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Monday, 25 March 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Chapter 4 of Phase 8 of our case study hearings.

We turn to more evidence today, which will be a mixture of read-in evidence, and I think one oral witness today, is that right, Mr Peoples?

MR PEOPLES: Yes, my Lady, that's correct.

LADY SMITH: Yes.

Mr Peoples.

MR PEOPLES: We can start with the live witness. The next witness wishes to remain anonymous and will be referred to as 'Joe'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Joe' (affirmed)

LADY SMITH: 'Joe', do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

'Joe', a couple of practicalities before we begin your evidence. That red folder has your statement in it, so it will be available for you to look at if you want to --

A. Okay, thank you.

LADY SMITH: -- but we'll also bring the statement up on the screen at particular parts when we're looking at it, so you have that available as well.

1           Separately from those practicalities, 'Joe', could  
2           I just say I do appreciate that asking somebody such as  
3           you to come in to a public forum and talk about your own  
4           life when you were a child and talk about the difficult  
5           things in relation to your own life when you were  
6           a child isn't at all easy. I'd like you, if you can, to  
7           help me to enable you to give your evidence as  
8           comfortably as you can. That means if you want a break,  
9           just say. If there's anything you don't understand,  
10          it's our fault, not yours, because we haven't explained  
11          it properly. So speak up. This is a place where you  
12          are allowed to speak up, even if, as a child, you  
13          weren't. So, really, the key is, if it works for you,  
14          it will work for me.

15                Nobody yet has asked me anything unreasonable such  
16                as whether they can bring a horse into the hearing room,  
17                or whatever. But, really, anything that I can do I want  
18                to do that.

19   A. Thank you.

20   LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I'll hand over to Mr Peoples  
21                and he will take it from there, all right?

22   A. Okay.

23   LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

24                                Questions from Mr Peoples

25   MR PEOPLES: Good morning, 'Joe'.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. Can I begin by saying that you have provided the Inquiry  
3 with a statement which is in the red folder and is also  
4 on the screen in front of you. Please feel free to use  
5 either at any point.

6 I will begin by giving the reference we give to your  
7 statement just for the record, so don't be concerned,  
8 I'll give it, it's WIT.001.002.5426. Now, you don't  
9 need to concern yourself with that --

10 A. Yes, that's fine.

11 Q. -- it's just so that we have a record of that.

12 Can I ask you at this stage to turn to the final  
13 page of the statement in the red folder on page 32,  
14 I think.

15 Can you confirm that you've -- sorry, do you have  
16 that, 'Joe'? Yes?

17 A. Yes, I've got it. Yes.

18 Q. Can you confirm that you've no objection to your witness  
19 statement being published as part of the evidence to the  
20 Inquiry and that you believe the facts stated in your  
21 witness statement are true?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think that you have signed your statement on that  
24 page. It may not be evident from the screen, but you  
25 did sign your statement?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you signed it on 24 April 2019?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If I could go back to the beginning of the statement  
5 that you have provided to us. You tell us that you were  
6 born -- I don't need the precise date -- in 1964.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You will be aware, 'Joe', I think, that part of what  
9 you've said in your statement was read in on an earlier  
10 occasion when we were dealing with a chapter of evidence  
11 dealing with the Scottish Prison Service on Day 393, on  
12 5 December 2023. So we have already heard some of what  
13 you say in the statement, in particular about your time  
14 in Longriggend --

15 A. Ah-ha.

16 Q. -- institution. So today I will not be planning to deal  
17 with that part of your statement.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. We also heard a little bit about your life before care,  
20 but I will come to that, and begin with that, if I may.

21 A. Ah-ha.

22 Q. You tell us about that beginning at paragraph 2 of your  
23 written statement. If I could just recap on some of  
24 that, it is information that we've already read and has  
25 been read out, but you tell us a bit about your family

1 background, and that you were born in Glasgow and that  
2 you lived in a single-end tenement on the east side of  
3 Glasgow after you were born, with an outside toilet and  
4 in pretty cramped conditions.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Yes. However, you do say that while there was a lot of  
7 poverty, your life seemed perfectly normal --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- to you, at that time.

10 A. Ah-ha.

11 Q. Then you tell us that when you were about five years of  
12 age, you moved to a different part of Glasgow, and this  
13 time the house had an inside toilet and you described  
14 this period as amongst the best days of your life?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So these were happy times?

17 A. Yes, that was when I was just beginning primary 1.

18 Q. Yes, you were just starting school?

19 A. At Annfield Primary School, yes.

20 Q. I think you tell us, I don't need the names, you have  
21 two younger brothers?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. However, in paragraph 4, having spent the first five  
24 years in a happy situation, your parents split up, and  
25 I think you say that's really when things started to go

1 wrong, and that your father left your life and you  
2 didn't really see him again for about five or six years?

3 A. It was a few years, yes.

4 Q. Don't worry about the precise dates, but really just to  
5 get a picture of how it was for you.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. After your parents split up, you had a period, I think,  
8 of quite a lot of change. You were moving from house to  
9 house within Glasgow, and you tell us where you were  
10 staying at that time, and you tell us that your mother  
11 started to drink quite heavily, and had a new partner  
12 who was an alcoholic, and there was constant arguments  
13 in the house.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Then, when you were around age 10 or 11, you moved in  
16 with your maternal grandmother, who was then living in  
17 Livingston. Is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. As you tell us in paragraph 6, that meantime your mother  
20 had four further children with her new partner, but  
21 there was social work involvement because she wasn't  
22 coping too well?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. There came a time, I think, 'Joe', when you and  
25 a brother -- one of your brothers, at least -- moved in

1 with your father to a house that he had in the  
2 East Kilbride area?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. He was then living with -- is it his wife?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Not your mother, but --

7 A. His second wife, yes.

8 Q. -- a new partner?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You tell us at paragraph 7 that while you had a settled  
11 life there, in your view the house felt very emotionally  
12 cold and you didn't feel that any great love was shown  
13 to you. Was that by your stepmother?

14 A. Both of them.

15 Q. Or both?

16 A. Both, at the time, yes.

17 Q. When you were about 13 years of age, which would be  
18 around about 1977, or thereabouts --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- you went back to stay with your gran in Livingston?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Again, you tell us, I think, that you attended the local  
23 school and felt you were doing well, and you enjoyed  
24 your football, and life was good again?

25 A. Until my mum arrived, yes.

1 Q. Yes. But, as you say, there came a point where your mum  
2 had your half brothers and sisters taken from her and  
3 turned up at her mother's address, where you were  
4 staying, in Livingston --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- to come to live there for a time, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think you quite honestly say at paragraph 9 that you  
9 resented her presence at that time, although you can  
10 now, looking back, realise that she was quite ill at  
11 that point?

12 A. Yes. I can now.

13 Q. But at that time, you tell us that you took the wrong  
14 path and were getting into trouble with the police.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And the Social Work Department became involved with the  
17 family.

18 If we go to page 3 of the statement, just in  
19 paragraph 10, you say that there were suggestions that  
20 you should go to a children's home, but you weren't keen  
21 on that idea and you say you developed an attitude  
22 towards adults or anyone in authority at that stage,  
23 that you really didn't trust them?

24 A. Yes, I'd felt at that time that adults -- all the adults  
25 around about me had just let me down in my life.



1 Q. Yes, because you weren't happy with your own parents?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You weren't really happy with your stepmum either?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But you also felt that others who were involved with the  
6 social work, you weren't happy with them either?

7 A. Yes, there didn't seem to be the empathy or  
8 understanding that I needed at that time.

9 Q. You tell us that you started skipping school, this is in  
10 paragraph 12, and you started sniffing glue.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. However, you do say that at that time, Livingston --  
13 I quote from what you say in your statement -- was 'the  
14 glue town where all the kids stuck together'. So it had  
15 a sort of reputation?

16 A. Yes, it did, yes, in the 1970s, yes.

17 Q. You tell us that at that time apart from sniffing glue  
18 and not attending school you were drinking and you were  
19 stealing wine, I think it is fairly cheap wine at the  
20 time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And also stealing glue from shops and you started also  
23 to have some panic attacks?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you help us with what you felt was causing these

1           panic attacks at that time? Was there something that  
2           particularly triggered them?

3    A. Yes, there was a few. The police had showed me photos  
4           of people struggling, after taking glue. And also I had  
5           seen the film 'Jaws' and I remember, it says here TV,  
6           but it was actually in a cinema in Glasgow with my two  
7           cousins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I think I was -- I don't know  
8           what certificate Jaws had at the time, but I would have  
9           been about 11 or 12, and I remember that after it I went  
10          to the Dollan Baths in East Kilbride and I was up the  
11          deep end, it must have been about week after seeing the  
12          movie, and I took a massive panic attack.

13                 And so any time I was at the deep end of a swimming  
14          baths after seeing that movie for a couple of years  
15          I was taking panic attacks, and the glue, the photos  
16          I was shown, I'm sure it was Bathgate Police Station at  
17          the time and it was a Livingston CID officer that  
18          I knew. He had showed me photos, and I think he meant  
19          well. I think he didn't realise that the photos would  
20          have caused me trauma, and I think he meant well  
21          thinking that if he showed my the photos they would have  
22          made me think twice about sniffing glue again. But it  
23          had the opposite effect, and they actually traumatised  
24          me, the photos, and I did start taking quite a lot of  
25          panic attacks after seeing those photos.

1 Q. And you didn't stop sniffing glue either?

2 A. I did after --

3 Q. Or did you?

4 A. After a while. The glue sniffing lasted for about

5 ten months to a year, and that stopped, and then my

6 drinking got a bit heavier.

7 Q. Then you tell us that you think it was around about the

8 summer of 1978, you were attending Children's Panel

9 hearings, is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. On at least a couple of occasions you were before the

12 panel, and you were facing, I think, a number of

13 charges.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 15 that the upshot was you

16 were sent to a place called Howdenhall Assessment

17 Centre --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- which is in Edinburgh?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you happen to know, since obviously your connection

22 was with the west of Scotland, do you happen to know or

23 was it explained to you at the time why you had to go to

24 an assessment centre in Edinburgh?

25 A. Because I stayed in Livingston, which was the nearest --

1           so I take it that Edinburgh -- there was a few boys from  
2           Livingston in the assessment centre.

3   Q.   So it was the Livingston connection that probably sent  
4           them east rather than west?

5   A.   Yes.   Yes.

6   Q.   Okay.   Beginning at paragraph 16, and I would just like  
7           to ask you a little bit about this at this stage, you  
8           tell us about Howdenhall Assessment Centre, which you  
9           went to around about [REDACTED] 1978, when you would be  
10          aged 14?

11  A.   Yes.

12  Q.   Just to be clear, this was the first time you had been  
13          in a residential care setting?

14  A.   Yes.

15  Q.   So I think you say you got a shock, really.

16  A.   Yes.   Yes.   Right away, as soon as I went in, it took  
17          a wee while for me -- when I look at it now, it's like  
18          different from your normal school.   Whereas when you're  
19          in a normal school there might be about two or three  
20          boys or girls in the class that might have -- be a wee  
21          bit more hyper, a wee bit more ... have some difficult  
22          attitudes.   Whereas in here it was everyone.

23                 And now when I look back at it now, with some of the  
24                 training that I've done in the last couple of years,  
25                 it's obvious now that a lot of the kids in the

1 assessment centres and in the approved schools that  
2 I was in at that time would be diagnosed now with the  
3 likes of Asperger's syndrome or ODD or ADHD. And it was  
4 just a noise, and there was temper tantrums, and, you  
5 know, kids that really needed help.

6 Q. Specialist help?

7 A. Specialist help, yes, and that wasn't there and the  
8 staff that were there certainly weren't trained for  
9 that.

10 So instead of the kids getting the help that they  
11 needed, those kids -- what you were made to feel when  
12 you went in is you were bad, you were there because you  
13 were bad and you weren't like other kids, no. So most  
14 of us felt worthless within the first couple of weeks of  
15 being in these places, yes.

16 Q. Yes, and then you tell us about Howdenhall when you were  
17 there, and you tell us you were there on three occasions  
18 and all around that time.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say it was a mixed institution, in other words of  
21 boys and girls --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- who were being accommodated at the centre. You tell  
24 us it was locked and you were not free to come and go  
25 outside. Now, how did you react to that? At the time?

1 A. Yes, at that stage, it was shocking, it was a bit of  
2 a shock to the system, and it just -- I mean, more or  
3 less the Howdenhall Assessment Centre was just  
4 a children's prison. That's what it was. It was  
5 a children's prison. And the rules -- the staff that  
6 were there, I mean you couldn't speak up for yourself.  
7 If you did, you'd be assaulted. You would be taken into  
8 a room and assaulted. If you tried to show off in front  
9 of friends, you would be brought down a peg. So you  
10 would come out and your behaviour would be totally  
11 changed when you come out of the office with the staff  
12 members.

13 One in particular, MTM [REDACTED], and I had been in  
14 his office a couple of times, and I'd been assaulted by  
15 him as well, and he would put on leather gloves. So if  
16 you had seen him put on the leather gloves then you knew  
17 you were going to get punched.

18 Q. Yes, we'll come on, we'll talk about -- just to be  
19 clear, you call him MTM [REDACTED]. Did he have any  
20 formal connection with [REDACTED] or --

21 A. I don't now how that came out. They called him, I think  
22 it was in Edinburgh 'MTM [REDACTED]', to me it was 'MTM [REDACTED]', but  
23 we called him 'MTM [REDACTED]', yes.

24 Q. Was that a nickname, then?

25 A. Yes, I think so, yes. That was how I always knew him.

1 Q. That's how the boys knew him and you knew him?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You tell us about the way it was laid out and that there  
4 were different sections for children of different ages,  
5 there was what you call the 'Wombles' for the younger  
6 children, the 'Juniors' were a middle group, and the  
7 'Seniors' were the older children.

8 I think you say on the first occasion, because of  
9 your age, you think you were placed in the juniors  
10 section and on the other occasions you were in the  
11 senior section, because of your age?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. You estimate that there may have been over 100  
14 children there at that time. So it was a big place?

15 A. Yes. Yes. There was a -- as I say, in the boys' part,  
16 as I says, there was the Wombles, the Juniors, and the  
17 Seniors. Then there was a girls' part over the other  
18 side of the assessment centre.

19 Q. Yes, there was a separation between boys and girls?

20 A. Yes. Yes.

21 Q. And within the boys' section there were three different  
22 sections?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us at paragraph 19 that the sleeping  
25 arrangements were dormitories and the dormitory was

1           locked at night?

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   Also you say that internal doors within Howdenhall were

4           also locked, so it had all the appearances of a secure

5           unit?

6    A.   Yes.

7    Q.   Yet it was termed an assessment centre?

8    A.   Yes.

9    Q.   Not a secure unit?

10   A.   Yes, but it was very secure.

11   Q.   You have some paragraphs from 20 onwards telling us

12           about the staff, and I'll not deal with it at this

13           stage --

14   LADY SMITH:  'Joe', when you say 'very secure', what do you

15           mean by that?  What is it that sticks in your mind that

16           makes you think of it as very secure?

17   A.   It was like to us -- eventually I did escape from --

18           that's when I broke my ankles.  But it was hard to

19           escape from.  So it was -- it was very secure that way,

20           and you felt -- I mean, the intimidation when you went

21           in, as soon as I went through the first door, I remember

22           a security guard coming to the door and my social worker

23           went in with me and the door shut, and there was just

24           an atmosphere in the place.  And you could tell that the

25           staff were in total control, and a lot of the boys



1           seemed intimidated and no -- there weren't -- when there  
2           was a couple of staff around the boys weren't the way  
3           they would be when the staff weren't there. You know,  
4           they were free to be theirself. And then I've seen  
5           why -- I've seen why that was the reason, as the days  
6           and weeks went by.

7   LADY SMITH: That's really helpful, thank you.

8           Mr Peoples.

9   MR PEOPLES: You tell us about the staff, I'm not going to  
10          go through the list, some of the names, you have told us  
11          about one already, **MTM**, and I'll come back to  
12          some of the others.

13                 Just at paragraph 22, page 5, just the final  
14          sentence, you tell us that you called all the staff by  
15          the title 'mister', so you had to use their surname --

16   A. Yes.

17   Q. -- in their presence?

18   A. Yes.

19   Q. When you were speaking to them?

20   A. Yes. Yes.

21   Q. You think that they were all, effectively, care staff  
22          rather than what might be called teaching staff?

23   A. Yes.

24   Q. You tell us about the routine, and I'm not going to go  
25          through all of that. We can read that for ourselves,

1 and we will be hearing more about this place later in  
2 this case study, but I'll just pick out a few things  
3 from that section if I may.

4 At paragraph 25 you tell us that the first person  
5 that you met was a boy that you knew from Livingston,  
6 and that helped you to settle down?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That was at least a comfort that you knew someone?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. But you say, and you've explained this, you were shocked  
11 that you were locked in and just couldn't go about  
12 anywhere you pleased, and you say nothing was really  
13 explained to you. Was that -- in terms of ... what sort  
14 of explanations were not given, if you like?

15 A. Well, the way I was made to feel when I was there is  
16 just that you were bad, you know, and you were there  
17 waiting to get put into another place. And most of the  
18 boys there would be talking about the approved schools  
19 that were available, and where they thought some of them  
20 were going. You know, some of them had already maybe  
21 spoken to their social workers and were aware of where  
22 they were going to go at the time. And they had some  
23 trepidation about that, and some of them, because some  
24 of the places they were going to had reputations, you  
25 know.

1           So a lot of the boys -- we were kids, we were  
2           children. Even from an early age we thought your main  
3           thing in life was to be a hard man, was to be tough,  
4           because in that world that's the only way you wouldn't  
5           be picked on. So you had to be tough, even if you  
6           weren't.

7           I wasn't. I was a very -- inside I was very soft,  
8           very loving, but I couldn't show that because that was  
9           seen as a weakness.

10        Q. By? Boys?

11        A. By all of the other boys.

12        Q. What about the staff? Did they see ...?

13        A. Yes, eventually the staff that were committing crimes,  
14        you know, they would do that with the boys that they  
15        knew were vulnerable. So they would -- the vulnerable  
16        boys and the weak -- you know, the boys that couldn't  
17        pull off the hard image were seen as vulnerable, and  
18        they would be the ones that tended to be -- what I've  
19        heard as well, tended to be the ones that had a lot of  
20        bad things done to them by members of staff.

21        Q. So to try and get an idea of what it was like, there was  
22        a lot of boys of different ages.

23        A. Ah-ha.

24        Q. You were about 14 at the time. But there would be boys  
25        that were older, there would be boys that were younger?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Some boys, unlike you, would have been in places like  
3 this before --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and so would know what the regime was like?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Some boys would have been to some of the places like the  
8 approved schools and List D schools that had  
9 reputations?

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. So they would be able to either talk about them or tell  
12 people about what they were like?

13 A. Yes, or they knew people who had been in those places,  
14 yes.

15 Q. Who had told them about them?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So there was quite a variety of people --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- with different backgrounds and experiences at that  
20 stage when you went there?

21 A. Yes. You accepted that that was probably going to be  
22 part of your life. So you had to sort of toughen up to  
23 survive. So that was -- that's what you were learning.

24 Q. It was all about survival?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that was -- was that really something that became  
2 apparent, that to survive this was the way you had to  
3 be?

4 A. Yes. And the education system within the assessment  
5 centre, and Kerelaw when I was in, was very low. You  
6 know, it was like the -- the education -- the schoolwork  
7 that I was getting was something that I'd done about  
8 three, four years before. You know, it was just simple  
9 multiplying, subtraction, and it was simple English as  
10 well. There was nothing of a grander O-level quality.

11 Q. You went there age 14?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You had been through the primary school system?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Yet you were getting taught as if you were at primary  
16 school level, quite basic education?

17 A. Yes, it was just basic education.

18 Q. But perhaps, I think you maybe tell us about this, that  
19 some of the boys there could hardly read or write, is  
20 that right?

21 A. Yes, quite a few.

22 Q. So they maybe needed that basic education but you  
23 didn't?

24 A. Yes, they just put everybody together so that you  
25 weren't -- like in other schools there were classes,

1 sort of the ones that were able to do certificate  
2 English or certificate math, arithmetics, statistics, so  
3 you would be put into those groups at comprehensive  
4 schools.

5 But in this environment it wasn't like that.

6 Q. So in a classroom could you be ending up sitting next to  
7 someone who was a lot younger --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- or someone that was older?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So the class had an age range?

12 A. Yes, so there could be 13 years old with 15 years old,  
13 yes.

14 Q. And --

15 A. In Kerelaw that was the case, yes.

16 Q. I think you say at paragraph 27 -- I'm not going to read  
17 it all, but I think it sort of echoes what we've just  
18 been discussing -- that boys came for a variety of  
19 reasons, some from foster homes where the placement had  
20 broken down or hadn't worked out, and some had come from  
21 other residential establishments, like a children's  
22 home, or whatever, and because you believed that the  
23 home they'd been in, the children's home, had trouble  
24 coping with them so they ended up in a place like  
25 Howdenhall, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us about the routine, and we can read that for  
3 ourselves, and I think we have an idea of how these  
4 assessment centres run, so you can take it from us that  
5 we're familiar that you get up and you have classes in  
6 morning and the afternoon and you have some time for  
7 recreation --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- during the day. And some free time when you can --  
10 I think you tell us that -- was there quite a lot of  
11 watching television in free time, or is that ... how was  
12 free time spent generally by the boys? Was it watching  
13 television?

14 A. Yes. Yes. There wasn't a lot -- especially in the  
15 juniors, when I first went in, it was mostly just in the  
16 TV room at night time you would be in there, and maybe  
17 like if it was a Thursday it would be Top of the Pops or  
18 something, and then bedtime is between 8.30/9.00.

19 Q. You tell us at paragraph 32, if I could turn to that on  
20 the top of page 7, that at weekends you could get  
21 visitors, and you could also go to the main hall, and  
22 that was the time that you could actually mix with girls  
23 who were in the centre?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. There were some dances and discos as you recall; is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Insofar as paragraph 33, if we could just pick up  
4 something you say there, if you ran away you say you  
5 were made to wear a pair of shorts and a pair of plastic  
6 sandals and I think you tell the reason for that was to  
7 deter you from doing that again.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You weren't going to run around -- or at least they  
10 thought you were less likely to run around and go out --

11 A. Yes, teenagers wouldn't want to be seen with shorts and  
12 plastic sandals, yes.

13 Q. Was it to some extent an effective deterrent, or not?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us about how your leisure time or free time was  
16 spent at paragraph 35, and there was a gym at  
17 Howdenhall, and there were PE classes --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- as part of the routine, and you say that you could  
20 play football in the gym and attend judo classes, but  
21 the big craze was to play a game called 'killer'.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You describe it was a game where you had to hold on to  
24 a medicine ball while all the other boys attacked you  
25 and tried to get you to drop it. And you say it was



1 very popular amongst the boys and staff at this time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did staff join in this game?

4 A. No, they would sit back and watch. But there was boys  
5 getting hurt in the game.

6 Q. We've heard of another game called 'murder ball', I am  
7 not sure whether killer is a version of murder ball?

8 A. Yes, it is, it's just the same. The same one.

9 Q. As you say, boys could get hurt?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would those taking part be of different ages?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Different strengths, heights, weight, and so forth?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it largely a free for all?

16 A. More or less, yes.

17 Q. Did the staff ever attempt to intervene?

18 A. Only if there was somebody getting really hurt,  
19 I suppose, yes.

20 Q. But they would certainly be prepared to tolerate them  
21 getting hurt to some degree?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How did the staff seem to react to these games, were  
24 they supervising or was it more than that?

25 A. It was usually two members of staff. It was quite a lot

1 of -- or there would be one member of staff. There was  
2 one in particular who took a lot of the gym classes at  
3 Howdenhall.

4 Q. I suppose what I'm asking -- to just cut to the chase --  
5 is: did they see it as entertainment for the staff?

6 A. No, I ...

7 Q. You didn't get that impression?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You tell us about various other matters under 'Routine'.

10 At paragraph 41, if I could move on to page 8, you  
11 confirm there what you've already told us, that  
12 schooling at Howdenhall was very basic --

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. -- and you've told us about that.

15 Then on page 9, paragraph 42, you tell us what would  
16 happen if someone did something wrong, and you say you  
17 would get a stern talking to from a member of staff, but  
18 if you were cheeky or talked back, you would sometimes  
19 be taken to **MTM**'s office whether there was, as  
20 you put it, a good chance you would be assaulted by  
21 him --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- I will come back to that, I think you deal with that  
24 in more detail later on, but you explain the formal  
25 punishment regime, but it also could involve a visit to

1       MTM           's office?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   You mention at paragraph 44, in the context of

4       Howdenhall at Christmas, another member of staff who

5       I think had -- he had a nickname also, and he was known

6       as 'EWA           '?

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   You tell us of an occasion when he had brought

9       a particular game, and none of the boys seemed to be

10      keen to play it. Can you just tell us what happened?

11  A.   Yes, when I look at it now, he had no awareness. No, he

12      didn't seem to have any awareness that the kids that

13      were away from families and their mums and dads and

14      siblings on Christmas Day, and he expected them just to

15      be happy that he had brought this present and for them

16      to be jubilant as any other kids would on Christmas Day,

17      when these kids were sitting there traumatised, missing

18      families, missing -- so he didn't seem to have any

19      awareness about that and was really quite angry that

20      they didn't show the enthusiasm for the presents that he

21      had brought in.

