

1 Wednesday, 5 June 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the second day this
4 week of evidence in Chapter 6 of Phase 8 in relation to
5 Dr Guthrie's Schools and Loaningdale School.

6 Mr Sheldon, I think you have an update for me,
7 don't you?

8 MR SHELTON: Yes, my Lady. We were due to have a live
9 witness this morning but she is unfortunately unable to
10 attend today, so her statement will be read in by
11 Ms Forbes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 Caroline Campbell (read)

14 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady. The statement in
15 relation to this applicant has the reference
16 WIT-1-000001121.

17 She has waived her right to anonymity and so her
18 name is Caroline Campbell.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, Caroline was born in 1969 and she talks
21 about her life before going into care from paragraph 2.
22 She says she was born in Leith and then they moved to
23 Wester Hailes when she was a baby.

24 She lived initially with her parents, who had been
25 married since 1955, [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Caroline
2 says looking back on things it was a good upbringing and
3 [REDACTED] didn't want for anything. Her parents both worked
4 and she went to primary school and loved it.

5 [REDACTED] were disciplined, but not to the point that
6 some parents do and Caroline says that [REDACTED] did take --
7 the way she described it is as 'a doing', but in those
8 days it wasn't against the law to batter your child, but
9 her dad was very strict.

10 At paragraph 5, Caroline talks about social work not
11 being involved with her family until she went to high
12 school and that's when she started skiving school.

13 She said that when she went to high school she met
14 new people and every subject was in a different
15 classroom and she would be asked if she wanted to go up
16 the town and so she would do that and then go home about
17 20 minutes after school, so that her parents would think
18 that was where she had been.

19 So she ended up being chunked out of that secondary
20 school, she says, for skiving. Caroline then went to
21 a couple of panels and went to a school that she says
22 was a special school for people who skived, but again
23 she would be hanging about with people who were the same
24 as her who went there too.

25 She was then permanently excluded from that school

1 and then she thinks she went to another high school
2 before going to Guthrie's, but she's not sure about
3 that.

4 Caroline says at paragraph 7 that she had a social
5 worker and she was lovely. She was put on a supervision
6 order but that didn't stop her from skiving school. But
7 she was never in any trouble and she never stole or
8 drank or took drugs. It was just the fact that she
9 wasn't going to school.

10 She would rather go up the town with her pals and
11 sit in Princes Street Gardens or in their houses.

12 When she went to the panel, she talks about that at
13 paragraph 8 and she said her mum and dad would be there
14 and her social worker and that they suggested that she
15 go to Dr Guthrie's and so her parents took her home to
16 pack and then her social worker took her there.

17 Caroline says she didn't care about going there,
18 that she was a teenager and she thought she knew
19 everything and she was about 12 or 13 and in second year
20 at high school at that time.

21 She then tells us about Dr Guthrie's from
22 paragraph 9 onwards:

23 'There were three houses, Angus, Brechin and
24 Ogilvie. Angus was my house. It was all girls and they
25 were all over 12 years old. There were 11 girls in

1 Angus. It was full. Brechin had eight, nine or ten
2 girls in it. There were three in Ogilvie. Two day
3 pupils came in.'

4 Then she names a girl who was a day pupil and says
5 that she came in for the classes and she would be there
6 from 8.00 in the morning until 5.00 when she went home:

7 'Ogilvie was the leavers' house. There was no
8 housemother in Ogilvie and no social workers walking in
9 and out. Everything was there, but they had to do all
10 of their own cooking and cleaning. You were preparing
11 yourself to leave.

12 I remember it was a big white building. You went
13 upstairs to the front door and then to the right there
14 was an office. To the left was Mr MTA's office. He
15 was SNR. You went past the main office and
16 there was a double door to Brechin. There was another
17 door before that which took you up a set of stairs to
18 Angus. Under those stairs there were cupboards that we
19 would be locked in overnight.

20 There was a tearoom downstairs, which had old, hard
21 seats attached to the table. You went there to line up
22 to go to class. The classrooms were on the other side
23 of the tearoom. You had sewing class upstairs and along
24 a bit from that, you had your cooking class. If you
25 came out of the tearoom then there were double doors

1 that took you into a forecourt. At the bottom of the
2 forecourt, on the right-hand side, was the laundry with
3 the big roller. I don't remember what Brechin looked
4 like. I was only in there once.

5 When you came out and went to the upper floor, then
6 there was only one way up and one way down to Angus.
7 When you walked in to Angus you had your sitting room to
8 the front of you. To the left were rooms one and two
9 and they were the only single rooms. Rooms three, four
10 and five slept two girls and room six was for three
11 girls. If you went to the right, there was the dining
12 and sitting room combined. There was a staff room for
13 the housemother to sleep in at night. There was
14 a smokers' room and a kitchen across from it. Through
15 the kitchen, there was a shower room and somewhere
16 through that way you could go to Ogilvie.

17 Mr MTA was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was Mrs EQE .
18 I didn't like Mrs EQE . She never listened to anything
19 we would tell her. I knew she was a man because she
20 told us. She would say that if you didn't have boobs
21 then you can get fake ones and gesture to her own chest.

22 The housemothers were the only staff in Angus, but
23 there were other staff in the building. EQL was
24 the beast. He was a social worker and he's the one
25 that's dead. There was another social worker called

1 She then talks about mornings and bedtime from
2 paragraph 18:

3 'The housemother woke us up at 7 am. It would be
4 either Frusie, Miss Waters or Miss Greg. Frusie was
5 a wee old woman and she was lovely. You would hear her
6 coming. She would be singing "Three crows sitting on
7 a wall". There would be one housemother on from about
8 8 o'clock at night until 8.00 in the morning. Then
9 another housemother would take over. In the morning,
10 you got up and walked through to the kitchen and it
11 would be either porridge or toast. That was it. You
12 would get washed and come back to get dressed. Then you
13 would start cleaning the house, mopping floors and
14 things like that.

15 When I first went in, I was in room four and I
16 shared with a girl [then she names her], after you had
17 been in for a while you would be moved to a single room.
18 There were two beds and two wardrobes when I was in room
19 four. You couldn't put anything on the walls. I had my
20 own clothes and my hairdryer. It was locked up in case
21 it was stolen but the lassies in there wouldn't steal
22 off you. They were like family. If I needed my
23 hairdryer then I would need to go and ask for it and
24 then put it back. This was also in case you used it to
25 kill yourself. Guthrie's was like a prison.'

1 She then talks about meal times and food at
2 paragraph 20:

3 'You had three meals a day and toast at night but no
4 snacks. We had porridge and toast every day for
5 breakfast. I can't remember what it was for lunch.
6 I think it was chips and fish fingers or something like
7 that. Tea time might be pie and chips. You always had
8 chips or mash and they were disgusting. The food was
9 cheap and nasty. You were never fed properly. You had
10 to eat what you were given or you would starve. I often
11 had nothing. I've had an eating disorder since the time
12 I was in there. I didn't know where the food was
13 cooked. I never saw a cook other than the cooking
14 teacher and she wasn't making the meals.

15 I remember we had to show off the tops we had made
16 in sewing class. They had invited people up and I think
17 parents came as well. Mrs Rankin decided that all of
18 the kids would cook lunch and we were to make frogs
19 legs. I wouldn't eat it.'

20 Then she names a girl who tried it.

21 She then talks about washing and bathing at
22 paragraph 22:

23 'Each house had a shower area. It was a big room
24 and when you went in there were sinks in the middle with
25 mirrors. There were toilets on one side and there were

1 two baths and three or four showers.

2 The housemothers would stand at the door and watch.
3 The bathroom didn't have a door so they would stand
4 there. They thought everyone was suicidal so they would
5 watch or they might come in and wash your hair. You
6 would see EQL in the house walking up and down outside
7 of the bathroom. He was always hovering about at the
8 shower door.

9 When you came back on a Monday, you had nit lotion
10 put on you. It was green shampoo and it stunk. God
11 help you if it got in your eyes or mouth. You had your
12 hair washed over the sinks on a Monday in case you had
13 brought head lice back with you.'

14 She then goes on to talk about clothing or uniform
15 at paragraph 25:

16 'They thought they were being smart, torturing you
17 with what they made you wear. They gave us Jesus
18 sandals to wear. They would take your shoes off you and
19 lock them away so you had to wear a skirt and Jesus
20 sandals. It was to stop you running away and to
21 embarrass you when you were out because people thought
22 you were in a church when you weren't. You wore any top
23 that you had, but you had to wear the Jesus sandals.'

24 She then goes on to talk about leisure time from
25 paragraph 26:

1 'There was nothing to do at the weekend. If you
2 didn't go home the staff might take you out on a walk.
3 We did roller skating or basketball. Angus's sitting
4 room and dining room were small. Half of it was the
5 sitting room, so you had a couch, two armchairs,
6 a fireplace, and a television and the other half was
7 a dining area.

8 You weren't given any extra cigarettes at the
9 weekend or anything. If Frusie was on then she would
10 say that if you were quiet then you could have an extra
11 fag. She was like a wee old granny.'

12 She then talks about trips and holidays,
13 paragraph 28 onwards:

14 'They used to take us out in the minibus. There
15 were no trips away overnight. They would take you out
16 to get your hair cut once a month. They would take you
17 to get new shoes once a month and then your old ones had
18 to be binned. They didn't pay for that. My mum paid
19 for me. If they took you to the dentist then it would
20 be you, another girl and a staff member who would go.
21 One weekend, Miss Denholm took me and another six
22 lassies out in Edinburgh and we legged it from there.'

23 Then she says that she and another girl ended up in
24 Stranraer:

25 'We used to go to the hairdresser in Dalkeith. They

1 wanted short hair for every lassie in there to stop
2 transporting nits. My hair was long when I went in
3 there and then I ended up with it short and spiked but
4 you weren't given gel to spike it up. It was a boy
5 haircut.

6 We went to Dr Guthrie's Boys' School for swimming.
7 It was just down the road and it was a disgusting place.
8 All the boys' dirty trunks were all over the place.
9 There was glass above the changing rooms and the boys
10 would climb up and peer in. The pool was dirty and that
11 was where you had to swim.

12 Either zHSB or EQL would take us because they drove
13 the minibus. They would see the boys looking in but
14 they never bothered. We used to shout and they would
15 tell us to just get dressed and then go out and tell the
16 boys to get down but they didn't say it with any force.

17 The cubicles were at the side of the pool with no
18 curtains, just three white tile walls. EQL would walk
19 up and down. We wised up to it and we put our swimming
20 costumes on before we went. Coming back you had to put
21 the towel round you and drop your swimming costume.
22 Then you put your clothes on as fast as you could and
23 basically still wet. EQL and one of the housemothers
24 would go. EQL was always the driver of that minibus.'

25 Caroline then talks about schooling from

1 paragraph 33:

2 'There was no education whatsoever. My classes
3 consisted of sewing, cooking, learning how to wash
4 clothes and how to clean a house. A 12-year-old should
5 be learning maths, English, history, geography and
6 a foreign language. There was nothing. I feel they
7 were getting me ready to go out and breed.
8 A 13-year-old child shouldn't have to get down and scrub
9 floors. I was there for skiving school and I got no
10 education. I had been doing well at primary school.
11 I was an athlete. I was the fastest runner and I had
12 medals. At Guthrie's I wasn't encouraged to do sport
13 apart from roller skating.

14 We did all of the things you do when you have your
15 own house. There was no education whatsoever.
16 I thought I was learning to have my own house when I was
17 12 or 13, but I wasn't. I was cleaning the whole house
18 because they didn't have cleaners coming in.'

19 She then says she never saw a doctor and she doesn't
20 remember needing to see a doctor and there was no nurse
21 or doctor in Dr Guthrie's Girls' School.

22 Again, she says there was no religion and she didn't
23 go to church.

24 Caroline then talks about work from paragraph 37:

25 'You washed and dried your own clothes as well as

1 the laundry for your house. That was a class. There
2 were no cleaners. It was us that cleaned. We would go
3 downstairs and clean Mr MTA's office and the reception
4 area as well as our own house.'

5 Caroline then talks about birthdays and Christmas
6 from paragraph 38:

7 'You were given a cake and a card for your birthday.
8 Your parents couldn't visit so they had to wait to see
9 you at the weekend.

10 I went home at Christmas time but just at weekends.
11 We didn't get a two-week holiday. If Christmas fell on
12 a Wednesday then that didn't matter, your family got to
13 see you when you got home. Some girls stayed at
14 Christmas. They weren't given presents but they would
15 have been given a horrible Christmas dinner.

16 There was no summer holiday either. Once you were
17 in, that was you in. You only got to go home Friday to
18 Monday all year round. You were there to be punished
19 for what you had done. Some of the lassies in there
20 were crooks and everything else, but a lot of us were
21 just there for skiving school. That means there is
22 a problem so you shouldn't have been stuck away at the
23 hands of monsters. I felt like I was in jail, but jail
24 would have been easier.

25 They gave you enough to survive but no luxuries or

1 treats. They were getting a lot of money from my mum
2 because I remember seeing notes being handed over.
3 There was no care or nurture.'

4 Caroline then goes on to talk about visits or
5 inspections from paragraph 42:

6 'My mum and dad had to make an appointment to visit.
7 I think they just popped in once but they were kept
8 downstairs in the office with Mrs EQE . She came up
9 and said they were there if I wanted to come down and
10 see them. When I went down, Mrs EQE was in the office
11 so I didn't get to see them on my own. I only saw them
12 for five minutes. That was during the first three
13 weeks.

14 My parents visited a couple of times, but you were
15 always watched by staff members. You would be in the
16 tearoom. There was a parents' day and they could go in
17 your classrooms but a staff member would walk along with
18 you so it would be me with my mum and dad and either
19 EQL , zHSB or a housemother.

20 I never once saw my social worker, Fiona, while
21 I was in there. I saw her once when I absconded and
22 that was it. I never saw her again. I don't remember
23 any panels while I was in there, except when I was told
24 that I could leave. My social workers when I went to
25 Guthrie's were zHSB and EQL . They took over and

1 Fiona wasn't involved as soon as I went in there.

2 I never had a conversation with either of them and the
3 only people I could speak to were my mum and dad.

4 I don't remember any inspections. I don't remember
5 workmen or cleaners coming in. No outside people came
6 in, so they couldn't see what was going on. I don't
7 know why they didn't have cleaners coming in, other than
8 because we could have approached them and told them what
9 was happening.

