think you say that about [REDACTED], the way you have
15 described him, at paragraph 37, 'Iain', is that he was
16 a violent sadistic sick and twisted guy who wasn't right
17 in the head?

18 A. Yes, they all were. I don't think there was any member
19 of staff there that wasn't a bit sick and twisted,
20 because how could you treat children like that and be
21 normal? Like, especially children from bad backgrounds.

22 Q. The things you talk about there, you have mentioned some
23 of them already, you would get a slap on the back of the
24 head, a punch in the face?

25 A. Yes, that was normal, yes.

1 Q. Kicked on the back of the legs?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Put into a headlock?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That could be for small things, like not brushing the
6 floor in the TV room?

7 A. Yes, or not washing your toothbrush, if there was any
8 toothpaste in your toothbrush that was a bad sign, aye.

9 Q. You say that ^{HHW} had a kind of favourite thing that
10 he liked to do and that was to come up behind you
11 quietly --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and then he would kick you behind your knees?

14 A. Behind the knees and your leg would just go and your
15 knee would go, or he would use his knee and knee you
16 behind the knees, as you were walking and your legs
17 would fold and down would you go. He would find that
18 hilarious.

19 Q. So he would find that funny?

20 A. Yes, hilarious, like not just funny, he would laugh all
21 of the way down the hall, like.

22 Q. You have told us about the biscuit tin that had
23 cigarettes, and if you stepped out of line during that
24 time that you would get hit over the head with it?

25 A. Yes, there were a few dents in that from my head, yes.

1 Q. You say, 'Iain', at paragraph 38, the way you put it is:
2 'I wouldn't say that we all sat there terrified,
3 some of us rose to the occasion.'
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. What do you mean by that?
6 A. Like ██████████ and two other lads, I don't want to name
7 them, would not stand for it, and there was another lad
8 from Edinburgh who wouldn't stand for it, and they would
9 just attack.
10 Q. Okay.
11 A. That is what kind of built my courage through this time,
12 like, plus the boxing, as well.
13 Q. So there was a few boys there, the twins that you have
14 mentioned and another boy, who would stand up to the
15 staff if things like that happened?
16 A. Yes, they were extremely violent for their age, yes.
17 Q. Were they sort of a similar age as you, or were they
18 older?
19 A. I think they were around about the same age. Maybe
20 a bit older. Maybe, if anything, a year older, like,
21 they were twins.
22 Q. You also tell us, 'Iain', at this part of your statement
23 about ^{HHW} ██████████ coming in when you were having showers, so
24 apart from this first day when you had this stuff put on
25 you, on your head and painted on your body, that

1 Mr [REDACTED] would come in when you were having showers
2 and that he would put the white gel that they used for
3 head lice, but he would put it not on your head, he
4 would put it somewhere else?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Where was that? On your genitals?

7 A. On your genitals, groin, and it stung like mad, and he
8 found that hilarious, because it was really, really
9 stingy for a kid.

10 Q. I think you say he would slap it on hard, so he is the
11 one that is putting that onto your genitals?

12 A. Yes, he would grab a scoop and scud it off you, like, a
13 splatter.

14 Q. Then you go on to talk about what would happen in the
15 gym, and I think this is what you mentioned before,
16 'Iain', about [REDACTED], and getting you to fight other
17 boys?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is this the boxing?

20 A. Yes, the night staff, yes.

21 Q. You describe the gym, 'Iain', at paragraph 40 and you
22 say it is this old-fashioned type gym with a climbing
23 frame and these big thick climbing ropes?

24 A. Yes, they pulled it out the wall, the climbing frame and
25 there were two big ropes so when you pulled the two out

1 they were like climbing frames, so they would use that
2 as a makeshift ring to box in.

3 Q. Were you made to take part in the boxing?

4 A. Yes, most times, yes.

5 Q. Who would you be made to fight?

6 A. ██████, always ██████

7 Q. Was he an older boy?

8 A. Yes, he was like a year older, two years older.

9 Q. You think he was how much older, did you say?

10 A. A year or two, I would think.

11 Q. Apart from ██████^{ZLTE} I think you tell us ██████^{HHW} was
12 involved in that as well?

13 A. Yes, and other men, I don't know who they were, they
14 were night staff, watchmen, the people who came in at
15 night to watch the grounds, so they would sit there with
16 half bottles of whisky and quarter bottles of vodka, and
17 stuff, and cigarettes, and make us box, tell us what to
18 do, how to hit harder. Usually he is getting told to
19 stamp on your head if you went down, then you were sent
20 back to bed.

21 Q. This was at night time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was it after people were supposed to be in bed, or was
24 it before that?

25 A. Well after, like 10 o'clock, 10.30.

1 Q. You are describing people being there with alcohol --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- to watch?

4 A. Always, always.

5 Q. Were there people there who weren't staff, as far as you

6 were --

7 A. People there -- they obviously worked in the place, but

8 they weren't, I never seen them as staff --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- like.

11 Q. Was there anyone from outside or anything that came in?

12 A. They could have been from outside, because there could

13 be four, five, six of them there and the only two I knew

14 were ^{zLTE} [REDACTED] and ^{HHW} [REDACTED].

15 Q. So was this sort of like spectators to some sort of

16 unofficial boxing match?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. If you didn't fight, what would happen?

19 A. You just got beat. If you didn't then [REDACTED] would just

20 beat you and beat you until you fought back, like that's

21 what happened to me, I got beat the first few times,

22 until I lost my temper and fought back and then they

23 became more regular.

24 Q. I think you said, 'Iain', you could fight this older boy

25 by one point for a full ten minutes, which was a long

1 time?

2 A. Yes, it was a very long time in the ring to fight

3 non-stop.

4 Q. Sometimes ^{ZLTE} ██████████ split it into rounds --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- but other times it would be --

7 A. It would just go to the death, yes.

8 Q. What was that, 'to the death'?

9 A. I don't think he meant killing, until one's out,

10 normally out of here.

11 Q. Did that mean until somebody gave up?

12 A. Yes, until somebody was knocked out, like.

13 Q. If during the course of one of these matches you would

14 be getting the better of the other boy, what would

15 happen to you?

16 A. I would get grabbed by the scruff and dragged off him

17 and threw back to my corner and he was allowed back onto

18 his feet and then it would start again.

19 Q. Did any of the staff assault you when that was

20 happening?

21 A. Yes, I had ^{HHW} ██████████ stick a boot in when I was on top of

22 ██████████, like, because if you put someone down, you were

23 allowed to get on top and give them a bit. So I ended

24 up, through the month, got the better of him, and then

25 I started to beat him most times, and then that would

1 annoy Mr. ^{HHW} [REDACTED] and Mr. ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED], so every now and again
2 one would jump in the ring and stick the boot in the
3 ribs to get you off and drag you apart and then he would
4 give [REDACTED] a towel with a knot, madness, to help him to
5 beat me up again.

6 Q. There wasn't really anyway to win, because if you were
7 doing better then you would be assaulted by the staff?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', that sometimes you would be
10 smacked with the climbing ropes by ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED] ?

11 A. Yes, a lot, yes.

12 Q. Or you would be grabbed by the ankles and dragged across
13 the floor?

14 A. Yes, like, painful.

15 Q. That's so that your opponent could then get the better
16 of you again?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you also say that they would be cheering them
19 on?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So cheering your opponent on?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you remember what they would be saying?

24 A. Just 'beat the shit out of him', like -- sorry,
25 I apologise.

1 Q. No, no, you can say that.

2 A. Just 'Stamp on his head, beat the shit out of him, he
3 has pissed the bed, he is a little tramp', and the usual
4 stuff.

5 Q. So demeaning things would be said to you while that was
6 going on?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would be shouted out?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you say if your opponent, you mentioned if he
11 won, he got a prize?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What was that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Sorry?

16 A. Yes, he always got something, yes.

17 Q. What was the prize?

18 A. Is it could be all sorts of things, apples, orange,
19 sometimes he would get a drink, actually.

20 Q. A drink of alcohol?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And extra cigarettes.

24 LADY SMITH: What alcoholic drink were you given?

25 A. Whisky.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 A. They were only little bottles though. I remember the
3 bottles being small, because that's what sticks in my
4 mind, so they were either miniatures or quarter bottles
5 that they drank back then. But they were small bottles
6 but they would have a lot of them.

7 Q. There were times when you won and received the prize?

8 A. Yes, loads of times, yes.

9 Q. Okay. But I think apart from that, 'Iain', you tell us
10 that there was something more sinister that would happen
11 to some of the boys who won the fights?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What was that?

14 A. In what way?

15 Q. I think you say --

16 A. There was a lot sinister ...

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Can I read this?

19 Q. Of course, of course you can.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes, that's what it's there for, 'Iain', do
21 feel free. Take your time.

22 A. Yes, I remember that, yes.

23 MS FORBES: Some of the boys who won the fights, something
24 else would happen to them --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- apart from being given a prize, and what was that?

2 A. Yes, that was Mr ^{HHW} would take them back to his

3 little office thing and then they would get their apples

4 and oranges, like.

5 Q. What was your understanding of what was happening to

6 those boys?

7 A. At first there was rumours all about the dorm that what

8 was happening, and then one day I was walking by

9 ^{HHW}'s office, and there was boy from Irvine, I don't

10 know if I should say his name, ^{HHW}, anyway, and he

11 was, there was an apple and an orange on the desk and he

12 was on his knees and Mr ^{HHW} had his jogging bottoms

13 to his knees and ^{HHW} was down on his knees, so he was

14 obviously performing oral sex on him, doing something

15 like that.

16 Q. This is one of the boys -- I think you talk about him

17 a bit in your statement, because he ended up in

18 Loaningdale later on as well?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. And one occasion --

21 A. A very vulnerable lad, yes.

22 Q. A vulnerable boy?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You saw him on one occasion as you were walking past

25 ^{HHW}'s office?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You say he was performing oral sex on --

3 A. I didn't see him actually giving oral sex, but he had
4 his underpants and his thingies down and [REDACTED] was down
5 there on his knees.

6 Q. So that's the impression you formed what from what you
7 saw?

8 A. 100 per cent, yes.

9 Q. I think you also say, 'Iain', that sometimes after
10 somebody won the fight, everyone would be sent out and
11 the winner would be left with ^{HHW}[REDACTED], ^{ZLTE}[REDACTED] and the
12 others, who were there to watch?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But that wasn't something that happened to you?

15 A. No, no, [REDACTED] was usually always the one that sat in
16 there with them after it, like. He was, like,
17 a co-conspirator.

18 Q. Do you know what was happening after you left?

19 A. There was rumours of what was happening, like. That him
20 and ^{HHW}[REDACTED] was sexually abusing [REDACTED] and this other
21 lad, [REDACTED]. Whether the rumours were true,
22 I would say they were, 100 per cent, because I know
23 Mr ^{HHW}[REDACTED].

24 Q. Okay. I think you say that one of the boys used to come
25 back sometimes with injuries and tell you stories?

1 A. Aye, yes, yes.

2 Q. That's one of the twins, was it?

3 A. Yes, [REDACTED]. Yes, that's when he told [REDACTED], 'If I don't

4 break you one way, I will break you the other way'.

5 Q. Who said that?

6 A. [REDACTED].

7 Q. [REDACTED] had said that to one of the twins?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So if I don't break you one way I will break you the

10 other way?

11 A. The other, yes.

12 Q. What did you take that to mean?

13 A. That he would sexually assault him.

14 Q. So if he didn't break him by the boxing he was going to

15 break him by --

16 A. He would never have broken him by the boxing and I don't

17 think he would ever have been able to sexually assault

18 him without getting severely injured, because [REDACTED] was

19 an extremely dangerous lad.

20 Q. Because, like you say, [REDACTED] was one of the boys who

21 fought back?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', that it is hard to remember

24 how often the kind of boxing and the fights in the gym

25 happened, but it was a regular occurrence as far as you

1 can remember?

2 A. Yes, yes. It depends if you got woken up. If you had
3 done something really annoying, like you would get woke
4 up and dragged in at the beginning, and then once they
5 had seen that you could develop and start to fight, then
6 it became more often, like. [REDACTED] was the best fighter,
7 that's why he was always there, all the time. Until we
8 got a bit older, and then [REDACTED] came to Loaningdale, and
9 it was a totally different story there.

10 Q. Okay.

11 You alluded to this earlier, 'Iain', that you said
12 there was a time when you became aware that of how
13 [REDACTED] zLTE's name was spelled --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and that was because you were at home one weekend, is
16 that right, to be an usher at [REDACTED] wedding?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And [REDACTED] zLTE was one of the guests there?

19 A. Yes, I was totally shocked, yes, I was the usher, and
20 when the bride and groom came in, I would say bride to
21 the left, groom to the right, and then I turned round
22 and he was standing right there in front of me, and
23 I was devastated. I was devastated. Because he knew
24 that I was getting out for that, and never even
25 mentioned that he was coming or that he knew [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] or anything like that.

2 So I told [REDACTED], actually, at that, I said to [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED], that's the guy that strangled me, because he choked
4 me one day and I had big thumb marks on my neck and [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] told me, says to me, 'Shut your fucking mouth, this
6 is [REDACTED] day'.

7 Q. I think you tell us that you had to spend [REDACTED]
8 wedding watching him dancing [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]?

10 A. Yes, I have photographs, yes, yes.

11 Q. Did he speak to you during the course of --

12 A. Just sniggered the whole way, sniggered the whole way,
13 and I took a photo of him dancing [REDACTED], asked [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] for a camera, took a photo, and then when he came
15 over to the booth, as he brushed by me, he said, 'You
16 keep your fucking mouth shut'.

17 Q. Did he say if you didn't keep your mouth shut you would
18 get it when you got back?

19 A. 'I will see you when you get back', yes.

20 The first night back I was picked into boxing again.

21 Q. The first night back you are summoned back to the gym to
22 fight again?

23 A. Yes, and he faded away from me after that, I don't know,
24 after that wedding and that fight, he kind of just,
25 [REDACTED] got more onto me and he kind of, like, faded

1 away.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Knowing what I know now, and things that happened back
4 in the past, I think he was doing it for someone, like,
5 he was picking on me for a family member, I think.

6 Q. I think you tell us about that at paragraph 47 of your
7 statement, 'Iain', where you say that you kind of found
8 out later on that supposedly you had bullied ██████████^{ZLTE}'s
9 nephew before you went to Larchgrove --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- and that this is why he was targeting you?