22  Q.   Yes, because you say he took a temper tantrum at the

23      time, shouting and swearing, so that was his reaction

24      when they didn't seem to want to play this game?

25  A.   Yes, I can still remember that, yes.

1 Q. Do you know whether he had any qualifications?

2 A. I don't -- but I don't think he did. I don't think many  
3 of them did.

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. There was a couple of staff -- and I would like to  
6 mention one of them, HYY, who was there, who was  
7 brilliant, who was the type of person that you would  
8 want to be around boys who were traumatised and needed  
9 support and loving and care. He was one of the type of  
10 staff that was -- that was the right mould to work in  
11 a place like that.

12 Q. You wanted to make the point, I think, that there were  
13 good staff as well as bad staff?

14 A. There was, yes.

15 Q. So they weren't all bad?

16 A. No. There was certainly more than capable ones there of  
17 doing their job, it was the ones that weren't that were  
18 bringing the place down.

19 Q. So far as visits are concerned you recall maybe the odd  
20 visit from your mother at the weekends. But you have no  
21 recollection of visits from social workers. Is that  
22 because they didn't come, or you just don't have  
23 a memory of them coming?

24 A. Very rarely. The social worker I had, Mrs Blackwood, at  
25 the time, as well, she was very old school, and she had

1 no -- I mean, it's completely changed now, but I mean  
2 this was the 1970s, and she had no -- I mean, her  
3 generation would have been 1940s/1950s, maybe. So with  
4 a child in the 1970s, who had come from the working  
5 class East End of Glasgow that I had, and had been  
6 brought up the way I had, she had no inclination how to  
7 get the best out of a kid. How to make a kid feel. And  
8 she just wasn't trained properly for someone like me.

9 So I had no closeness to her. I had no trust  
10 towards her. She was just like another adult that  
11 I couldn't trust.

12 Q. So even although she was your assigned social worker --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- you wouldn't have told her --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- then what was going on?

17 A. No, I had no trust towards her.

18 Q. I think you make that point that, really, you couldn't  
19 tell anyone what the staff were doing. And also you say  
20 you felt no one would have listened to you anyway had  
21 you done so?

22 A. Yes, that's the way we were all made to feel.

23 And I think by the time I went to Kerelaw, that was  
24 definitely that -- there was a thing that was ingrained  
25 in you about grassing, you know. So if you told the

1 truth about anyone where someone was going to get into  
2 trouble for it, then you were seen, you know, and that  
3 was a big thing in those places.

4 So the truth was very rarely told.

5 Q. Can I ask you, 'Joe', then, obviously I think we're  
6 familiar with the concept of grassing, and it is to some  
7 extent a norm in certain institutions?

8 A. Ah-ha.

9 Q. And you are telling us that this was the sort of norm in  
10 Howdenhall and other places that you went to  
11 subsequently, Kerelaw?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was this a norm that related to grassing about other  
14 boys, or also even saying something about staff and the  
15 way they were treated?

16 A. Yes, it would be even about the staff -- nobody would  
17 say to you, 'That member of staff is doing this' or,  
18 'That member of staff is doing this'. Nobody would  
19 really speak about anything at the time --

20 Q. Although -- I'm sorry, I interrupted you. Carry on.

21 A. Yes. Nobody would really say to you -- no, if something  
22 happened to me I wouldn't turn around to another boy and  
23 say, 'Oh, such and such kicked me or slapped me',  
24 because it just went on that much that it was nothing.  
25 You know, it was normalised.

1 Q. Although I think you will tell us, at least in relation  
2 to some things, that you made an attempt to tell certain  
3 people, we will come to that in due course, but the  
4 general picture was that people didn't speak up --  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. -- about either other children or adults --  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. -- who were looking after them, or supposedly looking  
9 after them?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. You have said in addition to why that didn't happen, you  
12 were also -- at that stage you believed you were there  
13 for a reason, you were bad and deserved to be there and  
14 deserved to be treated the way you were?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. Is that the way you felt at the time?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 I mean, a way of looking at how out of date it was  
19 at the time as well, I mean it would be horrific now if  
20 you have seen kids were in a children's home or  
21 a hospital now and they were allowed to smoke  
22 cigarettes, we were allowed -- we were only 13/14 years  
23 of age, but we were allowed to smoke five cigarettes  
24 each a day.  
25 Q. We're talking in the 1970s. Was the idea of smoking

1           being bad for you, was that a big thing in the 1970s?

2   A.   I think they knew it wasn't good for us.

3   Q.   But the staff distributed --

4   A.   It was normalised.  Yes, it was normalised as being

5           okay.

6   Q.   I think in paragraph 46 you do tell us, and I think you

7           develop this later in your statement, so I'll just take

8           at this stage just the fact that while you were at

9           Howdenhall you broke both your ankles trying to run away

10          at night.

11  A.   Yes.

12  Q.   You tell us, and we'll come to this in more detail, but

13          you say at this stage in your statement that you were

14          denied medical care until the next day, and you were put

15          in, locked in a cell for the rest of the night after you

16          made this unsuccessful attempt to run away, and

17          thereafter you did have -- you did attend hospital, or

18          two institutions -- well, one institution, sorry.  Oh

19          no, two.

20  A.   Yes, before I got to the hospital I mean I was in

21          horrendous pain.

22  Q.   Yes.  I think I'll come to it maybe in more detail,

23          because you tell us about that in the statement, but

24          certainly we should be aware of that, that you did try

25          and you suffered quite serious injuries in the attempt.



1 A. Mm-hm, yes.

2 Q. Just on the general question of running away, at 47,  
3 page 10, you tell us:  
4 'A lot of children ran away or tried to  
5 unsuccessfully.'  
6 As you did?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So that wasn't an uncommon thing?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Although it was more difficult in a locked institution  
11 than it would be in an open institution?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I don't know whether you can help us, did you ever get  
14 a sense of why other boys were running away from  
15 Howdenhall? Was it discussed why they wanted to run  
16 away?

17 A. I would imagine at the time it would be for the same  
18 reasons as myself. There was violence and there was  
19 sexual abuse, it was rife in Howdenhall Assessment  
20 Centre when I was there.

21 Q. Yes. So you think it's a reasonable conclusion that  
22 that was a cause of young people wanting to get out?

23 A. Yes, it was certainly the cause that made me attempt to  
24 run away, yes.

25 Q. Indeed, if we go on to paragraph 49, and I will come to

1 this incident with the ankles, but when you were in  
2 Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, following your escape  
3 attempt, you say that as you were reaching the end of  
4 your treatment, you didn't want to go back to  
5 Howdenhall.

6 A. No.

7 Q. Indeed, you ran away from the hospital with another  
8 person?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you just explain why you didn't want to go back?  
11 Just in short terms?

12 A. The social worker that I had at the time hadn't visited  
13 me in the hospital to let me know that I would actually  
14 be going home and not going back to the assessment  
15 centre. She'd made me think that I was actually going  
16 back to the assessment centre.

17 Q. But you didn't want to go back, did you?

18 A. No, I didn't want to go back. But I wasn't going back,  
19 but I didn't know that, so I ran away from the hospital.

20 Q. Thinking you were going back, why did you not want to go  
21 back, that's really what I'm trying to get at? What was  
22 the reason that you didn't want to go back to  
23 Howdenhall?

24 A. The way I was getting treated at the time. Yes.

25 Q. You have a section in your statement which is headed

1 'Abuse at Howdenhall Assessment Centre', and maybe I can  
2 pick up some of the things you say there.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. It starts at paragraph 53, page 11. You have mentioned  
5 there **MTM** was the worst for hitting you, and  
6 you have mentioned him already, and you describe at  
7 least one occasion when you were caught with a cigarette  
8 and a match. Presumably that was at a time when you  
9 weren't supposed to have one of your allotted  
10 cigarettes; is that right?

11 A. I wasn't allowed cigarettes, I was in the juniors at the  
12 time.

13 Q. Oh, I see.

14 A. There was a boy getting out for the weekend and he had  
15 been given his cigarettes and he managed to give me one  
16 with a match inside, and I got found with it.

17 Q. Okay, so what did **MTM** do when he took you to  
18 his office?

19 A. The member of staff that had caught me with it had told  
20 **MTM** and I went into the office with them and  
21 I wouldn't -- he had obviously asked me who gave me the  
22 cigarette, and I wouldn't give him the name.

23 Q. You wouldn't grass, presumably, on somebody?

24 A. No, well, it would have stopped the boy from getting  
25 leave again. So I certainly wouldn't have done that.

1 Q. So what did he do?

2 A. He punched me in the nose and burst my nose and the  
3 blood was all over the floor and I was made to clean it  
4 up.

5 Q. Paragraph 54, you have another recollection of  
6 a different member of staff, who you tell us assaulted  
7 another boy who was there at the time.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Just tell me what he did, this member of staff? You  
10 deal with it in paragraph 54, what did he do?

11 A. The stairs had been open for us to go up, and we'd heard  
12 the noises, and then they tried to pull us back but we  
13 were there and we could actually see [REDACTED] getting  
14 pulled down the stairs with his hair -- he had long  
15 hair, shoulder-length hair, and they had their hand  
16 round his hair and pulling him down and they were  
17 assaulting him. That particular boy I've seen get  
18 assaulted on a few occasions.

19 Q. In this way or in other ways?

20 A. Yes, it was always really -- it was always really  
21 physical. It's the way you would have -- two adults  
22 would have been at each other. No, there wasn't any  
23 relaxation.

24 Q. You seemed to have formed the impression about this  
25 particular occasion that what was happening, at least,

1           was you described as a form of restraint of this boy --

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   -- by this member of staff?

4    A.   Mm-hm.

5    Q.   But you tell us how he was seeking to restrain him by

6           pulling him by the hair down some stairs --

7    A.   Yes.

8    Q.   -- a flight of stairs, and also punching him?

9    A.   Yes.

10   Q.   You saw that?

11   A.   Yes.   Yes.

12   Q.   Then if we move on to page 12, you say -- I think this

13           echoes what you have said earlier today:

14                 'There was violence going on all the time in the

15           centre. The staff would treat the boys with violence

16           and they created an atmosphere of fear where you did

17           what you were told or you knew the consequences.'

18                 Then I think there's a mistake in the next sentence,

19           I think it is:

20                 '[I] saw it happen all the time I was there, on

21           numerous occasions this happened'.

22                 Is that what you recall?

23    A.   Yes.

24    Q.   Then you go back to another specific incident that you

25           have a memory of, involving a boy at meal times who had

1 spilled his soup. What do you remember about that  
2 incident?

3 A. I remember him crying at the table, and being  
4 inconsolable, and when the staff went to try and take  
5 him away he wasn't moving, and he was -- and then there  
6 was -- so a fight started between them, and he was  
7 getting assaulted, you know, by the staff that were  
8 there.

9 Q. You say in that paragraph, when describing this, that  
10 the boy during this confrontation was punched by  
11 a member of staff, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say the boy in question was screaming out for help?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. Because of what was happening to him?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. On one of the occasions you were at Howdenhall -- you  
18 think it was the second time, perhaps -- you, at  
19 paragraph 57, you recall an occasion where some staff  
20 were attempting to head you in the direction of  
21 MTM's office, but you say you fought back and  
22 tried to prevent them, and because you -- I think you  
23 say you knew what was going to happen if you got there?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And what would have happened?

1 A. I would have been assaulted again.

2 Q. Indeed, you say that the prospect of that was sufficient  
3 to calm you down on that occasion, because you knew,  
4 I think, if you were seen to be in the wrong you would  
5 get a punch --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- from MTM .

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. That would be one of the methods he would use in his  
10 office?

11 A. Yes, it was a full-on assault if you were taken into the  
12 office by him.

13 Q. You have another recollection, and this is about  
14 a different member of staff, the person that was  
15 nicknamed 'EWA', and I think this is a rather  
16 different form of incident that you recall, and can you  
17 tell us -- you say that there was an occasion when  
18 'EWA' came into your room at night, and I think  
19 this was a dorm you were sharing with other boys?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you just tell us what happened on that occasion?

22 A. Yes, he had -- he came into the room and I remember him  
23 sitting down at the side of the bed next to me, and he  
24 was talking away to me and we never had pyjama tops on,  
25 it was always just pyjama bottoms, and he had put his

1 hand on my tummy. But there was already -- I'd already  
2 heard the rumours about him with other kids, so I knew  
3 right away what he was up to.

4 Q. And so what did you do?

5 A. I swore at him, I told him to eff off.

6 Q. Right, and what did he do?

7 A. That -- he eventually went away, but I do remember  
8 knowing -- I'd always thought that he was in cahoots  
9 with the night staff, and it was after that occurrence  
10 when I told him -- he sat there for a while and he had  
11 put his hand on me, he had touched me, he had tried to  
12 get under my pyjama bottoms, and I had moved his hand  
13 and told him to eff off, and I got quite aggressive with  
14 him, and he backed off.

15 But I do remember the night after that, I was pulled  
16 out, a night or two after, we were pulled out by the  
17 night watchman, and made to turn against the wall and  
18 put our hands up against the wall, and we were made to  
19 stand for hours at a time.

20 Q. So you were facing the wall --

21 A. Facing the wall --

22 Q. -- with your hands up against the wall?

23 A. -- with our hands up against the wall.

24 Q. For quite a long period of time?

25 A. For quite a long period of time.



1 Q. You connect the two episodes, because they very close to  
2 one another?

3 A. Yes, and the night watchman would have known what he was  
4 doing.

5 Q. Just going back to the incident itself, you had already  
6 heard some as you call it rumours from other boys about  
7 this 'EWA [REDACTED]' and what he was known for.

8 A. Yes, there was quite a lot of kids saying that he'd been  
9 in their rooms and they'd been aware that he had been  
10 doing things to the other boys, yes.

11 Q. Okay. You recalled, when you gave this statement,  
12 I think, that you remembered that 'EWA [REDACTED]', as you  
13 put it, had been trying to be nice and friendly to you  
14 in the days leading up to the incident.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So is that how he was?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think sometimes people describe that as a form of  
19 grooming?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is that the sort of thing --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- it now appears to you to have been?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think at paragraph 60, apart from making a connection

1           between the night watchman's behaviour and making boys  
2           stand against the wall --

3   A.   Mm-hm.

4   Q.   -- you have a strong suspicion, you say, on reflection  
5           that had you allowed 'EWA ██████████' to do what he was  
6           trying to do, you think that maybe quite soon after you  
7           might have had a visit from the night watchman --

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   -- looking to do the same sort of thing?

10  A.   Yes.

11  Q.   That's your strong suspicion?

12  A.   Yes.

13  Q.   Following that incident that you have just told us  
14           about, you and another boy decided to escape, or run  
15           away, is that right?

16  A.   Yes. I was terrified after that.

17  Q.   Yes.

18  A.   And I was anxious. I wasn't sleeping. So the windows  
19           were screwed shut. There was -- they were really  
20           difficult to open. But we'd been trying them for days  
21           and eventually managed to get the screws up.

22           So one of the nights we had got it, we had got it  
23           up, and so we says: this is that -- no, we'll go  
24           tonight. He knew Edinburgh, I didn't. So the boy  
25           ████████ says to me we can go to this place and we can go

1 to that place. But it was freezing outside. I think  
2 the temperatures might even have been minus. There was  
3 ice on the floor.

4 And when we had got the window up he had managed to  
5 jump onto the grass. When I had dropped, it was from  
6 quite a drop and when I had dropped a fair way onto the  
7 concrete and it was iced over and my ankles, I broke  
8 both ankles instantly, one of them was a compound  
9 fracture.

10 Q. That was the incident we saw earlier, this is when it  
11 happened, after the incident with EWA and after the  
12 night watchman had you standing outside --

13 A. Yes, this was a few days after, yes.

14 Q. But you were in a dormitory, you had come out the  
15 window, and you say it was a height, because the  
16 dormitories weren't on the ground floor of the building?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you have an estimate of how far you had to jump,  
19 roughly?

20 A. I'm not -- 20/30 feet, 25/30 feet.

21 Q. Would it be from the floor of this room to the ceiling  
22 or higher?

23 A. A lot higher, yes.

24 Q. A lot higher. Okay.

25 The upshot was that in trying to escape out the

1 window, you were unfortunate enough to land on the  
2 concrete, whereas your pal had -- or the other boy had  
3 landed on the grass?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you broke both ankles. You tell us that it was  
6 a freezing night and you've described how cold it was,  
7 and you also tell us, I think, and this may be -- you  
8 told us how boys slept at that time, that you were only  
9 wearing pyjama trousers and you were in bare feet?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So that was all you had?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But you still wanted to get away?

14 A. Yes. That's how ... scary it was to be in there. No,  
15 we didn't see the consequences of being loose at night  
16 time in those temperatures. We could have blimmin' got  
17 hypothermia, but we were just so determined to get away  
18 from there that we didn't -- we weren't aware of the  
19 consequences, the weather.

20 Q. You say, though, that you got as far as the front gate  
21 and a police car happened to pass by --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- saw two boys wearing pyjama bottoms and they took you  
24 back to the centre and handed you back over to the night  
25 watchman, is that ...

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. By that stage, you wouldn't have known precisely what  
3 the injuries to your ankles were, you tell us you were  
4 obviously injured, and you were --

5 A. I was in instant agony.

6 Q. And you were in great pain?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would that have been obvious to anyone who came on the  
9 scene?

10 A. Yes, I mean I was crying in pain. But they may have  
11 thought I was just at it, but I was in absolute agony.

12 Q. What happened next, you describe at paragraph 63, that  
13 the night watchman that you've told us about already, he  
14 contacted SNR [REDACTED], who came to see both you and  
15 the other boy. You say you could barely stand but at  
16 that point he made you walk up all the stairs?

17 A. Three flights of stairs with two broken ankles he made  
18 me walk up --

19 Q. And then -- sorry.

20 A. Yes, and I remember them, they put me into a bath. It's  
21 only now that I see the sexual nature of it, because he  
22 was bathing me -- why would you do that? That's what  
23 he'd done to me. Then he gave me two paracetamol and  
24 put me in a cell, and I couldn't even -- there was  
25 a toilet pan in the cell. It was a locked cell, and

1 I had to crawl across to the toilet pan to get there to  
2 do a pee, and I was too late for that during the night.  
3 Q. Can I just ask you, in terms of the bath that you were  
4 put into after going up the stairs --  
5 A. Ah-ha.  
6 Q. -- you say that SNR washed you, not --  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Were you capable of washing yourself?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. Did you need to be washed? Were you dirty or had you --  
11 A. No, he didn't wash the other boy. It was just me.  
12 Q. I see.  
13 LADY SMITH: That was SNR that did that, you say?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 MR PEOPLES: So it was just you?  
16 A. Mm-hm.  
17 Q. Whereas if you had both jumped out and were covered in  
18 mud or something he might have had a reason to ask you  
19 to wash --  
20 A. Yes, he says it was for my ankles, that that would help  
21 my ankles, so that would have been his reasoning at the  
22 time.  
23 Q. But all he gave you for the pain was two paracetamol?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. Then he locked you in a cell?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. He didn't call at that stage for any medical help?

3 A. No, it was between about 10-14 hours before I got any  
4 medical attention. Only when the girls started crying  
5 and making noises because they'd seen the pain that  
6 I was in, was when the staff had obviously went out the  
7 breakfast room in the morning, because I couldn't eat  
8 any breakfast because I was in absolute agony.

9 And in the morning they made me walk down three  
10 flights of stairs to the breakfast, and the boy that had  
11 run away with me, [REDACTED], to put his arm around me and  
12 help me down the stairs.

13 Q. Yes, and I think at paragraph 65 on page 14 you tell us  
14 about that. That a member of staff and the other boy  
15 assisted you to go down these flights of stairs, so  
16 where you would have breakfast in the dining room and  
17 you say you were still in agony, you hadn't slept all  
18 night, and you were crying with the pain. But you do  
19 say you tried to put on a brave face, because there were  
20 girls present so you did your best to make light of it  
21 for a time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But then you said that you nearly passed out with pain  
24 as you were trying to eat your breakfast?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Then at this point you say that the staff realised that  
2 something was clearly not right. But they did make you  
3 walk outside, while they were phoning an ambulance?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. So you were still asked to walk?  
6 A. Yes, they made me walk straight to the front, up another  
7 two wee small thingamies of stairs right out to -- and  
8 I was just in agony.  
9 Q. You tell us that when you did arrive at hospital you  
10 were diagnosed with a broken left ankle and the right  
11 ankle had a compound fracture?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. You say -- well, you say:  
14 'I didn't tell the police what had happened ...'  
15 Are these the policemen that picked you up outside  
16 the gates?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. You didn't tell them what had been happening and why you  
19 were running away?  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. You say that you recall the nurses though at the  
22 hospital being shocked that you had been put in a cell  
23 after what had happened, so presumably you had told them  
24 something about what had happened?  
25 A. Thinking about it now, the police never asked us, and it



1        was two 14 year-old boys in pyjama bottoms running away  
2        from a children's home, it was pretty obvious that they  
3        were not running away for no reason, there has got to be  
4        something serious happened here. And the police just  
5        weren't trained either. No, they never asked us  
6        questions. They should have taken us straight to the  
7        station, not back into the children's home.

8    Q. Or perhaps a hospital in your case?

9    A. Or a hospital, yes. But they didn't.

10   Q. They just handed you back over?

11   A. Yes.

12   Q. And let Howdenhall dealt with it?

13   A. Yes.

14   Q. Didn't want to know really why you were out in the  
15        middle of the night?

16   A. No, and there was no contact from the police afterwards  
17        to find out what had happened to me. Nobody had spoke  
18        to me from the police after it.

19   Q. The police didn't visit the hospital, for example?

20   A. No, nobody spoke --

21   Q. Because you were there --

22   A. I was in the hospital for a long time, yes.

23   Q. But they didn't come to see you?

24   A. No.

25   Q. But the nurses expressed some shock that you had been

1 put in a cell, so they must at least have known what  
2 happened to that extent?

3 A. Yes, the nurses were disgusted at what had happened to  
4 me.

5 Q. I think you're not maybe entirely clear how far you went  
6 in telling the nurses what had happened. Did you tell  
7 them about what was happening at Howdenhall --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- the assaults or EWA's incident or ...?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You didn't tell them that?

12 A. No, I just thought nobody could do anything about that.  
13 No, I'd always felt that. You just -- for some reason  
14 it was engrained in us, you just wouldn't, you just  
15 wouldn't -- I didn't think adults were there to help me.  
16 That was the way I'd felt. I'd been let down by adults  
17 all my life. So I just felt if you told an adult  
18 something, something bad would come out of it rather  
19 than something good.

20 Q. Did you get any visits from the staff when you were in  
21 hospital?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who visited you?

24 A. SNR visited us and a couple of staff members.

25 Q. Did they seem interested in why you'd run away and

1           suffered two broken ankles in the process?

2   A.  No, I think they were just there to make sure that

3           I wasn't saying anything wrong about anything.

4   Q.  They didn't ask you --

5   A.  No.

6   Q.  -- to explain what possessed you to jump out of a window

7           wearing pyjama bottoms and in bare feet?

8   A.  No.

9   Q.  They didn't ask you anything like that?

10  A.  No.

11  Q.  You say, just at paragraph 68, that when looking at your

12           period at Howdenhall, that there was no empathy from the

13           staff when you were there, although you do say there

14           were some who were very good with the boys, and you've

15           mentioned one already, and you mention another.  But as

16           to the rest you say:

17                   'The staff ruled by fear and showed no affection

18                   whatsoever.'

19                   Would that sum up the general attitude of the staff?

20  A.  Yes.  Yes.

21  Q.  Am I right in thinking that when you left the hospital

22           you had a spell with your gran and your mother in

23           Livingston; is that right?

24  A.  Yes.

25  Q.  However, you didn't manage -- this is at paragraph 70

1 I was thinking of, 'Joe', page 15, that you didn't  
2 manage to stay out of trouble, got involved in petty  
3 crime --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- drinking heavily, and you were sniffing glue. So  
6 these were things that were happening?

7 A. Yes, but I was allowed -- I mean, when I had left the  
8 hospital and found out that I wasn't getting put back to  
9 the hospital because of the broken ankles, I was able to  
10 stay at my gran's until an approved school was found for  
11 me.

12 There was no help -- I mean, there was nobody.  
13 I was -- I was in a one-bedroom house with a grandmother  
14 who was too old to look after me and a mother that was  
15 an alcoholic. The social worker at the time was just  
16 thinking that I should be locked up, because I was  
17 a burden on the town at the time, with the trouble that  
18 I was getting into.

19 So there was nobody -- there was no care, no love,  
20 no empathy. There was nobody doing anything about the  
21 position I was in to get us in a better place. It was  
22 just like: get him off the streets. You know, there was  
23 no -- no help or empathy.

24 And when I'd broken my ankles, I mean, now, when  
25 I broke my ankles there was no visits from anyone apart

1 from the social worker who wasn't really capable of  
2 doing ...

3 Q. Did she try to ask you why you'd tried to run away?

4 A. No. And I wouldn't have told her as I didn't have  
5 a trust for her anyway.

6 Q. Can I say, sorry, I probably took this out of sequence  
7 because of the -- you didn't, in fact, when you're  
8 talking about going back to Livingston with your gran,  
9 I think that was after your first spell in Howdenhall.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then you went back, and it was when you were back  
12 again you tried to run away and broke your ankles?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think I got that wrong earlier, so sorry if I confused  
15 you.