10 For the first three weekends I didn't get to go
11 home, because you had to stay in for 21 days. Then
12 I started going home at the weekend, but if I was in
13 solitary then I didn't get out and my parents weren't
14 allowed to come and see me.

15 Going home at the weekend was brilliant. My dad
16 would come and pick me up and take me up the road.
17 There were a few times when I didn't go back on the
18 Monday, but the police would come and pick me up so
19 I had to go back. It was the panel's decision that
20 I went there.

21 You took fags in with you when you came back on
22 a Monday. You weren't given pocket money from the
23 school. You never really needed money because if they
24 took you out then a packed lunch came with you.'

25 Caroline then talks about running away from

1 paragraph 49:

2 'I ran away quite a few times and the police usually
3 picked me up and brought me back. I ran away and
4 managed to get all the way to Peterborough with another
5 lassie. We were brought back by plane and then picked
6 up by social workers. There was a police escort when
7 they heard that we were Dr Guthrie's girls. They
8 thought we were quite violent so we had a police escort,
9 which to me is ridiculous. I would have been about 13.
10 When we stopped at the traffic lights, I put the window
11 down, opened the door from the outside and I was off.
12 We had been at the top of the road, about two minutes
13 away from Guthrie's. I was picked up by the police
14 again that night and they took me back.

15 When I got in they never locked the door, so
16 20 minutes later I was back out the door. I was in for
17 a while but you could just walk in and out the
18 building.'

19 She then talks about discipline from paragraph 51:

20 'You went home at the weekend if you had 80 points.
21 You would get points for behaving. You would get ten
22 points for five days of cleaning, ten points for keeping
23 your temper down and ten points for attending classes.

24 If you didn't have 80 points, then you had to make
25 the points up by doing something, like cleaning

SNR

1 SNR office. We found out on a Thursday night
2 who had made points and who was going home. If you knew
3 you hadn't made points, then you might bring a crochet
4 blanket down for extra points. If I hadn't made points,
5 but someone else had made a crochet blanket, then they
6 would give me it so I could say I had made it. Mr MTA
7 would say that I had 75 points and now I could get the
8 extra five to go home.

9 The points were recorded in Mr MTA's notes. He
10 was given a sheet from each housemother and if you were
11 good then you were given full marks. If you were bad,
12 then they wrote a comment saying you were bad and
13 Mr MTA made sure that you didn't get your 80 points
14 and you would have to do something extra like clean his
15 office. You saw them writing down all the time but they
16 never let you see it. The housemothers, the staff in
17 the office and the teachers were always writing things
18 down.'

19 Caroline then talks about abuse at Dr Guthrie's
20 Girls' School from paragraph 54:

21 'EQL first name was EQL. I don't know his
22 second name. He was introduced as EQL but we were
23 to call him EQL. There was a housemother in the house
24 and there was no reason for EQL to be in the house, but
25 he was in there regularly. EQL was maybe in his 40s and

1 he had a moustache and glasses. zHSB was more like
2 the minibus driver, but he was a social worker as well
3 and he was more like your uncle. EQL was a paedophile.

4 I don't know when it was, but I got my period and
5 I asked the housemother for sanitary towels. She said
6 that I had to go to the office to get them because they
7 didn't keep them up there. When I went down to the
8 office, it was EQL that was on. EQL had to check to see
9 if you had your period. He pushed you over a table and
10 put his hand up your skirt to see if there was blood.
11 If there was blood then he would give you a sanitary
12 towel. I don't know if this happened to any other
13 lassies, but that is what happened to me. That wasn't
14 the first time that I had had my period. I had my
15 period since I was in primary 6 or 7, but when I went
16 there, sanitary towels weren't something you would take
17 in with you.

18 That same night, I got into a fight with EQL. I was
19 dragged screaming into the cells. I didn't drink the
20 water so I didn't have anything to drink for 24 hours.
21 The following day I was put under the stairs in
22 an actual cupboard. If you were to go into Guthrie's
23 then the stairs were just before the tearoom and there
24 were cupboards underneath them. They were the cupboards
25 that EQL would lock you in. He would lock you in there

1 overnight. It was crouching space. You couldn't stand
2 up straight. You would lean on the back wall and fall
3 asleep. I think there were three cupboards under the
4 stairs and only two were used like cells. The other was
5 a cleaning cupboard.'

6 She says there was a girl in the cupboard next to
7 her and she says:

8 'She'd peed whilst she was in there. She took
9 a battering for it in the morning while we were still in
10 the cupboards. It was EQL and a woman who battered her.
11 I could smell EQL because he wore Old Spice aftershave.'

12 Then Caroline says that the girl was put into
13 solitary after that and that she was a skinny, wee
14 thing. She continues to say:

15 'She had red marks on her. We never saw her for
16 about a week after that. I'm still in contact with her.
17 I'm still in contact with about six of the lassies from
18 in there.

19 When you got out of there, you went to the shower
20 room. The staff stood there with EQL and his excuse for
21 being there was that he would stay in case you kicked
22 off. You did kick off again because the guy who was
23 sexually abusing all the lassies was standing watching
24 while you washed yourself. It was degrading. The only
25 thing they never did was take pictures of it.

1 EQL would come in and pretend to be your pal. All
2 of the staff in there knew what was happening, but they
3 turned a blind eye to it. Open your mouth and you're
4 sacked. They knew what EQL was up to, but it was
5 punishment. EQL was always the one who would take you
6 to solitary, which was through beside Ogilvie. It was
7 a mattress on the floor and that was it. EQL would come
8 and get you from solitary every so often to take you
9 down for a fag and then you would wake up in your bed.
10 He was always the one who would give you a glass of
11 water and you would see something fizzing at the bottom
12 of it. He used to give you a sleeping tablet in your
13 water. A couple of girls attacked him because they had
14 seen it.

15 You went into solitary for running away or getting
16 into a fight. In there if you didn't fight then you
17 wouldn't survive. The lassies were lovely, but if you
18 got into a fight then you fought until staff separated
19 you.

20 You would be in solitary until they decided you
21 could get out. It might be a month or it might be
22 a week. They would bring you out to get washed and they
23 would stand there and watch you getting washed. You
24 were given three meals a day and a cigarette after each
25 meal and then one before you went to bed. I never ate

1 the meals at all. I chucked them away.

2 When you were in solitary, EQL always gave you
3 a glass of water. He would have his hand round the
4 glass of water but there would be a tablet in the bottom
5 of the glass and you could see it fizzing. One of the
6 girls asked me on Facebook if I ever got "EQL
7 favourite water" in solitary. I said yes, but I never
8 took it. He used to tell us it was a mint to make it
9 taste better.

10 They would come and take you to the office for
11 a fag. EQL would sometimes be in the office overnight.
12 There was always a staff member in the office overnight.
13 If it was zHSB then you never saw zHSB. He was
14 lovely. If it was EQL, then you knew he was there. He
15 would come and take you down for a fag and you would
16 wake up upstairs sore and covered in blood, so you knew
17 you had been sexually assaulted. You didn't know if the
18 fag had been drugged but you knew that you had been
19 drugged.

20 When I was 12 or 13, my periods came regularly and
21 then for two or three months I never got a period.
22 I had been stuck in solitary and they told me it was the
23 stress of being in there that had stopped my period from
24 coming, but I was a child going through a miscarriage.

25 I knew I was pregnant to EQL. I could tell from the

1 feelings I had in my stomach. Two months down the line
2 and I hadn't had a period even though I had been having
3 periods every 26 to 28 days. I took a doing off of EQL
4 one night. He physically assaulted me because
5 I wouldn't go down to the office and the following day
6 I had big blood clots coming out of me. I wasn't taken
7 to hospital. I was left in the cells for another two or
8 three weeks and I wasn't given any medical attention.

9 Frusie came in and took the sheets away and she said
10 it was just stress. She said women get that. She said
11 being in solitary and being stressed affects your
12 periods. They hit every lassie with that. They said
13 the stress of being in here, the stress of going home at
14 the weekends and the stress of seeing your pals made
15 your periods stop. I knew what a period was like and
16 I could tell the difference. This made me bend over
17 with pain and I could feel it coming out.

18 I've had two miscarriages now. At the time, I knew
19 it wasn't normal when I saw the clots on the sheets and
20 I saw the actual thing curled up. I know they say you
21 don't see anything, but you do and at eight weeks its
22 face is starting to form. They took it away and told me
23 it was just a really bad blood clot. Frusie took it
24 away. She was the one who would come in. She would
25 sympathise with you, but she couldn't say anything

1 because she would have lost her job. She was an old
2 lady in her 60s. All the staff knew what was going on.
3 I told my dad and my dad went in [REDACTED] and
4 battered him. My dad was a big man and he had been
5 a boxer. My dad went in and grabbed EQL by the throat
6 but Mrs EQE and Mr MTA calmed my dad down and
7 brought him into Mr MTA office. In those days it
8 was their word against mine and all of the evidence was
9 gone. EQL told me that I could be taken to hospital but
10 they couldn't prove that I had been carrying a child
11 because everything was away. He said no one was going
12 to believe me because I was a slag.
13 I told my dad a couple of months later and that was
14 when he went up and battered him. But that didn't stop
15 the fact that I had to go back. I refused to go back
16 and my mum and dad kept me in the house. If the police
17 came to one door, then I would run out the other side,
18 but eventually I got caught and was taken right back.
19 I was face to face with EQL again. I told him that if
20 he touched me again I would kill him. I would have gone
21 to jail for it and it would have been better than there.
22 You could hear lassies screaming at night and it was
23 always when EQL was on. The lassies didn't speak about
24 what was happening, but someone would be taken away and
25 then next thing you heard them screaming "stop". You

1 knew a painful cry from a rape cry. It is a different
2 scream. I only learned that from going in there.
3 A rape scream is a horrible scream to hear. You could
4 tell a beating scream as well and you would hear the
5 thud. A girl would come back and you would look at them
6 but you wouldn't approach them because you might be
7 next. You just let it go.

8 EQL would physically assault us regularly. He was
9 the authority in there. He was the one who was right
10 behind you if you did anything wrong. He would hit you
11 on the back of the head and then grab you and you would
12 be dragged. He would tell people that you had put up
13 a fight. They were allowed to physically restrain you
14 and to him that was hitting you. I didn't see him do
15 that to other girls but I heard it.

16 EQL would slap you, kick you and drag you by your
17 hair. If you fought back, then EQL and another staff
18 member would take hold of you. The other staff member
19 would take your legs and he would always have his hands
20 across your chest area. They would take you to solitary
21 and then the other staff member would go. When EQL was
22 on office duties, there was always someone in solitary.
23 He would start an argument with you. We would say that
24 was his "midnight snack". It always happened that he
25 would take you down to the office, give you a fag and

1 a few hours later you would wake up back upstairs. You
2 knew the cigarette was laced with something. We wised
3 up to it and we would say no when he offered us
4 a cigarette, because you would get halfway through it
5 and then you would wake up in solitary sore down below
6 and sometimes with blood on your pants. Your pants were
7 never pulled up right, so you knew.'

8 Caroline then talks about reporting of abuse at
9 Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 73:

10 'One of the police officers who brought me back to
11 Guthrie's asked me why I kept running away. And I said
12 it was because they were sexually assaulting us,
13 I actually said they were shagging us. Mrs EQE was
14 standing on the doorstep on the stairs and she was
15 telling me to come in and get a cup of tea and a cake
16 and saying they had missed me. She told the police that
17 we were always telling stories and the policeman told me
18 to shut up and get in because I was wasting their time.

19 Mrs EQE heard me tell the police what had been
20 happening and that was why she said we were always
21 making up stories. We always had it thrown in our face
22 that we were story tellers and we were put in Guthrie's
23 for a reason. Some were put in for a lot worse than me,
24 but I was put in for skiving school. Nobody believed
25 us.

1 I ran away to Stranraer at one time and I told
2 a police officer there what had been happening in
3 Guthrie's. They said that I should report it in
4 Edinburgh and when I told them that I already had, they
5 said that it was "typical Edinburgh Police".

6 I came out of Guthrie's when I was 13 or 14. I had
7 been on the run for a long time, about a year. They
8 gave up looking for me, because they knew that if they
9 went in to one side of a house then I would come out of
10 the other side and I was that violent, nobody would
11 approach me.

12 I kept running away from Guthrie's and I finally got
13 out because I got a job when I was 15. The job was in
14 Scotmid and I told a lie that I was 16. They found out
15 I was 15, but I only worked a couple of days so I was
16 able to stay.

17 It got to the point where the panel thought they
18 couldn't keep me in Guthrie's any more. I went to the
19 panel and it wasn't my social worker who went. It was
20 an elderly woman. I told them I had a part-time job in
21 Scotmid. I got the job when I was 15 but I was to be on
22 supervision until I was 16. The social worker confirmed
23 that I had a job. I told them that I was going to keep
24 running away and every time they brought me back I would
25 run away again. They never asked me why I was running

1 away. They weren't interested. I told them that they
2 would have a cost on their hands every day because
3 I would run anywhere. The panel [and then she says the
4 clerk from court] said that there was no option and
5 I had a job so my supervision was dropped and I was
6 allowed to leave Guthrie's.'

7 Caroline then talks about her life after being in
8 care from paragraph 79 and she says that after they
9 removed the supervision requirement she left her job
10 because she didn't want to do it any more, but her life
11 then went from bad to worse. She moved from her
12 parents' house into a hostel. The staff there
13 recommended she speak to Rape Crisis, they knew she had
14 been raped but not the details of it and two women did
15 come to see her twice at her bedsit but she didn't think
16 it was helping. She told them certain things but not
17 everything and they told her how to cope with it. She
18 says at paragraph 79:

19 'They said you have to live with it and that there
20 was more support but I never took it.'