12 A. Yes, ██████████, yes.

13 Q. And --

14 A. His brother ██████████ was ██████████'s dad, like, and was
15 ██████████'s stepfather, who married ██████████, like he wasn't
16 his real dad but he took his name.

17 Q. I think you used to call that boy '██████████' because he
18 could roll down the hill playing soldiers without
19 getting hurt?

20 A. Yes, kiddy stuff.

21 Q. But that was the extent of it, was it?

22 A. Yes, that was the extent of it, ██████████ that was the
23 name I made up for him, because when he done commando
24 rolls down this hill out of our house he could do it all
25 the way down and land on his feet, so we used to call

1 him [REDACTED] and his dad took real offence to that,
2 I don't know why.

3 Q. Some might think that was as a compliment because it was
4 something he could do --

5 A. Yes, but his brother had been going out with [REDACTED]
6 since they were, like, 13 years old and they are still
7 married, like, you know, so you wouldn't think they
8 would take offence.

9 Q. Is it as a result of that wedding you still have
10 a photograph of [REDACTED] ^{zLTE} ?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think in relation to those fights, 'Iain', you say
13 that you were injured but you were only taken for
14 medical treatment once?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That was because something happened whereby your head
17 was banged off the gym floor --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- can you tell us about that?

20 A. Yes, my head was banged off, I went to the Royal
21 Infirmary, actually, in Scotland, in Glasgow, sorry,
22 I live in England, taken to Glasgow, and had a look at
23 my head, it was a bad one, as I fell I whacked my head
24 off the marble floor, and I still have the scar, like,
25 it was bust right open.

1 Q. And you got nine stitches for that, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How had that injury come about?

4 A. It was a fight, I think.

5 Q. It is not supposed to be a memory test, 'Iain', so

6 I think you tell us in your statement that it was ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED]

7 who had banged your head off the gym floor?

8 A. Yes, that's right, I was fighting [REDACTED], yes, yes, and

9 then ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED] grabbed me, and banged my head off the

10 floor.

11 Q. That's because you were getting the better of [REDACTED] at

12 the time?

13 A. Yes, I was getting the better of [REDACTED], yes.

14 Q. When you were stitched up at the hospital, were you

15 asked what had happened?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No. I think you maybe say that you were told to say

18 that you had fallen off a rope --

19 A. Yes, if I was asked I was told say I fell off the rope

20 at the gym, but there wasn't a nurse that asked, like.

21 Q. You make the point, 'Iain', that the concern for your

22 welfare when you were in Larchgrove usually came from

23 the other boys, not staff?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It was really, you know, there is always someone who is

1 boss of the boys?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And in Larchgrove it was the twins?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And they sort of looked after you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You also talk about the fact that your teeth were broken

8 as a result of one of the fights in there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you were taken to the dentist, I think you found out

11 later that was probably your own dentist?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And they were trying to remove teeth?

14 A. Yes, back then it was they put like a gas mask over your

15 face, and they gave you gas to put you to sleep and then

16 took your teeth out. But with getting sheets over my

17 head and pillows put over your head, and I couldn't

18 handle it, so I kicked off, and they put a big black

19 rubber thing in my mouth and I just went mental, and

20 I couldn't, it was horrible, I was choking on my own

21 saliva because of this black thing and then he says to

22 the two escorts that brought me, 'Just hold him down and

23 I will take it out', and they took them out, without

24 anaesthetic.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Iain', was the black rubber thing that you

1 remember actually a type of mask that you would have
2 received gas from?

3 A. Not the masks they put over you had a black rubber ring
4 and then it was clear perspex and that was where the gas
5 came in through. But when your mouth was held open they
6 would force it open and put in this black rubber thing
7 to keep your mouth open, and it was jammed in the back
8 there, so you couldn't swallow, you couldn't move your
9 tongue or anything, and he just ripped them out. But he
10 caught my gum, the top of my gum with a pliers and
11 ripped all the roof of my mouth down, and I had to hold
12 it up with my tongue for between three to six weeks or
13 something. I can always remember my gum was very sharp,
14 like razor sharp.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

16 MS FORBES: I think you say, 'Iain', that you thought maybe
17 some bits of teeth were left in your gums as a result of
18 that?

19 A. Yes, I can't go to the dentist now, I just can't.

20 Q. What you do go on to tell us, 'Iain', is that when you
21 were in Larchgrove that you started to get stronger and
22 you were losing your fear?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. At paragraph 52, 'Iain', you make a comment saying,
25 'I liked violence being inflicted on me'.

1 A. Yes, still do.

2 Q. That's what it got to?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That you were at then at times getting the better of the
5 people you were fighting and you were starting to stand
6 up to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think this is maybe what you talked about, you
9 referred to earlier about [REDACTED] choking you. I think
10 at paragraph 52 you tell us about a time when you were
11 fighting and getting the better of, you mentioned [REDACTED],
12 and that [REDACTED] hit you with a rope and then you grabbed
13 the rope off of him and threw it to the other side of
14 the gym?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And he then grabbed you by the neck. Can you tell us
17 what happened?

18 A. He grabbed me by the neck with both hands, flipped me
19 over and then got his knee on my chest and then was
20 choking me. I couldn't breathe. Then I woke up, it
21 seemed like ages, like in my room, and then in the
22 morning I had big finger marks in my neck, bruised, all
23 in, and he went really crazy when he seen the marks, so
24 I blamed my dad, and said my dad had done it, because
25 Ms Penders seen, it I blamed my dad, my dad went crazy.

1 Q. Did my dad then come up with a different story?

2 A. When we went to his Pollok social work, when I got home
3 like for the weekend, we had to go a meeting at Pollok
4 social work, and when we went to the meeting my dad
5 called the woman an idiot, and say how could he do it
6 and then he ended saying it was love bites, it is love
7 bites.

8 Q. That meant that your dad had to come up with a way to
9 explain the injuries without getting you into any
10 trouble back at Larchgrove --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and without him being responsible?

13 A. Yes, and him --

14 Q. But this incident in the gym with ^{2LTE} [REDACTED], you are
15 describing an incident where he had his hands around
16 your neck until you are unconscious?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. I think you tell us, 'Iain', that while the person in
19 charge, the bald guy you have talked about, while you
20 said he was nice, you think he knew about the fighting
21 that was going on in the gym. This is at paragraph 55
22 of your statement.

23 A. Yes, I think he -- yes, I think he knew, yes. Everybody
24 knew, so if he didn't he would have had to be very silly
25 or never there, because it was spoke about in the halls,

1 or people would be asking who was fighting tonight,

2 blah, blah, blah, so ...

3 Q. I think you say as well there that he used to actually
4 come into the gym to speak to a member of staff while
5 the fights were going on?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. So he would have seen that something was happening?

8 A. Yes, especially after bedtime, why we were in the gym,
9 like?

10 Q. You tell us, 'Iain', that for running away you would get
11 assaulted by staff, is that right?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. Who would do that?

14 A. ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED] and ^{HHW} [REDACTED], ^{HHW} [REDACTED] usually for running away,
15 usually. ^{ZLTE} [REDACTED] would give you it after you had seen
16 ^{HHW} [REDACTED]. ^{HHW} [REDACTED] was a weird type of man, if he
17 couldn't sweet chat then it was just violence, like he
18 would just punch and kick you like that. Some of the
19 lads he got along with really well because he could
20 sweet talk them and they would let him put -- I didn't
21 like getting touched at all, so he was a guy for putting
22 his arm round you, some kids liked that, I just didn't.
23 I didn't like my dad cuddle me. There was no way that
24 creep was.

25 Q. Yes. I think you say that it wasn't just slaps and

1 punches, it was more violent?

2 A. Yes, it got more violent as it got on.

3 At first it was just, like, slaps, punches, and then
4 it got, like, body flips and slammed off the floor,
5 strangled, choke hold, like to see how long he could
6 hold you, like, 30 seconds, and stuff, to see if you
7 would go unconscious, like.

8 Q. This is [REDACTED], is it?

9 A. Yes, that's [REDACTED], yes, [REDACTED] would choke hold me all
10 the time, all the time, and he would laugh and make it
11 look like a joke, but the tenseness of his arm and how
12 hard he was squeezing, it wasn't a joke, it was --

13 Q. I think you say you remember him choking you one time
14 and telling you that nobody gives a shit about you?

15 A. Yes, I was always told that, nobody gives a shit about
16 you, you wouldn't be here if people cared about you.

17 Q. They would wrap sheets around your neck and drag you
18 along the floor for a bit?

19 A. Yes, that was when I wet the bed -- he would always put
20 the bit I wet over my face, pull it round my neck and
21 drag me about the floor. And you couldn't breathe
22 because the urine, you were inhaling that, the taste of
23 that, like.

24 Q. He would drag you sometimes caveman style, was this
25 dragging you by the ankles?

1 A. The hair, caveman style, yes, he would grab you by the
2 hair and pull you right along the ground.

3 Q. There was a time when would you get dragged also by the
4 ankles --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- and pulled along.

7 You have talked about those brass rings that would
8 be on the floor?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You said that sometimes your head would hit off those?

11 A. Yes, could you feel them flipping you, your bare bum as
12 you are flipping along. They were really sore, like.

13 Q. We have talked, 'Iain', about the younger boy, the
14 vulnerable boy, and the sexual abuse that you believe
15 was happening in relation to him, and I think this was
16 something you were also told by the twins, that that's
17 what was happening to that boy?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was that in relation to you seeing him going somewhere
20 at night?

21 A. Yes, it was when, he used to go out the door at night
22 when ^{HHW} [REDACTED] was on, and then he would either come back
23 with an apple and an orange, or a banana, some sort of
24 fruit, something healthy, because he was a PE teacher,
25 so it was always ...

1 Q. Is this something that you say you kind of teased that
2 boy about a little bit --

3 A. Yes, he got teased.

4 Q. -- back then as kids?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. He said something to you about that when you would tease
7 him, is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What did he say, can you remember?

10 A. I am trying to think, it is a time now. Can I have
11 a look?

12 Q. Yes, of course. This is at paragraph 59.

13 A. Just to jog my memory, that's all.

14 Q. Sorry, 'Iain', it's paragraph 59. I think it is the
15 third line down.

16 A. Yes, I remember that, yes.

17 Q. You say he didn't want to do it, but there was nothing
18 that he could do?

19 A. Yes, the lad was right, actually, he was exactly right,
20 there was nothing he could do about it. He was a nice
21 lad, as well, he was different because he was into
22 rockabilly, so he had his hair slicked back, and when he
23 came in he had a leather jacket and he would go to
24 Ioaningle with a leather jacket, so he was into
25 Stray Cats, Bill Haley, and all of that kind of stuff,

1 and so was ^{HHW} [REDACTED], that was his kind of music, so he
2 kind of related to that kind of thing.

3 I felt sorry for the lad, I felt sorry for the way
4 we teased him as well.

5 Q. Yes, looking back I think you say that it wasn't right
6 what was happening to him, but as kids these were the
7 kind of things you said?

8 A. Yes, you don't see the seriousness, as a kid, do you,
9 you just know it's not right.

10 Q. You say that to you it seemed like it was always the
11 weaker ones who seemed to be targeted for sexual abuse?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. But those of you who maybe could stick up for yourselves
14 or came from rougher areas were targeted for physical
15 abuse?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. And that was your view all of the way through care, you
18 saw the weaker ones being targeted?

19 A. It always seemed to me it would be the ones that was
20 foster, in for foster care, like their parents had
21 abandoned them or things like that. They were always
22 the ones that would get targeted. The ones that were
23 put in for -- well, I was not going to school, but [REDACTED]
24 and that were put in for car theft, pickpocketing, and
25 stuff, so they never got touched.

1 Q. The sort of ones who were there for care and
2 protection --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- rather than the ones who were there for committing
5 offences --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- or being involved in gangs, and things like that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You also talk about, at paragraph 62, 'Iain', another
10 boy, you name him there, you said used to scream and go
11 crazy at the staff and call them all perverts.

12 His name is blocked out there, but I think you say
13 that he would be dragged away by the staff and come back
14 really subdued?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Your view of that was that he was being sexually abused,
17 that's what your impression was?

18 A. Yes, he had been broken, yes.

19 Q. You saw him later in Loaningdale and Glenochil?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And he was one of the people who would attack sex
22 offenders in Glenochil?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Again, from your point of view, that makes you think
25 there was something in that?

1 A. Yes, I was very similar with sex offenders as well,
2 still am, yes.

3 Q. In relation to [REDACTED], I think you say you saw him in
4 PE doing things to other boys as well, touching on them,
5 putting his hands down their shorts?

6 A. [REDACTED] had a habit of just sticking his hands right
7 down your trousers when you got down there, he would
8 make a joke of it, like, but you could tell the way he
9 was moving his hands, and that, that it wasn't a joke,
10 at all.

11 Some lads would snatch away and laugh, and other
12 lads would just stand and freeze, like. Maybe just, he
13 didn't have any bother about sticking them down the back
14 of your trousers or your shorts, or down the front of
15 your shorts, things like that.

16 Q. You also say, 'Iain', that you saw a member of staff,
17 you don't know who this was though, come into a dorm at
18 night on at least on a few occasions and climb into bed
19 with a boy?

20 A. Yes, yes, I remember that really well, because we chased
21 him out one night. Aye, I remember that. Yes.

22 Q. You say you think that was one of the night staff,
23 because you had never seen him during the day?

24 A. Yes, I never seen him before, but I think he had been at
25 one of the boxing matches, that is how we knew he was

1 staff or he was something to do with the place. I think
2 he had been in the gym one night, but he came straight
3 in and jumped in the bed, and the next minute there was
4 'Stop, stop ...' So [REDACTED] was the first one who got up
5 and then his brother jumped up, and then I jumped up,
6 and then another lad, and he jumped out the bed, put his
7 trousers back on and was out.

8 Q. I think you say that you could smell the booze off of
9 him?

10 A. Yes, he was reeking, yes.

11 Q. But that before anyone chased them or threw a Bible or
12 anything like that, that you would hear sexual noises?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then after that, I think you say that after he left the
15 twins would be dragged away --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- and that was to get assaulted?