16 And you tell us obviously about your second and  
17 third occasions and you have told us about it earlier,  
18 so I'll not repeat that, but that's dealt with on  
19 pages 15 and 16 of your statement.

20 Paragraph 76, this is something you've told us, you  
21 didn't report the abuse that happened to you when you  
22 were at Howdenhall. Indeed, you put it quite simply  
23 that you said:

24 'There was no one to complain to. I would have only  
25 been able to report my abuse to my abusers.'

1           Your mother wouldn't have done anything in your  
2           view, and speaking to the staff or social worker would  
3           have been seen as clipping. I think you said you  
4           wouldn't anyway have been prepared to speak to your  
5           social worker, for the reasons you have given?

6   A. Mm-hm.

7   Q. And it was only much later as an adult that you reported  
8           the matter to the police, and we can come to that.

9   A. Yes.

10   Q. After your spells in Howdenhall, you then were sent to  
11           Kerelaw Residential School.

12   A. Yes.

13   Q. You tell us about that starting at paragraph 77.  
14           I think, at least you say, that you were quite happy to  
15           be going there because it meant you weren't going to be  
16           going back to Howdenhall.

17   A. Yes.

18   Q. So that was the way you felt at the time?

19   A. Yes, at the time.

20   Q. Indeed, you were quite happy also because you really  
21           weren't happy living with your gran when your mother was  
22           in the house as well, is that right?

23   A. Yes.

24   LADY SMITH: Do we have those dates right, 'Joe'? You went  
25           to Kerelaw in 1978?

1 A. No, it was 1979 I went to Kerelaw.

2 LADY SMITH: Well, I wondered, because later on you seem to  
3 remember having your 16th birthday when you were at  
4 Kerelaw?

5 A. Yes, that's true.

6 LADY SMITH: So should that be 1979 to 1981, rather than  
7 1978 to 1981?

8 A. Yes, I am sure it was [REDACTED] 1979.

9 MR PEOPLES: Can I help you, 'Joe'. I'll come to this,  
10 because there was a development after you signed this  
11 statement that you took part in the second trial of  
12 Matt George and John Muldoon, and there was a charge  
13 that concerned Matt George, a charge of assaulting you.  
14 The charge provided a period when this happened from  
15 [REDACTED] 1979 and [REDACTED] 1981, which I think would have  
16 been done to cover the period when you were in Kerelaw?

17 A. Yes, I had actually left Kerelaw in [REDACTED] 1980.

18 Q. Yes, we'll come to that, but that, I think, were the two  
19 dates, your admission would have been around  
20 [REDACTED] 1979 and your discharge date would have been  
21 around --

22 A. Sorry, [REDACTED] 1981, [REDACTED] 1981 I left, yes.

23 Q. We'll come to that, but just to get the dates, and  
24 I think we can take it that these were the dates that  
25 were considered to reflect the period you were in

1 Kerelaw from [REDACTED] 1979 to [REDACTED] 1981, but you tell  
2 us about some things that happened, you had a short  
3 spell in Longriggend?  
4 A. In between that time, yes.  
5 Q. We'll come to that.  
6 LADY SMITH: So you were still 14 when you went to Kerelaw,  
7 I think --  
8 A. Yes.  
9 LADY SMITH: -- but you became 15 in 1979?  
10 MR PEOPLES: You tell us about Kerelaw, and we can read  
11 this, but we have an idea anyway of the sort of broad  
12 layout of Kerelaw, but at paragraph 79 you mention some  
13 of the units that were there. You mentioned Baird and  
14 Wilson, and I think the other one isn't Motherston, it  
15 was Millerston, and the final one, which you couldn't  
16 remember the name of, was Fleming, I don't know if that  
17 jogs your memory now?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. We're aware of the different units in the open school.  
20 A. Mm-hm.  
21 Q. You say that, I think within the units, there were what  
22 looked like prison cells as well, which boys could be  
23 locked in?  
24 A. Yes, there was --  
25 Q. (Overspeaking).



1 A. Yes, there were two prison cells within the open school.

2 Q. On paragraph 81 you've a memory that you had  
3 a reputation as someone who ran away a lot, and you tell  
4 us that you actually recall being asked by the staff at  
5 Kerelaw to test the security of a new secure unit that  
6 was being established, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think the upshot was you managed to overcome the  
9 security reasonably quickly?

10 A. Yes. I remember there was -- the way the wall was up,  
11 and one of the windows in the backyard you could put  
12 your back against that window and your feet against the  
13 wall, and you could work --

14 Q. Your way up.

15 A. -- your way up. So they had to -- they took part of  
16 that wall away and put it round the other side, so that  
17 it would be impossible to do that. Yes.

18 Q. Because I don't think you were ever in the secure unit,  
19 as it was called?

20 A. No. That was the -- the secure unit was about two or  
21 three months from opening. I think that opened in 1981,  
22 when I had left.

23 Q. Yes. You might be a little out on your dates --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- but don't worry, you weren't in it and --

1 A. I wasn't, no.

2 Q. You tell us about the routine, and I'm not going to go  
3 through all of that. I'll just pick out some things  
4 that you tell us.

5 First of all, when you went to Kerelaw, SNR  
6 SNR was a Mr MTT ?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us about some other members of staff, and we'll  
9 come to what happened to you at Kerelaw in due course,  
10 but on page 18 you tell us that you were in one of the  
11 houses, or units, and the person in charge was a person  
12 called MTS ?

13 A. Yes, that was Baird Unit I was in.

14 Q. You were in Baird. At that time it was -- they were all  
15 boys units?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Because I think subsequently, towards the end of the  
18 1980s, there were girls?

19 A. That was in the secure unit, yes.

20 Q. Well, there were girls in the secure unit, but I think  
21 the open school had girls units, but not in your time?

22 A. No, not in my time.

23 Q. There were no girls?

24 A. No girls.

25 Q. If I go on to page 19 at paragraph 90, be assured that

1 we have read your statement and it is evidence and it's  
2 not just being passed over, but I'm just trying to pick  
3 out some of the things that you tell us about. At  
4 paragraph 90 you are complimentary of the kitchen staff.  
5 You say:

6 'The kitchen staff were like mums to the children  
7 and were very kind.'

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That's your recollection?

10 A. Yes, they were lovely.

11 Q. If we go on to paragraph 94, page 19, you say you  
12 readily became friends with Mr MTT, and we'll hear  
13 a bit more about that later in your statement, but you  
14 say when you became friends with him or you felt you  
15 were friends with him he would try to prevent you from  
16 going home at weekends and getting into trouble at  
17 Livingston and he would in fact give you money to go to  
18 the pictures in Saltcoats, and we'll come to why you say  
19 what you say, but you say at this point in your  
20 statement:

21 'What I didn't realise at the time, but suspect now,  
22 is that this was all part of a grooming process.'

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. We'll come back to that.

25 Then you go on at 96 to talk about meal times on

1 page 20, and you remember Matt George sitting at your  
2 table in the dining room, and you say -- you tell us:

3 'He would get into a debate or argument with some of  
4 the boys and it was like he was one of the boys.

5 I think that he forgot he was a staff member sometimes.'

6 That's how it seemed to you?

7 A. Yes. At high tea the staff would sit with us, and  
8 breakfast. At lunchtime they would be in their own room  
9 having lunch. But whoever was on duty with the boys,  
10 would sit with them.

11 Q. Yes. So he would have been supervising that particular  
12 meal time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When he was doing these sorts of things, engaging with  
15 them.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Your impression was at these times, when he was  
18 supervising, he almost acted like another one of the  
19 boys?

20 A. Yes. Yes.

21 Q. Okay.

22 You tell us about bed-wetting at paragraph 99, and  
23 you say you recall one particular boy who was a bed  
24 wetter and you say he was ridiculed every day by  
25 Matt George who called him 'Pishy', and he would make

1 the boy take his sheets every morning to the laundry,  
2 and that that boy was slagged by the other boys. Is  
3 that ...?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you recall Matt George referring to the boy in this  
6 way?

7 A. Yes, there was laugh -- they would laugh about it, and  
8 even in his -- not just in the unit, but in his art  
9 class, because at 9 o'clock we would go to classes a bit  
10 of maths, you would have a bit of English. And again,  
11 as I was saying to you, you know the education there was  
12 very low standard as well, and you would go into his art  
13 class as well and that's what the class would be like,  
14 it was just everybody getting slagged off and your  
15 nicknames, whatever it was. It was just a lot of  
16 putting people down.

17 Q. Okay. And if I can move on to paragraph 103 about  
18 punishment, and I think you tell us about the formal  
19 punishment regime. You say the main punishment in your  
20 time was that your privileges would be withheld. One  
21 thing that was seen, at least at that time, as  
22 a privilege rather than anything else, was going home at  
23 the weekend, and you tell us that a lot of boys wanted  
24 to go home at the weekend and so didn't want to be  
25 punished, because that was one form of punishment that

1 was used, is that right?

2 A. Yes. There would be reports on -- I think it was on the  
3 Thursday, there would be weekly reports, I'm sure it was  
4 a Thursday, and your reports from the week would be  
5 there. So if you had got -- each class was reported  
6 from very bad to excellent. So if you'd any very bads  
7 or bads, then the chances were you weren't getting  
8 weekend leave. And if you got goods, very goods, and  
9 excellents, that depended on how much leave you would  
10 get.

11 Q. Okay. In terms of a particular week, just to try and  
12 get the idea, I think you'd say at 106 about schooling  
13 that typically you would move between classrooms every  
14 day for different subjects, and obviously Matt George  
15 was the art teacher, but there were other teachers who  
16 taught different subjects, English, maths, geography, or  
17 whatever?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would this report -- would there be a single report  
20 about you for the week by the teachers, or was it one  
21 particular teacher that would --

22 A. No, every teacher.

23 Q. Would give a report?

24 A. Would give a report.

25 Q. And they would look at them all?

1 A. Yes, and it would be read out -- so it would be read out  
2 in front of the whole unit, so youse were all in the TV  
3 room on a Thursday, you would all sit down and that's  
4 when you found out what your report was for that week  
5 and if you would be getting home leave that weekend.

6 Q. Okay. And there's something else I just want to ask you  
7 about at this stage at 108 -- you tell us about pocket  
8 money that boys were given a couple of pounds each week  
9 and you could buy things, including cigarettes.

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. You could also bring cigarettes back from home.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you say you tried to hide them to stop other boys  
14 stealing them.

15 You also say there that you became a trusted boy at  
16 Kerelaw. Can you just explain what a 'trusted boy' was?

17 A. I would be allowed out to the shops to buy what was  
18 needed, sweets and cigarettes for everybody. So  
19 everybody had a list. You would write down on a bit of  
20 paper what you wanted, and it had to be within the  
21 amount of money that you had. So you could get  
22 cigarettes and sweets to do you for the week. And  
23 I would go -- I was the one that would go down to the  
24 shops for that, one of the ones.

25 LADY SMITH: That was despite the fact that you had

1           previously excelled at trying to run away?

2   A.   Yes, but by this time I was -- I wasn't running away any  
3       more and I had settled in.

4   LADY SMITH:   Good.

5   A.   I had settled into the school.

6   LADY SMITH:   Good.

7   A.   So this was -- and my ankles had started to heal a wee  
8       bit.  That was after -- this was after -- when I was  
9       trusted, this was after the Matt George incident, and it  
10      was a couple of months after that that my ankles had  
11      started to heal, and I was able to walk a bit more  
12      normal and play football and that again.

13   LADY SMITH:   Good.

14   A.   And at that time my relationship with MTT  
15       SNR, had grown.  So I'd became quite trusted  
16      in the school, and I had a lot more -- I was treated  
17      better than the other boys.  I was allowed to do a lot  
18      more than the other boys were allowed to do.

19   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

20   MR PEOPLES:   And I think we'll see how that developed as  
21      well as we go on.

22            You have a section at page 23 about visits, and you  
23      tell us that there were very few visitors to Kerelaw  
24      because a lot of boys went home for the weekends?

25   A.   Yes.



1 Q. But you did say that also there were boys from much  
2 further afield, and from where you were, and  
3 an instance, for example, Inverness, and it was not  
4 possible for these boys to receive visits from their  
5 family members?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You think that your social worker you've mentioned  
8 earlier may have come on a couple of occasions, but  
9 because you didn't have any great relationship with her,  
10 as you've told us, you don't really have much  
11 recollection of the visits?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Because you weren't telling her things?

14 A. No.

15 Q. No. Okay.

16 At 116, and I think this is something you've just  
17 mentioned, that from the early days at Kerelaw, it  
18 appeared to you that Mr MTT, well, you say, 'Took  
19 me under his control', would it perhaps be better to say  
20 took you 'under his wing'?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think that's maybe what you were trying to convey  
23 there?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say initially you were losing weekends because of

1 your behaviour, but once he started to look out for you  
2 you were fine and he encouraged you to do various  
3 activities and keep out of trouble?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Which all seems very nice at the time, we'll come on --

6 A. Yes, I was flattered that I was getting this attention.  
7 And he had obviously looked -- he knew about my big  
8 family -- no, my brothers and sisters and knew they were  
9 in children's homes and foster homes and stuff. So he's  
10 obviously went and read notes. So he showed an interest  
11 in me and showed trust in me at that time --

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. -- and so I reacted to that.

14 Q. Okay.

15 You tell us about, though, an occasion early in your  
16 time at Kerelaw, that you had been there around a couple  
17 of weeks, and at paragraph 117 on page 24, and say that  
18 at that stage you sensed what you described as  
19 an undercurrent of violence, and that if Matt George or  
20 MTS raised their voices the whole place went  
21 quiet?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. They were very aggressive towards the boys and indeed  
24 a group of boys, including yourself, decided to run  
25 away?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us there that you managed to steal a car in  
3 Kilmarnock, drove it about Ayrshire, broke into places  
4 to get food, and that four of you were caught in the car  
5 on your way to Paisley, were arrested, taken to the  
6 Paisley Police Station. The following morning you were  
7 taken to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court where you were  
8 remanded in custody to Longriggend Remand Institution?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You tell us about Longriggend at 119 through to 122, and  
11 I'm not going to go through that because that part of  
12 your evidence was read in on Day 393, 5 December last  
13 year, so you can take it we're familiar with what's said  
14 there.

15 The only thing I'll just pick up is that there  
16 seemed to have been a prospect of you heading to  
17 Rossie Farm after this incident --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- with the car and the running away. But you tell us  
20 that Mr -- this is at paragraph 122 -- you tell us that  
21 Mr MTT spoke up for you and managed to get you sent  
22 back to Kerelaw?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You have a section which is headed 'Abuse at Kerelaw',  
25 and you tell us a bit about that matter. If I go to

1 page 26 to begin with, you tell us that -- this is after  
2 you had come back from Longriggend, you say that there  
3 was an occasion when you went to Matt George to say that  
4 you needed to see a doctor to treat your asthma, is that  
5 right?

6 A. Yes. I didn't know it was asthma at the time.

7 Q. No, but you had some sort of respiratory problem?

8 A. Yes, I could hardly breathe.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Yes. I remember that day as well, yes. That was the  
11 day that he'd kicked my ankles.

12 Q. Right. Because you say, if I just pick up what you say,  
13 that when you went to him asking to see a doctor, he  
14 said you should give up smoking, and you recall that you  
15 swore at him, so he took you to an empty cell, do you  
16 remember that?

17 A. Yes. Well, he walked us -- he never just took me to  
18 a -- I was walking over to the empty cell from Baird  
19 Unit, and we were by the car park, where you'd park the  
20 car outside, and then going over to where the offices  
21 were. And I got kicked within the entrance just to  
22 where the cells, both cells were.

23 Q. Right. Well, you tell us that en route to the cell  
24 Matt George kicked you on your previously broken  
25 ankles --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- which you said was very painful at the time, as they  
3 were still very weak?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You say he knew about your ankle injury and you consider  
6 it to be deliberate?

7 A. Yes. And with the pain that I had in the following  
8 weeks, I believe now -- I mean, when I was able to look  
9 back on it, I turned my life around seven and a half  
10 years ago. So my brain started working properly. With  
11 the -- I stopped drinking seven and a half years ago.  
12 I had a drink problem, to self medicate from my  
13 childhood trauma, and seven and a half year ago  
14 I managed to stop that and I managed to get a therapy  
15 called REM therapy, rapid eye movement. And when I got  
16 that I was able to be more aware of what had actually  
17 happened to me and what I'd went through.

18 Q. Including this episode?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Because I think I can say at this stage that you told us  
21 about this in 2018.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think you signed your statement on 24 April 2019.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you subsequently gave evidence at the second trial

1 of Matt George --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- and that as a result of that trial, he was convicted

4 of assaulting you --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- at Kerelaw school, by repeatedly kicking you on the

7 ankles to your injury on an occasion between

8 [REDACTED] 1979 and [REDACTED] 1981.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think what you are describing in paragraph 125 is that

11 particular assault?

12 A. Yes, and I believe now that the way it took my ankles to

13 heal after that incident, I believe that one of them was

14 at least rebroken again.

15 Q. Yes. At that stage you were telling us about it, but

16 subsequently --

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. -- you told a court, a jury --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and he was convicted of an assault, an injury

21 relating to that matter?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Just to finish off before we have our usual break, on

24 Matt George, what you tell us in the next paragraph is,

25 I think, a more general statement that: '[He] was very

1 physical with a lot of the boys.

2 'He talked to a lot of the boys about sex and  
3 alcohol and treated them as equals. He was very  
4 artistic and would encourage the boys to develop their  
5 artistic side.'

6 Then you say:

7 'In later life I was later surprised to learn that  
8 he had been charged with sexual assault on other boys.'

9 If I could just pause, you say you didn't experience  
10 directly was it any form of sexual abuse by Matt George?

11 A. No. And I hadn't suspected that. I look back on it now  
12 and I try to see if there was any -- anything that  
13 I missed. He was very close -- very, very close to my  
14 friend in the school at the time, [REDACTED], and he was  
15 with him on quite on lot of occasions, because [REDACTED] was  
16 a good artist himself. And it wasn't until the police  
17 had came to see me that they had told me, just matter of  
18 fact, like that [REDACTED] had committed suicide years before.

19 And so I've often wondered if there was something  
20 that happened in school that could have assisted in  
21 that.

22 Q. Well, you can take it that it's now been proved that he  
23 sexually assaulted a number of residents at Kerelaw --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- whatever your state of knowledge at the time may have

1           been --

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   -- but you weren't hearing rumours about him?  At least

4           you didn't?

5    A.   No, the way the school was, the way the boys were, any

6           boy that was getting ... would never tell another boy.

7    Q.   Something like that?

8    A.   Something like that, no, you just wouldn't have.

9    Q.   So you wouldn't have necessarily heard rumours, because

10           no one would have spoken up and said, 'He's doing this

11           ...'

12   A.   Not in Kerelaw.  Kerelaw wasn't like Howdenhall.

13           Kerelaw was a lot -- it was a lot more tougher, it was

14           a lot more ... there was ... the staff were smarter the

15           way they went about things.  It was -- it was surprising

16           to me to hear of the sex side, because I had only

17           seen -- he was wanting to be a tough boy.  I think he

18           was about 32 when I was 14 in there.  But he came down

19           to our -- you know, so it was like another teenager

20           amongst us, and that's the way he was.

21   LADY SMITH:  'Joe', I would normally take a break at this

22           point in the morning for about quarter of an hour or so.

23           Is it okay with you if we do that now?

24   A.   Yes.

25   LADY SMITH:  Okay.  Let's do that then.



1 (11.33 am)

2 (A short break)

3 (11.52 am)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Joe', are you ready for us to carry on?

5 A. Yes please.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

7 Mr Peoples.

8 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

9 'Joe', before the break, we'd been looking at the  
10 statement you've provided, and I think I was at page 26,  
11 and I was moving on to another individual that you tell  
12 us about, MTT [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED], and I'll  
13 maybe ask you some questions about him at this stage.

14 You say at paragraph 127:

15 'Matt George knew that he couldn't really punish me  
16 as I was under the care of SNR [REDACTED], Mr MTT [REDACTED].  
17 I was on very friendly terms with Mr MTT [REDACTED] so the  
18 staff knew that I had to be left alone. I was not  
19 subjected to the violence and punishment that the other  
20 boys were receiving. I only realise now that it was  
21 part of the grooming process and the other staff must  
22 have been warned to leave me alone.'

23 I'll just leave the realisation at the moment, but  
24 you say you got friendly, and I don't know whether you  
25 feel that your position as a trusted boy was in any way

1 down to Mr MTT . Or maybe you don't know whether he  
2 was the person that decided that you could be ...?

3 A. Yes, Mr MTT had totally, at that time, won my  
4 trust, where I actually probably loved him in a way.  
5 I hadn't had care like that for a long, long time. He  
6 not only showed empathy towards me, but had managed to  
7 get into my whole psyche, and seemed interested in what  
8 I was interested in, and showed me trust, he let me  
9 into -- I had the key to go up to his house, to feed the  
10 dog, take the dog out, Hoover. I Hoovered the house,  
11 cleaned the house, with two other friends. Sometimes it  
12 would be either one of us or all of us. But most of the  
13 time it was me.

14 So he totally won me over. I had a total trust with  
15 him, to the fact that I started to -- later on into my  
16 time in Kerelaw I stopped going home at the weekends and  
17 I stayed in the school, because it was more fun and  
18 there was more chance that I wasn't going to get into  
19 trouble going back to Livingston.

20 So it gave me a bit of stability there, where I was  
21 allowed freedom, the whole of Ayrshire at the weekend so  
22 I could go to the Magnum Centre, or the cinemas, and he  
23 gave us extra money to do that. He gave us cigarettes  
24 in the house. He would let me drink cans of beer.

25 So just things like that at the beginning.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Where I just had total trust in him, and our  
3 relationship and a bond started.

4 Q. You tell us in your statement about this developing  
5 relationship and say at 128 that Mr MTT would let  
6 some boys go to his house. His house was in the grounds  
7 of Kerelaw; is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The boys could watch television with him, and you say  
10 you mentioned who the group of boys were, and you say:  
11 'We would ... be given the odd can of beer.'  
12 Then you say that you also went to his house most  
13 days to feed his dog and Hoover his flat --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you say that you would be rewarded by cigarettes.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Then at 129 you do tell us about something that happened  
18 with Mr MTT, you tell us that one of the other boys  
19 told Mr MTT that you had been with a girl in  
20 Livingston and had developed a rash on your penis.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say that you were in his house on an occasion and he  
23 took you to the bathroom there and ran a bath for you,  
24 and you didn't think anything about it.

25 Now, can you tell us what he did next?

1 A. Yes, he'd said that he'd had -- he'd got a cream and  
2 a shampoo or soap, something that would help the rash  
3 for me. So he'd ran a bath, and he was upstairs and he  
4 was just bathing me -- I was in the bath naked, standing  
5 up, and he was bathing me and washing my privates, and  
6 I didn't -- the lucky thing was that I didn't become  
7 sexually aroused. If I had, then I think it would have  
8 went further. But I didn't. And he spent quite a time  
9 lathering the soap and cream into me.

10 Q. I mean were you well capable of applying the cream  
11 yourself?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. There wasn't any reason why he had to assist you in this  
14 way?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did he say anything at the time about why he did this?

17 A. No, he just says to me, I was -- I just had total trust  
18 in him at that time. He was the one person at that time  
19 that I could -- that I felt was there, you know, was  
20 totally there for me. And it made me feel that I had  
21 a wee bit of power in the school, and especially it made  
22 me feel protected that the staff members that might have  
23 come for me couldn't come for me because I had his  
24 protection.

25 Q. He was a sort of guardian angel?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You do say, at paragraph 129, that you knew it wasn't  
3 right. So there was something you felt obviously wasn't  
4 right about this at the time?

5 A. Yes. Yes. I did, I was confused, I was totally  
6 confused. I wanted to trust him. I wanted to think he  
7 was just doing it because he knew what he was doing and  
8 it would help the rash and it was -- no, I wanted to  
9 believe in him and trust him.

10 Q. Can we go on to something else that happened that you  
11 tell us about Mr MTT would take a group of boys,  
12 including yourself, to a rock pool for swimming.

13 Just before I go on, Mr MTT is no longer with  
14 us, is that right? As far as you know?

15 A. I believe that I've heard -- yes, I believe he passed  
16 away --

17 Q. What age was he when you were in Kerelaw? I know it's  
18 a hard question.

19 A. Well, he left Kerelaw -- I think he was 55/56, when he  
20 was going to -- down to look after a boys' home in  
21 London.

22 Q. That would have been in the early 1980s.

23 A. That would have been 1981.

24 Q. So he was in his 50s.

25 A. I'm sure he was 55 then, 56. Yes.

1 Q. Anyway, if I go back then to what you tell us about the  
2 rock pool, you say that you would all have swimming  
3 trunks, Speedo swimming trunks on, when you went  
4 swimming, and that Mr MTT took photographs?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But then you have a memory that there was another  
7 occasion when you were at his house, you called in, and  
8 you tell us there was a group of men looking at these  
9 photographs that were being displayed on a screen and  
10 projector?