21 Caroline says she then went to Stopover and they got
22 her a house, her first house in Wester Hailes when she
23 was 20 and she met her kids' dad and they had four kids
24 together.

25 She talks about impact from paragraph 81 and says

1 that it has affected her badly:

2 'Every day I wake up thinking that I want to kill
3 myself that day. I wake up every morning with it in my
4 head.'

5 Caroline then talks about the fact she didn't bond
6 with her third and fourth children due to difficulties
7 she had in childbirth and having to have C-sections.
8 She says she's very protective of her children.

9 At paragraph 82 she says:

10 'I have not been a really good mother but I haven't
11 been a bad mother.'

12 Again she talks about not bonding with her children,
13 but that her children have never went without. But she
14 has been strict. Caroline says she has been in violent
15 relationships and she has been verbally abused in
16 relationships and that she knows there are good guys out
17 there but she couldn't find one.

18 That if a guy is nice to her then she doesn't like
19 it and she can't trust anybody and she thinks back to
20 when **EQL** would be nicey-nicey to her and then do things
21 to her.

22 At paragraph 85 Caroline talks about the fact she
23 has spoken to her doctor and they tried to get her to
24 see a community psychiatric nurse but she didn't want to
25 do that.

1 At paragraph 86 she tells us she became a carer and
2 got all of her SVQs but that she had a problem with her
3 boss telling her off or telling her to do things. She
4 said that she wanted to be a policewoman growing up, but
5 that she couldn't become one because she had been in
6 a List D school.

7 Paragraph 87, Caroline says she received no
8 education from Guthrie's but when she went to work with
9 the care company that she works with now, she managed to
10 get on a five-week course and got all of her
11 certificates and that her CV has over 100 achievements
12 on it.

13 She has SVQ 3 Level 7, and that she is doing SVQ 4,
14 5 and 6 now and she has done that all herself.

15 She comments that she never had an education so if
16 she can't spell a word she goes round it a different way
17 and would write six sentences instead of that one word.

18 At work, Caroline tells us at paragraph 88, that if
19 she thinks someone's doing something wrong or sees
20 something wrong then she will report it. If she sees
21 someone being cruel to someone, for example in
22 a wheelchair, then she will stand up for them because
23 they can't do it themselves. It's a job that she's been
24 doing for 19 or 20 years and she's not afraid to blow
25 the whistle on someone.

1 She talks about the impact that being in care has
2 had on her relationship with her parents, who are both
3 dead now, but that she says at paragraph 89:

4 'My experience at Guthrie's had an impact on my
5 relationship with them because they could have said that
6 they didn't want me to go there. They could have asked
7 for a couple more months to try taking me to school or
8 educating me at home but they never did that.'

9 She comments that when her son didn't go to school
10 she had work sent home for him.

11 Caroline says that prior to going into Guthrie's she
12 had been close to her family, but after she was not
13 close to them. She says that as an adult she can look
14 and see it wasn't their decision to put her in there.
15 It was the panel's decision, but at paragraph 91
16 Caroline comments:

17 'My mum was paying for me to be beasted.'

18 And that sometimes she resents her for that.

19 Caroline mentions a Dr Guthrie's Facebook group that
20 had been set up and that this was a survivor page and it
21 was from this page that she found out about phoning the
22 Inquiry. That she had spoken to other people and at
23 paragraph 93, she says:

24 'They all knew what was happening but we were just
25 seen as troublemakers.'

1 She talks about the fact that there is a campaign to
2 have the statue of Dr Guthrie removed from Princes
3 Street and that there is a petition with signatures on
4 it.

5 She says at paragraph 93:

6 'We don't talk about what happened. We talk about
7 who you can contact to speak about it.'

8 Later at paragraph 93 she talks about a particular
9 woman who had mentioned the water to her, but she says
10 she never drank the water.

11 At paragraph 94 she says:

12 'I have let it lie for so long, when I should have
13 let it out years ago and it could have stopped it
14 happening. When I found out Guthrie's shut soon after
15 I left in March 1985, I was happy but it's still
16 happening in other homes. It's never going to stop.
17 I'm just another person who has given another
18 statement.'

19 Caroline says she hasn't reported what happened in
20 Guthrie's as an adult.

21 She then talks about the issue of getting her
22 records and says that she was told that most of it would
23 be blanked out and there was no point, she thinks, in
24 getting them because it would just show her name at the
25 top, the date she went in and the date she left.

1 LADY SMITH: I wonder if she's referring to NRS, National
2 Records of Scotland, not the National Trust as to where
3 she tried to get them.

4 MS FORBES: Yes.

5 At paragraph 98 she says that she has a photograph
6 that was sent to her online by a friend who had found it
7 and it's one with Mrs EQE and she's in one of the
8 photos with a group of girls and some of the teachers,
9 that EQL is in it and that the teachers there are
10 Miss Crighton and Mrs Rankin.

11 She then tells us about lessons to be learned and if
12 I could read from paragraph 99:

13 'They should listen to kids. Not every kid is going
14 to come out with the same story. Kids make up stories
15 but not every child at different times. If they had
16 listened to us back then, something could have been
17 done.

18 There should be someone in children's homes that you
19 can have a one to one with. I think there is now. Your
20 own social worker should still be in contact with you.
21 My social worker, Fiona, and my mum and dad took me to
22 Guthrie's and then they were gone. I saw Fiona in the
23 street, but she wasn't my social worker any more. It
24 was EQL or zHSB. Fiona was just a nice lassie, she
25 was young. She didn't condemn you over anything. She

1 would listen to you. But as soon as I went in there,
2 I was taken out of Wester Hailes Social Work Department
3 and I was handed to Guthrie's and that was it. You were
4 there, the door was shut and that was it. You were
5 there to get your work done. They were paid for it and
6 they didn't have to be nice to you.

7 There shouldn't have been male social workers in
8 an all-lassies school. A female can talk to a female
9 better, especially about a sexual thing or a woman's
10 problem. It's better woman to woman, because they have
11 been through it. Guys should go to a guys' school. The
12 only two social workers in that school were male and
13 there was no female social worker. You would think they
14 would have said that there had to be a female social
15 worker because it was a female school. A young girl of
16 12 is not going to approach a guy with any problems. It
17 would be a lot easier with a woman. They could have
18 a guy working in a lassies' school, but there should be
19 a female social worker.

20 I want people to know that we were telling the
21 truth. I have to live with this for the rest of my
22 life, but I want people to know that I wasn't telling
23 stories. You don't know what happens behind closed
24 doors but listen to them. I want an acknowledgement.
25 I want an apology from them, but I know Guthrie's is

1 gone now. I want whoever it is to say that they should
2 have listened to us and none of this would have
3 happened. EQL is dead, but the people who ran Guthrie's
4 should be held accountable.'

5 She makes the usual declaration at paragraph 103 and
6 then she has signed that, dated 7 November 2022.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think Mr Sheldon now has a statement
9 to read in.

10 LADY SMITH: Very well.

11 'Debbie' (read)

12 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this is the statement of 'Debbie'.

13 The statement reference is WIT-1-000000840.

14 'Debbie' was born in 1959 and admitted to
15 Dr Guthrie's in 1975 and was there, she thinks, for
16 about nine months. I haven't found the record to
17 confirm that, but there is certainly a record of her
18 still being in there in 1976.

19 'Debbie' describes her early life in Clydebank from
20 paragraph 2 of her statement. She says she was part of
21 a large family, it was rather an unhappy childhood and
22 there was fighting all the time in the house, she says.
23 Although she was always well fed and well dressed.

24 Page 2, she notes that she had a short period in
25 a residential school when she was aged about 5. This

1 seems to have been respite care for her mother.

2 If we turn then to page 4, she says a little bit
3 more about her early life. She notes that they were
4 evacuated from Clydebank in 1968 because of a storm and
5 that at this time she was being physically abused by her
6 older brother and sexually abused by her father.

7 One of her other brothers discovered the abuse and
8 the police became involved. 'Debbie' notes that the
9 panel was [REDACTED] 1975. She says she had had a couple
10 of panels before then. There was an incident apparently
11 involving shoplifting, but 'Debbie' seems to have had
12 a very peripheral if indeed any involvement in that
13 incident.

14 She says, paragraph 19:

15 'I can't remember if I went to the panel for
16 handling stolen goods or because my dad was abusing me.'

17 She says that after the panel:

18 'I was let home for the weekend and then picked up
19 and taken to Dr Guthrie's School. I don't understand
20 why I was let home for the weekend.'

21 The timelines don't quite join up, my Lady, there
22 are a missing few weeks, but it's close enough.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: She then goes on to talk about Dr Guthrie's,
25 paragraph 20:

1 'I thought I was in Guthrie's for care and
2 protection and I didn't find out it was a List D school,
3 for people who had done wrong, until I was in there. It
4 was all girls at Guthrie's. There was nobody older than
5 16 years old and the youngest in my house was 14.'

6 She then goes on to describe the layout of the
7 school, much of which is now familiar to us.

8 She says, paragraph 21, that there were three
9 houses. She was in Brechin and says that Mrs Montgomery
10 was the housemother and there was another woman whose
11 name she can't remember.

12 She says, paragraph 22:

13 'Down the stair there were two single rooms and
14 a toilet, the baths and the classrooms. There were
15 locked doors through to another house. You couldn't
16 leave your house because the doors were locked.'

17 Then she says a bit more about the layout.

18 At paragraph 23 she says:

19 'Mr MTA was SNR . He was tall and bald
20 with a Hitler-style moustache. He was about 40 years
21 old. Mr HSB was SNR .
22 HSB

23 . Mrs KDR , the teacher, was an older
24 woman in her mid-50s. She had short hair and was big
25 built. Guthrie's wasn't all bad. Mrs Montgomery, the

1 housemother, was really nice. She was beautiful. We
2 called her Gungums. The cook was called Winnie and she
3 was really nice. EQL drove the minibus. He had blond
4 hair and was chubby. He leered at you and looked you up
5 and down. He never touched anybody.'

6 On routine she says:

7 'The male social worker took me to Guthrie's in
8 a car. I had shut down and accepted I'd to go there.
9 Nobody told me how long I was going to be there for. We
10 arrived late in the afternoon and went in the front
11 door. I went in for a medical.

12 I was shown into the living room and met the girls
13 who were in my house. I was taken up to the dorm and
14 showed what bed I was going to be in. We were taken for
15 something to eat and went for a bath. Then up the
16 stairs to our rooms. We got to watch a bit of telly and
17 then went to bed.

18 If you imagine a square with one side taken away
19 that was the dorms. There was me and another two girls
20 in the dorm. They were the same age as me. You had
21 a bed and wee cupboard and set of drawers beside your
22 bed. They were for your clothes and were yours to use.
23 I didn't have much to put in them. Every dorm was
24 connected. At nighttime the doors connecting the dorms
25 were locked, but the door into the dorm wasn't locked.

1 There were two staff on at night in each house and
2 one always stayed the night. Once you were in the dorm,
3 you didn't go back out unless it was to go to the
4 toilet. Before you went to bed, you had a wash and
5 brushed your teeth. We went to bed at 9 o'clock most
6 nights and 10.00pm on a Thursday. You could read a book
7 or talk until your lights went out at 11.00pm. Whatever
8 member of staff was on at night was supposed to patrol
9 the corridor to make sure nothing was going on, but they
10 never did that. You got up at 7.00am in the morning,
11 the staff opened the door and said "Right, girls".'

12 She says:

13 'I was never out of the kitchen. When everyone was
14 away on leave and I wasn't, I'd be in the kitchen
15 helping the cook. Meals were in the dining room in your
16 house. The food was fine and we had plenty to eat. We
17 had breakfast, lunch, tea and supper. You were never
18 forced to eat, but if you didn't like the food you
19 didn't get anything else.

20 I'll never forget the baths. There were five or six
21 big baths and they were all in a line. Some had
22 curtains around them and some didn't. All the girls in
23 my house were in there having a bath. The baths were at
24 set times and were every second day. The baths were
25 taken house by house. There were no showers. There was

1 a row of sinks. You had all your toiletries. There
2 were always two female members of staff in supervising.

3 After school and when you'd done your chores, your
4 time was yours. You could go into the library or sit in
5 the living room and chat. You could play games, draw or
6 read books. You could get records in and play them at
7 night in the sitting room. You had everything you
8 needed for entertainment.

9 We could watch TV at night. The housemother or the
10 other woman who worked in our house would be there. We
11 looked forward to a Thursday night and watching the
12 actress Googie Withers in the programme "Within These
13 Walls". We were allowed to sit up until 10 pm and watch
14 it. That's when you got your last cigarette and a cup
15 of tea.

16 You got four cigarettes a day. I was only 15 years
17 old and had to get permission from a parent to smoke.
18 There was no chance I was getting permission from my
19 parents'.

20 So her sister wrote the letter of permission for
21 her:

22 'All your cigarette ends were counted to make sure
23 nobody had hid any to keep for later.

24 There were good times as well. The staff took us
25 out a lot. They had a minibus. The staff took us

1 swimming to the Commonwealth Pool. We went to the beach
2 and to an open air pool. Guthrie's have videos of all
3 that, because they showed them to us. The staff took us
4 into Edinburgh.'

5 She names two of her friends:

6 'We went to the dentist and the doctor. Three or
7 four of us would go for a check-up at the dentist at the
8 same time or the staff took you if you had toothache.
9 I hate dentists.'

10 LADY SMITH: She is not alone in that.

11 MR SHELTON: Indeed, my Lady:

12 'My tooth had a hole in it and I had toothache, the
13 dentist checked my mouth and the next minute he yanked
14 the tooth out with no painkillers, it was quite a big
15 tooth. I didn't know what had happened until the tooth
16 was out.

17 I don't think we went to church but a Bible School
18 teacher, Christine, came to us. Bible School was
19 optional and if you didn't want to go, you didn't need
20 to. We were all given Bibles at the end of it.
21 Christine's daughter and husband came into the school
22 sometimes too. Christine stayed in touch with me and
23 came to visit me with her husband when I left Guthrie's
24 and was working in Largs. She stayed in Edinburgh.