18 A. Yes. They would take them away to the secure unit for
19 a week and then they would come back again, like.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, I don't know if that is --

21 LADY SMITH: I think you probably have a little bit to go,
22 haven't you, Ms Forbes?

23 MS FORBES: Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: I would normally stop now for the lunch break,
25 'Iain', and if that would work for you that is what we

1 will do now and return to your evidence at 2 o'clock, is
2 that okay?

3 A. That's fine, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: I don't think we will be too long after
5 2 o'clock, for your own planning, but I would rather
6 give you a break now because we have had you giving
7 evidence now for quite a while.

8 Thank you.

9 (1.03 pm)

10 (The luncheon adjournment)

11 (2.00 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. 'Iain', are you ready for us to
13 carry on?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 Ms Forbes.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady.

18 Good afternoon, 'Iain'. I think we were still
19 talking about your time at Larchgrove, and I think we
20 had just been mentioning instances where one of the
21 boys, or ██████, would have somebody from the night staff
22 come into his bed at night, and you told us about that.

23 Just moving on from that, I think you say that there
24 was a member of staff in Larchgrove who you thought was
25 disgusted by what was going on, and that's at

1 paragraph 67 you talk about that. You say from what you
2 remember he left because of it?

3 A. Yes, yes, I can't remember his name, but he was --
4 I don't know, he was always arguing with Mr. ^{HHW} all
5 the time, and then he would say to the boys, 'You should
6 be telling your parents, you should be telling somebody,
7 you should be telling this', and then he disappeared.

8 Q. I think you tell us you did try to tell people when you
9 were there about the things that were happening to you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you told your social worker, Ms Penders, is that
12 right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. She used to say to you that they had it in hand?

15 A. Yes. She said that a few times, actually, they had it
16 in hand.

17 Q. But after, on the occasions you told her after that,
18 then you would have a visit from ^{ZLTE} and be taken to
19 fight --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- in the gym --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- with ^{██████████}, the older boy?

24 A. Yes, that's why I stopped telling.

25 Q. Yes. I think you say that he also said to you:

1 'You don't want to tell people what's going on, you
2 are not the only one telling fairytales and nobody will
3 believe you anyway.'

4 A. That's exactly what he said, yes.

5 Q. You have already said about the instances with the
6 bruising round your neck and that coming to light with
7 your father, so we know about that, the next part of
8 your statement.

9 You also tell us, 'Iain', that there were occasions
10 after -- the way you put it is after you had kicked off
11 in Larchgrove, where you be would taken to Rossie Farm?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say you would be held there in your cell for about
14 a day and a half each time?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then you would be taken back to Larchgrove once they
17 deemed you to have calmed down?

18 A. Sometimes it could be longer than a day and a half, it
19 could be two or three, days, but it was generally just
20 there and back.

21 Q. I think you say at paragraph 75 that you didn't get any
22 food or anything to drink when you were there?

23 A. No, nothing at all. The place, to tell you the truth,
24 it didn't even look as if it was finished, it was
25 getting built, like when you went in, when you went down

1 the driveway there was white houses on the left-hand
2 side and then they were boarded as if they were still
3 getting built, I can always remember that. And then
4 when you get down and into it, there was like boarding
5 everywhere. I don't know, it was just a weird place, a
6 weird, weird place, without Montrose, something like
7 that.

8 Q. That was your only experience of Rossie. I think you
9 say that was about four times that that happened to you?

10 A. Yes, about four or five times, yes. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
11 a lot more, like they went there a lot.

12 Q. I think sometimes you say you would be brought back but
13 that [REDACTED] was there for another couple of days?

14 A. [REDACTED] would stay there for a while, yes. He ended up
15 really mentally damaged with the place, [REDACTED] ...

16 Q. Then the time came, I think, when you went for a visit
17 with your mum to Loaningdale, is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then the decision was made that that's where you would
20 be going. I think, again, our records show that you
21 went there on [REDACTED] 1980, so if that's correct, you
22 would have been about 14 years old at that time, but
23 only just.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Then you stayed there until [REDACTED] 1981, when you were

1 released home, and I think from our records it says,
2 'The supervision requirement was varied so that it was
3 non-residential, but you still had the supervision
4 requirement'. Then it wasn't until the next year that
5 the supervision requirement was completely removed, but,
6 again, we don't need go into the dates too much.

7 Just looking at your time in Loaningdale, 'Iain',
8 you tell us that you noticed immediately how different
9 it was from Larchgrove?

10 A. Yes, yes, a massive difference.

11 Q. That a lot of the boys from Larchgrove ended up in
12 Loaningdale --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- along with you, and the people that you have
15 mentioned, the twins, ██████████, the more vulnerable boy
16 ██████████ --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and another boy were all there?

19 A. Yes, ██████████, yes, ██████████, yes, all ended
20 up there.

21 Q. You tell us a little bit about the staff members, and
22 that in particular you mention a Mr ^{HIA} ██████████, the
23 metalwork and English teacher?

24 A. Yes, yes, he was the metalwork teacher. Mr Hamilton was
25 the woodwork and Mr ^{HHX} ██████████ was gardener.

1 Q. Mr ^{HFX} was the gardener?

2 A. Gardener/English teacher, I think. They done both
3 things, like he had a big greenhouses at back, but he
4 taught maths, sorry, maths. The metalworker was the
5 English teacher, the metalworker, Mr Hamilton was the
6 woodwork teacher.

7 Q. I think you say from Mr Hamilton, this is paragraph 87,
8 that you picked up a lot of practical and joinery skills
9 from him?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. You did joinery work later on in life as a result of
12 that?

13 A. Yes, he was a good man, yes.

14 Q. One of the positives about the place was that there were
15 members of staff who tried to pass on stuff that would
16 help you for your future?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You have already talked about the fact that at the
19 weekends if you didn't go home you would get taken out
20 places and that was different from Larchgrove?

21 A. Yes, we would get taken down to Biggar, yes, or into
22 Galashiels and into Peebles, sorry.

23 Q. In relation to discipline you tell us at paragraph 97
24 that in Loaningdale the punishments would vary depending
25 on who was on duty. If it was Mr ^{HIA} you would

1 expect a slap, a kick up the arse or you'd get no food
2 until teatime, but that Mr ^{HIX} and Mr ^{HIA} were
3 more violent than any of the other members of staff?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us about an incident at the dentist,
6 again because of this incident before when you went to
7 the dentist, where the dentist tried to give you
8 a needle, but actually you took the needle off the
9 dentist and put it into him?

10 A. Yes, yes. He said, 'Don't be a baby', so I got annoyed.

11 Q. In relation to the types of abuse at Loaningdale, you
12 tell us about that from paragraph 104.

13 Firstly, in relation to physical abuse, what you say
14 there is that the level of violence at Loaningdale was
15 nowhere near as bad as Larchgrove, it was dealt out but
16 you had to do something significant to get it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And it was Mr ^{HIA} and Mr ^{HIX} that went a bit
19 over the top with the kids?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You talk about an incident, 'Iain', where Mr ^{HIA}
22 injured your arm?

23 A. Yes, broke my arm, yes, yes.

24 Q. That was when you were about 14?

25 A. Yes, he flipped me into a big metal bins, over a mallet

1 I think.

2 Q. You set that out there, that there was an argument
3 between you and [REDACTED]?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that you had hit [REDACTED] with the mallet?

6 A. We were making aluminium ashtrays, like, where you hit
7 a mallet on a sandbag, like to shape it. And I was
8 arguing with [REDACTED] and I hit him with a mallet, and then
9 I grabbed the boy next to me's mallet, and Mr ^{HIA} [REDACTED]
10 says, who done that? And then he was blaming the boy
11 and then I said to him it was me and then I threw
12 a mallet at him. Then he grabbed me and he flipped me
13 into the bin and broke my arm.

14 Q. I think you way you describe that at paragraph 106,
15 'Iain', is you say, 'He grabbed me and put my arm
16 straight up my back and snapped it'?

17 A. Yes, just -- it is still knackered my arm, still the
18 same.

19 Q. I think you say you that were taken to hospital and
20 there was some medical treatment for that?

21 A. Yes, taken to hospital, and put in plaster for it, yes.

22 Q. You also talk, 'Iain', about Mr ^{HIX} [REDACTED] having a dog?

23 A. Yes, a gold labrador, yes.

24 Q. He used to use that to -- he set it on the boys,
25 essentially?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. You saw that happen to other boys as well as yourself?

3 A. Loads of times, yes, he would send boys in the garden,
4 because he done all of the gardening, the big
5 greenhouses, he would send the dog hunting to find us,
6 it was also good at finding glue and the solvents that
7 we had hidden.

8 Q. Because I think at that time you had a bit of an issue
9 with glue sniffing and some solvent abuse, is that
10 right?

11 A. Yes, you needed some escape, yes.

12 Q. This dog would be used by him to sniff it out, find the
13 stash, I think you say that he would always find it?

14 A. Always, yes, always.

15 Q. This dog that he would set on boys would bite the boys?

16 A. Oh yes, yes.

17 Q. Indeed you received a bite on one occasion?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And didn't get any medical treatment for it?

20 A. No medical treatment, no, I still have scars from that
21 as well.

22 Q. That was his way of punishing you, is that what you
23 meant earlier when you said he was sadistic?

24 A. Yes, well the dog had you on the ground and he was
25 walking towards you he would be saying, 'Rag him, rag

1 him, rag him', and the dog would be shaking at you until
2 he goes to it and pulls it off you.

3 Q. A little bit later, 'Iain', in your statement, you talk
4 about the fact that Loaningdale boys didn't really have
5 a great reputation in the town, and that the local chip
6 shop didn't serve you, is that right?

7 A. Yes, one of the boys in Loaningdale in the 1960s had
8 killed one of the girls in the town, like, so they
9 didn't like any boys from Loaningdale coming down into
10 the town, so if you did they wouldn't serve you, or they
11 would be cheeky, disrespectful, or something.

12 Q. And I think as a result of that one of the boys smashed
13 the window at the chip shop?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And Mr ^{HIA} [REDACTED] and Mr ^{HIX} [REDACTED] came and got involved as
16 a result of that. I think you tell us at paragraph 115
17 that the boy owned up to that and said it was him?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that Mr ^{HIX} [REDACTED] punched him on the side of the head?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you say there you were quite shocked?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Why were you shocked about that?

24 A. It was the force of it, you know, usually a dig's a dig,
25 you can put a certain power, but that was the way you

1 would hit a man, you know. It was like a full force
2 punch, right off his feet, like. And then I don't know
3 if it was the same day or the next day, he beat him
4 again in the greenhouse and told him he had spoiled it
5 for any of the boys going back down to the town.

6 Q. I think you described that incident at paragraph 115
7 a bit more, 'Iain'. You say that the boy got a hell of
8 a beating, is the way you put it, and said they spanked
9 him on the head, body and legs --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- with a wooden seedling tray?

12 A. Yes, in the greenhouse that was, yes.

13 Q. And burst his nose and his mouth?

14 A. Yes, set right about him, yes.

15 Q. Then everyone got their privileges stopped for three
16 weeks and banned home leave?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But I think you are careful, 'Iain', to say that it was
19 generally good in Loaningdale?

20 A. Yes, compared to Larchgrove, yes, it was a different
21 planet.

22 Q. What you point out is that the number of incidents that
23 happened over the whole period of time you were in
24 Loaningdale could happen in just one day in Larchgrove?

25 A. In Larchgrove, yes, easy.

1 Q. The way you say it is if you were good, it was good, if
2 you were bad you got what was coming to you and it was
3 Mr ^{HIA} [REDACTED] and Mr ^{HFX} [REDACTED] that beat the shit out of
4 you, is the way you have said it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That happened to you a lot for bringing in glue?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You have told us about the fact that this boy, [REDACTED],
9 moved to Loaningdale. You tell us a little bit later on
10 in your statement at paragraph 119 that you think that
11 the older boy [REDACTED], who also moved, was sexually
12 abusing him whilst you were in Loaningdale?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At that time [REDACTED] would have been about 13 [REDACTED] was
15 nearer 16?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think you mentioned that it might have been another
18 boy as well who was doing that too, but you are not
19 sure?

20 A. Yes, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], they were very, very close,
21 like.

22 Q. And there was some peer abuse towards him, some physical
23 abuse from [REDACTED] towards that boy as well?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Indeed you suffered some physical abuse from [REDACTED]

1 yourself?

2 A. Yes, a lot, yes.

3 Q. To the point, I think, you say you took him home on

4 leave once with you to try to set him up with some

5 friends, was that right?

6 A. Yes, my friends.

7 Q. This was to give him --

8 A. Yes, to seriously injure him, yes, but my friends backed

9 out at the last minute. I got him to Glasgow, and got

10 him to the park, and got on glue, and in a state where

11 I could do what I wanted, but my friends decided against

12 it because it would have got really serious, like.

13 Q. They ran away, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. As a result of that [REDACTED] got stabbed on the back and

16 the arm, and then when you got back to Loaningdale [REDACTED]

17 and someone else then assaulted you?

18 A. Severely, yes.

19 Q. As a result of that you ended up with two black eyes and

20 a smashed nose?

21 A. Yes, assault with a snooker ball, yes.

22 Q. You say that that took place in front of Mr ^{HHX} [REDACTED] ?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And he didn't intervene?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You tell us again that every time you saw your parents
2 you told them about what was happening at Loaningdale,
3 but your dad didn't want to rock the boat?

4 A. No. My dad was of the opinion you deserved it, you put
5 yourself there, so deal with it, kind of thing.

6 Q. Okay. I think we know from those dates that you went
7 back home and then you were back living with your mum.
8 I think it wasn't until after the supervision
9 requirement was finished that I think you then got in
10 trouble and ended up in Longriggend; is that right?

11 A. Yes, Remand Centre, yes.

12 Q. That part of your evidence, 'Iain', has been read in to
13 the Inquiry on 13 December last year, it was Day 398, so
14 I won't go into that in detail, but you do tell us what
15 happened at Longriggend, and there was violence between
16 prisoners and physical assaults?

17 A. Yes, a different level up, yes.

18 Q. A different level than before?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Than you had seen before?

21 A. Yes, yes, yes.

22 Q. You say that the staff would give severe beatings as
23 well there?

24 A. Severe, yes.

25 Q. I think you quite fairly say that you yourself inflicted

1 some violence, but you didn't suffer any, really, in
2 those places from other people?