11 A. Yes, there was friends and -- drinking tea and cans of  
12 beer and whatever, and they had the projector up, and it  
13 was of us. But I never thought anything of it. I never  
14 thought anything -- anything was wrong with that. But  
15 it was us, and it was all the photos, all the stills on  
16 the projector of us at the rock pool. And, yes, we all  
17 had the wee -- the wee swimming trunks on.

18 Q. But you didn't recognise any of these individuals?

19 A. No.

20 Q. They weren't people that were staff at the school then?

21 A. No.

22 Q. No. You would have known if they had been?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can I move on in your statement to another matter, which  
25 is headed 'Peer bullying', you say:

1           'There were lots of fights between the boys all of  
2           the time [at Kerelaw]. You had to be able to stand up  
3           for yourself. If you got slagged by the other boys you  
4           became embarrassed.'

5           Is this what you told us earlier that when you were  
6           in a place like Kerelaw you have to (a) be able to stand  
7           up for yourself and (b) you have to be able to keep  
8           things to yourself and show no signs of weakness?

9    A. Yes.

10   Q. Is that the broad rules of the house?

11   A. Yes. Everything and anything would have been used  
12           against you, so it was always wise to keep things to  
13           yourself.

14   Q. Okay.

15   A. And if you opened up to anybody, it would eventually be  
16           used against you as a weakness. So it was dog eat dog.

17   Q. That said, you have a memory that you and a couple of  
18           other boys that were slagged off because of your -- the  
19           friendship with Mr MTT and the fact that you were  
20           presumably going swimming and going to his house and so  
21           forth?

22   A. Yes.

23   Q. Because that was known. The boys knew that was  
24           happening?

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. Indeed, you tell us that some boys called you 'benders'  
2 because you went to Mr MTT's house at night time?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. But you say so far as your experience of being at the  
5 house, that all that happened, apart from the incident  
6 in the bathroom that you've told us about --  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. -- all that happened was you would have some beer, sit  
9 and watch television, and so forth?  
10 A. Yes. But all the other things in between that, when  
11 I look back at it, it was definitely grooming, and when  
12 I had left -- he had offered me to go down to England  
13 and said he would find me work down there.  
14 Q. I'll come to that if I may.  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. You do tell us about that, and I think obviously you  
17 have had a chance to reflect on the whole situation.  
18 A. Mm-hm.  
19 Q. But if I stick with what we're talking about about other  
20 boys, at 132 you recall an occasion when you were in bed  
21 at night one time and you were attacked by another boy.  
22 I don't need the boy's name. But you say he attacked  
23 you when you were asleep in bed by hitting you with  
24 a fire extinguisher?  
25 A. Yes.



1 Q. You say on that occasion the boy broke your nose and you  
2 were left with black eyes.

3 Just pausing there. Was this boy older, younger, or  
4 the same age?

5 A. Same age.

6 Q. The same age. Was he physically bigger or smaller or  
7 the same ...?

8 A. Same size.

9 Q. Same size.

10 So you say that to get your own back you were put in  
11 a boxing ring to fight him. Because I think there was  
12 some sort of makeshift boxing ring in the gym; is that  
13 right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You also think that the boy, because of this incident,  
16 was placed in a cell for a few days as well?

17 A. He was, yes.

18 Q. But there was no police involvement and you don't recall  
19 receiving any medical treatment and as you say  
20 everything was dealt with in-house?

21 A. Yes, there was no doctor called, there was no -- and my  
22 nose was certainly broken and I had two black eyes.

23 Q. Because on the face of it that's just a straightforward  
24 assault?

25 A. Yes. Yes.

1 Q. The fire extinguisher episode?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But you didn't get seen by the police and so far as you  
4 were aware there was no referral?

5 A. No, I woke up -- I mean I was actually sleeping when  
6 I was attacked, I was getting hit with a fire  
7 extinguisher while I was sleeping.

8 Q. You say that you were put in a boxing ring to have  
9 a fight with him, whose idea was that?

10 A. I'd asked MTT [REDACTED] if that could be sorted out,  
11 and they sorted it out.

12 Q. So on this occasion that boxing -- that fight in the  
13 boxing was -- you wanted it to happen?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. To get -- well, to get your own back, as you put it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So you were happy to have a fight with this boy in the  
18 boxing ring?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that would be a way to sort it out?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Just going on in this section about abuse, and this is  
23 something I think you said before the break, the staff  
24 were clever in who they picked on and for what reason,  
25 and you say:

1           'Matt George was a martial arts man and was very  
2           physical with the boys.'

3           You've gone on to express surprise that he was  
4           charged with sexual offences because he never tried on  
5           anything with the group you were in, but you say:

6           'He must have known who were vulnerable and targeted  
7           them. He never targeted any of my peer group as it  
8           would have been talked about.'

9           So you feel he was quite selective in his targets?

10    A.    Yes. Obviously he was, because reading about some of  
11           the offences that -- sexual offences that happened at  
12           the time, I would have been in the school at the same  
13           time as that happened and I was totally unaware that  
14           anything like that was going on.

15    Q.    Just the general statement you make there:

16           'Staff were clever in who they picked on for what  
17           reason.'

18           That's not just applying to Matt George?

19    A.    Yes.

20    Q.    Can you just explain what you mean they were clever?

21    A.    They knew who would -- who would kick up. So a lot of  
22           the time, if the staff were in a -- maybe in a bad mood  
23           or had trouble at home and came into the school in a bad  
24           mood -- if they were going to take being in a bad mood  
25           out on someone, they would pick on a boy that

1           wouldn't -- wouldn't make a big thing out of it.

2   Q.   Because I suppose that, as you've told us, there's boys  
3       of all ages, shapes, sizes, and temperament, presumably?

4   A.   Yes.  As I've said earlier, it's easy for me to look  
5       back now and to see that a lot of the kids there had --  
6       what they would be diagnosed with now is ADHD and  
7       Asperger's and other symptoms, ODD.  And that was  
8       pretty -- it was pretty obvious, all the homes I was in  
9       at the time, at the assessment centre.

10           And so whereas when I look around the schools now,  
11       the secondary schools now, boys and girls with these  
12       ADHD, you know with these diagnoses, have got help and  
13       support now.  Whereas back then these kids didn't have  
14       any support, and that seemed to be the kids that were  
15       getting into trouble and would just be put in these  
16       places.

17   Q.   If someone was a big guy who came to Kerelaw with  
18       a reputation, and was aggressive --

19   A.   Mm-hm.

20   Q.   -- would that influence how the staff -- whether staff  
21       would target that particular type of boy as opposed to  
22       one who might be perceived as being more weak or more  
23       vulnerable?

24   A.   Yes.  There would have been certain staff, Matt George  
25       would have been the one, and a couple of others, that

1           would have been the ones that would have put him in his  
2           place. So they would have been the ones that would have  
3           went toe to toe with him.

4   Q. How would they do that? Would they find some occasion  
5           to do that?

6   A. Yes. Yes.

7   Q. What would the usual way to do it be?

8   A. In front of everybody, you know. So there would be --  
9           if the boy would have picked on another boy, then  
10          instead of them bringing him into the office and doing  
11          it with the two of them, he would have been pulled up  
12          about it and belittled in front of everybody.

13   Q. But would there be physical violence as well?

14   A. There wouldn't be physical violence in front of  
15          everybody, but he would have been warned and told off.  
16          But there would be physical violence away from that.

17   Q. And how would that be done?

18   A. They'd just get into a -- speaking to the boys, getting  
19          them to disagree with him in some way. And Matt George,  
20          as I said, at that time could be physical, and he was  
21          the one that would stop bullies from bullying, but  
22          I don't think he had any awareness himself that he was  
23          a bully, you know, and he was bullying.

24   Q. Did you see other boys being restrained --

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. -- when they kicked off, or whatever, for whatever  
2 reason?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you see restraints that caused you concern?

5 A. Yes. Yes. Many occasions in Kerelaw.

6 But a lot of the time in Kerelaw, what they would do  
7 is just get them to the cells as quickly as possible,  
8 and they would be left in the cells. You could be --  
9 I mean, some of the boys were only 13/14, and they could  
10 be in those cells for three days/four days.

11 Q. Did you know what might happen to them after they had  
12 been taken to the cells before they locked the door?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you ever hear about it?

15 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what about the way that they took them  
16 to the cell, did you ever see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: What happened?

19 A. They would -- you would be restrained by your arms. So  
20 your arms would be up your back.

21 LADY SMITH: Ah-ha.

22 A. And if you -- if it was a fight they had been in, and  
23 the boys had been using any violence, then they would be  
24 restrained by their arms up their back and usually two  
25 staff members taking them over to the cell and one would

1 open the door and the other one would put you in. And  
2 you got your meals -- while you were in the cell they  
3 brought your meals over to you and they would open the  
4 cell door and come in.

5 But you never knew -- sometimes some of the boys  
6 would be in for one night, sometimes it could be two.  
7 But as I say, I remember myself being in for three/four  
8 nights, so it just depended.

9 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you, 'Joe'.

10 MR PEOPLES: You saw, I think it was at Howdenhall you saw  
11 on one occasion a member of staff in a restraint  
12 situation dragging a boy by the hair to somewhere.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you ever see anything like that at Kerelaw?

15 A. Maybe not as severe. Not as severe as that one that  
16 I've seen. Because that one -- in the assessment centre  
17 the boy was getting pulled downstairs and his hair was  
18 wrapped around the staff member's hand at the time. So  
19 that was really severe, and he was getting assaulted.

20 So, yes, there was occasions like that in Kerelaw  
21 where there was punches and that thrown. But it was --

22 Q. During a restraint?

23 A. And restrained, yes, I'd seen people getting restrained  
24 quite a bit. But it normally wasn't done in front of  
25 everybody. So if anything happened to you at Kerelaw it

1           would have been done while the other boys weren't there.  
2           Most of the time.

3    Q.   But in terms of the way that the boys were held to take  
4           them to, say, a cell --

5    A.   Yes.

6    Q.   -- or a room, or whatever, you described a situation  
7           where the way that they were held involved their arm  
8           being up their back?

9    A.   Yes.

10   Q.   That's something you saw?

11   A.   Yes.   Yes.

12   Q.   How often did that happen?

13   A.   That would happen quite regularly if people were getting  
14           taken to the cell.

15   Q.   I don't know how much you know about restraints, I don't  
16           know whether you know that there are various ways in  
17           which a young person can be held?

18   A.   Yes, they would just -- I mean a lot of the time as well  
19           they would just be walked over, you know, if there was  
20           no violence involved and they'd done something wrong  
21           they'd be walked over.  But a lot of the times if it was  
22           a fight between boys, and it was one boy that caused the  
23           fight, or there were two of them that were getting took  
24           to the cells, then there would be restraining.

25   Q.   Do you happen to know -- I can tell you that obviously



1           there are restraints that can involve the application of  
2           force to pressure points on the body. Did you ever see  
3           anything like that? Like arm/wrist locks --

4    A. Yes.

5    Q. -- or things of that nature. Did you ever see anything  
6           like that?

7    A. Yes, I would see not locks or handcuffs or anything, but  
8           hands on their wrists. Hands on their wrists, arms up  
9           their back, coming in from both shoulders, and hands up  
10          the back of the head. That was mostly always if there  
11          was fights. And there was fights quite a lot. You  
12          know, the boys would be in fights with each other during  
13          breakfast, during lunch, during high tea. So it  
14          happened quite regularly.

15   Q. And the boys that were maybe being taken in this way to,  
16          say, a cell --

17   A. Ah-ha.

18   Q. -- how did they appear to be? Apart from the fact they  
19          had their arms perhaps up their back and so forth, how  
20          did they appear to be reacting? Were they showing  
21          visible signs of how they were feeling in terms of ...?

22   A. Yes, there was always things that happened -- kids -- as  
23          I say to you, now when I look back on it you could see  
24          that the kids -- now they would be diagnosed with ADHD  
25          or some other form of that, so emotionally these kids

1        didn't know ... including myself, we didn't know how to  
2        behave emotionally, how to show emotions properly. So  
3        it was happy, anger. There wasn't much in between.  
4        There was no love, empathy. There was none of that.  
5        There was no self awareness getting taught to us. There  
6        was nothing like that. It was just, 'You will do this',  
7        or, 'You will do that', 'If you don't do this, you're  
8        bad'. And we were always made to feel that we were  
9        there because we were bad anyway.

10        So a lot of the kids that were there had a feeling  
11        of worthlessness, you know. We all felt worthless. We  
12        felt like the underdregs of society. That was the way  
13        we felt.

14    Q. During these occasions when a boy was being taken to --  
15        was held, was taken to a cell or other room, did it  
16        appear that some of them were in pain?

17    A. Yes.

18    Q. How did that show itself?

19    A. Well, it would show in their face, and you could see  
20        that the way they were getting dragged into the -- but  
21        it became -- that became like nothing, because you'd  
22        seen it that regularly. No, so it wasn't like a big  
23        thing. You knew if you kicked off or you got into  
24        trouble and you were getting taken -- if you were being  
25        aggressive back to the staff, that's the way you would

1 be manhandled.

2 Q. Did you ever see on these occasions when you saw someone  
3 being taken away them suffering any kind of injury in  
4 the process?

5 A. Not that I can remember, no.

6 Q. No. Did you, after restraints, see boys with any marks  
7 on their body or face?

8 A. No. I remember one boy had got taken to the cell.  
9 I remember his name, a boy from Irvine, and he set the  
10 mattress on fire in the cell and it took them -- he  
11 could have died by the time they got to him, and  
12 I remember he came out and his face was black and his  
13 hair was singed.

14 Q. Did you ever see marks which could have been due to --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- a restraint that put a boy on the floor?

17 A. Not that I can remember.

18 Q. You can't remember that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Because I think some people have talked about carpet  
21 burns on their face?

22 A. Yes. You could have carpet burns, yes, that would have  
23 been possible, because there was those types of carpets  
24 in there. So there would have been carpet burns and  
25 stuff, yes.

1 Q. We've sometimes heard the expression that boys would be  
2 'decked'. Did you see a decking of a boy being  
3 restrained and put on the floor, for example? Did you  
4 see that?

5 A. Yes, there was a couple of times. I've seen  
6 MTT [REDACTED] do it once at the assembly, where he had  
7 come off the stage, where all the staff sat on the  
8 stage, and there was a boy talking while he was speaking  
9 and he just come right off the stage and grabbed the boy  
10 by the hair and shook him all about. Because you sat  
11 down on the floor, and it was like a shiny floor. So  
12 the boy was getting dragged about the floor, while he  
13 was slapping him and pulling his hair at that time as  
14 well. So I had seen that happen.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Then if I could go back to the statement, 'Joe', and  
17 page 28, you tell us about leaving, and you say that you  
18 officially left, you think, on [REDACTED] 1981 when you  
19 took up a job in Kilmarnock, and you were given  
20 a teacher's flat in the grounds of Kerelaw and you  
21 continued to reside there for a time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You only stopped residing there in, you think,  
24 [REDACTED] 1981 when you left to start an apprenticeship  
25 with your father?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You explained that the reason you had to leave Kerelaw  
3 was because MTT [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED], was leaving  
4 to go and work down south, you think at another school,  
5 was it?

6 A. Yes, it was a boys' home in London he was going to work  
7 at.

8 Q. That arrangement that you had struck with him had come  
9 to an end?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you also tell us at 135 that Mr MTT [REDACTED] wanted you  
12 to join him or go with him, and he tried to sort that  
13 matter out. So he wanted you to come with him?

14 A. Yes, he'd offered me down there. I'd spoke to him on  
15 the telephone. I was staying in a YMCA in East Kilbride  
16 while I was working with my dad and we spoke on the  
17 phone quite regular. I would use the phone that was  
18 available to the people staying in the YMCA, and there  
19 was a lot of times he called there for me as well, and  
20 I would speak to him on the phone. And he says:  
21 'You do know that there'll be a job for you here any  
22 time you want to come down?'

23 Q. But in the end you didn't take that offer up?

24 A. No, actually I remember -- I'd spoke to a couple of  
25 boys -- I'd opened up a wee bit to a couple of boys that

1           were working in the tax office in East Kilbride at the  
2           time, a couple of older boys, and they'd said to me,  
3           'That doesn't sound ...' I'd opened up to them a wee  
4           bit, more than I would have with anyone else. And they  
5           seemed to realise that it didn't seem right, my  
6           relationship with SNR .

7 Q.   Okay. Then you tell us you went to work with your  
8           father for a time but it didn't last a long time and you  
9           fell out with him?

10 A.   Yes.

11 Q.   Then, as you put it at paragraph 138, page 28, your life  
12           started to spiral out of control again and you started  
13           drinking quite heavily at that time?

14 A.   Yes.

15 Q.   Then I think if we go over to page 29, you tell us that  
16           there came a point where you went back to your gran's  
17           but was getting into trouble with the police for  
18           drink-related offences.

19 A.   Yes.

20 Q.   Indeed, when you were almost 18, which would be around  
21           1982, I think, you received a sentence of three years in  
22           a young offenders' institution.

23 A.   Yes.

24 Q.   Then you say after you were released from prison you  
25           managed to stay out of trouble for the next 20 years,

1           apart from the odd drink-related offence --

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   -- and you got into work involving promotion of live

4           bands.  You say you married but your drinking was bad

5           and that your wife left you.  And I think that put you

6           at quite a low ebb at that time; is that right?

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   Indeed, until quite shortly before the statement that

9           you gave, at 143 you said you were in a poor place, but

10          you had by then, by the time you gave this statement,

11          you'd stopped your drinking and felt that you had to

12          turn things round.  But before then you had, you tell

13          us, contemplated suicide, but what stopped you was

14          really that your daughter might blame herself, because

15          at that point I don't think you were being allowed to

16          see her, is that right?

17  A.   Yes.  Yes.

18  Q.   So it was really for the family that you had that you

19          felt you should stay around?

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   Yes.

22  A.   And luckily what happened was -- this would be seven and

23          a half years ago now.

24  Q.   Yes.

25  A.   What I realise now is, up until I was 52 years old,

1 because of what had happened in my life I was a broken  
2 child in an adult's body, and at 52 years old, once  
3 I realised I had to change my life, I stopped drinking,  
4 I started to get a little bit of awareness and feel  
5 a positivity that I'd never felt before.

6 There was a company called WLDAS in Livingston,  
7 which is West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Services, and  
8 they were a fantastic support, and I could actually see  
9 a future. And I got to see a doctor called  
10 Dr Sarah Long in St John's Hospital, and she was the  
11 first person that I'd really opened up to about  
12 everything that had happened in children's homes and my  
13 life before then in Glasgow and all the other traumatic  
14 experiences that I had went through, and she gave us  
15 a therapy called rapid eye movement therapy. And it was  
16 a 12-week treatment, and after eight weeks I felt like  
17 a new person.

18 And since then I've -- it's been the best seven and  
19 a half years of my life.

20 Q. Yes, and I'll not go through -- you tell us in that  
21 statement you had contact with various agencies, but you  
22 saw this doctor and you did have this REM therapy,  
23 I think that's also known as EMDR, eye movement  
24 desensitisation and reprocessing, to give it its full  
25 title, but you had that treatment and it was quite



1 effective in your case?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Also you have a new partner; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Which made a big difference as well?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You have a section on reporting, and we've covered it,  
8 I think, you make the point at 149 that really at  
9 Kerelaw there was no one you could report the abuse to,  
10 and to an extent you didn't understand you were being  
11 groomed by -- particularly by Mr MTT ; is that  
12 right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Also you mentioned that you couldn't tell tales on your  
15 peers, which we have spoken about.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So that was the reality of the situation.

18 Then I think you tell us that there was contact from  
19 the police in more recent times, but to some extent you  
20 were reluctant to say too much.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you tell us about that, and I'm not going to go over  
23 that, because I think we now know you did give  
24 statements, and you did participate as a witness in the  
25 trial of Matt George in 2002, when you gave evidence,

1 and we've already mentioned the conviction --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- for assault to injury.

4 Under 'Lessons to be learned', you do say:

5 'The children in care should be loved and cared  
6 for.'

7 But:

8 'You were made to believe that you were bad and that  
9 is why you were in care.'

10 You felt, and I don't know if you still feel this  
11 way, that the staff in the care system and the police at  
12 that time were in cahoots and that you wouldn't be  
13 believed if you tried to tell them anything?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You also feel that it's important that staff in  
16 children's homes should be rigorously checked and there  
17 should be regular inspections by inspection teams to  
18 identify any problems and issues, and clearly that  
19 inspectors should have direct access to children to hear  
20 from them directly.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So can I end with saying, you are still in a good place?

23 A. Yes, I'm in a terrific place, thank you.

24 The last, as I said, the last seven and a half years  
25 have just been amazing, and recently -- the last -- four

1 years ago, during Covid, I took up counseling courses,  
2 so I could help others that have went through what I've  
3 went through myself. And my creative side came out  
4 seven years ago and I've since released an album, and  
5 I'm in the studio just now doing my second album and  
6 that will be released in two months.

7 Q. I think you have ambitions to write a book as well that  
8 will perhaps help others who have been in the same  
9 situation?

10 A. Yes, I'm doing a book this year, and I have been down in  
11 London recently with a friend who was successful in the  
12 music business in the 1980s and she had went through  
13 similar down in London to what I'd went through here,  
14 and she's written a book herself and she's going to be  
15 helping me with the launch of the book and stuff, yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: Well, these are all my questions for you,  
17 'Joe', today, and I would just like to thank you for  
18 coming today and answering them for me. I wish you  
19 every success in the future.

20 A. Thank you very much.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Joe', what music is on your albums?

22 A. The first album was called '[REDACTED]', and  
23 that was about my recovery, and moving from Glasgow to  
24 Livingston as well.

25 I do feel moving from the city, the East End of

1 Glasgow, which I was brought up in, through to  
2 Livingston did help me as well. Even although I was in  
3 a bad stage in my life, I do feel if I'd have been in  
4 Glasgow and not been able to come to Livingston, my gran  
5 moved to Livingston and I came to stay with her, that  
6 I probably wouldn't have survived Glasgow.

7 LADY SMITH: Well done.

8 A. Most of the friends I grew up with in Blackhill in the  
9 East End of Glasgow became addicted to heroin, so a lot  
10 of them are now dead. There's maybe only about six or  
11 seven of us alive out of all the 40/50 kids that all  
12 knew each other in those streets.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

14 'Joe', thank you from me to you for engaging with us  
15 as you have done, both by providing your written  
16 statement, which is valuable evidence to the Inquiry,  
17 but also coming here today to talk about your  
18 experiences, which of course goes beyond and fills in  
19 gaps, perhaps, that were left after your written  
20 statement.

21 Particularly you have given me very clear pictures  
22 of the regimes at Howdenhall and Kerelaw, and the people  
23 that you encountered, including those who, to say the  
24 least, you have cause to have worried about.

25 Thank you for that.

1 A. Thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: I'm really grateful to you, and you are now  
3 able to go.

4 A. Thank you.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 LADY SMITH: Before we move on from 'Joe's' evidence,  
7 there's some names I want to mention that were used  
8 while he was giving his evidence that are in relation to  
9 identities who have the protection of my General  
10 Restriction Order, and they included: Mr **MTM**, also  
11 known as **MTM**; **MTS**; **EWA**; and  
12 **MTT**. He also mentioned two boys who were in  
13 care along with him, a boy called  and a boy  
14 called  and they can't be identified either.

15 Mr Peoples.

16 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I wonder if we could just have a short  
17 break to do a changeover at this stage, and we shouldn't  
18 be very long, hopefully.

19 LADY SMITH: That's fine. Just a few minutes, then.

20 (12.30 pm)

21 (A short break)

22 (12.36 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

24 MS FORBES: My Lady, the statement that I have next is  
25 a statement of an applicant who is anonymous and is

1 known as 'Doogster', I think that's D-O-O-G-S-T-E-R.

2 LADY SMITH: Now, we did previously read in some of  
3 'Doogster's' statement did we, or not?

4 MS FORBES: Yes, some of his statement was previously read  
5 in and the date for that was 23 January 2024, that was  
6 Day 411.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

8 'Doogster' (read)

9 MS FORBES: My Lady, the reference number for 'Doogster's'  
10 statement is WIT.001.002.2020.

11 'Doogster' was born in 1961, and as a child he lived  
12 in Royston in Glasgow with his parents. He had one  
13 brother, five sisters, and a half-sister.

14 'Doogster' states between paragraphs 3 and 14 about  
15 his life before going into care, his parents were both  
16 alcoholics and he had heard since that they were like  
17 that from well before any of their children were born,  
18 and he just accepted that as normal as a child.

19 He doesn't have any recollection of social work  
20 involvement with him until he started playing truant  
21 from school.

22 His older sister, who was seven years older than  
23 him, was in secondary school when he was in primary, and  
24 she was a big influence on him and he looked up to her.  
25 She spent a lot of time with him, reading with him, and

1 as a result he was quite advanced when he started  
2 primary school, which became a bit of a problem, because  
3 he found that very frustrating and was bored.

4 He would have registration in the morning and then  
5 by play time he would have left out the back door. He  
6 would go off to the library and study and he would be  
7 there until 3 o'clock when he would go home, but the  
8 truancy officer then became involved.

9 He was also being physically assaulted by his  
10 parents and they would both beat him. He said he always  
11 had bruises under his clothes.