25 We had to do chores. You did them after school.

1 I was given the chore of sanding and staining SNR
2 SNR coffee table in his office. We had to go
3 down on our hands and knees and polish the stone floor.'
4 She says that you wore your own clothes:
5 'Guthrie's were given money from social work every
6 so often to get us the new clothes we needed. I got
7 a new duffle coat when I was leaving Guthrie's to go to
8 work in Largs. I don't remember being taken to a shop
9 to buy clothes. I think we wore what the staff picked.
10 We did our washing ourselves, you stuffed all your
11 things into a big bag and so nobody saw what you were
12 washing. You went outside the building and through the
13 kitchen door to a laundry room. There were big sinks
14 and wringers to wring out the clothes. There was a big
15 flat iron that was really hot.'
16 In relation to schooling she says:
17 'We went into class at 9.00am and finished about
18 4.00pm. We went back to our own houses for dinner.
19 There wasn't set subjects. We did a bit of everything
20 like sewing and English. I don't think we did maths.
21 We had one teacher and that was Mrs KDR.
22 I wanted to be a nurse. Mrs KDR sent away
23 for exam papers for me to be a nurse even though I was
24 too young. You couldn't go for nursing until you were
25 16 years old. It was probably to see how I got on.

1 I filled it all in and sent it away. Mrs KDR
2 said that I had done well and I would have qualified.
3 She said I should pursue that career when I got out.
4 [She] had a bit of faith in me as an academic.

5 I had my 16th birthday in Guthrie's. I got a cake
6 and a present. My mum got me a Bay City Rollers hooded
7 top and my friend sent me a wee swan ornament with water
8 and coloured paper in it.

9 One Christmas we got taken to a disco in another
10 boys' school. It wasn't Dr Guthrie's Boys' School. The
11 disco was good because you were enjoying yourself.
12 I went home for Christmas dinner.

13 My mum told my siblings I was away working when
14 I was in the school. I never got a visit or a letter
15 from anybody, except my social worker. I had the same
16 male social worker all the time I was in Guthrie's [and
17 she describes him]. I wondered why my mum didn't visit
18 me when she visited my brothers in jail. I think my mum
19 hated me.

20 I went home twice on home leaves. I never wanted to
21 go home. The staff took us to Waverley train station in
22 the minibus and we got the train home to Glasgow. Going
23 back to Guthrie's, we'd to be in Glasgow for 3 pm. The
24 minibus picked us up and took us to Edinburgh. The
25 first home leave was 1975. My dad got out of

1 prison that day and I said to my mum I couldn't stay.
2 My mum said I was to stay and she told my dad to leave
3 me alone.

4 The second home leave was at Christmas. Christine
5 offered me to go home to her house for Christmas. She
6 knew I didn't want to go home. I wish I'd said yes.
7 Christine even offered me to go to her house with her
8 family for the weekend, because I wasn't going on home
9 leave. I didn't go.

10 Social work must have known that my dad was out of
11 jail, because they were involved with me then. The male
12 social worker came to see me half a dozen times when
13 I was in Guthrie's. I wasn't involved in any of the
14 meetings that the social worker had with Guthrie's. The
15 social worker was speaking to the staff about me and
16 I was never included. He spoke to me for 10 or
17 15 minutes after the meeting. I should have been
18 included in the meetings.

19 Once the social worker took me for lunch in the
20 town. He asked how I was doing. I told him about me
21 attacking [one of the girls] in Guthrie's and that she'd
22 been bullying me. Once he took me to his house when
23 he'd forgotten something. He never did anything.

24 Four of us escaped and ran away [she names one of
25 the other girls]. I don't know why I ran away. I think

1 I was going with the flow. We got round the corner
2 before we were caught by the police. The police took us
3 back to Guthrie's. They asked why we'd run away and
4 I just said I'd gone with the flow.

5 There were two cells up the stair. When we got back
6 to the school, we were manhandled to the cells and told
7 that was our lodgings for the weekend. We were told
8 that it was a punishment for absconding. Mr MTA
9 decided we were going to the cells and he and
10 Mr HSB took us to the cells.'

11 She talks about the points system, my Lady, she says
12 there was a points system:

13 'You had to earn points for your home leave.
14 I think it was about 200 points to get home. You earned
15 points by doing your chores. I was home twice in the
16 whole time I was there. Points were taken away for
17 fighting, being cheeky to a member of staff or getting
18 caught when somebody gave you cigarettes you were not
19 supposed to have. You could lose points or privileges
20 if you were reprimanded. Privileges were things like
21 going to the library, into the gardens or out on trips.
22 Cigarettes could be taken from you as well.

23 I never intentionally stepped out of line. My
24 records say I had three reprimands. I don't know if the
25 reprimands I got were from Mr MTA or Mr HSB.

1 One of the reprimands I got was for not turning up for
2 the bus in Glasgow to take us back to school. It wasn't
3 my fault. I phoned the school right away. My dad sent
4 me from our house in the snow and rain up to his pal's
5 at the top of Drumchapel to borrow money for him. I was
6 late back. I told my dad I would miss my train to get
7 to Glasgow to catch the bus and he said I had to do what
8 I was told. Margaret Jordan was sent all the way from
9 Newton Stewart to Glasgow to pick me up and take me to
10 Guthrie's. I only met Margaret when I went to
11 Guthrie's, she used to take me places but I don't know
12 if she worked at Guthrie's. Nothing else happened about
13 that. The other reprimand was about the fight with [the
14 girl she has previously referred to]. I don't know what
15 the third reprimand was for.

16 After we ran away, we were put in the cells all
17 weekend. It was not very nice. There were two of us in
18 each cell.'

19 She shared a cell with another girl:

20 'The food was put through a wee hatch, there was
21 a wee bit that opened and the staff looked through every
22 now and again to make sure you weren't harming yourself.
23 The staff gave you your breakfast in the morning and
24 said they had a job for us, to paint the walls outside
25 the cells. The four of us painted the walls for the

1 whole weekend.

2 There was a toilet pan in the cell. There wasn't
3 a bed but something like a slat on the wall. There were
4 no blankets. You just wore your nightie and nothing
5 else. I was fine because hot and cold don't bother me.
6 There were no books to read. If other girls were in the
7 corridor they would ask you if you were all right or if
8 you needed anything. If the girls got caught they were
9 in trouble and would be put in the cell next. You were
10 taken out of the cell to get a bath.

11 If you didn't listen in class to Mrs KDR, the
12 teacher, she rapped your knuckles with a ruler. She
13 probably did that to everyone at one point. It wasn't
14 a hard hit and was just to get your attention. She said
15 "Eyes forward, ears opened." Mrs KDR only had to
16 rap my knuckles twice. It probably was because I wasn't
17 paying attention.'

18 She then turns to discuss abuse at Dr Guthrie's:

19 'When you went in for a bath, SNR,
20 Mr MTA, just walked in. You never knew when he was
21 going to come in. There were no locks on the bathroom
22 door. All the girls were there having their bath.
23 Mr MTA had a look and walked back out. I knew that
24 wasn't right but I didn't say anything. A couple of the
25 girls cracked up and said he shouldn't be in there.

1 Nothing was done about it. Mr MTA was allowed to do
2 what he pleased.'

3 Of course that chimes, my Lady, with the evidence of
4 'Louise'. I think that was yesterday, Day 449.

5 LADY SMITH: It was.

6 MR SHELTON: Although her evidence was about a Mr HSB,
7 who she said did that.

8 Going on, she says:

9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] I didn't give myself a second thought. Mr MTA
14 knew my dad had abused me and so he could get away with
15 anything. Mr MTA walked behind you and nipped you on
16 your back, at your waist or on your arm.

17 When I was sanding ...'.

18 I should add, my Lady, [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]

20 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED]

21 MR SHELTON: [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]

24 LADY SMITH: That would have been of its time, about 1970s.

25 MR SHELTON: Yes.

1 She goes on:

2 'When I was sanding down Mr MTA's coffee table he
3 was always standing over me with his hand on me in
4 a sexual way. One day I said to him that I needed him
5 to give me my space. Mr MTA brought his face right up
6 into my face and asked what I meant. I asked him to
7 please get back or I could report him. Mr MTA said,
8 "Who's going to believe you? [REDACTED]
9 and slapped the back of my head.

10 The first night I was in Guthrie's I was in my bed
11 trying to go to sleep. Two girls pasted my eyes shut
12 with toothpaste, peed on me in the bed and slapped me
13 across the face. I don't know if they were from my dorm
14 or another dorm. The girls said I was under their
15 control now. I said to myself "I don't think so."
16 I got myself cleaned up and turned the mattress round.
17 I washed the sheets the next morning. The girl told me
18 the next day that what happened wasn't malice, but it
19 was my initiation to Dr Guthrie's. I was told everybody
20 got the same initiation. Nothing was done about it.'

21 She names a girl who was my bully:

22 'She was a big butch looking girl with long, dark
23 hair that she always wore in a ponytail. [She] got me
24 every time at the swimming. She'd go under the water
25 and grab my legs with her nails. My legs were bleeding

1 and full of nail marks. The staff must have seen it and
2 they never did anything. [She] nipped me and bumped
3 into me as well.

4 The wee swan ornament I got for my birthday was on
5 the window ledge in the dorm, I loved it. [The girl
6 that she is speaking about] came in and was looking at
7 the swan. I told her to leave it and [she] swiped it
8 off the window ledge. I dived on top of her. We were
9 pulled apart by staff. The only time I remember the
10 staff getting involved is when I retaliated. After that
11 [this particular girl] never touched me again. We
12 became friends at the end. I don't think I was
13 reprimanded for that incident.

14 The girls sniffed Lady Esquire Shoe Polish and
15 I wasn't into that. A couple of girls got a hold of me
16 at the bottom of the stairs and made me sniff the
17 polish. They left me there. I was high and a couple of
18 staff found me. I denied taking substances. I was sent
19 to the dorm and told to stay away from the other girls.
20 Mrs Montgomery popped in and out to make sure I was
21 okay. I didn't see a doctor and nobody asked me
22 anything more about it. You wouldn't clype on other
23 girls for that or for hitting you, because you would get
24 worse.'

25 She then says in relation to leaving Dr Guthrie's:

1 'Leaving Guthrie's was discussed at a meeting with
2 the headmaster, my social worker and two other people.
3 The things discussed were where I was going, what was
4 happening and having a follow-up after a few weeks.
5 Guthrie's got me a live-in job at a convalescent home
6 for people coming out of hospital. I don't know if
7 Mrs KDR recommended me for it, because she knew
8 I wanted to be a nurse. I was to be there as a waitress
9 and not a carer. I didn't have any choice about where
10 I was going.

11 I was really excited the night before I left. The
12 girls were all really nice and said I had to come back
13 to see them. In the morning I had a bath and my
14 breakfast. I put my own clothes on again to go out.
15 The staff handed me the duffle coat when I was leaving,
16 that felt nice, it felt good that I was leaving and
17 going to employment and not back home.'

18 She says that after care she was taken to the
19 convalescent home, which was in Largs, by her social
20 worker and he introduced me to the matron. The job was
21 serving meals to patients. The wages were £10.05 every
22 week, that's about £65 in today's money, my Lady:

23 'They were mostly elderly patients and a few in
24 their 20s. There was a follow-up to see if the job
25 suited me and it did. That was the last time I heard

1 from Guthrie's or my social worker. I was on my own
2 then. I worked at the home for six months.'

3 She had to leave because she had mumps and it was
4 taking a long time for her to recover. She was 16 and
5 she went to stay with a woman who worked in the home for
6 a couple of months and didn't go back to work there.

7 She then worked in different hotels in Largs and
8 then:

9 'Me and my pal hitched to London.'

10 She then worked in Pontins holiday camp. She had
11 some further ill-health and went back home to her
12 mother's. She couldn't stay there and only stayed
13 a week. She says she left her mum's and never returned.
14 She was still 16 years old.

15 Her brother at this time was in prison and asked me
16 to be a pen pal to another person who was in prison with
17 her brother. This person wasn't getting any letters or
18 visits. She says:

19 'Me being stupid and knowing what that was like, not
20 getting any letters, said aye.

21 [This individual] was charming in his letters but
22 not charming in himself, I ended up staying with him for
23 ten years and we had three kids. When he came out of
24 prison he asked me if I'd something to tell him about my
25 dad. [He] said he knew all about the abuse [REDACTED]

1

2

3

I had sent my photo in and [REDACTED] had

4

recognised me and told me all about it. I had a hell of

5

a life with [this person]. He didn't batter the kids,

6

just me.

7

In 1985 he stabbed me right through the hand.

8

I ended up in hospital and my kids ended up in care.'

9

She says her eldest son was in an accident and in a coma

10

for months. She says '[She] fought social work through

11

the courts to get him back but it didn't work out. He

12

was a different boy after the accident and I've not

13

brought him up.'

14

She took in two girls whose mum had died in a fire.

15

One night their boyfriends were around and there was

16

an attempted murder in her house, 'I had to move out of

17

that area'.

18

She then met her second husband, who she says was so

19

lovely and my life changed from then. He was brilliant

20

with my kids and we went on holidays, but very sadly he

21

passed away at the age of 44, ten years ago.

22

She says she has worked constantly in hotels and

23

pubs.

24

On impact, she says that [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published lat

25

[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 She told one of her sisters last year
2 that she was in Dr Guthrie's School and she hadn't known
3 before then. She says:

4 'I got so used to having bad times in my life that
5 I didn't know what a good time was until I met [my
6 second husband]. My dad was the start of my life going
7 wrong and Guthrie's set the pattern for the rest of my
8 life. Guthrie's was a big part of my life going wrong.
9 I didn't know if I was coming or going. I was just
10 16 years old and I was put out to a job. My life when
11 I got the job at Largs was not bad. I was doing what
12 I wanted and nobody was telling me what to do.

13 I blanked out Guthrie's and never thought about it.
14 I saw a post on Facebook about Dr Guthrie's, saying it
15 was being looked into and I thought maybe this was the
16 time to tell my story. I thought maybe somebody would
17 listen. I was never listened to.