3 A. No, no.

4 Q. This is down at paragraph 134, you comment that you had
5 been through Larchgrove and Loaningdale and it just felt
6 like another institution to you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You were then in Glenochil, and this was for the short,
9 sharp shock treatment?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We have read all of these parts in, but you talk about
12 the suicides of inmates that took place at Glenochil
13 whilst you were there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You also talk about the fact that somebody came in and
16 took pictures of you that appeared in the newspaper --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- with your eyes blacked out --

19 A. Blacked out our eyes, yes, on governor's parade on
20 a Sunday, yes.

21 Q. There was the Sunday drill?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Then you say you were -- the second time you were in
24 Glenochil was for four months and you came out just
25 before you were 18. At that time your girlfriend was

1 pregnant and you got a council house across the road

2 from your mum?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You got out just three weeks before your son was born?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If we go forward in your statement where we are looking

7 at the impact of the experiences you have had. At

8 paragraph 142 you say if you had just gone to school

9 when you were told you wouldn't have become the person

10 that you think you were?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You talk about, after that, being addicted to heroin for

13 27 years and getting in bother because you needed money

14 for heroin, yes?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. There is a part of your statement, I think at

17 paragraph 152, if we can go to that, I think this is

18 where you talk about the times that you spent in prison.

19 I think you say:

20 'I did more prison sentences as a result of my

21 addiction. I wouldn't have got involved in crime if

22 I hadn't needed the money for heroin. I spent about

23 16 years in total in prison, one of the sentences was

24 for 12 years.'

25 I don't know if that's correct, is that something

1 you wanted to clarify?

2 A. That's not correct, no. I was charged with two
3 attempted murders and an armed robbery, and on the way
4 in I was told to expect 12 years or more, but on the
5 first day of sentence I was acquitted.

6 Q. So you didn't do that period of time in prison?

7 A. No, I could of, I was threatened with 12, that I would
8 get 12 if I got guilty, but I was acquitted and my
9 co-accuseds were given seven and nine, my girlfriend was
10 given a five, and my nephew a nine, I think.

11 Q. That sentence before that said, 'I spent about 16 years
12 total in prison', is that correct?

13 A. No, no, what I said is I spent 16 years in and out of
14 prison.

15 Q. Okay, that makes sense.

16 A. I have been done, I forget the amount of remands I have
17 done, I have done, never paid a fine, so I have always
18 went to prison for, it all of the way through my
19 addiction I was in and out, in out, in and out,
20 constantly. For --

21 Q. Okay, well that --

22 A. ... driving, car theft, that's why my leg, as well,
23 I learnt to drive in Loaningdale as well.

24 Q. That's good that we have been able to clear that up, so
25 that part of your statement you have explained is not

1 correct.

2 A. No.

3 Q. So we can take that into account.

4 A. I did point that out as well to my solicitor and to the
5 other person.

6 Q. I think you say out paragraph 163 that, like your
7 parents were interested in darts, you were a very good
8 darts player?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You think that if you hadn't been addicted to drugs for
11 those years you might even have had a shot at being
12 an international player?

13 A. Yes, I got to county level. Yes, I would have got to
14 international level, yes.

15 Q. On a positive note, 'Iain', you say that you have been
16 clean now for a number of years, so at the time of this
17 statement it was 2013, but it will be more than that
18 now, because this was 2018 when you signed this?

19 A. Yes, it is about 20 something.

20 Q. You got yourself off drugs?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you tell us a bit about your relationships, and
23 that you were with a partner for 38 years --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and you had five children, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you split up. But that the youngest, who was born
3 in 2008, lives with you?

4 A. Yes, [REDACTED], yes.

5 Q. You have mentioned that you live in England, and you
6 think that you would have had a different life, maybe,
7 if you had hadn't been born and brought up in Glasgow?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If you had been born down there?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you tell us that you, just a few paragraphs
12 later, went to university down there and did
13 a three-year degree course?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You are currently doing a PhD in criminology?

16 A. Yes, I was doing a PhD, I have stopped because my kid,
17 I couldn't do the workload. But, yes, I did the first
18 two years of criminology, yes.

19 Q. That is something that you think you might go back to
20 when you get the chance?

21 A. Yes, I might, I am on Spanish now, so ...

22 Q. I think you make the comment that you weren't stupid?

23 A. No, no, far from it.

24 Q. At paragraph 167 you say that the reason you were not
25 going to school is because you were getting picked on

1 and beaten up because your parents couldn't afford the
2 same clothes?

3 A. Yes, that was it, yes.

4 Q. Then that in turn led to you being put into Larchgrove,
5 and what followed.

6 When it comes to lessons to be learned, 'Iain',
7 I think you say at paragraph 173, you comment that
8 children need to be treated as individuals and they have
9 individual needs, they all have different needs?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Then the following paragraph you say that those who want
12 to work with kids need to be vetted properly?

13 A. Yes, they should be, yes. I don't think they were back
14 then, like at all.

15 MS FORBES: 'Iain', that's all the questions I have for you
16 today, so thank you very much --

17 A. Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: -- is there anything that you want to say that
19 you have not had a chance to say today?

20 A. No, no. Thank you, no.

21 MS FORBES: Thank you very much for taking all this time to
22 answer my questions.

23 A. No, thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: 'Iain', let me add my thanks. Do remember your
25 written statement is also evidence before me, it was

1 really helpful to be able to read it before today, and
2 of course I will have that and your transcript of what
3 you have added to it today.

4 I am conscious of the fact we have interrogated you
5 long and hard and you have been very patient with us,
6 and I am grateful to you for answering all the questions
7 as openly and frankly as you have done, and for being as
8 open and frank in your statement as you have done.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: I wish you well as you return south of the
11 border --

12 A. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: -- and I hope that the better life you have had
14 for the last 20 years carries on getting better.

15 A. Yes, it will, thank you.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 A. Thank you very much.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: I will rise for a few minutes while you get
20 organised for the next witness, but before I do that
21 there are some names I want to mention of people whose
22 names we did use in the course of 'Iain's' evidence, but
23 are protected by my General Restriction Order.

24 Those who were children at the time first, there is
25 a boy called [REDACTED], a boy called [REDACTED] and a boy called

1 [REDACTED]. But also adults GYF [REDACTED],
2 HIA [REDACTED], HHX [REDACTED] and Mr HHW [REDACTED], and a man
3 called ELTE [REDACTED], or was known as ELTE [REDACTED], also at
4 Larchgrove. They all have the protection of my
5 General Restriction Order and mustn't be identified
6 outside this room.

7 Very well, I will rise now until you are ready with
8 the next witness.

9 (2.24 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (2.32 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is Graham Haddow.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Graham Haddow (affirmed)

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

17 The first question I hope is an easy one. How would
18 you like me to address you? Do you want me to use your
19 first name or would you prefer Mr Haddow?

20 A. No, first name.

21 LADY SMITH: Well, Graham, thank you for that.

22 A couple of practicalities. The red folder on the
23 desk in front of you has your written statement in it.
24 So feel free to use it if you want to, but we will also
25 bring parts of your statement up on the screen in front

1 of you, which is comfortably a larger font than you have
2 in the hard copy. You might want to use that. You
3 don't have to use either --

4 A. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: -- but they might help.

6 Other than that, though, Graham, please would you
7 let me know if there is anything I can do to help you
8 give your evidence as comfortably as you can. I know it
9 is not easy to come on a Friday afternoon to give
10 evidence in a public forum about things that are really
11 very private to you, and may be upsetting to talk about.

12 So if you want a break, for example, just say, or if
13 you have any questions, don't hold back. We will try to
14 deal with them as best we can. And if we are not
15 explaining things properly, that's our fault and not
16 yours and we will try harder. All right?

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: If you are ready I will hand over to Ms Forbes
19 and she will take it from there.

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

22 Questions by Ms Forbes

23 MS FORBES: My Lady.

24 Good afternoon, is it okay for me to call you Graham
25 as well?

1 A. Of course, yes.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 Graham, the statement that you have in front of you
4 has a reference number for our purposes and I am just
5 going to read out that number, just so we can get in the
6 transcript, it's WIT.001.001.6839.

7 If you could turn to the last page of your
8 statement, Graham, which is page 8, there is a paragraph
9 at the end, paragraph 44, where there is a declaration
10 that's made there:

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

15 Then you have signed that and it is dated
16 12 October 2017; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Yes.

19 Graham, you were born in 1955, is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you are here today to talk about your
22 experiences working as a teacher. You tell us in your
23 statement that you have experience working as a primary
24 school teacher, a PE teacher, and also 18 years'
25 experience working in different care home settings, is

1 that right?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. I think you say that this was from 1977 onwards?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that right? You came forward to the Inquiry to give

6 us your experience in one place in particular, which was

7 Larchgrove --

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. -- is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Before we get to Larchgrove, there is a part of your

12 statement where you talk about -- is it Gilshochill?

13 A. Gilshochill.

14 Q. Gilshochill. It was an assessment centre in Maryhill.

15 That, you say, is the first place that you went to and

16 you were there for about two and a half years, until it

17 closed?

18 A. Something like that, yes.

19 Q. It closed in May or June 1980, and as a result of that

20 you were transferred to Larchgrove?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is that right? So it is not a case where you applied to

23 go and work in Larchgrove, you were simply moved there?

24 A. I was, yes, redeployed, yes.

25 Q. I think you comment at paragraph 5 that Gilshochill was

1 a very caring establishment, social workers and teachers
2 were all fully trained?

3 A. Yes, that's my memory, and it was, yes, a nice place to
4 work. First name terms with children and staff, and no
5 uniforms, and they weren't there for that long, the
6 children and young people, but I enjoyed working there,
7 so a lot of people were very disappointed when it was
8 closed down.

9 Q. Okay.

10 As we have said, from there you were transferred to
11 Larchgrove and you say you started at Larchgrove around
12 1981, some time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What age would you have been then, Graham?

15 A. Oh, goodness.

16 LADY SMITH: Are you talking about 1981?

17 A. 26.

18 LADY SMITH: You would have been in your mid 20s.

19 MS FORBES: So mid 20s, and this is your second placement in
20 effect.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. With only a couple of years behind you, really,
23 experience?

24 A. Yes, I was still, yes, young in my profession, yes, my
25 career.

1 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 8, Graham, that you
2 immediately noticed a difference between Larchgrove and
3 Gilshochill, and what was that? What were the immediate
4 big impressions that were different?

5 A. (1) the building, because the doors were locked. The
6 bedrooms. Some, and I can vividly remember, some parts
7 of the building, you know, iron metal windows, just
8 a cold place. Nothing on the walls in the children's or
9 the young people's, bedrooms.

10 Uniforms, well, jumpers with different bands to
11 indicate which house they were in. Very regimented.

12 The care staff, mainly men, I am going to say big
13 burly men, that's kind of the image I have. Keys
14 attached to their waistband, as if they were -- well,
15 I have never been in a prison, but that's my image of
16 a prison, that, you know, keys for the cells to, you
17 know, unlock certain doors.

18 Just a cold place and it was children and young
19 people calling staff Mr so and so, or Miss ...

20 Q. Was that different from your placement before?

21 A. Yes, very different. Gilshochill was, from memory, just
22 a nice, relaxed place to be. Okay, children and young
23 people at Gilshochill and Larchgrove, to suddenly go
24 into care must be quite traumatic, but had I been one of
25 them I would have much preferred going into Gilshochill,

1 much. So it is the locked doors, it was the cold
2 feeling, it was the lack of warmth, very regimented,
3 yes.

4 Q. I think you say when you got there, there was other
5 staff that moved with you to Larchgrove from
6 Gilshochill?

7 A. But very few. Certainly, I am trying to think whether
8 it was myself and one other teacher or two other
9 teachers. I think it was just only one other, Gerry,
10 and there were two other teachers already there, and the
11 senior teacher, the principal teacher. I don't know if
12 any care staff -- I can't remember any care staff moving
13 from Gilshochill, they were redeployed elsewhere, all
14 over the place.

15 Q. What was the impression of the staff at Larchgrove when
16 you arrived, were they welcoming new arrivals to the
17 place?

18 A. From memory, no, and I think I put that in my statement.
19 Not at all. We were incomers. Different ideas. It was
20 the kind of don't rock the boat, don't question
21 anything, this is the way we that we do it.

22 So not welcoming. I do remember at Gilshochill
23 there was a close connection between care staff, because
24 that's what we called them, the social work staff, and
25 at Gilshochill they were all trained social workers, all

1 qualified. At Larchgrove that wasn't the case. But
2 there was a good rapport and we used to socialise, play
3 football and what not at Gilshochill. Larchgrove, quite
4 different, yes, we were the incomers, not really wanted.

5 LADY SMITH: Graham, what about the age profile, were you
6 very much at the younger end of the members of staff?

7 A. I would have been, yes. Definitely. I am trying to
8 think could I have been the youngest? You know, not far
9 off it, probably, yes, because I think Larchgrove's
10 staff had been there for some time. That was, again, my
11 impression was they had been there -- and there was very
12 little turnover of staff at Larchgrove.

13 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

14 MS FORBES: I think you comment, Graham, that it was
15 a closed shop with little turnover of staff.

16 A. (Nods)

17 Q. That was your impression?

18 A. It was, definitely, and I always wondered why, you know,
19 in some establishments or places of work you would think
20 that's a good sign, people want to stay. But there was
21 a definite impression that they didn't want new people
22 coming in. As I think I mentioned, that I know the care
23 staff all were expected to do an extra shift regularly,
24 so they must have been on paper short staffed. So they
25 would all fill in extra shifts to get more money, and

1 I always thought it was to stop, from the impression
2 I got when I arrived that I wasn't very welcome, that
3 they wouldn't want new people coming in. There was a,
4 as I say, I definitely think most of the staff, or all
5 of the staff had been there for some years and they
6 didn't want change, they didn't want to see new people
7 and new ideas coming in.

8 Q. This extra shift, was that something that teachers were
9 also expected to do?

10 A. No, all teachers were expected to do a kind of 9 am to
11 4 pm, I think, but one evening a week that was part of
12 the contract, if you like.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I think you could -- I remember at Gilshochill doing
15 occasionally an extra one, maybe if another teacher
16 couldn't do it.