12 He started shoplifting when he was playing truant  
13 and the police started to get involved and he ended up  
14 at Children's Panels, he was put on probation or  
15 something like that and he saw a psychiatrist at some  
16 point. His father though encouraged him to shoplift and  
17 instead of a punishment he would get a pat on the back,  
18 so he continued to do that.

19 The first place he was sent then was Larchgrove. He  
20 doesn't think it was a sentence, he was just told that  
21 he was going there on remand.

22 'Doogster' thinks he was about eight or nine, and it  
23 was about 1969. He talks about his time in Larchgrove  
24 from paragraph 15 and he thinks he was there on three  
25 separate occasions. The first time was for about six

1 weeks in 1969, and then again for short periods in 1972  
2 and 1975.

3 'Doogster' says at paragraph 15 of his statement  
4 that there was physical and sexual abuse of boys at  
5 Larchgrove on each of the three times he was there.

6 At paragraph 17 'Doogster' says that the first time  
7 he was abused was on the day of his arrival, when he was  
8 slapped about by SNR [REDACTED]. He can't remember the  
9 name of that man. That was when he was being explained  
10 what the rules of Larchgrove were and how things were  
11 going to be in there.

12 At paragraph 18 he talks about being given a cold  
13 shower on the first night by a master who was a member  
14 of staff, and this was the master of one of the wings  
15 that he was put into, and he was given a cold shower and  
16 when he came out of the shower he was flicked with a wet  
17 towel.

18 'Doogster' says the staff there were mostly male,  
19 other than the kitchen staff, and he remembers  
20 a Mr MKI [REDACTED] who was one of SNR [REDACTED], or  
21 certainly part of the hierarchy there.

22 At paragraph 20 'Doogster' says there was a female  
23 nurse:

24 '[Because] I often went to her with bruises, black  
25 eyes and broken teeth and she would ask what had



1 happened, but I'd just say I'd been fighting. It was at  
2 the back of my mind that if I had said anything the  
3 nurse might have told someone in the hierarchy and it  
4 would just have come back round to me getting beaten or  
5 locked in the cell by SNR [REDACTED] again.'

6 'Doogster' says they were forced to eat the food at  
7 Larchgrove that they didn't want. Staff would force it  
8 into their mouth and put a handkerchief over their mouth  
9 to stop them spitting the food out. There were two or  
10 three main offenders who were supervising the meals.  
11 They were told that if they didn't eat their meal the  
12 next time they'd get nothing.

13 At Larchgrove 'Doogster' says the education was very  
14 basic and that the teachers who came into the school  
15 dished out corporal punishment, but it was nothing  
16 compared to the other punishments they got in  
17 Larchgrove.

18 He had a male social worker there who came to see  
19 him and he told him what was happening at Larchgrove and  
20 he said that they would look into it. He told him about  
21 the beatings, the cold showers, and all the rest of it,  
22 but heard nothing more from him.

23 'Doogster' says many of the boys ran away, they  
24 always got caught and then they would be punished. That  
25 was a sufficient deterrent for him not to run away.

1           At paragraph 27, in relation to bed-wetting,

2           'Doogster' says:

3           'I constantly wet the bed and I got battered for  
4           that every morning. Staff would check the beds in the  
5           morning and batter you if it was wet. Then you picked  
6           up your wet sheets and took them to the shower room  
7           where you washed them and had a cold shower. Staff  
8           would be there and make you do that. That happened to  
9           all the bed wetters in all the dorms.'

10           From paragraph 28 of his statement 'Doogster' talks  
11           about abuse at Larchgrove and says the following:

12           'I was abused each time I was at Larchgrove. I was  
13           flicked with a wet towel many times after coming out the  
14           showers. That happened to me and many other boys, every  
15           time I was there. It was always the same members of  
16           staff.

17           There was also a night watchman, who, on the second  
18           night, fondled me under the covers when I was in my bed.  
19           I froze, I was so frightened. There were 10 or 12 other  
20           boys in the dorm, of various ages. I watched that  
21           happen every night, to me and to other boys, but no one  
22           ever spoke about it. The night watchman was about 50 or  
23           60 back then, so will be dead now.

24           After about the fourth time of being fondled,  
25           I spoke to SNR [REDACTED], the same man who battered me

1 on my first day, and his response was just to give me  
2 another battering for telling lies. He used a belt and  
3 his hands to hit me.

4 After I told him, I was put in a cell overnight. It  
5 was like a six-by-four room with nothing in it and I was  
6 locked in all night. I had one blanket and nothing  
7 else. No food and no drink. I was told that if I said  
8 any more about it I would be in that room for the rest  
9 of my time there.

10 After that, I was too frightened to say anything.  
11 It was the same for other boys as well, they were all  
12 too frightened. We just all kept ourselves to ourselves  
13 after that.

14 We were all continuously slapped and battered, and  
15 for all the most trivial of things. It was such  
16 a strict regime. All the staff without exception  
17 behaved like that. In Larchgrove I witnessed many  
18 things of a sexual nature being inflicted on other boys  
19 by the teachers, and by the night watchman.

20 I saw other boys being raped by staff in the toilets  
21 and in the showers. Staff would rub the boys' private  
22 parts in the showers. It was the same two staff that  
23 did all that, I just can't remember any names. I wasn't  
24 raped but they did try. It was in the toilets but some  
25 other boys came in to the toilet and I was just battered

1 and told not to say anything.

2 I reported abuse to SNR and he hit me  
3 more and called me a liar. I also told the social  
4 worker, who did nothing as far as I was aware.'

5 'Doogster' was then told by the social work when he  
6 was at Larchgrove that there was a vacancy in a List D  
7 school and that he was going there, and that's when he  
8 was moved on to St Ninian's, that part of 'Doogster's'  
9 statement was read in on 23 January 2024.

10 Whilst there, just in summary, he suffered sexual  
11 abuse, including rape from staff, emotional abuse,  
12 physical abuse, and forced feeding.

13 Going later on in 'Doogster's' statement, he states  
14 at paragraph 64 that he was in St Ninian's for about  
15 18 months, and he didn't have any visits from anybody  
16 whilst he was there, and his mum and dad he says were  
17 too busy at off-licences to care about him.

18 But after St Ninian's he's not too sure where he  
19 went or exactly what happened, but he thinks he went  
20 home for a while and he remembers a neighbour coming out  
21 and telling him that his mum and dad had split up and  
22 his mum had gone off to America to live with his sister  
23 and his dad had moved to London. So he couldn't live in  
24 an empty house. He was only about 10 or 11 at that  
25 time.

1           He thinks the social work must have got involved and  
2           he went to one of his grans and his gran then told him  
3           to go to his half-sister's house. He tried to stay with  
4           her, but she had six kids and there was really no room,  
5           so it began to look like he was going back to  
6           St Ninian's and that's the last thing he wanted to do,  
7           so 'Doogster' says he ended up homeless for six months  
8           as a 10 year-old. He says he just stayed anywhere and  
9           everywhere, he was shoplifting for food and clothes and  
10          would steel anything and sleep anywhere.

11          He then met his father, who at that time was staying  
12          in a bedsit in Finnieston.

13          He thinks then he got in trouble for shoplifting in  
14          about 1972. He was back in front of a panel and the  
15          social work, and was sent back to Larchgrove for a few  
16          weeks.

17          'Doogster' says from paragraph 71 about Larchgrove  
18          that it was pretty much the same the second time, the  
19          abuse was very much the same, in the showers and the  
20          night watch men and the dorms. It was all very much the  
21          same and after what had happened to him the first time  
22          he didn't see any point in saying anything to anyone.

23          He says that he was there for roughly six weeks that  
24          time, although it felt like six years, and then he was  
25          moved to Kerelaw.

1           'Doogster' talks about Kerelaw from paragraph 77  
2           onwards. He says he was there in 1972, and he was there  
3           for a couple of months. He remembers being at school  
4           maybe once or twice a week, but there being no real  
5           education. He just seems to remember doing a lot of  
6           cleaning, playing a lot of sports and games, or just  
7           doing nothing. Although he says that they played things  
8           like cards, drafts, chess, and with a bat and a ball.

9           'Doogster' talks about abuse at Kerelaw from  
10          paragraph 85, and he states the following:

11          'I don't remember any written discipline code or  
12          anything like that and I don't remember anyone being  
13          given the belt. There was a cane and the staff would  
14          get your trousers down and hit the backs of your legs.  
15          Sometimes it would be one staff member, sometimes it  
16          would be two and one would watch or have a punch or two  
17          at you as well. It could be for the most trivial of  
18          things or perhaps the staff were just in a bad mood. It  
19          could be for nothing, really.

20          There was also abuse in the showers in Kerelaw, just  
21          like Larchgrove. Staff would pick out boys for  
22          a private shower. That happened to me once or twice.  
23          The staff member would wash you down. It was done just  
24          one at a time, but there was more than one staff member  
25          that did that.

1           If you protested they would punch you in the side,  
2           in the kidneys. That would disable you and then they  
3           could take advantage of the situation. That happened  
4           hundreds of times at Kerelaw.

5           At night it was the exact same procedure as at  
6           Larchgrove, with staff going round the beds fondling the  
7           boys under the covers. That happened to me and many  
8           other boys.

9           I never ran away but other boys did, every day. If  
10          you ran away, the staff gave you a beating. They would  
11          hit you in the ribs and to the body to minimise what  
12          could be seen. I saw lots of boys with bruises on their  
13          bodies but I didn't need to ask what had happened to  
14          them, I knew deep down what had happened.

15          Abuse happened once or twice a week, it was  
16          tyrannical, the staff were absolute bullies at Kerelaw.  
17          I can't remember the names of any of the staff at  
18          Kerelaw.'

19          He was then told by social work that there was a new  
20          school in East Kilbride and that he had been picked  
21          along with some other boys to go there. This was  
22          a residential school, and he went there in 1972. He  
23          talks about that from paragraphs 93 onwards. He was  
24          about 12 or 13 when he was there, Secondary Institutions - to be publishe

25          Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later he was told he was going to go to secondary school on the south side of Glasgow. His father had moved at that time to Muirhead in Glasgow, and it was arranged for him to go and live with him and to go to school.

However, 'Doogster' found it difficult to be back at his dad's and be in a mainstream school, and in 1975 he left school and started getting into trouble with the police. He stole a chequebook and presented a forged cheque for £10 and was arrested. He was placed on remand and put back into Larchgrove. And that was him back in three years after he had been last been in. He says that that was about 1975.

At paragraph 121 'Doogster' says when he was back at Larchgrove for the third time, he was there for about five weeks, but things were different for him that time. He states at paragraph 121:

'I was a bigger, stronger boy, and I could tell



1 people to "fuck off". Some staff were new, but some  
2 were the same and some of the same things were still  
3 going on. There was still boys being sexually abused,  
4 I know that many of them were living in denial, but I'd  
5 seen it all before, so I knew it was still going on.'

6 [REDACTED] 1975 he was sentenced to two years in  
7 prison for the cheque fraud. At that time he was 14 but  
8 says he was sentenced as an adult. He thought he was  
9 going to Larchgrove but he was sent to Longriggend Young  
10 Offenders' Unit, and he was put into Longriggend with  
11 people, he says, aged up to about 17 or 18, and he was  
12 only 14.

13 He talks about Longriggend from paragraph 123 to  
14 125. He says he did have abuse issues at Longriggend,  
15 but not sexual, it was physical, and it was every day.  
16 They had wardens and they would hit you and beat you all  
17 the time.

18 He was there for two months and didn't get any  
19 visits, and then said that he had a chance to go to  
20 an approved school and was sent to St Andrew's Approved  
21 School, and I think that was in Shandon.

22 He talks about St Andrew's from paragraphs 126 to  
23 130, and describes his time there. He says the staff  
24 weren't too bad, and there was no abuse at St Andrew's.  
25 He was there for 18 months and was released on his 16th

1 birthday. He had to go through a Parole Board and apply  
2 to the Home Office for release.

3 He then talks about life after care from  
4 paragraph 131 onwards. He went to stay with his dad  
5 from age 16 and then went to the Jobcentre. He then  
6 went to North Wales with his sister for a weekend and  
7 ended up staying there for 13 years. He got a night  
8 shift job working in an assembly factory, he joined  
9 a band and was playing guitar and singing at pubs and  
10 clubs and received good money. He did that for about  
11 two years before he went to Spain and he ended up  
12 staying there, playing in a band, making many good  
13 friends, and can now speak and write fluent Spanish.

14 He went back to North Wales and met his wife in  
15 1981, they were married the next year, and he'd saved  
16 enough to be able to buy his first house. He worked on  
17 that, did it up and sold it and moved to another house  
18 in Glasgow, where he did the same, turning it into  
19 flats.

20 He and his wife divorced in 1989, and he then later  
21 met an Irish girl who came over and lived with him in  
22 Glasgow and he had a daughter in 1990 who, at the time  
23 of this statement, was 28. They stayed together for  
24 about 20 years but split up in 2009.

25 'Doogster' talks about impact from paragraph 137 and

1 says that it's been a massive step for him to come and  
2 speak to the Inquiry, but it's something that he says  
3 'I have to do'.

4 At paragraph 140 he states:

5 'The abuse has lived with me every day and every  
6 night, it's always on my mind. I have nightmares.  
7 I fight in my sleep and I then wake up.'

8 He talks about attempting suicide in 1978 and having  
9 been on anti-depressants since then, and that he booked  
10 himself in to an alcohol treatment unit about seven  
11 years before this statement, but I think he was only out  
12 from that for about five months when he was diagnosed  
13 with cancer.

14 He talks about the fact that he has done a lot of  
15 drinking over the time, and he had a cancer operation on  
16 his throat, and after that had to teach himself to speak  
17 again.

18 He now attends hospitals and cancer units and speaks  
19 to people with similar cancers to his and gives them  
20 advice about their operations, the outcomes, and  
21 post-operative treatment.

22 In relation to lessons to be learned, 'Doogster'  
23 says at paragraph 150:

24 'I certainly think that any employee working with  
25 children should be vetted thoroughly. There also has to

1 be an assessment of the children's needs. Kids should  
2 be listened to, they can't all lie. Respect the kids as  
3 humans, not as a number, respect is mutual.'

4 He also says at paragraph 153:

5 'I think an independent should be appointed to  
6 assess the staff at all care institutions. My concern  
7 is about kids in care now. If things like that are  
8 still happening, something has to be done now.'

9 He makes the usual declaration at paragraph 155, and  
10 he has signed his statement and it's dated  
11 29 October 2018.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 I'll stop there for the lunch break, and we'll sit  
14 again at 2 o'clock, when I think we have some more  
15 read-ins to address, don't we?

16 MS FORBES: Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 (12.57 pm)

19 (The short adjournment)

20 (2.03 pm)

21 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

22 Ms Forbes.

23 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady.

24 The next statement is from an applicant who is  
25 anonymous and they are known as 'Bobby Joe'.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Bobby Joe' (read)

3 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Bobby Joe's' statement is  
4 WIT-1-000000976.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MS FORBES: 'Bobby Joe' was born in 1957, talks about his  
7 background and life before going into care in  
8 paragraphs 2 and 20.

9 He was born in Glasgow and grew up on the border  
10 with Clydebank and lived with his parents and seven  
11 brothers and sisters. 'Bobby Joe' says he loved living  
12 there and had lots of friends. His dad worked shoveling  
13 coal at the power station and his mother worked in  
14 Weir's Pumps.

15 He says a girl who lived in the same close as him  
16 sexually abused him when he was young, she was about  
17 four or five years older than him and had Down's  
18 syndrome and this happened on a daily basis.

19 In 1969 he moved to a different street, only about  
20 400 metres away, but he says it was like a different  
21 world. Every other street had a gang and the boys there  
22 wanted to fight him, so he got into fights, he took up  
23 boxing.

24 He went to secondary school and he started getting  
25 into trouble. He was seeing a psychologist, but there's

1 not much involvement with social work, but they were  
2 around in the background, 'Bobby Joe' says.

3 His mother had a mental breakdown and was in  
4 a psychiatric hospital. She received electric shock  
5 treatment and didn't recognise anyone. He had been to  
6 the Children's Panel, as he had been involved with  
7 a couple of older guys, and at 13 he ran away. He says  
8 there was no one thing that made him run away, he just  
9 wanted to get away. It might have been to do with  
10 financial difficulties at home. His dad worked hard but  
11 he was a drinker and they never got on. He was away for  
12 a week working down in Ayr on the shows and his mother  
13 reported him missing, this, he says, was in [REDACTED] 1971, he  
14 was still only 13 years old.

15 He was away for just over a week, and when he came  
16 back he was taken to Larchgrove Remand Centre.

17 He talks about Larchgrove between paragraphs 21 and  
18 57, and says that when he went there there were kids in  
19 there that were younger than him.

20 If we could go to paragraph 26 of his statement, he  
21 says:

22 'There were boys in there that should never have  
23 been there. They were only in there because their  
24 parents couldn't look after them and they ended up  
25 corrupted and abused.

1 I can't remember there being a headmaster or  
2 governor at Larchgrove. Mr KDX seemed to be there all  
3 the time though. I don't know if he stayed on the  
4 premises, but I think there was [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED].  
6 All the staff were male and there was always waking  
7 night staff on duty. After we were all away to bed,  
8 they just used to gather in the square and drink coffee  
9 or whisky.'

10 He then goes on to talk about some of the routine at  
11 Larchgrove and says that after breakfast you either had  
12 cleaning duties or you went to classes.

13 At paragraph 29 he says that if he did cleaning in  
14 the morning, you had classes in the afternoon and vice  
15 versa.

16 At paragraph 31 'Bobby Joe' says:

17 'There was a gang culture [there] and at meal times  
18 everyone sat with the guys from their own area.'

19 There was always staff at the showers because that  
20 was one of the places there might be fighting, but he  
21 says in paragraph 33 you wouldn't fight in front of the  
22 staff because you would just get a doing off the staff  
23 if you did. And he says that there were bullies.

24 If you go to paragraph 36, 'Bobby Joe' states:

25 'We did have school at Larchgrove. Mr IJR was

1 one of the teachers. Mr [KDX] was basically [SNR],  
2 or he looked like he was [SNR]. He was just a nasty  
3 piece of work.'

4 Then if I could go forward to paragraph 42, this is  
5 where 'Bobby Joe' talks about discipline at Larchgrove.

6 First of all he says:

7 'If you had been naughty you would get more cleaning  
8 work, but the punishment would be cleaning  
9 a two-foot-by-two-foot tile for an hour with  
10 a toothbrush whilst everyone else got to watch TV. That  
11 was the same at all institutes.'

12 He then talks about running away and says:

13 'I ran away three times when I was at Larchgrove and  
14 every time I handed myself in, I ended up back at  
15 Larchgrove.

16 I was running away from there because of the staff  
17 slapping me. There were two members of staff,  
18 Mr [IJR], who was a teacher, and Mr [KDX], who was  
19 ex-army and was a really nasty man. They were always  
20 asking questions about whether I had a girlfriend or not  
21 and basically trying to find out if I was a homosexual.  
22 It was just a different way of asking in these days.

23 I wasn't running away just because I was getting  
24 abused by the staff. It was more to do with me no  
25 wanting to share a dormitory with five guys I didn't



1 know. As soon as I got a chance, I was getting out of  
2 there and a lot of the boys thought the same. We  
3 weren't running away just for the sake of it. I ran  
4 away because I didn't want to be there.'

5 If I could then go forward to paragraph 50,  
6 'Bobby Joe' says that in [REDACTED] 1972 13 of them escaped  
7 on the coldest night of the year. Six of the boys ended  
8 up with frostbite, but he says:

9 '... that was probably because we ran away in our  
10 pyjamas and slippers.'

11 If we go to paragraph 53:

12 'When we got back everybody apart from me got the  
13 belt. I was probably a lot more streetwise than the  
14 other kids because I grew up with older boys. Because  
15 of that, I got the blame for [it] and it was after this  
16 incident that I got sent to an approved school.'

17 If you then go to paragraph 54, this is him talking  
18 about abuse at Larchgrove, he says:

19 'KDX [REDACTED] was just a cruel man who would slap the boys  
20 every single day. He was a thinnish guy, probably in  
21 his early fifties with black tight curly hair and always  
22 had a red face. It wasn't that I didn't like him and he  
23 was kind of dapper in his black suit, but he would just  
24 give you a slap for anything and nothing. You even got  
25 a backhander for asking for a light for a cigarette.

1 They stopped boys being allowed to smoke in institutions  
2 in 1974. It never stopped, it just made it more  
3 dangerous because boys were hiding their smoking.'

4 He then says as a result of that incident running  
5 away he was sent to an approved school and he was in and  
6 out of Larchgrove and Longriggend in between two spells  
7 at Larchgrove. He was doing milk and paper rounds and  
8 he says he went to numerous courts because he was  
9 stealing, he was done for theft, breach of the peace and  
10 police assault.

11 Then he says that he escaped in [REDACTED] 1972 he got  
12 sentenced to 12 months and sent to St Mary's, and that  
13 was in [REDACTED] 1972.

14 He talks about St Mary's Kenmure between  
15 paragraphs 58 and 108. He was still only 14 at that  
16 time. He says he ran away from there because he was  
17 getting bullied by the other boys. The strap was used  
18 by staff and he says he knows that boys were being  
19 sexually abused by the chef. The chef was having sex  
20 with them in the kitchen and tried it on with him too.  
21 He wasn't the only abuser, but he was the one that ended  
22 up in prison.

23 And there was physical assaults from members of  
24 staff. One of the members of staff would take them out  
25 stealing. He says he was president of his house and

1 boys reported things to him. However, despite all of  
2 that, he says he loved St Mary's as a school.

3 He was released from there in about [REDACTED] 1973, he  
4 says, and he went back to the high school that he was at  
5 before, but he didn't go regularly, because anything  
6 that happened there he got the blame for.

7 The school was set on fire and he got the blame, but  
8 he says it wasn't him, and he ended up getting 18 of the  
9 strap from his form teacher, [REDACTED], and then  
10 [REDACTED]. He says his wrists were all swollen as  
11 a result of that.

12 There were times when he was remanded to Longriggend  
13 and he would have to spend the night at Barlinnie  
14 Prison. 'Bobby Joe' says that was wrong, 14 or  
15 15 year-old boys shouldn't be held on a wing like that  
16 with hardened criminals. He was going to Children's  
17 Panels and Juvenile Courts for numerous charges of  
18 breach of the peace and there were other boys at the  
19 school who had been to different remand schools.

20 On one occasion he was bunking off school with  
21 a large group, 14 in total, and the police arrived and  
22 charged them with a breach of the peace. He pled guilty  
23 and practically begged them to send him back to  
24 St Mary's and they did, but he was enlisted as a witness  
25 against the other 13. One of his pals thought he was

1 a grass and still doesn't speak to him to this day. But  
2 that case against the other 13 was dropped.

3 He was released from St Mary's the second time on  
4 his birthday in [REDACTED] 1973.

5 The school organised jobs for the boys when they  
6 were released and he got a job at a hotel. He started  
7 out as a chef but didn't last very long, and then he was  
8 back staying with his parents, but was back in jail, he  
9 says, by [REDACTED] 1974.

10 He talks about Longriggend and Glenochil between  
11 paragraphs 118 and 137 and that evidence was read in on  
12 10 November last year, which is Day 388.

13 He was in Longriggend for two short spells before he  
14 was let out on bail. He talks about being held in one  
15 of the dog boxes for 27 hours over a two-day period, and  
16 someone setting their cell on fire in 1973 and dying  
17 from the smoke inhalation.

18 He says that the prison officers that went in and  
19 dragged him out of the cell were kicking and punching  
20 the man as they did so.

21 In relation to Glenochil, he was there [REDACTED] or  
22 [REDACTED] 1974 and says it was a hell hole where the staff  
23 were totally abusive, just an awful place. There wasn't  
24 anything good about detention centres and it was  
25 institutionalised bullying with physical assaults from

1 staff.

2 He tells us about his life after care between  
3 paragraphs 138 and 154. He got out of prison in  
4 [REDACTED] 1974 when he was still only 16. He went to stay  
5 with his aunt and uncle, got a job with a removal firm,  
6 and then as an aerial rigger, and ended up in prison  
7 again a few times.

8 He then met his wife in 1980. They were married in  
9 1982, and they were together until she passed away.  
10 They had three children together and he only spent one  
11 more time, or spell as he calls it, in jail after  
12 meeting his wife, and that was in 1983.

13 He talks about the impact of his time in care  
14 between paragraphs 155 to 168.

15 At paragraph 155 he says:

16 'I understand why I was put away. I was out of  
17 order at times. Going to Larchgrove, I knew it was  
18 inevitable I was going to end up in one of these places.  
19 I just knew it and once I had been in one, the rest  
20 didn't seem that bad. It's a horrible scary feeling  
21 walking into a prison, but that was when I was a kid.  
22 After I was 21 nothing like that would bother me.'

23 He talks about lessons to be learned between  
24 paragraphs 174 and 184, but a lot of that is about  
25 St Mary's and being in prison.

1           He has then made the usual declaration at  
2           paragraph 185 and he has signed his statement, it's  
3           dated 4 May 2022.

4   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5   MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
6           who is anonymous and known as 'Barry'.