18 What I went through made me a stronger person.
19 I'm everybody's counsellor and people come to me when
20 they need help. I need to get rid of that part of my
21 life. I can't be here for everybody else and not think
22 of myself. I've never thought about myself.

23 I have a bit of faith in myself as an academic.
24 I'm not stupid. I sat all my O-Levels but I never got
25 the results. My mum must have got the results but never

1 showed me them. I wish I knew how I got on at my exams.
2 I tried to find out my O-Level results years ago but
3 I couldn't get them.

4 Getting my kids taken from me was the worst thing
5 that ever happened to me. Not one of my family stepped
6 up to take my weans. My kids should never have been in
7 care. I never did anything wrong.

8 I'm under the doctor for severe anxiety and
9 depression and I don't leave the house. I have chronic
10 obstructive pulmonary disease.

11 If I was claiming compensation then I would go the
12 whole road and have my day in court. I don't know what
13 I want, except that I want all this to go away and
14 I want to be believed.'

15 She says she didn't get any counselling after what
16 happened with my dad. She did have 12 weeks of
17 counselling before she spoke to the Inquiry and says:

18 'It was nice to talk to somebody, but the
19 counselling maybe should have been after speaking to the
20 Inquiry. [Her counsellors] did say if I wanted more
21 counselling I could have it. I don't know if I'll do
22 that. I've survived this long.'

23 In relation to records she says she obtained her
24 records from Dr Guthrie's and says:

25 'They're absolutely terrible. There's nothing on

1 them. There's my date of entry and a couple of
2 reprimands where they say no action was taken. There's
3 no mention of being stuck in a cell for the weekend and
4 painting walls. The date I went to court is there and
5 the date I left. There's one meeting I had with social
6 work for Dr Guthrie's to say whether I was keeping the
7 job in Largs they'd applied for for me. I said I was
8 keeping the job. That was it.

9 There's nothing about the care I had or anything
10 that happened in there. There's no background at all.
11 Nine months of my life I spent in that place and there's
12 not a thing. I'm still waiting for my social work
13 reports.'

14 She tried to get police records about her [REDACTED]

15
16
17

18 That makes me feel they're making me out to be
19 a liar.'

20 On lessons to be learned, she says:

21 'There should be records kept of time in care.

22 I was in Guthrie's for nine months and there's nothing.

23 That should be looked into.'

24 She says:

25 'Children should be invited into the social work

1 meetings, not kept to the side and having a five-minute
2 chat after the meeting. Children should be given
3 a voice and should be listened to.'

4 Finally she says:
5 'I hope I'll be heard and believed so that I can
6 live the rest of my life in peace.'

7 She's made the usual declaration and signed her
8 statement, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Sheldon.

10 I think we'll stop for the morning break now and
11 I'll sit again at about 11.45 am.

12 (11.22 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (11.44 am)

15 LADY SMITH: Just before we turn to the next read in, I want
16 to catch up on names. I think these have already been
17 mentioned, or most of them, as names of people whose
18 identities are protected by my General Restriction
19 Order.

20 So far today we've had Mr MTA, Mr HSB
21 Mrs EQE, Mrs Montgomery, Mrs KDR the teacher
22 and EQL.

23 Now.

24 'Marie' (read)

25 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant

1 who's anonymous and is known as 'Marie'. The reference
2 for her statement is WIT-1-000000615.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Marie' was born in 1968 and she talks
5 about her life before going into care between
6 paragraphs 2 and 3. She says that she was born at home
7 in Easthouses in Midlothian and initially lived with her
8 parents. She says they had many children and I think
9 she details eight siblings altogether. She says she
10 doesn't remember much about first going into care when
11 she was 2, that was because her parents were having
12 problems keeping and funding all their children.

13 They did a lot of moving around and at one point
14 were in England and she says that she was taken into
15 care in England when she was about 4 years old, but she
16 says she has no childhood memories until the age of 13
17 to 14 when she went into a children's home in Scotland.

18 She talks about Nazareth House between paragraphs 4
19 to 15, but says that everything she knows about her time
20 there and any abuse was told to her by her sisters. She
21 talks about abuse there from paragraph 10 and says she
22 was punished for wetting the bed, assaulted by staff and
23 put into a cold shower, force fed, there were physical
24 and sexual assaults.

25 She says that after Nazareth House she was put into

1 foster care and talks about foster care at paragraph 16
2 and this was just for a short time and during that
3 period her brothers and sisters were split up from
4 herself and she doesn't know what age she was at that
5 time.

6 She then returned to live with her parents and talks
7 about that from paragraph 17. I think this is going
8 back from when she was young, 2 and 3. She talks about
9 being in England but then being back in Scotland in
10 Midlothian and then going to a children's home when she
11 was 13 or 14 years old.

12 She says that in the records she has, this is at
13 paragraph 20, when she was 13 or 14 she asked to be put
14 into the children's home. She says she doesn't know why
15 she was saying this and from her recollection her
16 parents tried their best. They didn't have a lot of
17 money, but they were well fed and would sit together for
18 big cooked meals and their house was very well kept.

19 From her point of view, there were no issues at
20 home. But she went to a Children's Panel in Dalkeith
21 a few times and she says that at first the panel said
22 she should stay at home, but she fought against that and
23 ended up in the children's home for about 18 months.

24 She says she was drinking a lot at that time and not
25 attending school, so that was part of the reason for

1 being sent away and that the police had to visit school
2 at times because she was boisterous and had been lashing
3 out at boys and girls and had been arrested a few times.
4 She was also found intoxicated by the police in the
5 street and says she was off the rails.

6 She talks about the children's home between
7 paragraphs 22 and 62 and this was when she was 13 or
8 14 years old.

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9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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14 She then says that this led to her leaving the
15 children's home, going to this assessment centre, where
16 she was for a very short time, before a place came up at
17 Dr Guthrie's Girls School and she was taken there.

18 She talks about Dr Guthrie's from paragraphs 65 to
19 89. The records we have, my Lady, state that she was
20 admitted in [REDACTED] 1983, when she was 14, about to turn
21 15, and then ultimately discharged from there in
22 [REDACTED] 1984, when she was still 15 years old.

23 I'll just read from paragraph 65:

24 'When I got to Guthrie's, it felt like I was in
25 a jail. I was there for about a year, from when I was

1 14 years old until I was over 15 years old. It was
2 an all girls' school. There were about 20 girls, aged
3 from 13 to 15 years old. It was a creamy, reddish
4 building. It was a cold place. There were big, locked
5 gates and doors. From then on, every single day,
6 wherever I went, the door was locked behind me.
7 Guthrie's was a secure unit. If you wanted to go
8 anywhere, the staff would accompany you. All you heard
9 was the bunch of keys rattling. We were locked in all
10 day for seven days of the week. We did everything in
11 the building. That part of my life was spent under lock
12 and key.

13 There were male and female members of staff.
14 Guthrie's was brutal, but not all the staff were bad.
15 There were one or two who would take on board what was
16 happening to you and feel sorry for you. You could see
17 them watching what was going on. You could see they
18 didn't like what was going on behind the scenes by the
19 way they looked at you and asked if you were okay. They
20 didn't say anything though. Even the staff you thought
21 were nice had a bit of brutality in them. Some of the
22 staff were evil. They made you feel low. I would swear
23 at the staff. If the staff were bad to me, I'd be
24 worse. I didn't want to be at Guthrie's.'

25 She then talks about the routine at Dr Guthrie's and

1 first of all starts with the first day at paragraph 67:
2 'I was taken to Guthrie's by a couple of people
3 I didn't know. My social worker met me there. I walked
4 up the steps. I was crying my eyes out. Someone said
5 I wasn't free now and this was where they said I'd end
6 up. I was presented with big rags to wear.
7 I sat in my room and cried. I cried for my mum, my
8 dad and my sisters. I wanted to be back in their arms.
9 I'd be told to get out of the room by the staff. The
10 room was like a prison cell. There was just a bed in
11 it. You were locked in your room at night. I put the
12 bed up against the door so nobody could come in.
13 In the morning, sometimes you were physically
14 dragged out of bed. The staff would tell me to get my
15 Jesus sandals on because they knew I hated them.
16 I was still wetting the bed at Guthrie's and I had
17 to strip the bed. The staff said it was disgusting and
18 I should never be doing that at that age. The staff
19 would pull the quilt and I'd fall on to the floor. The
20 staff would say they didn't mean for me to fall on the
21 floor and they were trying to take the cover off. One
22 morning I was slapped across the head because my bed was
23 soaked from the top to the bottom. The staff said the
24 room was stinking.
25 Another time, the staff said they'd allow the other

1 girls to smell it off me and I wasn't allowed a shower.
2 I put on a lot of weight in Guthrie's. I had a rash
3 right around the top of my legs. It was itchy and sore.
4 I was too scared to tell the staff. I took a lot of
5 brutality from the other girls because of wetting the
6 bed. I sat on my bed and banged my head off the wall.
7 I was always thinking how I could get out of there.

8 You got what food was put out to you and you were
9 made to eat it. Guthrie's was like a piggery. The
10 staff would fling you sloppy food and they told you to
11 get it eaten. You ate in the dining room. Some of the
12 girls got to walk away with their meal and sit in front
13 of the TV. Others were told to stay where they were.
14 I wasn't allowed to eat in front of the TV.

15 I was developing into a young woman. There was no
16 privacy in the bathroom. The staff would come into the
17 bathroom, look at my chest and laugh at me. You would
18 shower in the morning if the staff felt like it. If you
19 wanted to go to the toilet, the staff would accompany
20 you. You would go in and close the door. The staff
21 would kick the toilet door open and tell you to move.

22 In the evening, after your meal, you'd get to watch
23 a bit of TV. The TV was only on for a certain amount of
24 time. The staff would put on the programme they wanted.
25 There were no trips or holidays. You were at Guthrie's

1 to be taught and to do what the staff told you. I had
2 Christmas at my sister's house. Nothing was done for my
3 birthday.

4 I had to wear a big skirt, a long top, long socks
5 and Jesus sandals. I wore that every day. I kept
6 tripping up on the Jesus sandals. I was continuously
7 asking if I could wear my shoes or trainers. Other kids
8 had normal clothes on. I cried about what I was
9 wearing. I felt like nobody's child. You only got to
10 wear your own clothes when you went home at the weekend.

11 Everything was in the one building, including
12 school. I went from living in a home and walking or
13 taking the bus to school to not doing any of that.
14 A teacher came in from outside. There was one classroom
15 for everyone. I didn't put my head into anything.
16 I was in a world of my own. I didn't focus on anything.
17 My main focus was getting out of Guthrie's.

18 We had to go to chapel which was in a room in the
19 building. I'm not religious and I wasn't as a child.
20 There was no choice. You had to go. We went on
21 a Sunday and a couple of nights through the week. You
22 were given bread for communion. The staff told you to
23 eat it. We were forced to listen and you got a slap
24 round the ear for not listening. We said grace at meal
25 times. I had a terrible habit of laughing when things

1 were quiet and I would get a slap across the head.

2 I wasn't brought up like that, so it wasn't normal to
3 me. My dad was a Catholic but my family didn't go to
4 chapel.

5 You had to scrub floors every day on your hands and
6 knees at Guthrie's. Sometimes I felt I was getting the
7 dirty work, the toilets and the floors. Other people
8 would get to be with the staff doing chores. You didn't
9 get any pocket money.'

10 She then says that she had her things from the
11 children's home:

12 'But I didn't have much. I had pictures of my mum,
13 dad and sisters under my mattress. Once a member of
14 staff went to rip the photo. I begged her not to do it.
15 I grabbed the photo from her and I got restrained for
16 that. She didn't rip the photo. I got it back.

17 My mum and dad came to see me. They didn't get
18 inside the building. They stood at the door and I was
19 brought to see them. I was begging them to take me
20 home. My mum and dad asked me and the staff what the
21 hell I was wearing. The staff said it was routine to
22 wear those clothes.

23 I had Children's Panels. They went from taking
24 place every three months to every six months. They
25 locked the door when you went into a panel. After I had

1 spent a long period of time at Guthrie's, I knew
2 I wasn't getting away with anything. I started to write
3 big notes to panels, on A4 sheets of paper. I think
4 most of the notes were put in the bin by the staff. One
5 time a staff member must have posted the note I wrote,
6 because everything about leaving Guthrie's happened from
7 there.

8 I had written everything down. I wrote how
9 I thought I'd improved, how I would be good and how
10 I wouldn't be bad again. I asked the panel to give me
11 a chance. I said I wanted to get home to my mum and
12 dad. I'd love to see that letter again. I went back to
13 a panel and my social worker was there. I spoke up for
14 myself at the panel and I was listened to. The panel
15 said they'd read my letter and it seemed promising but
16 I'd have to show I meant it. They said they'd review my
17 situation in a few months. The panel allowed me home
18 for one day at the weekend and then for two days.
19 I went home to my sister's a lot or to my mum and dad's.

20 There was a room at Guthrie's with just the mattress
21 on the floor.'

22 She says that the staff at the children's home had
23 told her it was a padded cell:

24 'If you kicked off, you were put in the room to calm
25 down. You were restrained by the staff first, with

1 a few punches and kicks along the way. The door was
2 locked. You could be left in there for a good few
3 hours. The staff would come for you and tell you to get
4 out and behave next time. I was put in there a good few
5 times.'

6 'Marie' then talks about abuse at Dr Guthrie's from
7 paragraph 84:

8 'I felt I couldn't do right for doing wrong.
9 Everything I thought I was doing right was wrong. The
10 staff told me my last home had said I was a "waster" and
11 that I wasn't going to be like that at Guthrie's. They
12 would say I would end up in prison and it would be worse
13 than Guthrie's. The staff would threaten you with
14 another particular member of staff if you misbehaved.
15 She was a wee woman with bandy legs and short hair. She
16 wore tight trousers and a tight top. The woman was in
17 her late 40s or 50 years old. The woman was evil.
18 There were a couple of staff members who were evil.

19 You couldn't laugh at a member of staff because
20 you'd be elbowed by them. I was in the kitchen once and
21 I had a disagreement with the wee woman with the bandy
22 legs and she banged my head off every cupboard in the
23 kitchen.