17 Q. In Larchgrove it was one evening a week that you were
18 expected to do?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you say that that was until about 10 pm at
21 night?

22 A. Something like that, yes. It would have been 10 pm, it
23 wouldn't have been later than that.

24 Q. The principal teacher there at the time when you
25 arrived, you tell us, was Richard Cotter?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So he was part of the senior management team?

3 A. Yes, when I arrived, yes, he was -- so principal
4 teacher, who didn't teach. He would have been paid
5 a principal teacher's salary in that kind of setting.
6 He didn't teach at all. I can't remember what he did,
7 actually. But he was caught between, in a way, being
8 part of the Larchgrove staff group and the teaching
9 group, which was a bit different, and I think with the
10 two of us arriving, we were questioning things, and the
11 practice that was going on, and found that the other
12 teachers were on board, they had the same views, even
13 the ones who had been in there for a year or two, or
14 I don't know how long.

15 Q. The same view as you, Graham, just to clarify, the same
16 views as you?

17 A. Yes, I think, you know, we used to discuss some of the
18 practice that was going on. But we weren't welcomed in,
19 we weren't part of the gang, the teachers, they were
20 seen as different.

21 Q. Okay, so there was a divide between the care staff and
22 the teaching staff?

23 A. There definitely was, yes.

24 Q. You talk also, Graham, about an officer in charge, who
25 you can't remember the name of, but he was somebody that

1 had a dog that was always with him?

2 A. Yes, and he sat in his office, and I think I found his
3 name since, but I probably have got it wrong, I know it
4 was in the newspaper article, but, yes, he had a dog.
5 He reminded me, still reminds me, of, and I can't think
6 which James Bond film, where the baddie is sat in the
7 seat stroking a pussycat, it was kind of that image of
8 the man in his office, I can't remember seeing him out
9 and about, with his dog who would sit on his lap or
10 behind him. It is a strange image. One of these funny
11 things that you remember.

12 Q. You also mentioned two deposes, who you say were
13 brothers?

14 A. Yes, the ^{GQW} [REDACTED]. They had been there for some years.
15 I don't know how long, but they had definitely been
16 there for some time.

17 Q. Your recollection was the surname was ^{GQW} [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay.

20 You have said that the officer in charge would stay
21 in his office most of the time, but these deposes, were
22 they a bit more hands on?

23 A. Yes, that's what I remember. I don't know if they had
24 their own office. I think they were out and about, yes,
25 around the units.

1 Q. We have heard some evidence about the different houses
2 that were in there at the time, it was Arran, Bute, and
3 you think maybe Islay?

4 A. Yes, and that's what I have written. I think Arran and
5 Bute. I am not sure about the other one. I think so --
6 yes, the building was split into these three units, with
7 locked doors between.

8 Q. From your perspective there didn't seem to be any
9 difference between each of the houses other than their
10 names?

11 A. Yes, I can't remember any reason why a child or young
12 person would go there or there. I think it was where
13 there was a space, where there was a bed.

14 Q. You mention, Graham, in the next paragraph, about the
15 qualifications of the staff at Larchgrove, and you
16 formed an impression as compared to Gilshochill that
17 there was a difference in that, is that right?

18 A. Yes, my understanding was, and memory is, that everyone
19 at Gilshochill, and I think new assessment centres,
20 there was another one that was opened up shortly after
21 that, all qualified social work staff. That doesn't
22 mean that people are caring, but they have the
23 qualification and the knowledge, or some knowledge, but
24 at Larchgrove it was a group of people who had been
25 there for some time. There may have been some qualified

1 social workers, but not the impression I got.

2 Q. Okay. We have heard the phrase residential care worker,
3 is that something that you were familiar with at the
4 time?

5 A. Yes, just a common phrase, general, yes.

6 Q. Was that the type of staff that was there, residential
7 care workers on the care side?

8 A. I mean I call them 'care staff', and I do make a point
9 of inverted commas, for probably not all, but generally,
10 because it wasn't a caring establishment, but they were
11 called the care staff, so 'residential care workers',
12 I think that was the phrase that was used for all
13 establishments, I would imagine.

14 Q. Is that why you put the term 'care' in inverted commas?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Because they weren't very caring?

17 A. The place wasn't caring.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Because of the divide, or the lack of closeness between
20 teachers and care staff, I didn't really get to know
21 many of them at all. So, yes, it wasn't a caring place.
22 So they are tarred with that brush as well.

23 Q. When you were there your role was to be a teacher, is
24 that right? What were you teaching, PE or something
25 else additional?

1 A. Both. So I trained in PE and then primary, so it was
2 general subjects and PE. It was a -- both places were
3 quite strange. For someone just out of college trained
4 to teach either PE or general subjects, and yet, then
5 you have a small group of children and young people,
6 coming for a period, a matter of weeks sometimes,
7 sometimes longer, I can't remember really being trained
8 in: so what do you do during these few weeks, do you
9 teach the basics?

10 There was an element of assessment, so I remember
11 there were certain tools you could use to work out
12 someone's reading age and their maths age, their
13 counting skills, but beyond that, when the children are
14 coming from all different ages as well in the one class.
15 It was a bit of kind of ticking over, giving them
16 material to work on. There was never any kind of
17 educational inspection. Had there been I wonder what
18 they would have said about the educational provision.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, and Graham, I have heard that in a lot of
20 cases the children admitted to this assessment centre
21 were admitted because they had not been attending
22 school, they had been running away from school, so do
23 you remember encountering children who had had little,
24 if any, proper education before they came into your
25 hands?

1 A. Yes, it was quite common that children, partly were
2 there because they had been plunking school, or just
3 hadn't been going. For whatever reason, maybe school
4 didn't fit their needs. But, yes, it was pretty common
5 for children not to have been at school.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 A. Yes, had they been at school the best way to assess
8 their educational capabilities would be to ask the
9 school, and we did that, we contacted schools, but,
10 yeah, we had to carry out some kind of educational
11 assessment and to give some kind of educational input
12 while they were there.

13 MS FORBES: What age range, Graham, were the -- it was boys,
14 is that right?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Only boys. What was the age range?

17 A. I am going to say 10 to 16. Younger? I can't remember.
18 Probably upper primary/earlier secondary.

19 Q. You tell us a little bit, Graham, about the sort of make
20 up of the boys who came to Larchgrove while you were
21 there. This is at paragraph 14 of your statement. You
22 are saying that these were boys from all different
23 backgrounds that had just been lumped together there.

24 A. Yes. That's clearly my memory. And at Gilshochill as
25 well. So I think they would have been referred,

1 I imagine, to the hearing, children's hearing, and then
2 sent to the assessment centre for a period of
3 assessment, where they would be assessed and then it
4 would be decided what would happen. Whether they would
5 go back home, back to school, change schools,
6 residential, and, yes, I got the impression that where
7 there was a bed, where there was a space in the
8 classroom, then that young person or child would come
9 into.

10 And, yes, I mentioned, I remember one lad, I just
11 remember his first name, [REDACTED]
12 who, yes, was accused of murder. And there was
13 sometimes children were there, young people were there,
14 because there was no other place. As I said, mother in
15 hospital. I am not saying that this happened regularly,
16 but there was a case in Larchgrove, I remember, when
17 a child had come and the mum was in hospital and no one
18 to care for them, so they needed to go into care and
19 Larchgrove had a bed.

20 So in the same classroom you had kids from all
21 different backgrounds and abilities and experiences.

22 Q. So there were people there, boys there who were there
23 for care and protection, because there was nowhere else
24 for them to go, and then there is boys there because
25 they have been accused of, as you say, a very serious

1 offence?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So quite a difference between those two types of boys?

4 A. I mean that's an example I have given, probably quite
5 an extreme example, but, yes, there was no assessment
6 before they came in for an assessment. There was
7 a space.

8 LADY SMITH: You make a very valid point about the width of
9 the range of children that you had to try and do your
10 best with as a teacher.

11 A. Yes, I mean --

12 LADY SMITH: It can't have been easy?

13 A. Er, it wasn't. I was still an inexperienced teacher.
14 No, I mean it wasn't easy, and as I say, if there had
15 been an inspection into the educational provision,
16 I don't know how well it would have come out. I am
17 being honest. Because we provided work for them, at
18 a level we thought was appropriate, and got some advice
19 from -- some schools were very good at saying what
20 levels children were at and we could provide stuff, but
21 it was just filling a gap for a while.

22 MS FORBES: You have boys very different in age ranges who
23 might be there for very different reasons, and also boys
24 who may have been at school, or may never have been at
25 school, so a lot of different potential stages in their

1 learning journey?

2 A. Yes. Definitely. I can't remember the kind of make up
3 of the boys in terms of whether were most there because
4 of schooling issues or because of home or community
5 issues, but there would usually be a grand mixture of
6 these.

7 Q. Yes. You tell us, Graham, that you remember each child
8 having a case coordinator who worked with them, and
9 I think you comment that one of the children had
10 a different name for that?

11 A. A case complicator ... yes, I remember finding that very
12 funny. But all children would have a case coordinator,
13 or a key worker, as sometimes it would be called.
14 Actually probably the key worker was later in my career
15 in children's homes, where each child or young person
16 would have one person who at Larchgrove would coordinate
17 the assessment process, and contact different people and
18 families, and well, I would have contacted schools, but
19 other agencies, educational psychologists, and so every
20 young person did have one person who coordinated their
21 case, if you like.

22 Q. Was that a member of the care staff --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- that we talked about? Okay.

25 A. Yes, it would be always one of the care staff. And they

1 were assigned a case coordinator. I suppose practically
2 that's what would have to happen. The child or young
3 person had no say in that. And, as you can imagine, in
4 residential work a child, a case coordinator, or a key
5 worker, might not get on particularly well with a young
6 person, or a child. The child or young person might get
7 on much better with someone else, or the cook, or ...
8 and they will open up to them. But they had no choice
9 in this, so it was the case coordinator, and I did laugh
10 when a child in a meeting where the child called the
11 person their 'case complicator'. They didn't mean to be
12 cheeky, they just got their words mixed up.

13 Q. A Freudian slip, perhaps?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us a little bit later in your statement at
16 paragraph 17 onwards about the sort of routine and
17 dormitories at Larchgrove. Was that part of the
18 building that you would be in, the dormitories, or would
19 you be mostly spending your time somewhere else?

20 A. Yes, I would be mainly in the classroom area. I can't
21 remember a staffroom, but there would have been, and
22 there would have been a kind of communal staff area.
23 I can't picture it. But mainly in my day it would be in
24 the classroom area, and then there was a small gym and
25 then a big play barn/gymnasium area.

1 Q. I think you say the dormitories there slept about six,
2 eight or ten boys, and you describe the beds being sort
3 of similar to what the army would use, these
4 metal-framed beds?

5 A. Yes, again, just cold. Yes, nothing, no warmth at all,
6 whether it was on the wall, I think there was a cupboard
7 for each young person to put stuff in, but no personal
8 belongings could be seen, or ... just it was like in the
9 army, that was the way I described it.

10 Q. Yes. You say that in relation to sort of other
11 activities, you didn't see anything like swimming,
12 sports, or them going out and about.

13 A. Not that I can remember, really. Not regularly. I do
14 remember going though, with a group -- it might not be
15 from Larchgrove, it was probably Gilshochill, because
16 I remember a story and a child, and he was Gilshochill,
17 when we went to visit a castle up north and stayed there
18 for a few nights.

19 I did -- as a PE teacher, we did sometimes take
20 groups out of Larchgrove down to the local playing
21 field. To play football, or run, or whatever, so we
22 must have been able to go out occasionally, possibly
23 with certain children or young people. I'm not sure.

24 Q. Perhaps those are the ones that were seen to be trusted
25 to be able to go?

1 A. Yes, I think so.

2 Q. I think you say, though, that the boys would go to the
3 gym or play football in the games hall?

4 A. Yes, regularly.

5 Again, the doors were all locked, the door out of
6 the gym to the outside was locked, well, they were all
7 locked. But, you know, most young people enjoy some
8 kind of sport, so for a lot, for me being a PE teacher,
9 that was a good thing. The majority, I would say,
10 generally speaking, liked some kind of sport. So, you
11 know, I had an advantage in a way, and I can engage with
12 them differently as well.

13 Q. When it came to PE, was it just yourself when you were
14 there who was the teacher for that?

15 A. No, there were three teachers called Gerry, I was the
16 odd one out, I wasn't, and another one, Gerry Shields,
17 was a PE teacher as well.

18 Q. Okay, but part of your day would be spent doing some
19 education -- general education like you have said --
20 with the boys, and then part of it would be spent doing
21 some PE?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Was that usually the afternoon that the PE would
24 take place or did it vary?

25 A. I can't remember.

1 Q. Okay. I think you say there was a TV room with some big
2 plastic chairs and for some that was the main evening
3 activity?

4 A. It was, yes, when I did my evening then it would all be
5 in the gym. But that was for a limited number. So
6 I remember just one of the living rooms, whatever you
7 call it, and it was a long narrow room with a TV at one
8 end, these big plastic chairs up either side, and that
9 was it. Yes, watching telly. That was the activity.

10 Q. But if you were doing a late night, one night a week,
11 are you indicating that you would have sports activities
12 in the gym hall?

13 A. Yes, that was what I would usually do. And, you know,
14 personally I was quite happy with that, because that's
15 what I enjoyed as well. And having groups.

16 Q. You have mentioned there was other PE teachers as well.
17 Do you know what they would do on their late night?

18 A. It would be the same as myself.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. You have got me thinking what the other teachers would
21 do on their late night. I just, I can't remember other
22 evening activities. It couldn't have been that everyone
23 sat watching telly all night. If I went to the gym.
24 I can't -- I can only get some kind of picture of
25 Larchgrove the building itself and what was available.

1 Q. Okay. But in relation to some activities during the
2 day, you tell us that there were chores, and you did see
3 boys carrying out chores, and that related to scrubbing
4 the floors on their hands and knees?

5 A. Yes, it was the scrubbing of the floors that I remember,
6 because they would have to move to the side if people
7 were walking through. And, well, I did question it at
8 the time, why are they doing that? But it was --
9 I think I said that I got the feeling they were doing it
10 to fill time, and to do something that maybe needed
11 done, but the floors were scrubbed regularly.

12 Q. When you say the floors were scrubbed regularly, was
13 that by the boys?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. Was it something you saw happening often?