7   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8                           'Barry' (read)

9   MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is  
10           WIT.001.001.4429.

11           'Barry' was born in 1958 and talks about his life  
12           before care between paragraphs 2 and 11. He was brought  
13           up in Possilpark in the north of Glasgow, lived with his  
14           parents and was one of four children, he was the  
15           youngest.

16           'Barry' says he had a great upbringing with his  
17           parents, there was never any hassle or abuse from them,  
18           no ill treatment. He said he got a belt round the ear  
19           if the truant officer came to the door, but that was  
20           about it. But he wouldn't go to primary school, he  
21           didn't like school, his mother would put him in one door  
22           and he would walk out another.

23           There was a teacher there who used to hit him with  
24           a walking stick on a daily basis. He used to skip  
25           school, jump on trains on his own to Aberdeen and Perth,

1        jump on a ferry to Dunoon. He did that instead of  
2        playing on the streets, and that was right up until he  
3        was 11. He ended up at the City Chambers for skipping  
4        school and his dad got a fine.

5            He then went to secondary school, but by that time  
6        he was stealing milk of floats, papers from outside  
7        shops and sweeties from inside, trivial things he says  
8        like that. 'Barry' ended up in a police station after  
9        stealing a milk float and he took a shot of it and  
10       crashed it. He was given a verbal warning from the  
11       Chief Inspector at the time, and he ended up being given  
12       a social worker.

13           He ended up at the Sheriff Court and that was for  
14       truancy and the next thing they were trying to arrange  
15       a Children's Panel, he was told he was going away and  
16       taken by the wrist and no time period was discussed with  
17       him. He got to see his parents and said goodbye and  
18       then he was taken away in a mini-bus.

19           'Barry' comments that the only reason he ended up  
20       being sent away is because he didn't go to school.

21           He was then taken to Larchgrove and talks about that  
22       between paragraphs 12 and 34. He was 13 when he went to  
23       Larchgrove, and he was in there for weeks rather than  
24       months. It could have only been three weeks. He  
25       treated Larchgrove like it was a joke. He knew boys in

1 there from the scheme back home.

2 In relation to staff he says that the staff are all  
3 right, and it was the usual shouting and bawling. There  
4 was a housemaster called Mr MKI who had red hair and  
5 all the other boys used to say to stay clear of him.  
6 That was at paragraph 19.

7 At paragraph 21 he says he did chores during the day  
8 and in the evening they had recreation. He didn't go to  
9 school.

10 Paragraphs 24 he talks about spending his days  
11 polishing floors, washing windows and dusting. Boys  
12 escaping was a daily occurrence.

13 At paragraph 32 he talks about getting abuse off  
14 other boys for wetting the bed. He then talks about  
15 abuse at Larchgrove from paragraph 33, and if I can go  
16 to that paragraph.

17 At paragraph 33 'Barry' says:

18 MKI, the housemaster, would flick you or batter  
19 you with a towel in the shower. That was like a daily  
20 thing. He would fondle you in the shower. He would  
21 say, "You've not washed yourself here with a bit of  
22 soap." He did that to everybody. Sometimes the boys  
23 would rebel and he would just back off. Back then you  
24 just thought of it all as banter. It wasn't anything  
25 too violent. To us, at the time, it was more like



1 a "carry on". I just put up with it at the time. I put  
2 it to the back of my head. Looking back at it now, it  
3 wasn't just a bit of "craic". It was other things.

4 After the bed-wetting you tended to go to the shower  
5 on your own or with the other bed-wetters, if you were  
6 on your own MKI would pick on you, he would slap you  
7 or spit on you or whatever. I dare say that things  
8 happened to other boys all the way throughout with him  
9 when they were on their own.'

10 He then was told that he would be going to  
11 St Ninian's in Falkland, Fife, and he talks about  
12 St Ninian's between paragraphs 36 and 124. Describes  
13 unusual punishments, physical assaults from the  
14 Brothers, emotional abuse, humiliations, sexual abuse by  
15 Brothers, and he found out that one of the boys took his  
16 own life whilst on home leave and he was one of the boys  
17 who was being sexually abused.

18 He left there in [REDACTED] 1973, when he was 15 years  
19 old.

20 He talks about his life after care between  
21 paragraphs 125 and 135. 'Barry' says he didn't have  
22 much of a school life after he left. He was only there  
23 for a matter of months and did no exams. He ended up  
24 stealing motors and went into a young offenders' when he  
25 was 16.

1           At 17 he ended up in borstal and came out at 18 and  
2 met his first wife. They were separated by the time he  
3 was 20, and he ended up doing a 20-month sentence and  
4 later got another six months for stealing a van full of  
5 whisky.

6           He met his second wife, had a family, and decided to  
7 put it all behind him and decided to grow up, he says.

8           'Barry' says he had a couple of slips when he was 25  
9 or 26, but he never went back to prison from the age of  
10 24.

11           In relation to impact, 'Barry' talks about that  
12 between paragraphs 136 and 153. He says he's protective  
13 of his own children as a result of what happened to him  
14 and it was his experience at St Ninian's with sexual  
15 abuse that affected him badly. He talks about trouble  
16 sleeping and night terrors.

17           In relation to lessons to be learned, that's between  
18 paragraphs 154 and 162, and this part is mostly about  
19 St Ninian's. He thinks that people who are on  
20 Children's Panels should have gone through the sorts of  
21 experiences he has. 'Barry' comments that he might not  
22 have had the education but there should be people like  
23 him on these panels, and that's at paragraph 160.

24           He makes the usual declaration at paragraph 162 and  
25 he signed that on 29 January 2018.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 'Mark' (read)

3 MS FORBES: The next statement is from an applicant who,  
4 again, is anonymous, and is known as 'Mark', and his  
5 statement reference is WIT.001.001.1568.

6 'Mark' was born in 1960 and tells us about his life  
7 in care between paragraphs 4 and 8. He was born in  
8 Glasgow, he had four older siblings and two younger  
9 siblings and 'Mark' says his uncle used to come to his  
10 mother's house and would be involved in drinking and  
11 fighting. Someone poured a kettle of boiling water over  
12 him at one point when he was two. Someone flicked  
13 a cigarette at him and hit him in the eye. No one did  
14 anything about it and he had been screaming in pain for  
15 three days before his grandmother got involved and his  
16 father was forced to deal with it.

17 'Mark' states that had it been dealt with at the  
18 time they may have been able to save [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED] as a result and it was just pure neglect.

20 He lived in constant threat of violence. There was  
21 sexual abuse from the age of six from one of the uncles.  
22 He witnessed extreme violence and rape at his auntie's  
23 house and that aunt would make him go shoplifting with  
24 her. He spent a lot of time in police stations and at  
25 one time or another most of his siblings were in homes

1 or in care. He never went to school. He was clumsy [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED], and at eight years old he was  
3 brought before a children's hearing because he had not  
4 been attending school. It was obvious that he was  
5 suffering from neglect and they decided to send him and  
6 his brother to a children's home.

7 He then talks about going to a children's home in  
8 Dunoon, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
9 [REDACTED] Secondary In He was there for about four weeks and then it  
10 was decided he would be moved to another children's  
11 home.

12 He talks about that between paragraphs 10 and 38.

13 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]

19 He then went back to live with his mother, who was  
20 in Cowcaddens, and he talks about that between  
21 paragraphs 39 and 41. In 1971 or 1972 he moved with his  
22 mother to Drumchapel but it was the same old story,  
23 'Mark' says: alcoholics, violence and rape occurring on  
24 a regular basis. He started to abuse substances like  
25 shoe polish and glue and he tried to hang himself. He

1 was dogging school and ended up at a Children's Panel  
2 and they decided he was going to go to Larchgrove.

3 He was supposed to be there for three weeks but he  
4 was there for a good few months and he talks about  
5 Larchgrove from paragraph 42 onwards.

6 He was placed into the Jackson section. He was no  
7 longer with his brother this time and he was on his own.

8 He talks at paragraph 43 about the fact that if his  
9 bed was not made properly in the morning at Larchgrove  
10 you would get a battering. After breakfast you would  
11 have to start cleaning and you felt like you were  
12 cleaning all the time. You would then do some schooling  
13 for a couple of hours, and then he would go to a job in  
14 the greenhouse.

15 At paragraph 46 'Mark' says he had two hours of  
16 schooling a day, this was normal school work, including  
17 maths and English, but spent most of his time cleaning.

18 He then talks about abuse in paragraph 48, and if  
19 I could go to paragraph 48 of his statement, he says:

20 'The centre was unofficially run by a group called  
21 the "bully boys". They consisted of a group of inmates  
22 who were organised by the staff to hand out discipline.  
23 They would go and hit other inmates on the instructions  
24 of the staff. I recall sitting in the television room  
25 when one of the "bully boys" came up behind me and hit

1 me twice in the face with a slipper. There was no  
2 reason for him to do it he was just doing what the staff  
3 asked him to do.

4 There was another occasion I got a "doing" in the  
5 gym. The gym teacher was lying on the ground and  
6 I accidentally stood on his privates. He immediately  
7 stood up and punched me twice in the head.

8 The worst bullying happened to a black guy who was  
9 an inmate at the centre. It was very unusual at this  
10 time for a black guy to be there. He used to take abuse  
11 from everyone who called him racist names. He was also  
12 being hit all the time. I liked the guy because he used  
13 to try and laugh it off but he was subjected to terrible  
14 treatment.

15 It was a brutal regime at Larchgrove. I remember on  
16 one occasion being offered the punishment option of  
17 a weekend's leave or a boot in the arse. I of course  
18 opted for the boot in the arse and one of the staff made  
19 me spread my cheeks and bend over. I was wearing  
20 pyjamas at the time. He took a run and kick at me.

21 If you talked back they would take you to the  
22 bathroom and make you clean it using a toothbrush. You  
23 would have to go in between the tiles and if it was not  
24 cleaned to their satisfaction you would get a hit on the  
25 head.

1           There was a big lad at the school [and he names his  
2           nickname] who came from ... a gang in Glasgow. He was  
3           one of the bully boys and he once gave me a doing in the  
4           showers on the instructions of the staff.

5           There was a night watchman who used to come round at  
6           night. He was always stinking of drink. He had a torch  
7           and used to shine it in your eyes. He used to try it on  
8           with some of the boys. He tried it on with me but I was  
9           older and wiser now so I told him to get to fuck and he  
10          didn't bother me again. I was learning violence and how  
11          to look after myself. I think that he was trying it on  
12          with other boys because I could hear the moans.

13          I recall seeing one of the staff hitting one of the  
14          other boys with a pool cue. It was just brutal and  
15          I hated the place. They were really cruel. I was no  
16          longer bedwetting so life was easier in that respect.  
17          I remember seeing one of the staff pushing one of the  
18          boy's heads through a window protected by a wire grille.  
19          They had to call an ambulance on that occasion as the  
20          boy was bleeding badly. That would be in 1973.

21          There was a playground in the school where there was  
22          a lot of fighting. The centre also adjoined the  
23          neighbouring Catholic St John Apostles School next door.  
24          I used to talk to the boys from there and they told me  
25          horrific tales of the abuse they suffered at the school.

1 From the sound of it they had it worse than me.

2 I had a job working in the greenhouse at the centre.  
3 The staff member that ran the greenhouse was a very nice  
4 person. We would grow a lot of tomatoes. It was  
5 a really great place to work and you got away from the  
6 bullying.

7 I remember being taken to the swimming baths.  
8 I think we went on a bus to the swimming baths in  
9 Kirkcaldy. The staff would watch while the bully boys  
10 would be trying to duck you under the water and try to  
11 drown you.

12 There was a small cell at Larchgrove where they  
13 would put you if you weren't behaving. It had a very  
14 small bench. You were usually locked up for a couple of  
15 hours. They threw in a couple of books for you to read.

16 There was a supervisor at Larchgrove who was the man  
17 for slapping everyone. I would describe him as being in  
18 his 40s and smartly dressed in a double-breasted jacket.  
19 He was in charge of Jackson house. I remember when he  
20 used to swear at you he called you a "frigging basket"  
21 instead of a "fucking bastard".'

22 He then says that after Larchgrove he was sent to  
23 Gilshochil army barracks in Maryhill, Glasgow, he was 14  
24 by that time and that was a fantastic place and he had  
25 no issues.



1           Then at paragraph 63 'Mark' talks about being with  
2           a friend who was 17 when he had an argument to do with  
3           his girlfriend, he says he had nothing to do with the  
4           argument but the police were called and they were both  
5           lifted. His friend told him to plead guilty and they  
6           both did. His friend got a fine and he got one year's  
7           residential training at Rossie. 'Mark' said he was  
8           involved in a lot of things at the time and he thrived  
9           on violence.

10           He talks about Rossie between paragraphs 64 and 74  
11           and comments that Rossie was like a borstal and it was  
12           the toughest place you could be sent to, the Glasgow  
13           boys ran the school. The other guys didn't argue with  
14           them as they had open razors and the likes, there was no  
15           bullying done by the boys when he was there, the only  
16           bullies were the staff, and he was there for three  
17           months in 1975.

18           'Mark' says he suffered physical assaults from staff  
19           and on one occasion broke his nose. He says it was  
20           non-stop violence along with constant buffing up and  
21           cleaning. He had been put into there under his mother's  
22           boyfriend's surname, and then he was now living with his  
23           own surname. So after he went home for a weekend leave  
24           he didn't return, so they were looking for a boy who had  
25           a different surname.

1           By that time he was now 16. He talks about life  
2           after care at paragraphs 76 to 86, and he says he became  
3           a gang member. He was involved in violence with  
4           neighbouring gangs. Used to carry weapons including  
5           swords. 'Mark' describes himself as a 'nutcase' and was  
6           involved in extreme violence and says he has been  
7           stabbed and involved in gang fights and had no fear. He  
8           didn't go back to school or become involved in any form  
9           of education. His auntie used to supply him with [REDACTED]  
10          [REDACTED] and he accidentally took an overdose on one  
11          occasion.

12           He was an alcoholic for 40 years and also abused  
13          drugs, but at the time he gave this statement he hadn't  
14          had a drink for five years. He got married in 1979 but  
15          his wife died of cancer at 36. He says he has two  
16          children and a grandchild who he has a great  
17          relationship with. 'Mark' says at one time his mother,  
18          wife and sister all died within three years of each  
19          other and he went nutty and was fighting and drinking  
20          and homeless, living on the street.

21           In relation to impact he talks about that from  
22          paragraphs 87 to 90. 'Mark' says his life has been poor  
23          and that he has never known love. He has received some  
24          counselling but states that no one showed him affection  
25          he never got a cuddle and it was something he missed.

1 But he has been different with his own children and  
2 grandchild and he is able to show love towards them.

3 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
4

5 Larchgrove [REDACTED] the worst institution he was  
6 in.

7 In relation to lessons to be learned, if I go to  
8 paragraph 100, 'Mark' says:

9 'I can only say that children will be children and  
10 will do things that children do. "When we were weans we  
11 were acting like teenagers. When we were teenagers we  
12 were acting like men. When we became men we were all  
13 done in".'

14 Then he has made the usual declaration at  
15 paragraph 102, and he has signed that and it's dated  
16 24 April 2017.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 'Ned' (read)

19 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
20 who is anonymous and is to be known as 'Ned'.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is  
23 WIT.001.001.3977.

24 'Ned' was born in 1962 and at paragraphs 3 and 4 he  
25 talks about his life before care and lived in Whiteinch

1 in Glasgow with his parents and three older sisters.  
2 Around four or five years old his father hit his mum and  
3 went to prison. His mum had a broken jaw, and he has no  
4 doubt that they had a drunken, violent relationship. He  
5 was placed in care for his own safety. He thought he  
6 was placed in Quarriers at first, but his sister has  
7 records that said he was in Smyllum, he is not really  
8 sure where he was for the first few years. He has vague  
9 memories of Nazareth House, he is not sure how long he  
10 was there for, possibly only a few weeks.

11 Between paragraphs 7 and 28 he talks about Nazareth  
12 House. He was seven when he went there. He talks about  
13 physical abuse by the Sisters. He kept trying to see  
14 his own sisters who were also there, but he was  
15 prevented from doing so. He was sexually abused by  
16 staff. He also attacked a Sister who was assaulting him  
17 and he was sent to a home.

18 In paragraphs 29 to 41 he talks about his time  
19 there. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21  
22  
23  
24  
25

2 He was just told one day that he wasn't a pupil  
3 there any more and his dad actually tried to take him  
4 back to the home, but the home said he wasn't allowed  
5 back in.

6 At paragraph 42 'Ned' talks about living back with  
7 his father and says he was living with a violent,  
8 alcoholic father, who was constantly drunk and would  
9 beat him black and blue. He strangled him one time and  
10 lost consciousness and the next time his father came for  
11 him he stabbed his father in the stomach.

12 He states that after that he went out of control and  
13 was living like a feral child and would wander the  
14 streets of Maryhill at night. After about a year, the  
15 authorities became involved again. He hadn't been going  
16 to school since he had left the previous home, he was  
17 getting into trouble with the police. He was sent to  
18 a Children's Panel in Glasgow. He's not sure why. It  
19 could have been for many reasons. He was sent to  
20 Larchgrove and was told he was going to be there for six  
21 weeks. That was in 1975, and he was 13.

22 He talks about Larchgrove from paragraphs 46 to 68.  
23 'Ned' says it was only when he arrived and saw security  
24 on the windows that he realised that it was a secure  
25 unit. He was put into the Jackson Wing and they had

1 a cell there called 'Chokey' where you would be put to  
2 be punished. That was near the front of the building  
3 and just like a police cell.

4 He remembers some staff, in particular Mr LGU  
5 and Mr LGX. There was a gang element in there and  
6 he learned that it was important what area you came from  
7 as to what gang you were in.

8 At paragraph 51, 'Ned' says he spent most of the day  
9 waiting about for the next cigarette. Cigarettes were  
10 a big thing, and they'd just be locked in the TV room  
11 all the time. Every now and again they were taken out  
12 to a field outside to play football.

13 At paragraph 3 'Ned' says:

14 'Daytime was made up of getting down on your hands  
15 and knees and scrubbing and then polishing the corridor  
16 floor and that corridor was scrubbed and polished every  
17 morning.'

18 He says at paragraph 54 there was no education for  
19 him and no school classes at all.

20 He was bullied by older boys and he wasn't  
21 physically big enough or strong enough to take them on,  
22 that's at paragraph 57.

23 He says he ran away and stayed on the streets for  
24 weeks, and the police stopped him one night and he went  
25 straight back to Larchgrove and he thinks probably for

1 another six weeks.

2 He talks about abuse at Larchgrove from  
3 paragraph 61, and at paragraph 61 he says:

4 'There was a member of staff in Larchgrove who  
5 committed sex acts on children. I think his last name  
6 was LGX but I am not sure about that. He was the  
7 night staff. He came on duty about 9 pm. The day staff  
8 would put us to bed and then leave the building. That's  
9 when LGX would put a sweeping brush against the door  
10 to jam the dorm door shut. He would then go into his  
11 office and start drinking alcohol. The only way to get  
12 out of the dorm was to bang and shout. He would  
13 eventually come and remove the brush. I found out that  
14 it was better to go to the toilet early because the  
15 later you left it the drunker LGX would become. He  
16 only let one boy out at the time.

17 After you had been at the toilet, usually only  
18 wearing your underpants, he would make you face the wall  
19 in the freezing cold corridor with your big toe touching  
20 the skirting board. This was the punishment for  
21 disturbing his drinking. Your head wasn't allowed to  
22 touch the wall. If it did, he would add more time onto  
23 the original punishment. If you fell asleep he would  
24 come up behind you and sweep your legs away from under  
25 you and knock you to the ground.

1           One of the first times I was standing in the  
2           corridor being punished he came up behind me and tried  
3           to put his hand down my pants. When I resisted he  
4           kicked my legs away from me, and I ended up on the  
5           ground.

6           One Friday I got involved in a fight with another  
7           boy. I spent all that weekend in the cell called The  
8           Chokey. I was in there on my own all weekend. On the  
9           Sunday morning Mr LGU [REDACTED], a member of staff, came and  
10          took me down to his office and in a matter-of-fact way  
11          told me that my mother had died. He then walked me back  
12          up to The Chokey and locked the door behind me. I was  
13          crying. On the Monday a senior member of staff came  
14          back and I was given extra time in the cell. As  
15          an extra punishment first thing in the morning my  
16          mattress and blankets were taken away from me. They  
17          were returned to me last thing at night.

18          When you got involved in fights the staff would slap  
19          you about and that was just a standard thing. It might  
20          be considered abuse, and it probably was, but at the  
21          time I didn't see it as that. It was just part of what  
22          went on. You got involved in a fight, staff would drag  
23          you to the cell and slap you about a bit. It was just  
24          what you expected, and I thought I deserved it.  
25          I frequently got into fights, so frequently got beaten



1 up by staff.

2 Sometimes I would be sitting in The Chokey, wearing  
3 only my underpants on the cold concrete floor. They  
4 took your shoes off through the night to stop you from  
5 kicking the cell door. To be honest, I got used to  
6 being in there and actually felt safe. Other boys got  
7 The Chokey too. Sometimes if the staff that were on  
8 liked you they might give you a book to read when you  
9 were in there.

10 Larchgrove was a cold brutal place. I think that is  
11 just the way it was meant to be. I think it was  
12 designed to be short, sharp treatment, and it was set up  
13 like a prison.'

14 'Ned' then said he was back and forward to the  
15 Children's Panel about four times over a period of about  
16 four months and then he went to St Philip's. He talks  
17 about St Philip's from paragraph 69 onwards. He went  
18 there in 1976 and was there for two years. 'Ned' says  
19 they didn't use violence to control you there. They  
20 never taught you violence and there was no atmosphere of  
21 violence. His education started to improve whilst  
22 there. He learned to read a bit and became interested  
23 in history. 'Ned' says that St Philip's was the start  
24 of his recovery and that St Philip's saved a drowning  
25 boy.

1           They gave him some respect, listened to him, and got  
2           him involved in the set-up.

3           If you go to paragraph 74, in relation to the  
4           'Reporting abuse' section in the statement, 'Ned' says:

5           'In Larchgrove there wasn't an atmosphere that you  
6           could really report anything. The staff had an element  
7           of control, but they couldn't stop one boy punching  
8           another. There was no humanity from the staff in  
9           Larchgrove so there was no one I would speak to.'

10          He talks about his life after care from  
11          paragraphs 77 to 81. In 1978 he turned 16 and he was  
12          sent to live at a bed and breakfast in Maryhill. He  
13          lasted a week there and then left and slept rough in  
14          Maryhill. He got a job in a shopping centre, and then  
15          finally got a flat, joined the navy, but left after  
16          about 18 months.

17          He started drinking in the navy, got into a lot of  
18          fights and received prison sentences. 'Ned' says he  
19          started studying psychology when he was in prison. He  
20          took exams in Frankland Prison and got a couple of GCSEs  
21          and he started to do a course at a university in England  
22          in psychology in 1994, but that only lasted about six  
23          months.

24          In relation to impact, he talks about that from  
25          paragraph 82.

1           If I could go to paragraph 85, 'Ned' says:

2           'Larchgrove was the road which led me into the  
3 criminal world. At that age I needed guidance and  
4 education but because I didn't get any I went the other  
5 way. The violence became more and more serious, and  
6 I would even wait until someone was asleep and then  
7 I would hurt them. I received a lot of violence but  
8 I gave a lot out too.

9           It was when I was at Larchgrove that I learned that  
10 there was a level below poor. When you see other people  
11 getting visits you realise that you are alone, with no  
12 money and no status. I got no visits and had nothing.  
13 I just wanted to be one of the gang. I would rather  
14 have been in Larchgrove for a criminal offence rather  
15 than been there for care and protection.

16           In Larchgrove there became more and more  
17 intelligence to my violence. It started to become more  
18 premeditated and I would picture what was going to  
19 happen. I was calm and would plan it all out. If I was  
20 being bullied I would work it out that I hit them in  
21 front of the staff. That way the fight would get broken  
22 up quickly by the staff. The bully would get the burst  
23 nose and I would get put into The Chokey where I was  
24 safe. I wanted to be a hard man, a fighter.

25           In Larchgrove there were two occasions when I self

1 harmed. People started doing homemade tattoos ...'

2 Then he says he had [REDACTED] on his forearm:

3 'I regret having that done and I have since covered  
4 it over, it felt like an institutional stamp.'

5 He then says that another time he slashed his  
6 forearm [REDACTED]. And he says:

7 'I was just so unhappy and lonely in there.  
8 I probably just wanted to get back to The Chokey where  
9 I felt safe.

10 The choice you had to make in Larchgrove was either  
11 to hit or be hit. You were better off, got status, were  
12 safer but most importantly you were left alone. By the  
13 time I left Larchgrove I was no longer being bullied,  
14 and I was capable of looking after myself, and by then  
15 had the potential of becoming a full-on bully myself.

16 A lot of my violence was based on fear, my own fear  
17 of being hurt. It became quite calculated and I was no  
18 longer volatile. I would plan my violence. No one can  
19 see how frightened or anxious you actually are. I am  
20 a very emotional person and if I get into a situation  
21 where my emotions start to show, and if I am feeling  
22 threatened, I will become violent.