24 I was physically dragged around by the male and
25 female staff in Guthrie's. My hair was pulled and I was

1 elbowed. I was also kicked on the body. The staff
2 would look round and make sure other staff weren't
3 looking. They would do it quickly so other staff didn't
4 see.'

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8 'I threw my dinner about and refused to eat it.
9 I had food forced into my mouth by staff. I had bruises
10 all over my body from being hit. You were never out, so
11 nobody saw the bruises. I would try to hide the bruises
12 if the staff walked into my room.

13 At school, there were a couple of teachers, a man
14 and a woman. I don't remember their names. I got
15 slapped across the face with a ruler by the lady teacher
16 a couple of times. I got dragged out of the classroom
17 on many occasions for not concentrating. I was put in
18 a wee room and told to write lines. I refused, so the
19 male teacher hit me once across the back with a cane.
20 That happened a couple of times. I got the belt a lot
21 from both of them. You were hit on your hands six times
22 with the belt until your hands were red raw. In
23 ordinary schools, the cane was used only for your hand.
24 When you think about it now, you were hit with the cane
25 where the bruises wouldn't be seen.

1 The staff targeted the girls to fight me. They said
2 to the girls not to start with me or I'd sort them out.
3 That happened a lot. There were physical fights and the
4 staff would stand and watch it going on. Each thing the
5 staff did to me made me harder. It made me fight more
6 against them. One time, I was being dragged about by
7 a bigger girl. Lumps of hair were coming out of my
8 head. The staff stood and watched it all. They
9 encouraged fights to happen. I took a lot of brutality
10 because I wet the bed. The other girls would slander me
11 and throw things at me. I was attacked by the girls and
12 my hair was pulled out. I had big bald patches on my
13 head.

14 Things had improved and the panel were happy for me
15 to go home to my sister's house. I was told I was free
16 to go by the panel. I wasn't sure what that meant.
17 I looked at it as though I had been in a prison. That
18 had been drummed into me. I stood outside the panel not
19 knowing what to do. I went to live with my sister.
20 That was the end of my contact with social work. I was
21 15-and-a-half years old.'

22 'Marie' then talks about her life after being in
23 care at paragraph 90 and she said that she went from
24 being in a horrible place to being in a beautiful place.
25 She met her husband when she was on home leave to her

1 sister's house and that they were young when they moved
2 in together.

3 'Marie' says, paragraph 90:

4 'My husband has made my life. He cares endlessly
5 for me and we've just had our 35-year anniversary.'

6 She talks about the impact from paragraph 91.

7 She says at 92 that her sisters and her love each
8 other very much and do anything for each other and that
9 they're very protective of her.

10 At paragraph 94 she says she feels like she deserved
11 the way she was treated in Secondary Institutions - to be published later
12 Guthrie's and feels like it's her fault.

13 At paragraph 95 she says:

14 'I cried a lot at Guthrie's. I blamed myself for
15 where I was. I thought I shouldn't have done this and
16 that. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 I wet the bed right up until I was going with my
21 husband. I didn't stop wetting the bed until I felt
22 comfortable with my husband when I was about 18 or
23 19 years old. My experience in care has impacted on the
24 intimate side of things with my husband. I have three
25 children but I haven't been open with my body.

1 I've been very closed in. My husband has asked me if
2 something has happened. I think it's something to do
3 with my childhood but I don't know what. I've been with
4 my husband since I was 15 years old. You'd think by now
5 you could be more open and intimate. My husband has
6 supported me through thick and thin.

7 I came out well on the other side compared to where
8 the care staff said I'd be. I didn't end up in jail.
9 I didn't work because I was caring for my children.
10 I wanted to be a mum to them. Nobody was going to take
11 that away from me. I wouldn't leave my children. I am
12 protective of them. To this day, I'm worried that
13 something will happen to them.

14 My daughters are supportive. I don't go into detail
15 with them about my time in care because I don't want it
16 to damage them. They have children of their own.
17 I want to be the mum I've been to them without putting
18 any bad memories into their lives.'

19 She talks about treatment and support from
20 paragraph 101 and she says that she's had some
21 conversations on the telephone with Future Pathways but
22 she wants face-to-face counselling and she's put herself
23 on a waiting list at the community hospital.

24 In relation to lessons to be learned, she says at
25 paragraph 104:

1 'Staff should care for the children like a mother
2 would and not be brutal towards them. Staff should be
3 more understanding. They shouldn't tell a child that
4 they are a problem child. There should be more help,
5 support and involvement with social work for children in
6 care. Where staff see things going on that they don't
7 agree with, they should feel able to report what they
8 see to stop it happening again.'

9 She says at paragraph 105 that she hopes children's
10 homes will be more aware that they are there to look
11 after and protect children.

12 She has made the usual declaration at paragraph 106
13 and 'Marie' has signed that and it's dated
14 8 February 2021.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon now has a ...

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Mr Sheldon.

19 'Deborah' (read)

20 MR SHELTON: My Lady, this is the statement of 'Deborah'.

21 The statement reference is WIT-1-000000327.

22 'Deborah' was at Dr Guthrie's from [REDACTED] 1983 until
23 [REDACTED] 1984. There is a very short period when she
24 was running away, but that is the essence of it.

25 As usual, on page 1 of the statement 'Deborah' tells

1 us a bit about her early life. She was brought up in
2 south Edinburgh, with her mother, father and four
3 siblings. She tells us that family life was pretty bad
4 and thinks her mother may have been suffering from
5 depression and she was violent towards 'Deborah' and her
6 wee brother.

7 She started skiving school and thinks that's why she
8 was put into care. And there was a Children's Panel
9 where she attended with her mother and social worker,
10 who she names. She says she was allowed to speak at the
11 panel but wouldn't tell them anything.

12 She then went to first of all Calder Grove
13 Children's Home in Edinburgh and then two other
14 children's homes for a period of years. It's not clear
15 what age she was when she first went into care, but she
16 thinks possibly 11 or 12.

17 Taking all that short, my Lady, Secondary Institutions - to be pu
18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later at some stage she went back
20 to her mother's house. This is now page 21 and she
21 says:

22 'I went back to my mother's then she kicked me out
23 the same day. I told her that I'd been kicked out of
24 the home and I don't think she was happy about that.
25 She told me to "fuck off" and not come back, so that's

1 what I did. I was still 14. I went to a pal's house.

2 After a while word got round that my mum was looking
3 for me so I went and spoke to her. She said that I had
4 to go home because the social worker was starting to ask
5 questions. I don't know if she had told the social
6 worker that I wasn't staying at home, but she probably
7 didn't.'

8 The next thing she knew she was being taken to
9 another Children's Panel. There seems to have been some
10 suggestion she would go to Snowdon School in Stirling,
11 but ultimately was sent to Dr Guthrie's. Her social
12 worker and her mother took her straight from the panel
13 to Guthrie's. She says:

14 'I didn't have a visit there.'

15 She says about Dr Guthrie's it was an all girls'
16 school, 'and the girls in my house were 14 or 15'. She
17 names the houses within Dr Guthrie's as Angus, Brechin
18 and Ogilvie and she was in Angus, which was in the top
19 flat:

20 'Within the flat there was a galley kitchen. There
21 were eight or ten of us in the house.'

22 She had her own room.

23 She says that when you were in the main building all
24 the doors were locked:

25 'When you were in Angus House the toilets were

1 sometimes shut and you would have to ask one of the
2 staff members to take you over to the toilet. There
3 were toilets in the shower room and if they were shut
4 then there were two toilets over the landing outside the
5 house, so the staff had to lock and unlock doors to take
6 you over to them.

7 The staff in the houses were all either turnkeys or
8 screws. Guthrie's was like a jail and the staff each
9 had a bunch of keys that they carried about with them
10 and every door was unlocked and locked as you went.

11 GWR was in charge of the house that I was in and
12 there were some other staff. There was Frushy [we think
13 "Frugey", my Lady] and she was nice. Most of the staff
14 were all right but she was one of the best. She was
15 a fair person. Frushy had a long Italian surname and
16 Frushy was a shortened version of that. Mr MTA was
17 SNR and Miss EQE was SNR. She was
18 a right Sergeant Major and very strict. I didn't like
19 GWR and I didn't like EQE much either.

20 Most of the girls were from outside Edinburgh and
21 for a while I was the only one from Edinburgh.'

22 She names some of the other girls that she met. She
23 says that one of these girls tried to get her to do that
24 girl's chores after she had finished her own but she
25 refused. She says:

1 'You had to stand up for yourself, but I wasn't
2 a fighter and I wasn't into bullying.'
3 One of these girls ultimately became her friend.
4 She talks about routine. She says first day she was
5 taken into the office to sign some paperwork and then
6 taken up to the sewing room:
7 'There were two members of staff there and one was
8 a home economics teacher. I was measured because you
9 had to make your own clothes. They gave me one skirt
10 and I was to make another. I can't remember if I was
11 given a blouse but I was given desert docs, which are
12 Jesus sandals. That was what you had to wear and
13 everyone wore the same clothes.'
14 LADY SMITH: The 'docs' may be a reference to Dr Martens
15 I suppose.
16 MR SHELTON: Possibly. It sounds as though they may be some
17 sort of desert boot.
18 LADY SMITH: Or the version of Dr Martens you would wear in
19 the desert would be some type of heavy sandals.
20 MR SHELTON: Yes.
21 LADY SMITH: Possibly.
22 MR SHELTON: 'I was in the middle of sewing my skirt up when
23 I was called back out ...'
24 And she had to go for a medical, so she went to do
25 that with her mother and social worker, it seems. When

1 she arrived back she was taken up the stairs and that's
2 when she met GWR . She says:
3 'She was a screw which means like a prison officer.
4 I was introduced to GWR by whoever took me up the
5 stairs and then she asked me to make her a cup of
6 coffee. I made her coffee and then went back to tidy
7 any mess that I had made. She came through and was
8 raging. She asked me what I was playing at and if I was
9 trying to poison her. I said that I had just made her
10 a coffee and if she didn't like it then she didn't have
11 to drink it. I thought she was going to throw the
12 coffee at me. But then she forced me to taste it and it
13 was freezing. I apologised and said that the kettle
14 must not have boiled, but she wouldn't accept
15 an apology. I offered to make her another one but she
16 said that she wouldn't take coffee from me and called me
17 a "little brat" or something like that. I turned to her
18 and said that I wasn't there to look after her and that
19 she was there to look after me. She stormed away and
20 I think that was my fate sealed.

21 I was shown where I was going to sleep and then
22 I was taken from there to the English room.

23 The staff got you up in the morning and then you
24 would go along and get washed and dressed. You made
25 your bed and then you had to go and do your work.

1 You had your last fag at 8.30 pm and bedtime was at
2 9 or 9.30 pm.

3 There were bars on the windows of my bedroom and the
4 window was nailed shut so that it only opened half
5 an inch. There weren't any locks on the bedroom doors.'

6 She talks about meal times, dinner, tea, breakfast
7 and supper and says she doesn't think they were ever
8 given any sweets.

9 Taking matters short, to paragraph 118, she says:

10 'After the afternoon classes you went up the stairs
11 to get everything ready for tea time. Maybe you had
12 half an hour to do nothing. There was a television and
13 dining room. If you were on kitchen duty then you had
14 to get the table set up for dinner.

15 After tea, dishes had to be washed and dried if you
16 were on kitchen duty. If you weren't, then you had
17 another half hour of free time. Once the dishes had
18 been done and put away you would be given your fag.

19 They had a smokers' room in Angus House. It was the
20 same routine every day and time didn't matter, except
21 for the time when you were given your fag.

22 There was no outdoor time in Guthrie's at all. They
23 had a courtyard but you weren't allowed to use it.'

24 She repeats that there was about an hour of free
25 time in the evening before you went back downstairs to

1 the night classes:

2 'You were kept in for four or six weeks before you
3 were allowed out at weekends. It was even more boring
4 at weekends than during the week and you didn't get to
5 do anything. All we did was sit and polish cutlery.
6 There wasn't any outdoor time so for the first four to
7 six weeks when you weren't allowed to go home you had no
8 fresh air. It was worse than a jail, because in a jail
9 you at least have a right to one hour's exercise if you
10 want it. I used to complain about it. Guthrie's is
11 enclosed and there's all this land round about it, but
12 the only fresh air you could get was walking down to the
13 laundry room. You were worse than a prisoner.

14 Whether you were allowed to go home or not at the
15 weekends worked on a points system and if you didn't
16 have enough points then you didn't get out. You lost
17 points for bad behaviour and for not doing as you were
18 told, but I never really understood why you lost points
19 because there were lots of times when I thought I was
20 getting out because I hadn't caused bother, but I didn't
21 get out and then there were times when I knew that I had
22 caused bother but I got out. There were times when
23 I thought that it didn't really work on that system.
24 Whichever member of staff was on at the time could give
25 out points.

1 There was a meeting every Thursday and Mr MTA, SNR
2 SNR, read out your points and whether you were
3 getting out that weekend. I just blanked him. I either
4 got out or I didn't. I never defended myself because
5 I wouldn't be believed anyway.'

6 She talks about trips to Peebles and St Mary's Loch
7 in the borders, to Holy Island and to Longniddry beach
8 one time and says she enjoyed the day out.

9 In relation to school, she said you had classes
10 every day. She remembers the English class, the art
11 class, the sewing class:

12 'I remember cooking once or twice. There were
13 classes in the morning and afternoon but there were also
14 night classes that lasted an hour or an hour-and-a-half.
15 I was always stuck in the sewing classes at nighttime
16 where they tried to teach you to knit, but I wasn't into
17 that.'

18 She says there was a home economics teacher who was
19 nice, an art teacher and English teacher who came in
20 from outside the home:

21 'On my first day, I was taken to the English room
22 where I sat down and asked what I was to do. Although
23 I hated school, I had been going, so I thought I knew
24 what it was supposed to be like.'