16 A. My memory is yes. I couldn't say how often. I am not
17 saying it was every minute of the day, because only some
18 young people would be in class. I can't even remember
19 how many were in Larchgrove, but only certain, a certain
20 number would be in class, so you had to fill their time
21 somehow the rest of the time.

22 Q. When you say that you posed the question: why are they
23 doing that? Can you remember getting an answer as to
24 why that was happening?

25 A. No, I can't.

1 Q. Okay.

2 Graham, you go on in your statement to talk about
3 the difference, perhaps in menu, between what the staff
4 had, what the boys had, but I think you say it was
5 different areas that they ate in, is that right?

6 A. Yes, I can kind of picture the dining area and the staff
7 eating area, one table, so they were separate.

8 Q. I think you comment that the area where the boys ate was
9 a bit like a prison setting.

10 A. Yes. If I refer back to Gilshochill, everyone ate in
11 the same area, the dining area, teachers, care staff,
12 young people, sat wherever, there were no seats set for
13 different people. You sat down and would help serve
14 together, eat together, and chat together.

15 At Larchgrove, only the young people sat at the
16 tables and I don't know how the food was served, I can't
17 remember, but a few members of staff would walk about to
18 keep an eye on things.

19 Q. When you were talking about the differences there, you
20 mentioned chatting together. Was that something the
21 boys were able to do when they were having their meals
22 that you saw?

23 A. At Larchgrove?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. Oh, hmm, yes, I can't -- I am not suggesting there was

1 silence. I am sure the boys would chat amongst
2 themselves.

3 Q. In relation to school then, Graham, you tell us that
4 essentially Larchgrove was an assessment centre and
5 sometimes boys would only be there for a short period of
6 time, potentially maybe three weeks I think we have
7 heard about, 21 days, but I think you say there about
8 six to eight weeks, sometimes. So as you mentioned only
9 a limited education could be provided in that timeframe?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. As you say, you don't think the education was very well
12 planned?

13 A. No, that's -- when I think back, I certainly don't
14 remember having any meetings with the principal teacher
15 to discuss, you know, the six young people and what
16 could be offered to each of them. There were
17 educational materials, and there were, yes, I don't
18 think there was much planning to it, and forward
19 thinking, and this leads on to that. So it was each day
20 a bit ad-hoc, possibly, yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Graham, was education at Larchgrove split into
22 three terms the way it would have been in an ordinary
23 school?

24 A. No, no.

25 LADY SMITH: What happened?

1 A. Well, simply because, you know, one young person might
2 be there literally for three weeks, and then if that was
3 extended, and from memory it would either be three or
4 six or nine, I think, another three weeks had to be
5 applied for or asked for at a hearing.

6 So no, so there weren't terms as such, because
7 children and young people were coming and going all the
8 time.

9 LADY SMITH: Does that mean that classes, educational
10 classes, were running all the time?

11 A. Yes, that's my memory, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS FORBES: Graham, I think you say that you had five or six
14 children for PE and general teaching. Were they the
15 same children then, that you had for both?

16 A. Yes, because I would have my class group. I think for
17 PE probably two class groups were joined together, maybe
18 more. So you were saying when was the PE, if it was in
19 the afternoon, you know, maybe all the kids in class
20 would go to the gym for bigger numbers. But I had my
21 set class, which would change as new young people came
22 in and others left.

23 Q. Were there other teachers who were teaching this general
24 education --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- as well? They would have their group, which would
2 change, depending on who was leaving and coming in?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think you say that when they arrived there would be
5 an assessment of sorts that you had within the classroom
6 to be able to assess them for their level of reading and
7 maths?

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. Yes.

10 That was the first indication you would have as to
11 where they were in their educational journey?

12 A. Yes, these are a couple of things that we were asked to
13 do, and did, and you can -- there are different tools to
14 use and materials you can get, you know, reading down
15 the sheet and how far can a child get down to, and that
16 gives you a reading age, roughly, and the same with
17 maths.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. The rest of the time, I mean I think I tried to make it
20 interesting for young people, if it wasn't in some way
21 it would be rubbish for them and for me, but I can't
22 really remember what I did. It is a few years ago.

23 Q. I think you do say, though, Graham, that you thought it
24 was a fairly pointless exercise, but you did it. Why
25 did you think that?

1 A. I suppose I am partly thinking about the whole concept
2 of young people going into -- being taken away from
3 their community, and school, if they go, and home, if
4 they live there, and put them somewhere else, in amongst
5 children and young people that they have never met
6 before and staff they don't know to assess them as
7 individuals. It is a ridiculous concept, really.
8 Because they are fish out of their own water and their
9 behaviour and their experience and whatnot will be quite
10 different in a place like that.

11 And, yes, to do that in a setting like Larchgrove,
12 which was cold and regimented and you wouldn't really
13 see how a young person were ... as people, you wouldn't
14 get to know them properly.

15 I don't know if there are assessment centres now,
16 I would doubt it. I would imagine there are assessments
17 in the community.

18 Q. I think you say, though, that the results of the
19 assessments you did carry out were presented at, you
20 have called them assessment meetings. Was that
21 something that you would do? Would you present the
22 results?

23 A. Yes, I would go along to the assessment meeting,
24 assessment conference I think it was called, I would go
25 along and their case coordinator would go, educational

1 psychologist, who from memory would have come into see
2 a child for half an hour and do an assessment, and the
3 parents might be there, or would be there, and I think
4 the young person would be there, and there would be
5 a discussion and assessment, and probably someone from
6 the school would be there.

7 Q. You remember attending meetings like that about the boys
8 that were there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did that happen fairly regularly then, during the course
11 of the time that you were at Larchgrove?

12 A. It would have, yes. I mean for every child. So it
13 could be possibly after three weeks, or six, or nine, or
14 ... but, yes, that was a regular occurrence.

15 Q. Was somebody there responsible then for preparing some
16 sort of report that would then be sent somewhere?

17 A. I would have to have put something in writing, probably
18 along the lines of reading age, maths age, how I found
19 the young person to be in class, his relationships with
20 other children. I would have contacted the school, got
21 feedback from this, I would do my bit and the case
22 coordinator would pull everything together.

23 From memory that was the way it was.

24 Q. It was the case coordinator who was in charge of really
25 pulling that together and coming up with a final report,

1 if you like?

2 A. Yes, pretty sure, yes.

3 Q. Would you see that final report once it was prepared?

4 A. I am sure I must. It would have been a bit strange if

5 I hadn't. I think I must have.

6 Q. Would that report, from your recollection, have any

7 recommendation, for example as to what should happen

8 next with the child?

9 A. Right, I can't remember if there would be

10 a recommendation in that or that would be part of the

11 case conference and at the end of that, collectively,

12 people would say what they are thinking. But may have

13 referred to it on their own, as part of the report, what

14 they were thinking.

15 LADY SMITH: Would I be right in thinking, Graham, that at

16 that stage in your career you would have had little

17 knowledge of the schools to which these children could

18 potentially be sent, an Approved School for example,

19 because there were several available. Did you know

20 anything about them?

21 A. I got to know the names very quickly. Many of them

22 don't exist now. I didn't really know much about them

23 at all.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 A. As I say, I probably knew nothing about them, other than

1 what I had been told.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes. But not from your own experience?

3 A. No, not at all.

4 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

5 MS FORBES: My Lady.

6 Just before we leave this issue about the assessment
7 that would be carried out and the report that would be
8 prepared, were you aware of where these reports were
9 going ultimately, or who was going to be making
10 decisions at the end of it about the young person?

11 A. Where the report would go I would imagine -- well, no,
12 but I imagine it would be part of that, because all
13 children and young person would have had a social
14 worker, so it would be held with the Social Work
15 Department, and with the school if they were going back
16 to school, I imagine. As I say, the decision would be
17 made at the end of or as part of the case conference.

18 Q. As far as you are aware would that feed into the
19 decisions that would be made about where that young
20 person would go, whether they would go back home or
21 whether they would go somewhere else after Larchgrove?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would you be aware at the time quite regularly of some
24 boys going on to Approved Schools and places like that?

25 A. Oh yes, that was one of the options. I just remember --

1 wouldn't even have been called 'approved', List D or
2 List G, I think that was the terminology.

3 Q. So it was List D at the time that are were taking about
4 in 1981?

5 A. Well, from memory, List D being -- List G being for
6 young people who, I don't want to use the word
7 'disturbed', but I remember it being used. With
8 emotional, social, rather than behavioural problems,
9 though that might come out in behaviour.

10 I can't remember what the definition would have been
11 at the time between the two.

12 Q. Okay. But you are aware of the report feeding into that
13 decision-making process?

14 A. Yes, oh yes.

15 Q. I think you go on, Graham, to tell us a little bit about
16 the issue of showering there at paragraph 23, and you
17 say that you can recall boys talking about the staff in
18 relation to them showering, and how did you become aware
19 of that?

20 A. I can't remember. I have said, I must have heard the
21 young people talking about that. Like I said, I didn't
22 even know where the shower areas were. I wouldn't
23 have -- I might know the door, but I had no need. So
24 that was just a recollection. I am not suggesting that
25 there was anything untoward, but obviously some young

1 people found that quite uncomfortable, or made a point
2 about speaking about it, mentioning.

3 Q. That was the fact that staff were monitoring them whilst
4 they were showering?

5 A. Yes, and I don't know what that means, whether they were
6 in the changing area or were standing in the showers
7 looking, I don't know.

8 Q. Okay.

9 Graham, you talk about visits, and say that there
10 were visits at night, always at about 7 pm, when parents
11 would come and the visiting areas, again, were
12 monitored. You had an impression of about what that was
13 like, and again you liken that to a sort of prison
14 environment?

15 A. Yes. Yes, I think the visits were, I can kind of
16 visualise where it was, but, you know, a chair or chair,
17 table, chair, and sitting together, but not being
18 allowed to go around the building, or anywhere, or sit
19 in private, and that was monitored by staff.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So it was, you know, as I would see on the telly, in
22 a prison. And very closely monitored.

23 Q. Was that different from your placement before?

24 A. Yes, I can't even remember visiting, I think parents
25 could come along, by arrangement, and could sit in the

1 boys' bedroom, or in the lounge, or ... totally
2 different.

3 Q. Then after these visits, I think you talk about the
4 practice that the boys would be put through, what was
5 that?

6 A. Yes, I used to hear about this, the strip searching.
7 For what I can only imagine, it was in case something
8 had been handed over. Cigarettes at that time in
9 residential work was quite a currency, you know. But
10 staff were looking for something. I don't know what.

11 Q. Do you know who it was that would carry out these strip
12 searches?

13 A. The care staff.

14 Q. Okay. How regular of an occurrence, as far as you are
15 aware, was that?

16 A. My understanding was that after -- it seems outrageous,
17 but after every visit.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And that's not my recollection, I can't remember, but
20 surely it couldn't have been every young person after
21 every visit. Maybe it was a random thing. I don't
22 know.

23 Q. But somebody --

24 A. But it happened.

25 Q. It was something that you were aware of, though?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How did you become aware of it, was it through the boys
3 talking about it, or something else?

4 A. Yes, most -- any of the things I think that I didn't
5 actually see myself, it would have been hearing from the
6 boys, so that must have come from boys talking about it.

7 Q. Okay. I think you comment, Graham, that you weren't
8 aware of any independent inspections when you were
9 there, and if you had been you would have told them what
10 you thought?

11 A. Yes, I believe there was some kind of inspection, I have
12 only found out since, or when it went to the newspapers,
13 that there had been an inspection a number of years
14 before then and that different things weren't changed or
15 carried out. But there was nothing when I was there, at
16 all.

17 Q. Okay.

18 I think you comment that when a boy would leave
19 Larchgrove and go to wherever their next place was, they
20 had their belongings with them, but they would be in
21 a black bin bag?

22 A. Mm-hm. Yes.

23 Q. Is that something that sticks in your mind?

24 A. It does. It is just one of these things. Now,
25 Larchgrove probably wasn't the only place where that

1 happened, I don't know, but that was the case, and you
2 would see kids leaving with their social worker with
3 their black bin bag.

4 Q. You now move on, Graham, in your statement you talk
5 about the first part is punishments, I think, it is
6 paragraph 28. You comment that at that time you don't
7 think that there was corporal punishment.

8 A. No, I don't recall any, you know, there wasn't -- the
9 belt had been done away with, I think, had it? I don't
10 think smacking was -- I think smacking had become
11 illegal. But I wasn't aware of any, no.

12 Q. Normal punishment would be for withdrawal of things such
13 as cigarettes?

14 A. Privileges, whatever privilege there might be, I guess
15 going to the gym that night, or cigarettes certainly was
16 a currency --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- and used as a punishment.

19 Q. Were you ever involved in having to carry out any
20 punishments on any of the boys?

21 A. No, again my memory is -- maybe I was, but I don't think
22 so -- that it was again back to the care staff. The
23 teachers were used to occupying the children in the day,
24 or some of them.

25 Q. If someone had misbehaved, or we have heard the phrase

1 'kicked off', or something, in your class, in PE for
2 example, would you have to then go and tell someone else
3 about it?

4 A. Yes, yes, I would. I mean in all honesty, I wonder if
5 the practice was at that time right, you are not getting
6 your next cigarette, which would lead to someone kicking
7 off in any case, if that was -- maybe I did it, I don't
8 know. If someone was particularly difficult and I said
9 right, I am going to speak to your care staff. I don't
10 know. I hope I didn't.

11 Q. But certainly, like you say, it was privileges that
12 would be withdrawn if there was misbehaviour?

13 A. Not that there were many privileges, but, yes.

14 Q. Cigarettes, perhaps, was one of the few?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You also talk, Graham, about a room that was known as
17 the 'Pokey', you describe that room at paragraph 29 of
18 your statement?

19 A. Yes. Without even looking, my memory, I can picture
20 where it is, just inside the front door, over to the
21 right, I think there was a table outside with a book on
22 it, a folder, I think that was there for writing down
23 when someone was there. I remember, there wasn't
24 a window, it was stiflingly hot, there was a radiator.
25 I think I probably only looked in it once. Yes,

1 stifflingly hot. And that was where, I don't know how
2 often, some young people were put in the Pokey to calm
3 down.