23 At 14 years of age just as I was about to leave  
24 Larchgrove, I didn't trust anybody. I learned that the  
25 third blow was no worse than the first. I was able to

1 take it. I was no longer scared if someone was going to  
2 be violent towards me. I learned that violence was  
3 really about how far you were willing to take it, and  
4 not to care what happened to yourself or anyone in the  
5 process. To be psychotic in Larchgrove was an asset.  
6 The more mental you were, or made yourself out to be,  
7 the less the older boys would bully you.'

8 He then says that he's been in 24 institutions in  
9 his life, which include children's homes, remand  
10 centres, and adult prisons. 'Ned' says there was no  
11 difference between the ones that were meant to care for  
12 him and the ones that were meant to punish him. It's  
13 only in the last seven years before giving this  
14 statement that the cycle broke. He stopped drinking,  
15 and that's the only fact that his life is stable that  
16 he's able to speak to the Inquiry because of that.

17 If we go to paragraph 95, 'Ned' says:

18 'In Larchgrove I learned that violence was  
19 instrumental in getting what you wanted and very sadly,  
20 I think I was very good at it.'

21 He says after that he has been diagnosed as having  
22 a personality disorder.

23 In relation to lessons to be learned, if we go to  
24 paragraph 109, he says that when his time as one of the  
25 children's homes came to an end, he says:

1           '... I was put back to live with my dad who was  
2           a violent alcoholic. It seems ironic and completely  
3           wrong that I was put back with the man who I had been  
4           put into care to be protected from in the first place.

5           Leaving the care system is the most important thing  
6           to me. To come to the end of your time, regardless of  
7           how good or bad your time was in care. If you leave at  
8           16 without any support and living in a bed and breakfast  
9           you are lost. There are a lot of consequences for the  
10          lack of after care for me. If someone had looked after  
11          me when I was 16 I think things could have turned out  
12          better for me. Even if there was some sort of safe,  
13          halfway house to help children who leave the care  
14          system. This will help them work into society and get  
15          a job.

16          People who work in care establishments have to be  
17          the right people and doing it with a heart to do the  
18          job. The professionals, like the social workers or  
19          trained staff must be trained properly and have the  
20          interests of the child first.'

21          Then he has made the usual declaration at  
22          paragraph 114, and he has signed that, and it's dated  
23          19 July 2017.

24   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25   MS FORBES: I think the next one might be about 15 minutes,

1           so I might be able to do that one.

2   LADY SMITH: Let's just do it and then we will take the  
3           afternoon break, thank you.

4   MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
5           who is anonymous and he wants to be known as 'Sandy'.  
6           The reference for his statement is WIT-1-000001301.

7   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8                               'Sandy' (read)

9   MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Sandy' was born in 1965, he talks  
10          about life before care between paragraphs 2 and 9.

11               He lived in Glasgow in a nice area with his parents,  
12               an older sister and a younger brother. His mum kicked  
13               his dad out when he was three and she then had three  
14               children to bring up herself with no help. It was  
15               difficult. She had three jobs, and it was heavy  
16               poverty.

17               She then met someone who took them on and 'Sandy'  
18               says life changed at that time and this man made good  
19               money and would take them on holiday. He had  
20               a relatively good life. He ate well, dressed well, and  
21               he went on holidays. He went to primary school, played  
22               football, and climbed trees.

23               But then his stepdad got cancer and was in a lot of  
24               pain, and 'Sandy' says watching him waste away in agony  
25               was really traumatic. He considered him to be his

1 father. His stepfather died when he was 11, and that's  
2 when 'Sandy' started to misbehave. He started high  
3 school by this time, but was acting out. He stopped  
4 going to school, he was stealing cars and smashing  
5 windows, and he ended up at a Children's Panel and was  
6 put on an unruly certificate at aged 11 and sent to  
7 Larchgrove.

8 He talks about Larchgrove between paragraphs 10 and  
9 15, and at that time he was 11 and he ended up being  
10 there for six weeks.

11 If we could go to paragraph 12, 'Sandy' says:

12 'Larchgrove was ok because nothing sexual happened,  
13 but there was a culture of physical abuse. There wasn't  
14 really any discipline in there. The staff just did what  
15 they liked and would give boys a kick in if they took  
16 a dislike to you or if they thought you were  
17 misbehaving. I was funny and would make other boys  
18 laugh, which the staff didn't like. They would say  
19 "There's no fucking laughing in here" and then batter  
20 me. One of them would take me into a cupboard and give  
21 me a few whacks on the head with a wee stick, which was  
22 about two centimetres by two centimetres. They would  
23 hit you on the body as well so that nobody would see the  
24 marks. It was inhumane. It was traumatic because I was  
25 getting battered for nothing. I wasn't doing anything



1 wrong.'

2 He then says that he ended up in front of another  
3 panel when he was about 13, and it was decided that he  
4 would be sent to Loaningdale and he was taken straight  
5 from the panel in a van.

6 He talks about Loaningdale from paragraph 19 and he  
7 says in relation to Loaningdale there was not so much  
8 physical abuse, but some from a couple of members of  
9 staff. Staff would watch them in the shower. He saw  
10 one of the boys giving a staff member oral sex, and boy  
11 of the week would have to go to one staff member's house  
12 to clean it, and he was boy of the week once and was  
13 taken to that staff member's house and sexually  
14 assaulted there. And that happened during the course of  
15 the two years he was there.

16 Another staff member was also involved in sexual  
17 abuse another time, and he was abused by that staff  
18 member in Loaningdale at night. He was between the ages  
19 of 13 and 15. It happened in dorms, in the staff  
20 member's house, [REDACTED], and on camping and  
21 orienteering trips. There was psychological abuse, and  
22 'Sandy' says that he estimates that that member of staff  
23 abused him over 100 times. Sometimes he would be  
24 physically sick afterwards.

25 On trips away he saw staff members having anal sex

1 with boys. There was inappropriate sexual behaviour  
2 amongst other boys and female staff members were also  
3 involved in inappropriate sexual behaviour too. He ran  
4 away a lot because of the abuse and would steal a car in  
5 Biggar, and when he ran away once he was sexually  
6 assaulted when he ended up staying with a man. He ran  
7 away when he was 15, and when he turned 16 they couldn't  
8 send him back.

9 He talks about his life after care between  
10 paragraphs 95 and 104. He went back to his mum's house,  
11 he worked in a factory for 18 months. He went to London  
12 and worked for a demolition company for two and a half  
13 years.

14 He got into a relationship with a woman and he was  
15 with her for 22 years, and starting taking heroin. He  
16 had kids and lost them and had to fight to get them  
17 back. He studied law to get them back and he did get  
18 them back.

19 He says he had six kids and a grandchild that he  
20 sees. He moved back to Scotland, he got clean, and he  
21 got a job and a house, and at one time he opened two  
22 drug projects and ran them. Family members died from  
23 drugs and he had a mental health breakdown.

24 In relation to impact, 'Sandy' talks about that  
25 between paragraphs 105 and 116. Mostly this is about

1 the impact of what happened at Loaningdale. He  
2 struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts as  
3 an adult, and he talks about lessons to be learned  
4 between paragraphs 118 and 125, but again a lot of the  
5 issues were about Loaningdale.

6 He has made the usual declaration at paragraph 126,  
7 and that's signed and dated 27 July 2023.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 I'll stop there for the mid-afternoon break, and  
10 then we'll go on to the next read-in after that.

11 Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

12 (2.59 pm)

13 (A short break)

14 (3.09 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: Before we move on to the next read-in this  
16 afternoon, names mentioned so far which are in relation  
17 to people whose identities are protected by my GRO were  
18 Mr KDX, Mr IJR, Mr MKI and Mr LGX, they are  
19 not to be identified outside this room.

20 Thank you.

21 Ms Forbes.

22 MS FORBES: The next read-in is from an applicant who is  
23 anonymous and is known as 'Alec', the statement  
24 reference for 'Alec' is WIT.001.002.3489.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, thanks.

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'Alec' (read)

MS FORBES: 'Alec' was born in 1966 and he talks about his life before care between paragraphs 2 and 8. He was born in Cork, in Ireland. He says his father was an alcoholic and his mother then left him. They came to London when he was about one year old and then they moved to Glasgow with his brothers and sisters when he was about two.

Eight of them lived in a council house, it was a one-bedroom tenement flat. He was put into care when he was four years old. His mum married a man who had alcohol and gambling issues, and she didn't like his name being mentioned because it was the same name as his dad's.

There was violence towards him and his brother from his stepfather, and he was running away and getting picked up by the police.

The social work felt that his mum wasn't keeping a clean house, but he was the only one who was put into care. He blamed himself for being taken into care, and he thought it was because of his unruly behaviour.

He is not certain about the order of the various institutions he was in, because there were so many, and he talks about these between paragraphs 9 and 67.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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11 Secondary Institutions He was then taken back to Glasgow and he  
12 was at home for five or six months. His mum had moved  
13 to a new place. Her husband, again, was being drunk,  
14 disorderly, and violent towards him, his mother and his  
15 brothers and sisters and he started running away again.

16 He went to the Children's Panel for absconding and  
17 minor offences and was sent to Ballikinrain. Then he  
18 talks about Ballikinrain from paragraph 69 to 82. He  
19 was there for about eight months. He was 11 years old.  
20 He says nothing happened there, apart from what he  
21 describes as some fisticuffs with some other boys.  
22 Staff would give him a clip around the ear and he got  
23 a slap for stealing glue or some bullying by the other  
24 boys. He ran away, was abusing solvents and 'Alec' says  
25 everything then was chaotic and he was sent to

1 Larchgrove.

2 He talks about Larchgrove on paragraph 83 and he  
3 says that when he was being sent to Larchgrove he ran  
4 away from the Children's Panel and was caught by the  
5 police and taken to Larchgrove, and he was there about  
6 five times altogether, and it would be a three-week  
7 assessment before he went back to the panel.

8 He was still 11, and it was a secure unit there.  
9 And he talks about kids being there for extreme crimes  
10 compared to what he was there for, and 'Alec' says there  
11 were kids there for murder, attempted murder and rape.

12 He talks about abuse at Larchgrove at paragraph 85,  
13 and if I can go to that paragraph, 'Alec' says:

14 'There was a lot of physical violence going on with  
15 the staff at Larchgrove. The staff would slap, kick and  
16 punch you. You would swear at the staff and they would  
17 lash out at you. My experience with social workers and  
18 staff employed by Glasgow City Council back then, was  
19 that they had their own issues with alcohol and drugs.  
20 You could see there was domestic violence in there  
21 because they were putting it back on to the kids. You  
22 didn't know it at the time, but you know it now, looking  
23 back.

24 You would see staff getting sacked and in the  
25 newspapers. The staff in Larchgrove weren't

1 professional. The staff were tough guys who had to deal  
2 with tough kids. There was a lot of violence from staff  
3 and residents. A lot of staff got injured. The staff  
4 should have had a bit more restraint and control.

5 You would hear something going on outside in the  
6 corridor and a kid screaming. The kid would run back  
7 into the lounge and start threatening the staff who had  
8 hit them. I flicked a cigarette at a member of staff.  
9 It wasn't lit. The member of staff jumped up and  
10 slapped me on the head. That doesn't upset or worry me  
11 today.'

12 Then he says he thinks he went to St Ninian's in  
13 Falkland after leaving Larchgrove that time. He was in  
14 St Ninian's just before he was 12 years old. He talks  
15 about that between paragraphs 89 and 129. He was there  
16 for a couple of months. He was in three institutions  
17 within a year and a half. There was physical abuse from  
18 the Brothers there, sexual abuse, Brothers were sexually  
19 abusing him together, it was rape, and he ran away  
20 several times.

21 He told police and social work and the panel what  
22 was going on there, and he was sent back to Larchgrove  
23 after his third absconsion from there for two weeks and  
24 then he went to St Joseph's in Tranent.

25 He talks about St Joseph's between paragraph 133 and

1 173, that part of his statement was read in on  
2 23 January 2024, Day 411. He suffered physical abuse  
3 there, sexual abuse, rape, physical and sexual torture,  
4 bullying from other boys. He kept running away, and he  
5 told people again, and social work, what was happening,  
6 and he was moved to St Mary's, Kenmure.

7 He talks about that between paragraphs 175 and 234.  
8 He was about 14 years old then. He was in the open unit  
9 for about four months, the secure unit for six. There  
10 was sexually inappropriate behaviour there from the  
11 cook, there was sexual assault, physical assaults from  
12 staff, and a lot of drinking of alcohol by staff whilst  
13 on duty.

14 Later on in his time there he was moved to the  
15 cottages that were attached to St Mary's and he was  
16 working and paying rent. He broke into the office and  
17 stole his money, his rent money, and other people's rent  
18 money, and he went to Folkestone.

19 At paragraph 235 onwards he talks about his time  
20 down there. He arrived in Folkestone at age 15, broke  
21 into a shop, was caught by police, was sent to a remand  
22 home in Kent, did three months in a detention centre.  
23 I think he was sentenced to three months in a detention  
24 centre and did eight weeks. He then got involved with  
25 a criminal family down there who were involved in drugs



1 and he ended up in mainstream prison, and ended up in  
2 prison in Gibraltar for involvement with drugs. He got  
3 22 months.

4 And when he got out he moved in with his brother in  
5 Kirkintilloch at 20. He got a full-time job and he went  
6 to Cork when he was 24 to visit his real dad. He got  
7 involved in photography, got contracts with large  
8 companies and worked for many years as a photographer.  
9 He went to Hong Kong at 28, and stayed there until 1997,  
10 and he came back and got a flat in Glasgow and then  
11 became a commercial diver and did that from 1999 until  
12 2004.

13 He talks about the impact from paragraph 243  
14 onwards, and in relation to St Ninian's and St Joseph's,  
15 there have been prosecutions that he has been involved  
16 in and he has been involved in three court cases.

17 The impact is really about his time in these two  
18 places.

19 He makes the usual declaration at paragraph 296 and  
20 he's signed that, it's dated 18 July 2018.

21 My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant who  
22 is anonymous and known as 'Stephen'. His reference  
23 number for his statement is WIT-1-000001094.

24 'Stephen' (read)

25 MS FORBES: 'Stephen' was born in 1969 and talks about his

1 life before care between paragraphs 2 and 11.

2 He was born in Glasgow, lived in Pollok with his  
3 parents and his four siblings. He was the second  
4 youngest. Life at home was pretty violent. His dad was  
5 violent towards his mum. His dad had a reputation in  
6 Glasgow for being a hard man. He was involved in crime  
7 and always in trouble with the police.

8 'Stephen' says he was protected a bit because of his  
9 dad's reputation and nobody would touch them if they  
10 knew his dad. His mum and dad split up in 1975, when he  
11 was five, and they moved to Castlemilk. He started  
12 going to primary school there. He never got on well  
13 there. He hated it, and he struggled a lot with anger  
14 after his parents split up.

15 He felt close to his dad and had idolised him, and  
16 life at home with his mum was chaotic. She was  
17 a drinker who would either not come home for days on end  
18 or bring random men back to the house. She would pass  
19 out and put them at risk from these men and a couple of  
20 times he woke up to men trying to take his clothes off.  
21 His siblings and him would fight him off. They all  
22 attacked one man who was trying to sexually abuse him.  
23 They grew up having to watch men tampering with his mum  
24 while she was passed out drunk.

25 He jumped on one of the men's back one night when he

1 was trying to do something. At 10- or 11-years old he  
2 woke up to one man assaulting him and taking his clothes  
3 off, and this man threatened to hurt his mum so he never  
4 told anyone what happened after that.

5 'Stephen' says they all went through some sexual or  
6 physical abuse because of his mum, and the only one of  
7 his siblings who was protected was his baby sister, who  
8 they all made sure no one went near. They had to feed  
9 themselves and steal milk and rolls from neighbours'  
10 doorsteps. His behaviour became unruly, he starting  
11 dogging school.

12 He was sent to a psychologist at eight, assigned  
13 a social worker at around nine or ten years old, and he  
14 went to a Children's Panel and the social worker there  
15 asked him to be sent for a three-week assessment. He  
16 was taken straight from the panel to Larchgrove, still  
17 at 10-years old, and spent three weeks in there in 1980,  
18 and then they let him back to live with his mum.

19 He thought things would be different if they sent  
20 him to a different primary school. They weren't, and he  
21 ended up back in Larchgrove for six weeks in 1981 when  
22 he was 11.

23 He talked about the first time in Larchgrove from  
24 paragraph 12. He says he was put into Bute Unit, and  
25 that he says was a unit for 10-12 years old. The only

1 master he remembers is SNR [REDACTED], Mr GQW [REDACTED], who  
2 took an immediate dislike to him. He was made to scrub  
3 the floors with a toothbrush. The only class they had  
4 to go to was religious education. When it came to other  
5 classes they got to choose, so he just didn't go. He  
6 went to PT most days and played football.

7 'Stephen' comments that he was sent there for not  
8 going to school, but they didn't even try to make him go  
9 to school while he was there, and that's at  
10 paragraph 16.

11 LADY SMITH: He's not the first applicant to make that  
12 astute observation.

13 MS FORBES: He had to do chores there like sweeping  
14 corridors. If you wet the bed the staff in the morning  
15 would hang the wet sheets over your bed so the whole  
16 place knew you had peed the bed. And he remembers being  
17 marched down the corridor naked to get cleaned up.  
18 Other boys were laughing and it was just pure  
19 humiliation.

20 He talks about discipline there at paragraph 25.  
21 That mainly involved being locked in a room or being  
22 made to scrub the floors, sometimes with a toothbrush.  
23 Also staff could take away money that family members had  
24 handed in for them to use.

25 He talks about abuse at Larchgrove from

1 paragraph 26. If I could go to paragraph 26, he says:  
2 'Larchgrove wasn't a nice place at all, but I don't  
3 remember much happening the first time I was there. The  
4 second time I was there, I remember getting kicked up  
5 the bum by either Mr GQW or SNR when  
6 I was bent down cleaning the floor. I can't remember  
7 SNR name. I was also slapped by one of  
8 the PT instructors for carrying on with another boy. By  
9 this point I didn't take much notice of a slap or a wee  
10 kick, because it was normal. I was used to it because  
11 I got it in the house anyway. My brother used to give  
12 me a bad doings and my mum used to batter me too.

13 I also remember getting knocked about by one of the  
14 male staff members who worked in Bute Unit. I was  
15 carrying on with another boy and we pulled a blind off  
16 one of the windows by accident. I was standing on  
17 a chair trying to put it back when this guy pulled me  
18 off the chair backwards and laid into me. He slapped  
19 and kicked me a couple of times. I managed to get out  
20 into the PT area. I climbed up the parallel bars,  
21 pushed a window open and climbed out of it. I ran away  
22 to my granny's house. I walked all the way to the  
23 Gorbals. It took me about seven hours to get there.  
24 I knew if I could find my way to Parkhead, I could get  
25 to my granny's from there, so that's what I did.'

1           He says:

2           'I remember seeing my sister ... at my granny's  
3 house. She saw the marks on my face from getting beaten  
4 up. I had a mark on my chin. I think the guy who beat  
5 me up must have had a ring or something on when he hit  
6 me. Larchgrove called the police and some of my family  
7 members so they were all out looking for me. One of my  
8 family members, I don't remember who, found me the next  
9 day, hiding in a hedge in my mum's garden. They phoned  
10 Larchgrove and some guy in a taxi was sent to pick me up  
11 and take me back. I don't remember getting physically  
12 punished when I got back there, but I think I got half  
13 my canteen taken off me.

14           I saw other resident boys getting hit by staff when  
15 I was there. I can't remember the name of the staff or  
16 the boys now though, it was something that happened  
17 pretty regularly.'

18           He talks about after that first three weeks at  
19 Larchgrove he was allowed to go back home, and things  
20 didn't work out at this different primary school. He  
21 says that Castlemilk at that time was split into gangs  
22 and he started fighting with everyone in the school so  
23 he would dog school.

24           He then went into first year of high school and he  
25 would hardly see his mum. He would only see her at

1 night if she was drunk, and 'Stephen' comments that she  
2 would come in and say 'Who loves you baby' and give him  
3 a kiss and a cuddle, but that only ever happened when  
4 she was drunk, the rest of the time it was cups of cold  
5 water in his face.

6 He had to go to the Children's Panel and then back  
7 to Larchgrove and that was for the second stay of six  
8 weeks, but he was back to stay with his mum again after  
9 that. He went to secondary school. Didn't get on well  
10 there. Didn't do what he was told and got the belt  
11 a lot. He threw a stool at a teacher and had to go back  
12 to the Children's Panel. That was one of the reasons,  
13 he says. And he was told that he was being sent to  
14 St Mary's Kenmure.

15 He talks about that from paragraph 33, he was  
16 13 years old, and 'Stephen' says he initially thought  
17 'This is for me', and he eventually ended up being a day  
18 boy and was getting home at night. 'Stephen' says  
19 however there was a lot of stuff going on at St Mary's.  
20 There was physical assaults from staff. There was  
21 a night shift staff member who was a sexual predator.  
22 There was physical assaults from that person also and  
23 the chef there would also sexually assault boys. He was  
24 there 18 months and was 15 years old when he left.

25 He talks about life after care at paragraphs 69 and

1 70. He lived at home with his mum until he says he was  
2 done for assault. He was remanded for the first time  
3 when he was 16, and went to Longriggend, but Barlinnie  
4 first. He was in and out of Barlinnie and Longriggend  
5 four times before he turned 18.

6 He spent some time at Polmont for unpaid fine and  
7 describes Polmont and says, 'That place was rough'.

8 He says, as far as he were concerned his time in  
9 Larchgrove and St Mary's was the time he was in care.  
10 Everything after that was just prison life.

11 The section of his statement that deals with his  
12 time in the Scottish Prison Service institutions is  
13 paragraphs 69 to 73 and it was read on in on 13 December  
14 last year, on Day 398.

15 In Barlinnie there were physical assaults and he  
16 ended up with an opiate habit from being there at 16.

17 At Longriggend people were assaulted by staff and  
18 other prisoners. He only ever spent six and nine weeks  
19 there for reports.

20 He talks about his life after care from paragraphs  
21 74 to 77, once 'Stephen' turned 18 he said his life was  
22 just as chaotic as ever. He was running about at that  
23 time with his dad and doing things for him. He passed  
24 his driving test at 18 and had his own flat, but he was  
25 taking drugs.



1           At 21 he got a five-year sentence and he was between  
2           Shotts and Perth prison.

3           At 26 he got a life sentence.

4           He went to Barlinnie, he got a heroin habit. He got  
5           out in 2010.

6           Then he was in Low Moss in 2015 for a six-year  
7           sentence.

8           Three spells in Castle Huntly, and 'Stephen'  
9           comments that most of his adult life was spent in  
10          custody, 26 years in custody.

11          All the jails he was in he says were pretty violent  
12          and he talks about restraints from officers and being  
13          'carted', the term used. He has health conditions which  
14          he feels are as a result of the restraints. He has had  
15          relationships though and he has children and he has a 10  
16          year-old son, at the time of this statement he is  
17          10 years old, who he was in contact with and says that  
18          he has changed his life. He's out but he is on a life  
19          sentence, so he has contact with social work and he has  
20          struggled for a long time to build a good relationship  
21          with social work due to all of his experiences but he  
22          says he does have a good relationship with them now.

23          He talks about the impact from paragraph 78 onwards.

24          At paragraph 79 he says he thinks about what  
25          happened to him in care every day and how life could

1           have been different. 'Stephen' says if he had been  
2           encouraged to get an education at Larchgrove and  
3           St Mary's things would have been very different.

4           In relation to treatment and support he says he has  
5           been seeing a clinical psychologist who has helped.

6           If we go to paragraph 85, he has made the usual  
7           declaration, and that's signed 4 October 2022.

8   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9   MS FORBES: The next statement is from an applicant who is  
10           anonymous and is known as 'Stewart', and the reference  
11           for his statement is WIT-1-000001303.

12   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13                               'Stewart' (read)

14   MS FORBES: It's 'Stewart', S-T-E-W-A-R-T.

15   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16   MS FORBES: 'Stewart' was born in 1966 and he was born in  
17           Glasgow and went straight into foster care after being  
18           born.

19           He had a couple of foster placements before going to  
20           stay with a particular couple when he was 18 months old  
21           and he talks about that time from paragraph 3 onwards,  
22           his time in foster care.

23           Because he was so young, his earliest memories are  
24           of when he was at school age. The foster carers had  
25           other children, including their own son. During the

1 course of his time with them he started to get into  
2 trouble, sniffing glue. He was told by a social worker  
3 that his mother had been raped at a party by a black  
4 guy. He is of mixed race. He was buzzing glue from the  
5 age of 12 to 18.

6 'Stewart' experienced physical assaults from his  
7 foster parents, which started when he was about five.  
8 He couldn't read, and would be assaulted because of  
9 that. He was also beaten for wetting the bed and would  
10 have his face rubbed in it.

11 In relation to his contact with the police, there  
12 was a lot of racial abuse from the police and he ran  
13 away from his foster home a couple of times.

14 When he was 15 he ran away after he had assaulted  
15 one of the other kids in the house. He had been on glue  
16 and he had stolen £300 from the house and the police  
17 found him and he ended up going to Larchgrove.

18 He talks about Larchgrove from paragraph 45. He was  
19 15 when he first went there. He was there three times  
20 for a few weeks or months. 'Stewart' says there was  
21 a riot on his first day there and the boys barricaded  
22 the dorm so the staff couldn't get in. He went to sleep  
23 and he woke up and the place was on fire. He managed to  
24 get the barricade down and get out, and two of the boys  
25 were arrested for arson.