25 Just pausing, she had been going to mainstream

1 school when she was in the children's homes, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR SHELDON: She says:

4 'I was expecting to do some work. The English
5 teacher told me to take a book and sit down. I asked
6 her what I was meant to do with it and another girl told
7 me to take a book and not to be cheeky. I took a book
8 and it was all about cultivating drugs, so I sat and
9 wrote word for word what it said in that book into my
10 jotter. I thought I would see what kind of teacher she
11 was. That's what always happened in the English class
12 and I don't remember ever doing work in that class. We
13 might have done a bit of spelling once.'

14 She talks about work and chores. She says her first
15 job was to clean the corridor and she had to mop and
16 buff it. And those were frequently done before you had
17 breakfast.

18 In relation to birthdays and Christmas she says:

19 'Everyone went home for Christmas itself but we had
20 a Christmas dinner in Guthrie's. The dinner was all
21 right but GWR wasn't. We all went into the big hall
22 and sat down for dinner and then we were all given
23 a present and each person opened their present one at
24 a time. I had no clothes and I used to have to borrow
25 everyone's else's, so I thought this was brilliant and

1 I was hoping for jeans. They were handing the presents
2 round and it got to me. I started opening the present
3 and everyone started laughing. It was a hideous skirt,
4 the shape and colour of it were rotten. GWR was
5 sitting right next to me and she asked me if I liked it,
6 so I told her it was rotten. She said that she had
7 picked it for me and I told her that I could have
8 guessed that, I told her to keep it.

9 She was being sarcastic when she asked me if I liked
10 it. There was one other lassie who got something
11 similar to me. The wee lassie sitting next to me was
12 trying to make me feel better and said that it was quite
13 nice and I should wait until I tried it on so I said she
14 could have it.

15 At the end of the dinner, Frushy took some of the
16 lassies aside and she shouted on me. I was quite
17 surprised but I think she was asking the girls who she
18 thought had a harder time in there. She said we were
19 going to do some dishes, but she was actually giving us
20 an extra fag. There were four of us and when we got
21 upstairs she gave us fags and told us to get them
22 smoked. We said we didn't want them because we knew
23 that she would get into trouble if we were caught. Then
24 we decided that if we got caught then one of the lassies
25 would say that she had sneaked them in. I said that we

1 would get caught because I was there and that was how it
2 was but Frushy told us to hurry up and get them smoked.
3 We went in and started smoking and we didn't even get
4 them finished before we were caught. Frushy told them
5 that it was nothing to do with us and that she had given
6 us them. We told her that we were going to say it was
7 one of us but she insisted that she was responsible.
8 I don't know what kind of punishment she was given but
9 she was still there after that.'

10 She says:

11 'You weren't allowed visitors, but I saw my social
12 worker once and I saw my mum once. I don't remember how
13 long I had been in when I saw my mum.

14 I was in the English room and HSB came to get
15 me and told me that my mum was there, so I was wondering
16 what I had done wrong. My mum had my wee sister with
17 her and they gave me ten minutes to talk to her. During
18 those ten minutes she told me that my dad had been taken
19 to hospital and he wasn't expected to live.'

20 It seems that her father had had a heart attack and
21 there was some discussion as to whether she could be
22 trusted to come back if she was allowed to visit her
23 father. But she did visit and says that after that she
24 went back to Dr Guthrie's but there was a hold up on the
25 bus and it was running late:

1 'My mum stood with me but I told her to go back into
2 the hospital because I wasn't going to run. I was late
3 getting back and when I got inside they were on the
4 phone to the police. I was searched by GWR. Normally
5 when I was searched I had something to say but on this
6 day I didn't say anything and I just let her get her
7 search done. But she wasn't satisfied, so I was accused
8 of drinking. I kicked off because I had been at the
9 hospital and it wasn't my fault that the bus was late.
10 I think GWR wanted me to be put into the cells, but
11 the other member of staff who was there said that she
12 couldn't smell alcohol. If it wasn't for that other
13 member of staff then I would have been put in the cells.
14 She asked me to breathe on her and I refused, so GWR
15 said that was because I had been drinking. I told them
16 that I hadn't been drinking and that I thought it was
17 disgusting to breathe right in someone's face. I didn't
18 find out how my dad was until the next weekend that
19 I went home.

20 There was no access to a phone and my mum never had
21 a phone anyway.'

22 She says that you were given a bus fare when you
23 went home, but doesn't remember if you were given pocket
24 money. 'They allowed you a certain amount of money to
25 buy your fags and when you had been out you could bring

1 fags back into the home, but you weren't allowed to keep
2 them' and she says: 'You weren't allowed matches or
3 cigarettes either.

4 'You went to the smoking room and they came round
5 with a lighter or a match to light your fag and then
6 they collected all the dog ends at the end of it.'

7 She talks about running away, she says:

8 'Guthrie's was all locked and you couldn't get out
9 so I stole keys from the art teacher.'

10 Taking that short, she gave up the attempts to
11 escape because she was worried that the art teacher
12 would get into trouble for losing her keys.

13 Going to paragraph 143:

14 'We would get to go home at weekends and I went back
15 to Guthrie's the first couple of times. You all had to
16 be back at a set time to be searched and the search was
17 done in front of other people. When you were searched
18 it was a general pat down and they checked inside your
19 bra and then checked your hair and your feet. You had
20 to take your socks and shoes off in case you had
21 anything taped to them. There were always two people
22 there when you were searched and it was always women who
23 searched you.

24 I didn't like being touched and it was worse when
25 the other lassies were there. It made it more

1 uncomfortable so I wouldn't go back. I knew the police
2 would be out looking for me so I would go to my mum's
3 and be taken back from there, but at least when I got
4 back to Guthrie's it was quick because it was late and
5 there were no other lassies there. The more often I did
6 that, the longer I would stay out each time. I then
7 wouldn't be allowed out the following weekend because
8 I hadn't gone back the weekend before. There was one
9 police officer that asked me if I didn't like it there.
10 I said no and that was it.'

11 She says:

12 'They had cells and on the first day that was the
13 first thing that they showed me so I was warned. I was
14 told that if I got out of hand then that was where
15 I would be put, but I can't remember who said that to
16 me. They were proper cells like the ones you would find
17 in a police station. They were just along from the
18 sewing room and there were two of them. There was a bed
19 built into each cell with a mattress on it and that was
20 it. Each cell had a metal door. When we were going to
21 the sewing room we would shout in and see if anyone was
22 in there. I don't know which members of staff were
23 allowed to put you in a cell.

24 During the week, you were locked inside on a daily
25 basis and there was no outdoor time. The points system

1 was so that you could get out at the weekend and most
2 people behaved so that they could get out at the
3 weekend.'

4 She goes on to talk about abuse at
5 Dr Guthrie's Girls':

6 GWR had ginger hair and glasses, she was short
7 with big hips and she had big straight legs with
8 varicose veins. There was an incident the first time
9 I was put on kitchen duty. There was a cooker and
10 a sink with no draining board. One lassie would be
11 washing and the other would be drying. If you were
12 drying then you would stack the dishes on a tray and
13 then bring them to the dining room and when you came
14 back you put the tray back on the cooker. After
15 breakfast, we went downstairs and the fire alarm went
16 off so GWR accused me of trying to burn the building
17 down. Someone had turned the cooker on and burnt the
18 bottom of the tray but it wasn't me. Initially I tried
19 to suss everyone out and I asked the girls who to look
20 out for. GWR wasn't their favourite but I wouldn't
21 say that she was particularly disliked. The staff would
22 do room checks. When Frushy was doing the night checks
23 she would come along, open the door, check you were in
24 your room and then shut the door back over. However,
25 GWR was coming into my room. I would always catch her

1 at the side of my bed but I don't know what she was
2 doing. I know what I felt.

3 I think there were always two members of staff on
4 duty in our house and then there were staff downstairs,
5 which was either EQL or HSB. I think they were
6 only there in case you stepped out of line too much. It
7 was only one member of staff who would do the night
8 checks.

9 I thought I was going mad sometimes and that it was
10 all in my head. I asked some of the other lassies if
11 GWR went into their room when the room checks were
12 done. I remember one of the other lassies laughing
13 nervously and from the way that she reacted I thought
14 that GWR must be going into her room as well.

15 The first time that GWR came into my room
16 I thought I was imagining it Secondary Institutions - to be published la
17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 But it continued and continued. I don't know how long
19 it had been going on for, but one day I pulled GWR up
20 about it and I asked her why she was coming into my room
21 at night. She said it was to do my room check and to
22 make sure I was in my bed. I told her that I had
23 realised that the other staff members weren't coming
24 into my room and they weren't at the side of my bed.
25 GWR turned round and said that it was to make sure

1 that there were no other lassies in my bed. I didn't
2 know how to take that.'

3 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later and wondered how much GWR

5 knew about that:

6 'I didn't say anything. I just left it.

7 Sometimes GWR was all right with me but the minute
8 I dropped my guard she would turn on me. I remember one
9 time when she had been in my bedroom during the day and
10 I can't remember why she had been in my room, but maybe
11 I had been in trouble or something like that. When she
12 left my room I ran out after her and I asked her if
13 I had done anything outside of Guthrie's to someone
14 related to her.'

15 She mentioned the home economics teacher from
16 a previous school and asked if she was her sister.

17 GWR just stood there Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 'I was just trying to think of a reason. Then she
21 started banging on about her son, but I wasn't
22 interested and I was just trying to block out what she
23 was saying.

24 On Thursdays we used have a house meeting and you
25 could use the meeting to get out any problems that you

1 had with any of the other lassies. Either the same
2 night or the night before I had confronted GWR, we
3 were speaking about what you wanted to be when you were
4 older and I had always wanted to be a long-distance
5 lorry driver. My uncle was one and I remember being in
6 his cab. Out of the blue, GWR said that her son's
7 girlfriend was a trucker. She said that she had long
8 beautiful blonde hair and you should see the looks she
9 gets when she gets out of the cab. I asked her what her
10 son did and she said that he was a painter and
11 decorator. I know I was probably barking up the wrong
12 tree but I thought there had to be a reason for her
13 being so horrible to me, Secondary Institutions - to be published later
14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
15 Secondary Institutions. That's how she made me feel. I've never
16 felt hatred like that from anyone.

17 There was one time when we were on a trip and we
18 ended up outside GWR's house. It was a bottom flat in
19 [part of Edinburgh],
20 I knew she hated me and she knew I hated her.
21 I asked her what she was trying to achieve by showing me
22 where she lived. I asked her what was going to stop me
23 going to her door when I got out of Guthrie's and she
24 replied that she was sure that her son would be more
25 than happy to take care of me.

1 GWR was a horrible person but she could be all
2 right, so I don't understand where her hatred came from,
3 but it was there from the minute I walked into
4 Guthrie's. There had to be something. I can't accept
5 that there wasn't a reason.

6 Sometimes I didn't want to go out at the weekend
7 because I didn't want to come back and be touched during
8 the search. It was easier to be in than to go out.
9 There was one occasion when I didn't go back and I ended
10 up in some guy's house. The door went and I said that's
11 the police, so just tell them that I'm here but he told
12 me to hide in the cupboard. He flung me in the cupboard
13 in the kitchen and put the washing machine in front of
14 it, but it had slats in the door. When the police came
15 in I stuck my fingers through the slats so they could
16 find me.

17 The police told me get out but I couldn't open it so
18 I had to ask them to and then when I got out I saw that
19 they weren't uniform police and I panicked that they
20 weren't real police. I got out of there and I was
21 standing in the lift with the police officer and I felt
22 like he was treating me like he thought I was a wee cow.
23 He said that when I was 21 I would have five bairns.
24 I got really cheeky with him and said that as long as
25 I didn't have the bairns with him then I didn't have

1 anything to worry about. I got in the car and they took
2 me to the old Craigmillar police station.

3 There were three doors at the entrance to the police
4 station and then the main door. They sat me in a room
5 and then they came back on the phone to Guthrie's. They
6 said that I shouldn't go back to Guthrie's and that
7 I should go to an assessment centre, but I had something
8 to say about that because as much as I didn't want to go
9 back to Guthrie's, I didn't want to go anywhere else
10 either. He then told me that I was going back and that
11 I didn't need to worry.

12 I realised that there were three doors to get
13 through and then I would be out of the police station
14 and I could make a run for it. I had my hand on the
15 last handle and the police pulled me back by my hair
16 into the back of the room and told me that he was going
17 to handcuff me to the radiator. I told him to go ahead
18 and then he could watch what happened to his radiator
19 because it would come off the wall.

20 The next thing I remember is getting into the car to
21 go back to Guthrie's. Normally we would go over
22 Castlebrae and past the high flats on to Gilmerton Road
23 but they went straight up Dalkeith Road and panic set
24 in. I kicked the back of his chair and I think I kicked
25 his hand off the steering wheel. I asked him to stop

1 the car and let me out. There is a wee house at the top
2 of Dalkeith Road and they pulled in there. The other
3 guy was in the back and I was under restraint. The
4 police officer who had been driving told the other one
5 to sit me up and hold my head and then he punched me
6 clean in the face. I asked him if that was all he had
7 and I got really cheeky with him. I think he was going
8 to punch me again but the police officer who had been
9 holding me pushed me back down.

10 I'm not bothered about the punch in the face,
11 because I was kicking his chair so it was fair enough
12 but when we got to Guthrie's he got out of the car and
13 a couple of steps up the stairs he slammed my face into
14 them. Then I remember hearing one of the staff opening
15 the door and asking what was going on. The police
16 accused me of trying to run away, but she asked me what
17 was going on and I told her that they were trying to
18 break my arm.'

19 LADY SMITH: That earlier comment about her face being
20 slammed into them, must be a reference to being slammed
21 into the doors if this description is running
22 chronologically. They've got back, she has taken
23 a couple of steps up the stairs, so it wouldn't be
24 slamming her face into the stairs.