4 Q. I think you say that there was a mattress on the floor?

5 A. Yes, honestly, there was something. Whether it was
6 a bed with a mattress, or a mattress. Now, even six and
7 a half years after seeing this, I can't remember if it
8 was -- did I say just mattress? There was something.
9 But what it was, that was it.

10 LADY SMITH: Graham, you say it had no window and it was
11 stifflingly hot?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Did it have any ventilation at all?

14 A. I just remember the heat. Maybe the only ventilation
15 was under the door, you know.

16 LADY SMITH: Any draft that was able to get in.

17 A. Yes, not sure.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 A. Not that I remember.

20 MS FORBES: What about toilet facilities, Graham, was there
21 anything in the room in that regard?

22 A. I can't remember.

23 Q. Okay. I think you comment that the Pokey reminded you
24 of something from a film?

25 A. Oh yes, yes. It was The Bridge on the River Kwai, if

1 you have seen it, and there was the -- what's it called,
2 the sweat boxes that some prisoners were put in for
3 doing whatever, and left there.

4 That's maybe -- it wouldn't be quite as bad as that,
5 but I still had that vision of someone being locked
6 away, in a stifflingly hot room, and just left.

7 I say just left, I am not saying that people were
8 left for days, as they might be in The Bridge on the
9 River Kwai, but they were in there until they calmed
10 down.

11 Q. You were aware of that being used to put boys in while
12 you were there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Yes. Don't know how often. I am not saying it was
16 every day. But it was used.

17 Q. Graham, you talk about an occasion that you remember
18 when you were on an evening shift where you had to be
19 involved in the restraint of a boy. You don't think he
20 had been there that long at the time. You comment that
21 you hadn't had any training in holds or restraints
22 before that had happened; is that right?

23 A. Yes, nothing at all. No.

24 Q. You say that with this boy you were just trying to
25 restrain him and help him calm down?

1 A. Yes, it was later, it was the evening I was on, that
2 I was working later, and I can't remember why. And it
3 was in one of the rooms with the plastic seats, and I am
4 going to say he was about a 10- or a 11-year old, and he
5 was distressed, and I found myself, I can't remember
6 what led to it, holding him, in fact he must have been
7 young and smallish, because I was kind of cradling him,
8 and talking to him, you know, hopefully he would be less
9 distressed. I don't know how long that went on for.
10 But, you know, I was trying to help him calm down.

11 Q. How did it come to an end?

12 A. It was when, I think I even remember a name, but one or
13 two of the staff came in, because they would have been
14 finishing at 10 o'clock, then the night staff would come
15 in. So I don't know if they were day staff or night
16 staff. And it was, 'Right, we will take over, we have
17 no time for this', and the wee boy was taken away from
18 me, and that was that.

19 Q. I think you say at paragraph 31 you name one of the
20 people that was involved in that as the staff as
21 [REDACTED], is that right?

22 A. Yes, he is just one person I remember from Larchgrove,
23 and he was certainly one of the staff that came in.

24 Q. He said something like, 'We have not got time for this,
25 it's lights out'?

1 A. Yes, it is regimented.

2 Q. That meant it was time for bed?

3 A. Bed. The lights would go out at 10 o'clock, from
4 memory. But that was it. So the day was divided into
5 sections. And that was it. You are awake and what not.
6 We are not having any of this nonsense. I don't know if
7 the wee boy was put in the Pokey.

8 Q. I think you have said --

9 A. Well, I have said that he did. If a few years ago
10 I said that, I wouldn't have said it if I didn't know,
11 so I think he must have.

12 Q. You think that's right, that he was led to the Pokey and
13 put in?

14 A. I think he would have, I don't think he would have been
15 taken to his bedroom, his dormitory, if he was still
16 very distressed.

17 Q. I think you said, Graham, earlier when you were
18 describing this boy, that he was quite young?

19 A. Yes, if I could kind of cradle him, and I don't think
20 that's one of the restraint techniques, but I was doing
21 what felt right at the time, so, yes, I would think he
22 was 10-ish.

23 Q. You comment that you thought that the regime was
24 governed more by the clock --

25 A. The clock, and as you were asking, by fear. I think,

1 yes, Larchgrove was governed by fear a lot of the time,
2 and don't rock the boat, just comply. And if you don't,
3 then, you know, you will end up in the Pokey, or
4 whatever.

5 So the clock, yes.

6 Q. When you say governed by fear, what was the thing that
7 they were to be afraid of, as far as you were concerned?

8 A. Um, yes, I don't know. Whether it was the Pokey, having
9 privileges, if there were any, withdrawn, having
10 cigarettes withdrawn. I said right at the beginning my
11 memory is kind of big burly, keys hanging from their
12 waistband, yes, not very caring people. And just the
13 fear of what might happen if I don't comply.

14 Q. You say that you hadn't had any training in restraint or
15 holding before that incident. Did you get training in
16 that after?

17 A. At Larchgrove?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Oh no.

20 Q. Okay. Were you aware of any training of staff in
21 relation to restraint?

22 A. No. It doesn't mean there wasn't something, but
23 I wasn't aware of it. And I can't remember any of it.

24 Q. But certainly you didn't receive any?

25 A. No. We would have been, you know, if someone, your

1 expression, but a common expression, if someone kicked
2 off in the classroom then the care staff would deal with
3 that.

4 Q. Okay. I think you comment you didn't see any evidence
5 of bullying amongst the boys, and you didn't see any
6 evidence of injuries, such as bruises that were visible
7 or black eyes, while you were there?

8 A. Not that I recall. And when I eventually went to the
9 newspapers I didn't talk about that, so it wasn't --
10 because I would have. I say there wasn't any bullying,
11 there would have been bullying, but not serious,
12 in-your-face bullying. There would be a natural
13 hierarchy that would evolve, though children and young
14 people, the turnover was probably fairly quick, but
15 there would have been the top dog and a few others.

16 Q. From your point of view were you aware of that, of who
17 these people were, who was the top dog and who was where
18 in the hierarchy?

19 A. I probably was at the time. Yes, I would have got to
20 know some young people better than others and would have
21 realised who was the top dog, or up there.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You comment that you can't remember any times when care
25 staff were directing any of the boys to exact

1 retribution on other boys.

2 A. Yes, I can't remember that at all.

3 Q. You do say in the next sentence:

4 'I can imagine this happening but I can't recall any
5 specific instances.'

6 I am just wondering, what makes you say that?

7 A. I wonder why I said that. I can't remember.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Simply.

10 Q. That's fair.

11 Just going forward, Graham, there is a section in
12 your statement that talks about this culture at
13 Larchgrove, from paragraph 34. You mentioned this
14 earlier, this "don't rock the boat" and "just get on
15 with it". You comment that the equivalent to what is
16 known now as whistleblowing just didn't happen then?

17 A. No, I don't -- you know, it didn't. And I think the
18 "don't rock the boat" is an expression that the
19 principal teacher used. He was caught between the
20 teaching group and the care staff and was on the senior
21 management team. So "don't rock the boat" was
22 an expression, just keep things calm, just get on with
23 it, you know, don't really question things.

24 Whistleblowing, I believe that actually
25 Gerry McKeown, who put his name to the newspaper thing,

1 because he was emigrating, and he was happy to do that,
2 he had, I think, put something in writing to the head of
3 Larchgrove, whose name I have forgotten again, and heard
4 nothing about it. And it was concerns over something,
5 I can't remember, but he was either told just leave it,
6 or didn't hear anything back.

7 So, yes, don't rock the boat, this is the way it is
8 at Larchgrove and has been for a long time. Don't want
9 any new staff and that's why the two new teachers really
10 weren't particularly welcomed, because we were new
11 people and we might rock the boat.

12 Q. You say there you don't remember any structure for
13 reporting anything that you were concerned about, and
14 I think you comment that's why you went down the route
15 you did, and the route that you went down was to contact
16 a journalist friend, is that right?

17 A. Yes, it was actually a friend of my wife's, but I used
18 to windsurf with him and whatnot, and then just in
19 talking about my new, newish job at this place and he
20 couldn't believe what I was telling him. I don't
21 remember how it came about, but we then met two, three,
22 four times. He wanted me to put my name to it, asked if
23 I would, but I was young in my career and sometimes if
24 you rock the boat and give names and whatnot, it could
25 back fire, and my father was also a senior manager in

1 social work in Renfrew at the time. I didn't even tell
2 him I was doing this. But I met with the journalist.

3 We also, he wanted photographs, we used to have
4 a badminton evening on a Monday night, so a photographer
5 came to the badminton evening, took some photos of the
6 dormitories whilst everyone was at tea, and this
7 appeared in the newspaper. I mentioned I wasn't going
8 to put my name to it. He would have still used the
9 story, but to have a name gave it more oomph, and Gerry,
10 because he was -- at that stage he was going to emigrate
11 with his wife to Australia, he said that he would do it.

12 Q. This is Gerry McKeown, is that how you say it?

13 A. Let's go with that.

14 Q. This journalist was David Cameron, who worked for The
15 Scotsman at the time?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think you say that the trigger for you was maybe
18 an accumulation of things, but it might even have been
19 the wee boy going into the Pokey?

20 A. I wonder, I don't know, can't remember, but yes.

21 Q. You have explained the reasons why you didn't want to
22 put your name to it at the time, but there was someone
23 who was prepared to put their name to, it and that was
24 one of the teachers you mentioned, Gerry McKeown?

25 A. McKeown.

1 Q. Was he working there at the same time as you?

2 A. He was there when I arrived, so there were two teachers
3 and the principal teacher when I arrived, and that made
4 it then four teachers and the principal teacher. So he
5 had already been there for a wee while and he wasn't
6 happy with the regime, hence he was the one that put in
7 writing, I will call it a complaint, to the officer in
8 charge and didn't hear anything back.

9 Q. We will come to the story in just a minute, but I think
10 you say that after the story came out the officer in
11 charge was moved to social work headquarters, as far as
12 you are aware?

13 A. Yes, social work headquarters, a desk somewhere.

14 Q. Yes. And nobody knew that he had moved, it just sort of
15 happened?

16 A. Yes, I mean a decision obviously was made when it hit
17 the newspapers that something had to change, not that he
18 was the scapegoat, but he was in charge.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. He was in charge of that establishment. There were
21 other people that were in charge of Larchgrove and other
22 similar establishments who knew what Larchgrove was
23 like.

24 Q. I think you say that two or three days later there was
25 a meeting with the social work management and you were

1 told that there would be changes, and you think there
2 were changes?

3 A. I think there were some changes, and one was that the
4 door, there must have been an instruction, the doors
5 will no longer be locked. It was the same staff group.
6 I remember Liz Jack, who was involved at Gilshochill,
7 she came along. I remember a big staff meeting, just
8 following the expose, and she spoke about:

9 'Yes, there would be changes, and the doors won't be
10 locked any more.'

11 But she didn't specify what changes, but she wasn't
12 the new head, someone else came in, Ken Rants.

13 LADY SMITH: What was the theme of the article written by
14 the journalist?

15 A. What was the theme?

16 LADY SMITH: The theme, mm-hm.

17 A. I met with him a few times. It was partly just
18 describing what was happening at Larchgrove, the things
19 I have talked about, so the Pokey, the strip searches,
20 and the restricted visiting, and the locked doors, and
21 the reason young people were there. But a strong theme,
22 that, he must have told me at the time, he looked into
23 the fact there had been an inspection in 1973ish.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 A. And there were recommendations. And few, if any, of

1 these were dealt with.

2 LADY SMITH: This was nearly a decade after the, I think the
3 report was 1973 --

4 A. Right.

5 LADY SMITH: -- so the information started coming to the
6 fore before 1973.

7 A. Right, I hadn't been aware, I don't think, when I went
8 to see David, and it ended up in the paper, aware of
9 that inspection. I am not sure. I don't think so.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 MS FORBES: Now, my Lady, it is not within our records at
12 the moment, but we do have a copy of the newspaper
13 article, and I believe that Graham has maybe a legible
14 copy with him today, but it is something that he has
15 confirmed is the correct one.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you, yes.

17 MS FORBES: If your Ladyship allows it, I was just going to
18 read some parts of that report, that article.

19 I think Graham --

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: -- in your statement you thought it was
22 9 October 1981 in The Scotsman, but the archives I am
23 looking at are 6 October 1981, so just about the same
24 time.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. From the top left of that article, I think the heading
2 is 'The child prisoners of Larchgrove'.

3 Then there are various columns, and on the far
4 left-hand column at the top it starts:

5 'Eight years ago Sheriff Ronald Bennett recommended
6 sweeping changes in the way that Larchgrove Assessment
7 Centre, Glasgow was run. But today children are still
8 humiliated and degraded by members of staff and they go
9 on breaking out of their prison-like confines. Some by
10 jumping out of windows, some by walking out in disguise
11 with relatives, and others running off while playing in
12 football matches. In this special report a former
13 teacher and concerned members of staff revealed the
14 Dickensian horrors of Larchgrove to David Cameron.'

15 Then just further down the page I will read
16 a section on the left-hand side, halfway down, it says:

17 'Degradation, humiliation, and appalling living
18 conditions are charges which are not new to the
19 Larchgrove Assessment Centre, the target of a major
20 inquiry eight years ago. Despite assurances on
21 an impressive list of improvements ordered by a Sheriff
22 after the inquiry, little has changed inside the bleak
23 buildings in the heart of Glasgow. Now a former teacher
24 and members of the centre's staff have catalogued the
25 same ill treatment, degrading rituals, unnecessary

1 regimes, and dreadful living conditions that were
2 alleged by child supervisor Francis Carrigan in 1973.
3 The staff's bitterness and anger at conditions in the
4 centre are founded on the knowledge that no other
5 similar establishment in Strathclyde still operates the
6 Dickensian regime of Larchgrove.'

7 Then it goes on to say:

8 'In irony, the staff point to Gilshochill [I am
9 probably saying it wrong again] Assessment Centre,
10 recognised throughout the social work profession as one
11 of the country's most successful and progressive
12 institutions, but which was axed last year during local
13 government expenditure cuts.'

14 That's part of the article on the far left-hand
15 side, and then to the right of the page, because it is
16 a full-page spread that this got, there is a section
17 that's headed up:

18 'It is common for a child to take his mattress to
19 a windowless cell where he is locked in for the night.'