1           He talks about abuse at Larchgrove from  
2 paragraph 53, and if I could go to that paragraph,  
3 'Stewart' says:

4           'I saw boys being beaten up in Larchgrove. Maybe  
5 they had been misbehaving. I just remember boys being  
6 beaten up by the screws. They were giving the boys  
7 a right good beating with their fists. I saw that  
8 happen on quite a number of occasions. I couldn't give  
9 specifics because I was just trying to look after  
10 myself. I was just a young lad and it was dog eat dog.  
11 I think the beatings might have been why the trouble  
12 started with the riots. I was never beaten at  
13 Larchgrove because I was willing to fight anybody, even  
14 the staff.'

15           He then says that after he had been in Larchgrove  
16 his foster parent didn't want him in the house. But  
17 ultimately I think he ended up having to go back there  
18 because there was nowhere else to go, and at  
19 paragraph 55 he says that his foster parent asked him  
20 how he had liked the place, meaning Larchgrove, and he  
21 said to him that he'd loved it. 'Stewart' comments:

22           'I'd rather have been at Larchgrove than with him.  
23 I think I would have preferred to be in a home rather  
24 than foster care.'

25           He talks about leaving care from paragraph 56, and

1 'Stewart' says he ended up going down to London and got  
2 a job as a kitchen porter, but was arrested at 18 for  
3 robbery and wounding and got 12 years. He was in  
4 a young offenders' in England and served just over four  
5 years. He was in a lot of prisons. He learned to read  
6 and write in young offenders', he was in and out of  
7 trouble with the police most of his life. He moved back  
8 to Glasgow and he was in Barlinnie and Low Moss. He  
9 lived in Amsterdam and worked as a door-to-door  
10 salesman. 'Stewart' says he always worked, and worked  
11 in warehouses.

12 He found his mother when he was about 22 or 23, and  
13 that didn't turn out very well, and he found his  
14 father's family in Nigeria through DNA and he hopes to  
15 go and meet them one day.

16 He talked about the impact of what happened to him  
17 in care between paragraphs 73 and 76, it is really about  
18 what happened in foster care, which he says was an  
19 absolute nightmare and still makes him angry, and he  
20 comments in relation to records that the records that he  
21 has been shown, he's referred to in them as a 'retard'  
22 and as 'it', and that upset him.

23 He makes the usual declaration at paragraph 82 and  
24 he has signed that dated 27 July 2023.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
2 who is anonymous and is known as 'Callum', the witness  
3 statement reference is WIT.001.001.0227.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 'Callum' (read)

6 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Callum' was born in 1966, and he talks  
7 about life before care between paragraphs 3 and 5.

8 He grew up in the Drumchapel area of Glasgow until  
9 he was 10. He loved school, he loved his friends and  
10 was generally happy. It was a very rough neighbourhood,  
11 but when he lived among it he didn't really notice.

12 At 10 they moved to Milton, but he never really  
13 settled into the new school, and within five years he  
14 was in Larchgrove because of truancy and joyriding.  
15 'Callum' says it was his mother and father who made the  
16 decision to place him in care. None of his other  
17 siblings were put into care. It was his parents that  
18 approached social work and 'Callum' says that they  
19 thought he was off the chart because of his behaviour.

20 He talks about Larchgrove from paragraph 6. He says  
21 that his mother tried to put him into borstal, but  
22 Larchgrove sent her a letter saying that they couldn't  
23 do that. Three weeks for an assessment was as much as  
24 could be given, and that was ultimately decided at  
25 a Children's Panel hearing.

1           He had social work involvement for about six months  
2           before that due to dogging school. When he got to  
3           Larchgrove, he saw an old primary teacher there, and he  
4           was put into Bute House. He was only there for two  
5           weeks, but he didn't conform the whole time he was  
6           there. He didn't do anything that he was told.  
7           'Callum' says there was punches and kicks flying from  
8           the minute he got out of his room until he was locked  
9           back in, and it was all very random. You could be  
10          walking past someone in the corridor and take a punch in  
11          the jaw for no reason, and there were verbal threats  
12          from the minute you opened your eyes.

13           If I could go to paragraph 13 of his statement and  
14          read from there.

15           'On my second night there came the first attack.  
16          I had been locked in the room on my own all day. At  
17          6 pm they open all the rooms so that people can  
18          integrate. At around 6.30 pm/7 pm I had a visit from  
19          two boys that looked like brothers and a red-headed boy.  
20          The red-headed boy was a strange looking boy. He had  
21          the face and build of a 15 year-old but the face of  
22          a 40 year-old.

23           I was told I was getting it, so I thought here we go  
24          I'm getting a hiding. A few punches were thrown. I'd  
25          had a few pastings in my life. So, much as I wasn't

1 looking forward to it, I kind of understood what was  
2 going on. But it's not quite what happened. The three  
3 turned into five. The red-headed guy sent one of the  
4 brothers out to get a guy ...'

5 Then he says what he thinks the boy's name was, and  
6 this boy:

7 '... had very sharp features and hair like Elvis.

8 They pulled the beds together in such a way that my  
9 arm was pulled through both footboards. I was face down  
10 on my stomach. They levered my arm up. I was in agony,  
11 I could not move, I thought that my arm would snap and  
12 thought I was beginning to pass out. I still thought at  
13 this point that it was a pasting I was getting.

14 I hadn't put it together. The two boys that looked like  
15 brothers were standing in front of me. They both had  
16 their penises out and both were erect.

17 I tried to move but my arm just got pulled up and  
18 the pain was making me feel that I was going to do the  
19 toilet. One of the boys who looked like brothers held  
20 my hair from the other side of the bed and then he  
21 forced his penis into my mouth. At this point [then he  
22 names the other boy who had come in] walked round behind  
23 me with his friend. At that time in my life I'd only  
24 ever kissed girls and when I realised that these boys  
25 were really serious, I felt that what was happening was



1 something utterly manky in my mind. I didn't know about  
2 anal sex, so I wasn't expecting anal sex. To this day  
3 I have never experienced pain to the level I felt at  
4 Larchgrove. I thought it was going to kill me.

5 They were punching me on the neck. I got a few on  
6 the back and on my side, but mainly they were hitting my  
7 neck. I was forced to perform oral sex on that other  
8 boy. I couldn't move so he did the moving, which was  
9 particularly rough and so I thought I was going to  
10 vomit. I was gagging. He ejaculated in my mouth and  
11 I started to boak. At that point I got three or four  
12 punches on the back and side of the neck. Just to  
13 clarify, the boy who ejaculated in my mouth was the  
14 second boy who wanted anal sex, the first boy ejaculated  
15 on the side of my face because I wouldn't open my mouth  
16 at first.

17 I think that's why the extra punches came. I don't  
18 understand sex with violence, because sex and violence  
19 just don't go. Not to me. I barely understood what was  
20 happening to me as it was. It was at that point that  
21 one of the two boys behind me roughly pulled my trousers  
22 down to my knees. They didn't even loosen them, they  
23 just yanked them down.

24 The memory of the smell makes me sick. At that  
25 point somebody poured what smelt like medical shampoo in

1           between the cheeks of my bum. I very quickly realised  
2           what was happening to me. The boy with the dark hair  
3           performed anal sex on me for 15 to 20 seconds before he  
4           ejaculated inside my bottom. The boy at the other end  
5           had finished his business and ejaculated. I kind of  
6           threw up on him and I got a few punches for that.

7           The boy who performed anal sex on me instructed the  
8           other boy to do the same. However, the other boy  
9           couldn't get an erection no matter how much he tried.  
10          He tried forcing his penis into my bum. The whole  
11          attack lasted no more than four minutes, but it seemed  
12          like a lifetime. My breathing had been restricted so  
13          much that I was panic stricken.

14          I had excruciating pain in my back passage. I still  
15          get body memories of this pain even to this day. The  
16          only way to describe the pain is a hot poker being  
17          forced into my anus. Whatever they used as a lubricant,  
18          it worked as a lubricant, but it also worked to burn me  
19          inside because that was all I could feel. It was like  
20          fire inside my bum. They were laughing and giggling.  
21          I was bleeding and choking. I was trying to throw up.  
22          I didn't understand the violence. I knew what sex was  
23          and I knew what violence was, but when they were put  
24          together in that sort of scenario it makes you aware of  
25          how serious your situation was. I'd only been there two

1 days.

2 As the people who had attacked me left my room they  
3 told me that there was a knife in circulation. They  
4 threatened me with that knife although they didn't show  
5 me it until the third attack. They told me the blade  
6 was on the wing.

7 Panic stricken. I thought the best thing to do was  
8 to report the attack. I even had someone to report it  
9 to, Mr O'Callaghan, my old school teacher. There is  
10 a process for asking to speak to a member of staff. At  
11 the end of the corridor there was a door with a wee  
12 slide window. You then ask them for an appointment with  
13 the staff member you want to see. I didn't report it  
14 till around midnight that I'd been attacked. To get to  
15 this door you had to walk past all the other rooms.  
16 Talking to any member of staff when other boys could see  
17 or hear me would always result in violence against me.

18 A member of staff, speaking through the little  
19 window said that I wouldn't be able to see  
20 Mr O'Callaghan until he came back on shift which would  
21 mean Monday. That's why I think it was the weekend.  
22 I was clinging on to that lifeline. I thought if  
23 anybody can stop this it would be him. So I got told  
24 I would see him on the Monday morning. I just told them  
25 I'd been attacked and I wanted to see Mr O'Callaghan.

1 People in the corridor were capable of hearing what  
2 you'd asked for. That was quite a big concern. I was  
3 desperate and panic had taken over because I knew others  
4 were watching.

5 Meanwhile I spent the night in the toilet trying to  
6 scrub my mouth. I was trying to make it bleed. I just  
7 wanted to scrub it raw. There was a smell that wouldn't  
8 leave me. I tried to pack my bum with toilet paper. It  
9 wasn't bleeding a lot but it was leaking and I had no  
10 idea if it was blood, sperm, bodily fluids of some sort,  
11 because when I looked, it looked like blood but it  
12 looked like other things as well. I just knew I had to  
13 stop it. That's what took my time up until I could  
14 report it. I had no idea of what to do or what would  
15 happen to me if I was discovered trying to clean myself.  
16 The pain was so severe I thought my bum was torn.

17 I think I spent the next 24 hours in my room and  
18 I refused to come out it. I remember being backed up  
19 into a corner, I pushed my bed into a corner. Sat up on  
20 the corner of the bed and didn't move. [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]. I had to find  
22 a way to hang myself and I couldn't find a way to hang  
23 myself. Practically nothing was available. I tried to  
24 set my room on fire whilst locked in it. I just wanted  
25 to die. They killed who I was.'

1           Then he says:

2           'The person people know now is the second version of  
3 me. I'm not the same person that went into Larchgrove.

4           I just wanted to die. Also I made the decision that  
5 if this was going to happen again then I was going to  
6 have to kill one of them and I didn't have the courage.  
7 Or the ability, I wasn't that type of person. I was  
8 quite carefree, a pleasant boy certainly not a "ned" by  
9 any manner or means. A young boy who doesn't exist any  
10 more. You've got to hide naturally through your life.  
11 You've always got to work towards a place where you can  
12 merge this life with that wee boy that you protect all  
13 the time. I'm what's left and I've had to make peace  
14 with that.'

15           He then talks about a second attack from  
16 paragraph 28:

17           'I was in the shower Sunday night. You are told to  
18 shower at 8 pm. Things changed dramatically in the  
19 second attack. When you are in an institution the staff  
20 are a big part of your life obviously. But they can  
21 also be a great source of hope. That's just general  
22 duties for them. But things very much changed the night  
23 before I went to see Mr O'Callaghan. I was in the  
24 shower trying to clean my back passage. The two that  
25 looked like brothers from the first attack came into the

1 shower. When they came into the showers, they had  
2 towels on.

3 They told me I was to masturbate them or I was  
4 getting it. Those are not the words they used, but  
5 I'm not using them. I resisted and took a few punches.  
6 Rather than take any more punches I did as I was told.  
7 One at a time. One of them made me masturbate him until  
8 he ejaculated on my leg. I couldn't look at him or else  
9 I was getting punched. The second boy came into the  
10 shower penis erect, I was crying. I had no sooner  
11 started to masturbate him and he ejaculated, it was  
12 seconds. I thought I was safe because I'd performed  
13 masturbation on both of them.

14 Things then changed quite dramatically because  
15 a member of staff came into the shower room. In that  
16 situation there was instant hope. Not only has he  
17 caught them but he will stop it from happening again.  
18 He ordered the two boys out of the toilet as he was  
19 taking his penis out. At this point I had knelt down in  
20 front of him crying. He told me to stand up I was just  
21 to play with it. I was so terrified at this point that  
22 I'd have agreed to do anything they wanted.

23 I fumbled around with his penis for about 30 seconds  
24 and then he pulled away. He zipped himself up and told  
25 me what I was to do, "Watch what you fucking say

1 tomorrow". That was my hope gone. Any help that  
2 I could have got from staff gone. I knew that I was  
3 going to have to kill myself or kill one of them.  
4 I couldn't make any sense of it. I needed that man to  
5 be my lifeline. It was so meaningless to him. Looking  
6 back on it, it wasn't something he struggled with. He  
7 was clear what he wanted and what my instructions were.

8 I knew now for a fact that I couldn't rely on any  
9 staff from here on in. Mr O'Callaghan was my last  
10 chance of getting segregated or put somewhere else for  
11 my safety. The very people that you are willing to tell  
12 let you down. The name I associate with the staff  
13 member that came into the shower room is KDX . He was  
14 aged between 40 and 50. He dressed differently from the  
15 educational staff. The educational staff wore their own  
16 clothes. The man I think may have been called KDX  
17 wore police-like trousers and a blue shirt. He was not  
18 the man that I spoke to originally through the little  
19 window in the door. After that I went back to my room.  
20 It was lights out. I thought of many ways that I could  
21 take my life but almost never got the chance. Setting  
22 my room on fire whilst I was in it was as close as  
23 I got.

24 The next morning I think was Monday. I was taken to  
25 see Mr O'Callaghan. I got marched into his room by the

1 member of staff that I'd reported the attack to at the  
2 window. I sat on a chair in front of him. I burst,  
3 I was so upset, sobbing. He let it go for about 60  
4 seconds before informing me that this was all happening  
5 because of my failure to integrate with the other boys.  
6 He said it was my failure. Yes, he acknowledged the  
7 boys were a bit rough but I hadn't made any attempt to  
8 integrate. I tried to speak but he motioned with his  
9 hand for me to stop, "Get back to your fucking room; you  
10 know what you need to do". I was then expecting another  
11 attack.

12 He changed into someone I didn't even recognise in  
13 the space of a second. He looked at me completely  
14 blank. From then on it was all about finding a way to  
15 kill myself. I was desperate for help, death, anything.  
16 The inside of my bum was still burning, my throat and my  
17 neck were agony. A couple of days had passed and  
18 I thought, great that's it. I kept myself to myself.  
19 I refused to do anything I was told and refused to take  
20 anything to do with any other inmates. I remained like  
21 this until they let me go home.

22 Everyone is looking at you. You're the boy that  
23 went and asked for help from the staff. And you're not  
24 getting any help. I looked everywhere I had access to  
25 for a means to hang myself but the place was set up to



1       avoid that, because it was common. Word of what  
2       happened to anyone spread through the wing like  
3       wildfire. I would choose death over two weeks in that  
4       environment again.'

5             He then talks about a third attack:

6             'Possibly the week before I left Larchgrove the  
7       third attack happered. I say possibly because I know  
8       I was there for three weeks but I don't remember the  
9       third week at all. One or two nights before the last  
10      attack they put another boy in my room. The boy sat up  
11      on the bed in the corner the same as I did. We didn't  
12      speak until about 2 or 3 in the morning. I asked him if  
13      he was ok? He burst, I didn't ask any details.

14            I must have fallen asleep at around 3 or 4 in the  
15      morning. That boy was moved out of my room the  
16      following day. The third attack for me was probably the  
17      worst. It was a shorter attack and it involved less  
18      people. Four. I can't make any sense of this attack,  
19      even as an adult. I can't put any of it together. The  
20      red-headed boy, the boy who performed anal and his  
21      friend and the other boy from the shower room were  
22      involved, four of them.

23            This time I was in the corner of my room. I knew  
24      what was happening. This time I wasn't going to let it  
25      happen. I don't mean that through violence I mean this

1       time, through fear I knew I would end up complying.  
2       I think I practically begged them not to hit me any  
3       more. I thought by complying it would make it easier or  
4       shorter or less violent. They were getting exactly what  
5       they wanted.

6             I was in the corner of the room, the red-headed boy  
7       and the boy with the black hair came over. I threw  
8       a punch. They threw a few and I just hunkered down in  
9       the corner. I was actually trying to make such a fuss,  
10      be so loud that someone would come in. The guy with the  
11      black hair showed the knife that they had previously  
12      threatened me with. It was a folding knife like one of  
13      those ones you would take camping.

14            I was forced onto the bed. My arm was threaded  
15      through the bed board again. I think I passed out.  
16      I remember a head to toe buzzing sensation, my lips, my  
17      hands, everything. I think I passed out through the  
18      pain in my shoulder. There was only one boy standing in  
19      front of me. I thought because I complied that he would  
20      have been gentler. I was wrong; he was thrusting,  
21      forcing his erect penis into my mouth. It felt like the  
22      left side of my throat had collapsed. There was phlegm  
23      and everything coming out of my nose and my mouth.  
24      I got punched because of it. He ejaculated in my face,  
25      I remember that. I'd turned my face. At this point one

1 of the boys behind me put the blade behind my right ear  
2 as I was face down. Only one performed anal sex on me  
3 at this time. I think it was the one that couldn't get  
4 an erection the first time. I was hearing them giving  
5 instructions. He ejaculated.

6 I was coughing up phlegm and a bit of sick and that  
7 had upset the boy in front of me. When the boy with the  
8 knife retreated from the back of me round to the side of  
9 me I very quickly hunkered in the corner of the room.  
10 My bum was on fire, my shoulder was hanging. I don't  
11 know if it was dislocated or ligament damage. The boy  
12 I was sick on came round the side of the bed and  
13 urinated on me and was having a great giggle while he  
14 was doing it.

15 The side of my face, the smell. I wish they'd  
16 killed me. I wish I'd killed them. I wish I'd killed  
17 me. I wish the person, the boy that I was when I went  
18 in, had come out at the end. But he didn't come out,  
19 that didn't happen. A version of me ended in  
20 Larchgrove. I don't think the boys who performed anal  
21 sex on me were from Larchgrove. There was a boy's home  
22 next door. I think they were from there. I think it  
23 was called St John's. I think I'd remember the boy with  
24 the black hair [and then he says the name he thinks] and  
25 the boy with the red hair. Also the member of staff in

1 the shower room.'

2 He then says from paragraph 46 that he made  
3 a decision not to tell anyone when he left. He disposed  
4 of underwear when he went home because of the blood, and  
5 he took a pasting from his dad because of it. He  
6 started running away and slept in back cellars and coal  
7 cellars, and his brothers would come and look for him  
8 and drag him back home.

9 That lasted around 12 weeks and then he was sent to  
10 Brighton to live with his brother. He resisted going  
11 there at first, but after speaking to his brother on the  
12 phone he agreed to go to England. His brother ran  
13 a large business and was very successful at it, and  
14 whilst there he lived in a penthouse flat. It was  
15 a three-floor building that his brother had with  
16 a restaurant and a place to play pool. He was well  
17 paid. His brother taught him to work hard and he stayed  
18 there for about nine months and learned a lot about his  
19 brother's industry. Whilst there he was never short of  
20 money.

21 His brother was changing jobs, and that's why he  
22 came back. And between leaving England and finally  
23 leaving his parents' house at 21, he tried to kill  
24 himself three times. 'Callum' says he still has  
25 nightmares and is in a state of hyperarousal -- sorry,

1 at that time he had nightmares and was in a state of  
2 hyperarousal.

3 After England he got into more bother stealing cars.  
4 Things at home were terrible and the violence never  
5 stopped. 'Callum' says he lived in one of the most  
6 violent environments he'd ever seen. He was very  
7 confused about his sexuality. He had a job and a flat  
8 but developed a drug habit with cocaine and was smoking  
9 marijuana. He suffered from depression and overdosed.

10 He met his wife at 24. They got married at 29 and  
11 there was a few lifestyle things she said needed to go,  
12 and his habit with cocaine was top of the list.

13 In relation to impact, he deals with that from  
14 paragraph 60 onwards, and if I could just highlight  
15 a couple of parts of that.

16 At paragraph 60, 'Callum' says he was a carefree  
17 person before Larchgrove, a typical 15 year-old. But  
18 afterwards he had to practice to be normal.

19 Then he said eventually he went to the doctors  
20 suffering with depression and he was seen by  
21 a psychologist who he says was a very well meaning  
22 woman, but she realised that his deep depression was  
23 something else, and tried various different things.  
24 He disclosed during his sessions with his psychologist  
25 information about his life.

1           He was then put into EMDR treatment, the Eye  
2           Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing, however that  
3           brought up a lot of the issues, and he felt, he says at  
4           paragraph 63, that it was like a high-definition movie  
5           reel playing in his head of what happened to him in  
6           Larchgrove over and over. He couldn't cope with  
7           processing that, and he didn't get any support.

8           He talked about trying to get help and it being  
9           a very slow process. He was diagnosed with PTSD and  
10          there was a lot of difficulties along the way. He was  
11          having weird dreams and suffering from depression.

12          He says at paragraph 69 that body memories are a big  
13          part of what affects him, and he gets body memories in  
14          his left shoulder which he says he still needs cortisone  
15          injections for occasionally. He wakes up in the middle  
16          of the night and his back passage is in agony and he  
17          keeps getting the doctor to check him. However, he says  
18          his wife is a constant source of support, and has been  
19          throughout all of his darkest nightmares. He says he is  
20          on a number of medications which prevents him from  
21          dreaming and cuts down on the body memories.

22          In relation to his effect on relationship, he says  
23          that trust has been a massive issue in his whole life,  
24          and at paragraph 74 he says his wife changed things for  
25          him, and that she's a very open, honest, articulate and

1       caring person. And he says that if what happened to him  
2       in Larchgrove ever impacts upon his family, he feels  
3       that the people who did this to him are also doing it to  
4       them.

5             In relation to getting the right help, from  
6       paragraph 76 he talks about the fact that he got a place  
7       at Speak Out Scotland, who since that day have been  
8       advocacy workers and have arranged counselling with Talk  
9       Now and that has been a godsend for him. He says the  
10      key aspect of Speak Out Scotland is that they are  
11      educated survivors, and he has taken more steps forward  
12      in eight months working with them than he had taken  
13      since he was 16. And it's now that he has realised  
14      through various things that happened how serious the  
15      consequences of what happened in Larchgrove were for  
16      him.

17            He gives a lot of information about speaking to MSPs  
18      and trying to get records in relation to reporting  
19      matters to the police. And then he says at paragraph 86  
20      that apart from meeting Speak Out Scotland, the meetings  
21      with the Public Inquiry has probably been hard to  
22      describe, but he says it feels as if -- and the way  
23      he puts it, 'as if you give a shit'. Up until he met  
24      Speak Out Scotland, he says, 'nobody gave a shit'. And  
25      again he talks about his wife being a constant support

1 to him, and Speak Out Scotland, and he says that they  
2 are a constant, which is so important for male survivors  
3 of sexual abuse.

4 Later in his statement at paragraph 92, he says that  
5 ever since he was 15, people who have met him have only  
6 met the person he was who was left after Larchgrove, and  
7 that he can show traits of the boy that was there  
8 before, he was loving and caring, but he doesn't like  
9 the person that was left.

10 And he says, at 93, that he doesn't envisage himself  
11 ever feeling like one person again. He always feels  
12 like two people, and he blames himself quite a lot for  
13 being in Larchgrove.

14 He talks at 94 about his education being gone as  
15 soon as he got into Larchgrove, and in that paragraph  
16 he also says he's a master barber on paper, qualified,  
17 and he's got a Class 1 truck licence and all the  
18 qualifications, and he's a level 1 martial arts coach  
19 and a black belt in karate, and without his wife's  
20 support he wouldn't have any of it. In particular  
21 he learned martial arts so that nobody could hurt him.

22 He says, at 95, that he has been asked about his  
23 thoughts on how to protect children in the future, and  
24 he says, 'I think it's all about the staff. The staff  
25 need to be properly educated.'



1           There's a lot of information there. He has quite  
2           a lot of issues about speaking to his former teacher,  
3           and we can read that there for ourselves. And at  
4           paragraph 102 he makes the usual declaration, and signed  
5           the statement, and it's dated 29 November 2016.

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

7           A couple of names: Mr GQW and Mr KDX both  
8           have the protection of my General Restriction Order.  
9           They're not to be identified outside this room.

10          We'll finish there for today.

11          Tomorrow morning, what's the plan?

12   MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. There's a witness at 11.45. So  
13          I think at 10.00 until then we would have some read-ins.

14   LADY SMITH: Fine. Well I will sit at 10 o'clock, and have  
15          read-ins then and go on to the witness at 11.45 after  
16          that.

17          Thank you.

18   (4.06 pm)

19   (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

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