20 I will just read out that part of the article, which
21 says:

22 'At the heart of the complaints is the treatment
23 which is meted out to children at the centre, a regime
24 which bears close resemblance to prison practices is
25 a system which has remained static since 1973, despite

1 the advancement of methods used in similar
2 establishments throughout Scotland. Former acting
3 principal teacher Mr Gerry McKeown and his colleagues at
4 Larchgrove explained what happens to the youngster when
5 he arrives at the centre.

6 'First, the child is searched and all his clothes
7 and personal belongings are taken away. He is given the
8 centre uniform, which is old, worn, and in poor
9 condition, with a coloured ring on the sleeve to depict
10 his section. The child is then taken to one of the
11 blocks, Bute, Arran or Jackson Houses, where he is
12 detailed to a room. Inside his dormitory, many of the
13 beds are broken with mattresses ripped or stained by
14 years of bed wetting. Last year, an order for 70 new
15 beds was blocked because of lack of cash. Only 12 beds
16 finally arrived.

17 'In the dormitories a child referred for truancy
18 could be sleeping head to toe with a boy who faces
19 serious criminal charges, ranging from attempted murder
20 to house breaking and car theft. The beds in the
21 dormitories of the houses, which are all separated by
22 locked corridors are, in the case of Jackson and Bute
23 Houses, only inches apart, with six beds cramped into
24 each room. If there are too many children in
25 Larchgrove, the child is given a mattress and blankets

1 and told to sleep on the floor. As a last resort, the
2 child is taken to the sick bay where there are only two
3 beds and the unit is again sealed off by locked doors.
4 In the rooms there is little or no furniture, windows
5 made of glass and steel give the dormitories
6 a prison-like atmosphere. These windows can only open
7 a very few inches, and in one room they are welded to
8 the steel surrounds. The few personal belongings which
9 selected children are allowed to keep are stored in
10 lockers in a separate part of the building, and the
11 child has to ask permission to go there. He is always
12 accompanied. During the day, the child is marched along
13 corridors by staff to reach either the classrooms or the
14 dining area. Halting at each of the sealed doors until
15 it is unlocked.

16 Despite facilities around the building there is no
17 set pattern for exercise. It is a regular feature that
18 a child will not see outside Larchgrove for the entire
19 21 days of his assessment period. Inside, the child is
20 made to scrub walls, floors, and ceilings using soap and
21 brushes as a way of "maintaining order and discipline".
22 Other sections of the buildings are cleaned by members
23 of staff using proper industrial cleaning equipment.
24 The child is put on scrubbing duty when not attending
25 the scant facilities for education.

1 There are only four working teachers and a principal
2 teacher at Larchgrove to cope with approximately 70 boys
3 each week. Each teacher, works with six boys at a time
4 for half a day. This means that large numbers of boys
5 are not receiving any education at the centre.
6 Mr McKeown said it has not been unknown for a child to
7 go for months inside Larchgrove without going to
8 a classroom. A child who is in for truancy is probably
9 attending school less than when he was dodging normal
10 school day. The child is allowed three one-hour visits
11 from a relative each week. At visiting time the visitor
12 is shown to a spartan room full of plastic chairs facing
13 each other in rows.'

14 If we can go to the top right of the column, the
15 last column there:

16 'A runner, a boy who has been given privileges, is
17 sent to collect the child. In the room the child is
18 allowed to talk with the visitor in the company of up to
19 100 others. A member of staff is always present and
20 there is no privacy. Afterwards the child can expect to
21 be taken to the shower area where he is stripped to his
22 underwear and searched for anything which may have been
23 passed to him during visiting. Save for the smallest
24 amount of sweets, everything is taken away from the
25 child and held until the end of his stay. Further

1 searches are carried out in the dormitories while the
2 boys are in another part of the building. If the child,
3 as often happens, reacts in a violent or aggressive
4 manner to this treatment, members of the Larchgrove
5 staff make regular use of a room in the building called
6 Pokey, or cell. This is a tiny, poorly ventilated room
7 with no furniture, and bricked-up windows, access is
8 through a prison-like peephole door. The child is taken
9 to the Pokey, by the member of staff, and locked in
10 until he has cooled off sufficiently for him to return
11 to the dormitory. However, it is a common event for the
12 child to be told to take his mattress to the cell, where
13 he is locked in for the night. When the child is to be
14 taken to the hearing of his case, he is escorted by two
15 wardens in a secure van. He does not see a parent or
16 relative until he arrives before the Panel. This
17 practice is not used at any other assessment centre in
18 Strathclyde, except in extreme cases.'

19 I think thereafter it is difficult to read part of
20 it, so I won't try, because it cuts off halfway through
21 the sentence. Essentially this is the information that
22 you gave to David Cameron, the journalist, and there is
23 more in this newspaper article, which we will in time
24 see the whole amount of, but Gerry McKeown's name is put
25 to this, but this was you telling David Cameron what was

1 going on in Larchgrove, is that right?

2 A. Yes. I think, maybe after it was in the press, I think
3 David also met with Gerry. Some of them, or even
4 before, because some of that information clearly Gerry
5 knew more details than I did.

6 Q. Okay. So it is maybe a collaboration between you and
7 Gerry?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you think there was maybe others involved in speaking
10 to David Cameron?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. Okay. So as far as you are aware it was just you and
13 Gerry.

14 A. Yes, it does say in there about, you know, it wasn't
15 just Gerry, it was other staff, it was only the teaching
16 staff. No -- none of the care staff knew anything about
17 this, it really was kept hush hush so that it would go
18 to the papers and, or word would have got around, you
19 know, amongst other staff.

20 So none of the care staff were behind this exposé,
21 or whistle blowing.

22 Q. After this, I think you say that you weren't aware of
23 any independent investigation taking place at
24 Larchgrove, and you think that if there was one, if
25 there had been one, then you would have expected to have

1 been interviewed?

2 A. Yes, after the exposé.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. No, there wasn't a new inspection, or assessment of the
5 place, in practice. So, yes, I would have certainly
6 been asked.

7 Q. I think this obviously came out on 6 October 1981 and
8 you left Larchgrove in May 1982. Between the time of
9 this publication and you leaving, apart from what you
10 have said about the doors being unlocked, did you see
11 any other big changes at Larchgrove?

12 A. I can't remember.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I really can't. It was the same building, it was the
15 same -- for me as a teacher, it was the same timetable,
16 if you like, each day, and still one evening a week, but
17 the doors were then unlocked, and --

18 Q. Did the Pokey remain? Sorry.

19 A. Oh, good question. I don't think it did, but I can't
20 remember. So there was a new head, Ken Rants, I can't
21 remember his background, he happened to be a PE teacher
22 as well.

23 One thing he introduced was that if a young person
24 ran away, when they came back he would take them on
25 a two-mile run. It was bizarre. But, yes, but he was

1 a new -- there were changes. The fact that the other
2 officer in charge had left. I can't remember what
3 changes. And it was the same staff group.

4 Q. Yes. So from your point of view, from what you saw
5 before you left, did this public exposé make any
6 difference to the boys in Larchgrove on a daily basis?

7 A. I think it must have, it was the beginning.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And ultimately it was the beginning of the end, because
10 I can't remember when Larchgrove actually closed, but it
11 was the beginning of the Social Work Department thinking
12 hmm, maybe we need to change direction, this isn't -- we
13 can't continue with this. I think it was still there
14 for another couple of years, but I can't remember.
15 Maybe longer.

16 Q. I think the information the inquiry has heard is that it
17 closed in 1987.

18 A. Did it? So a wee bit. Okay.

19 Q. A little bit longer, about five years after you left.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think after that you went on, you continued with
22 teaching, is that right?

23 A. No, actually, I changed and I went as deputy head of
24 a children's home in the West End of Glasgow. And then
25 I was officer in charge of a children's home in

1 Easterhouse, and then moved to Dundee as depute head of
2 a residential school, and then joined Barnardo's
3 Scotland. My whole career has been linked with children
4 in care, or trying to keep them out of care, or helping
5 them when they leave care.

6 Q. In your time throughout those years, did you ever see
7 anything again like you had seen at Larchgrove?

8 A. No, not at all.

9 Q. I think you say, Graham, in your statement, that things
10 were different when you were at Larchgrove than they are
11 now, and back then there were different care
12 establishments, some were good, like the first one you
13 were in, and others, like Larchgrove, were not. And
14 there were some practices that were acceptable then, but
15 are not now, and there are some practices, also, then
16 that would never be acceptable?

17 A. Yes, yes. I mean in years gone by, of course, practice
18 in different establishments and settings in life were
19 different. If Larchgrove had been a remand centre, as
20 I believe it was at some stage, then you could, what
21 I have described and you have talked about, it is almost
22 more like a remand, like a prison setting, and
23 practice -- the practices that went on at Larchgrove,
24 weren't secret. There was a Director of Social Work and
25 senior managers and every young person had a social

1 worker and an educational psychologist, they all knew
2 what was -- not in detail, but they knew what the regime
3 was like. And so it seemed to be not acceptable, but
4 just don't rock the boat.

5 Q. But from your point of view, from what you saw, you felt
6 so strongly about it that you talked to the journalist
7 about it to --

8 A. Yes, I mean I have wondered is it a kind of cowardly
9 way, you know, and I wasn't putting my name to it, but
10 I had reasons for that, but I felt I had to do
11 something. So I did. I mean I have always been fairly
12 outspoken if I felt something's wrong.

13 Q. What did you hope would happen when you went to speak to
14 the journalist about Larchgrove?

15 A. That there would be an exposé, that it would lead to
16 practices changing. At that time, yes, there appeared
17 to be a need for assessment centres, because that's the
18 way that people thought they would carry out assessments
19 on young people. But not the way it was done there.

20 Gilshochill, I was probably hoping that if there was
21 another centre, or Larchgrove; would have similar
22 practices to the place I had worked in before --

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. -- which was much more caring.

25 Q. I think from what you have said, even though there were

1 changes, by the time you left in 1982 Larchgrove wasn't
2 like Gilshochill?

3 A. No, of course I didn't visit, I didn't go back once
4 I had moved on, but I would hear.

5 No, I don't think it ever turned into a more, you
6 know, a very caring place to be. I don't know. I hope
7 that strip searches stopped, and all that nonsense, and
8 the locked door -- well, the locked doors did stop, but
9 I hope practices changed.

10 Q. Yes. You are retired now, Graham, is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you say that kids should know that they can talk
13 to anyone that they feel comfortable with, and that
14 that's something that should be made clear to them when
15 they are in care?

16 A. Yes, I mean that was always debated. The idea of a key
17 worker, or a case coordinator. That, children might not
18 particularly like that person, they might not engage
19 with them, so if it is the cook, if it is the member of
20 night staff, you know, they will choose who they feel
21 most comfortable to, and share things with. It was
22 always an issue, but it needs someone to coordinate
23 every case, if I call it that.

24 So I don't know how you do that. You can't ask
25 a young person, 'Right [when they don't even know

1 people], who do you want as your ...'

2 But, yes, they should all have one, not just one,
3 but feel that they can talk to people and be cared for.

4 Q. Looking back now on your -- you have had this varied
5 career, but have been involved with children
6 residentially for a number of years, is there anything
7 that you think is really important that can help us in
8 this Inquiry looking forward to trying to prevent
9 abusive practices in these places?

10 A. I mean the expression now, or the word is
11 whistleblowing, isn't it? It is for people to feel free
12 and able to share concerns, and experiences, and be
13 listened to.

14 Q. Does that relate both to the young person and the worker
15 who is also --

16 A. Yes, where it is a young person, can talk to whoever and
17 share, and feel safe enough to talk. And for staff to
18 be able to -- if I can just mention this, it is funny,
19 the residential bit, I don't know why I am throwing this
20 in, it is nothing to do with Larchgrove. I had the
21 unique upbringing of living in a children's home, but
22 I wasn't in care, work that one out. My parents ran
23 a large children's home and school near Wolverhampton,
24 I was between the ages of 4 and 9, and it was a very
25 happy place, but I didn't know all of these -- my pals

1 that lived in the houses around about me were in care,
2 and we went to school together and I played with them
3 and whatnot. So that was my younger years,
4 formative years, experiencing that and that was a very
5 caring place. I can't remember what your last question
6 was, but I wanted to throw that in.

7 So it is not just in my career that I have --
8 I didn't know it at the time, but that's kind of -- and
9 my father was a social worker, and ended up Director of
10 Social Work, my mother was a teacher of special needs
11 kids. So, you know, that was my experience of living in
12 a caring family, and hearing and seeing people who
13 helped less fortunate families and children.

14 Q. You have this unique experience of growing up in that
15 environment, but also, then, in your career being
16 involved in residential care of children?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS FORBES: Graham, thank you very much. I don't have any
19 more questions for you. Unless there is anything else
20 that you want to say that you haven't been able to say,
21 that's it from me.

22 A. Okay, no, I have nothing else, thank you.

23 MS FORBES: Thank you very much for answering my questions
24 this afternoon.

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Graham, can I add my thanks. I am really
2 grateful to you for engaging with us as you have done,
3 both by providing your written statement, which of
4 course is evidence before me, but in being able to come
5 today and talk a bit more about your experience at
6 Larchgrove. It may only have been a year or so, but
7 from that experience in your 20s you have been able to
8 paint a picture for us that's really developed my
9 understanding of what was happening at that time, and as
10 late on as the in the 1980s, which is quite striking
11 from my perspective.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much for that.

14 A. Okay.

15 LADY SMITH: I am delighted to be able to let you go now and
16 rest.

17 A. Thank you.

18 Little did I know that 43 years ago I would end up
19 here talking about it.

20 Okay.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: Graham mentioned a name, or it may actually
23 have been two names, because he said there were two
24 brothers with this surname, Mr ^{GCW} [REDACTED], and I think
25 just take it from me that both of them would have the

1 protection of my General Restriction Order and are not
2 to be identified outside of this room.

3 That's it until Tuesday next week, I think.

4 MS FORBES: I think it's Monday next week.

5 LADY SMITH: Is it Monday?

6 MS FORBES: I do keep getting mixed up on the orders.

7 LADY SMITH: Are we sitting on Monday the 25th? I have lost
8 track. Oh, because next Friday is Good Friday, yes, of
9 course.

10 10 o'clock Monday morning, but not sitting next
11 Friday.

12 Thank you.

13 (4.05 pm)

14 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10 am on
15 Monday, 25 March 2024)

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