25 MR SHELTON: I think that must be right, my Lady --

1 LADY SMITH: Or maybe it was, it is either --
2 MR SHELDON: -- from memory there are only four or five
3 steps up to the doors, something like that.
4 LADY SMITH: That would make sense. Thank you.
5 MR SHELDON: Back to paragraph 162:
6 'The police accused me of trying to run away but the
7 staff member asked me what was going on and I told her
8 that they were trying to break my arm. I think they
9 asked where I was going to be put. She said that
10 I would be put in the cells, which I thought was fair
11 enough, but the police wanted to put me in the cells
12 themselves and she wouldn't let them. I don't think she
13 realised how much that meant to me.
14 She took me up to the cells. I asked for a shower.
15 She put me in the cells and came back a while later with
16 some jammies for me. The police said they weren't
17 leaving until she came down the stairs safely.
18 I spent the night in the cells and someone brought
19 me breakfast in the morning. I heard the lassies going
20 to the sewing room but I never let them know I was
21 there. A member of staff came after everyone was in
22 their lessons and I was taken to the house to have
23 a shower. On the way over I was pulled up about dirty
24 underwear that had been found under my mattress during
25 a search of my room, but I couldn't remember putting

1 them there.

2 I was asked when my last period was but I didn't
3 know and I didn't even know how long I had been away
4 from Guthrie's before the police found me at the man's
5 house. GWR questioned me and asked me if I had
6 consented to sex. I remember acting stupid like
7 I didn't know what she was talking about, but then
8 I just said yes, because I didn't want to be pregnant so
9 I needed checked. To me this was another thing for
10 GWR to use against me no matter what I said. I was
11 taken to a doctor's surgery across the road from
12 Guthrie's and luckily I wasn't pregnant.

13 There was a wee lassie who had been put in my room
14 and she should not have been in Guthrie's. She had been
15 skiving school, but she had never been in a home. We
16 were all a bit hardened up, so it was easier for us to
17 manage but this wee lassie should never have been there.
18 We all voiced our concerns to the staff.

19 I remember that during her first night in my room
20 I woke up and she had peed in the corner of the room.
21 I remember GWR coming in that morning and I woke up
22 screaming because I didn't know what she was doing to
23 the wee lassie, but she was just stripping the bed.

24 After her first night bed wetting, they would come
25 in and get her up an hour before everyone else. I told

1 the wee lassie to waken me up and I would take her to
2 the toilets but then the staff started coming in through
3 the night to wake her up and take her to the toilet.
4 However, she was still bed wetting. It made it worse
5 and I asked to be moved rooms. I had GWR coming in
6 during the night. Then the staff came in to deal with
7 her and then she would get up in the night and pee in
8 the corner. I told the staff that she should be in
9 a room on her own because there were spare rooms.

10 When I was asked about the dirty underwear I thought
11 that it had been her trying to hide things. There was
12 one lassie from Glasgow who was a right bully and when
13 I came back the wee lassie who shared my room had made
14 friends with her so I thought that if it wasn't the wee
15 lassie who had hidden them then it would have been the
16 bully.

17 I was sitting at the supper table the night after
18 I had been in the cells. I liked a laugh and a joke, so
19 I was telling jokes. I was doing a tongue twister when
20 GWR walked in and told me to shut my mouth. I told
21 her that I would in a minute once I was finished.
22 I carried on and she told me to shut my "dirty filthy
23 mouth", I refused. There were a few other things said
24 and then she slammed both of her fists on the table and
25 screamed at me that she couldn't stand me any more.

1 I told her that I knew she wished that I'd never been
2 found. GWR stormed off crying and saying that she
3 couldn't stand me any more. I told her she should "fuck
4 off" because I couldn't leave. I couldn't help my mouth
5 sometimes.

6 Another panic mode hit me and I wanted out of there.
7 I used the wee lassie that was wetting the bed as
8 an excuse, but it wasn't an excuse because I had asked
9 loads of times for her to be moved because I didn't know
10 if she was seeing anything when GWR was coming into my
11 room at night.

12 That night, I didn't want to be there, so I asked
13 them to move me and they wouldn't move me so I started
14 chucking everything out of my rooms. They sent for EQL
15 to deal with me and I told them to put me in the cells
16 but you never get what you want. EQL refused to put me
17 in the cells. The reason I wanted to go back to the
18 cells was that you would hear the cell door opening, in
19 your own bedroom you would be lying in your bed and
20 someone would come in and you wouldn't hear them.
21 I felt the safest in the cells.'

22 The wee lassie who had been in my room got out and
23 went back to mainstream school.

24 Paragraph 173:

25 'There was one time that we went swimming.

1 I remember going swimming three times, twice to
2 Newtongrange and once to the laddies' Guthrie's.
3 I refused to go to the laddies' Guthrie's. GWR had
4 told all of the lassies that they might get boyfriends,
5 so I told her that I didn't want a boyfriend and that we
6 were supposed to be going swimming. She asked me what
7 was wrong with me and then said at least it will be boys
8 not men.

9 My social worker came to Guthrie's once and they all
10 had a meeting about me while I waited outside in the
11 corridor. I didn't know when I was going to be allowed
12 in, but I was sitting there for a long time and all I
13 could hear were muffles through the door. I heard
14 something about a psychiatrist and then someone saying
15 that I had tried to burn the building down. I kicked
16 the door and told them to open it and let me in so
17 I could tell them what was going on but they wouldn't
18 let me in. I don't know who was in the room.

19 My social worker came out and said I needed to go on
20 the pill. He made me feel like he thought I was nothing
21 but a wee fucking cow. He said if I wanted out then
22 I would need to go into foster care. I told him to
23 "fuck off" and then that's when he went on about the
24 pill. I remember saying that I wouldn't go on the pill
25 and I knew that he would need to ask my mum's permission

1 anyway. [He] made me feel that if I didn't agree to
2 foster care and the pill then I wouldn't be getting out.
3 I agreed to the pill but my mum wouldn't allow it
4 anyway. My social worker never asked me what was going
5 on and they all assumed I was just a wee cow.

6 I was told I was heading for jail by one of the
7 staff on another occasion. I couldn't figure out why.

8 When you did your night classes you put your hand up
9 hoping that you would be picked to go to the class that
10 you wanted to go to, but I was never picked. I was
11 always put where they wanted me to go. One night I put
12 my hand up a few times but I was never picked so when
13 everyone's classes had been decided I stood up and said
14 that it was bad enough that GWR hated me but do they
15 all hate me. The room fell silent because I was
16 challenging them all, not just GWR. EQL said come
17 with me and I got to go to the class that I wanted
18 because I had put them on the spot. I got to go to gym
19 hall. Before that I had been going to sewing all of the
20 time and I didn't like that.

21 On another occasion we were sitting in the hall
22 before our night classes and EQE and GWR came
23 marching in. There was a smug look on GWR's face.
24 EQE told everyone that if I didn't behave then
25 everyone would have points knocked off. I don't know

1 what I had done for EQE to have said that. I don't
2 know what GWR had said to her, but I was being held
3 responsible for the entire school. GWR was playing
4 mind games as she always did. I stood up and said that
5 I would kiss ass if I had to and I wouldn't let anyone
6 lose points. I had the school against me.

7 There was a lassie in Brechin House who had been in
8 Cornton Vale. The courts had decided to hold her on
9 remand in Guthrie's and she was screaming to get back to
10 Cornton Vale. She thought it was torture in Guthrie's.'

11 She turns to talk about leaving Guthrie's and says:

12 'There was nothing done to prepare us for leaving
13 and I didn't know when I was getting out. I think the
14 panel was sooner than I thought it was going to be.
15 Normally you knew that you had a panel coming up, but
16 this came out of the blue. I expected a panel after my
17 16th birthday but it happened six weeks before my
18 birthday. I went to the panel and I remember the social
19 worker and my mum being there. I was released from the
20 panel and I really didn't expect to be getting out.
21 I think they had had enough of me. I never saw my
22 social worker again.'

23 She then talks about life after care. She says she
24 stayed with her mum for a few weeks but couldn't hack
25 it, so went from place to place.

1 Taking matters short, my Lady, she describes
2 difficulties in settling down anywhere and she became
3 pregnant at 19. She moved around, ended up moving to
4 England and back and forth between England and Scotland.

5 She says the father of her second bairn hit her
6 oldest laddie and there was a big fight. She ended up
7 with seven children and finally settled down and all
8 seven of her children now have their own children, so
9 she says it's a busy household.

10 Paragraph 185, she says there was a panel for her
11 grandchildren and there was talk of taking the
12 grandchildren into care. She says she initially took
13 the two laddies on voluntarily and at that time
14 'Deborah's' daughter was pregnant:

15 'So I wanted her to buck her ideas up and I told her
16 what she needed to fix, they were meant to be with me
17 for eight weeks and that became four months, because she
18 didn't want to take them back yet. I told her social
19 workers were looking at her but she wouldn't listen.
20 I took the children back to her the day before they went
21 back to school after the summer holidays. But not long
22 after that we went to "at risk" meetings and the two
23 boys and my granddaughter were placed into my care. She
24 hadn't been to stay with me at that point. They're my
25 step grandchildren, but I treat them as my own.'

1 On impact, she says:

2 'When my children had grown up I had to start
3 thinking about work but how do you fill in a form and
4 tell them what your last school was? That won't look
5 good. I have no qualifications that I can put down on
6 an application, so that has had an impact. I was never
7 going to achieve anything other than dead-end jobs.
8 Working in a cafe was about my limit, but even they want
9 O-Grades now.

10 I had no qualifications, but I wouldn't say I was
11 bright and I always had a problem at school so I'm not
12 going to blame anyone for that.

13 I'm not blaming Guthrie's for everything that went
14 wrong in my life, because there was a lot wrong before
15 it and it's hard to say if my life would have been
16 different if I hadn't been in Guthrie's.

17 I got a wee cleaning job at one point, but that
18 didn't last long because I didn't like people telling me
19 what to do. I didn't like taking orders because of my
20 time at Guthrie's. People think they can speak to you
21 however they want to, so I would tell them not to speak
22 to me like that. It was easier to not have a job and be
23 poor than to try and change.'

24 She says, paragraph 190, that she was diagnosed with
25 stress and panic attacks and later with post-traumatic

1 stress disorder. She has never had counselling and
2 finds it easier to not speak about things:

3 'I don't trust anyone and that's the truth of the
4 matter. I try and put my time in care to the back of my
5 mind and not talk about it, but things can happen to
6 trigger it. My oldest grandson was getting into trouble
7 at school so I try and tell him to avoid that situation
8 and that he needs to be careful who he hangs out with.
9 I try and explain to him that the child in care gets the
10 blame, but I don't put it like that to him. You can
11 only try and guide them but all of my grandchildren are
12 doing all right.

13 I try and deny it but I know that it had a massive
14 impact on my life. It has allowed me to be pushed
15 around. I'd do anything for a peaceful life. When
16 I sit in company people tell me that they wouldn't put
17 up with things in my life but that's just the way that
18 it is.

19 I don't socialise with people because everyone wants
20 to talk about their past experiences and their
21 childhood, but I can't do that. The easiest way to deal
22 with that is to avoid it. I don't like to lie so even
23 if family members start talking about that kind of
24 thing, then I will get up and walk away. My own
25 children don't know that I was in care. I don't let

1 anyone know. My partner found out through a family
2 member.

3 If I died tomorrow, then my bairns know nothing
4 about my life.'

5 On records, she says she asked her social worker
6 about her records but was told that they would all be
7 destroyed when she was 16:

8 'In the back of my mind I wanted to do something
9 about what had happened. I think my social worker
10 thought that I was worried about what was in them so
11 I let him think that, but I wasn't bothered about that
12 and I'm not embarrassed about what might be in them.
13 They can say what they want about me. Once I was told
14 they weren't there I just got on with things and then
15 things happened later in life that made me realise that
16 my records do still exist.'

17 She says that her grandchildren's social worker told
18 her there were records:

19 'She told me that they are all kept and she told me
20 where they would be.'

21 She had to go through a kinship assessment when she
22 was looking after her grandchildren and says:

23 'I didn't realise how much they knew until then.
24 I think I asked if she had looked at my records, because
25 when they did the kinship assessment they asked about

1 Children's Panels. The next week when the kinship
2 assessor came round I was meant to have filled in the
3 forms, but I didn't fill them in because I thought it
4 wouldn't happen but she said it wasn't about what I had
5 done as a child, it was about what I had learned and who
6 I was now. My children's social worker was a good
7 social worker. She was straight to the point and never
8 left a stone unturned.'

9 On lessons to be learned, 'Deborah' says:

10 'I think they could have listened more and been more
11 understanding. When children are kicking off there is
12 a reason for it. It's not that they are horrible wee
13 people. People shouldn't assume that because children
14 are in care or from a difficult background they're
15 likely to be going out causing trouble. It's always the
16 kids in care that get the blame.

17 Assessment centres shouldn't be open. Unless they
18 have done something criminal, children shouldn't be in
19 these places. A wee lassie skiving school shouldn't be
20 in Guthrie's.

21 Social workers should be held accountable. It's not
22 right that children are shoved into these places and
23 forgotten about. The bairns put themselves there in
24 a sense, but all these people make decisions for these
25 children so they shouldn't be left there for the staff

1 to deal with. The social workers need to do their jobs.

2 For children to speak up, there would need to be
3 someone that they get along with there. If my
4 grandchildren weren't happy then they wouldn't need to
5 stay with me. They know that they have that choice.
6 I try and make them feel like they can come to me with
7 anything, but kids are kids so they won't always want to
8 come to me. I tell them they can speak to someone in
9 the school if they're not happy.

10 I think that there should be more encouragement for
11 kinship orders, if there is a possibility that children
12 are going to be put in care and the social worker knows
13 that there is a family member that can help, then they
14 should be able to approach them without the permission
15 of the parents.

16 I think that if children are in care then there
17 should be after care until they are 21 years old.
18 I think the panel members should do more than consider
19 recommendations by the social work department. They
20 don't always consider what the parents are saying. I do
21 think the panels have improved, but they could do
22 better.

23 Once the kinship order is in place then there is not
24 a lot of support there, even financially. Social
25 workers should make sure that everything is done

1 properly rather than hand the children over and then
2 walk away.'

3 'Deborah' has made the usual declaration, my Lady,
4 and signed her statement.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 MR SHELDON: That, my Lady, concludes I think the
7 Dr Guthrie's witnesses applicants and we will move on to
8 Loaningdale.

9 LADY SMITH: At 2 o'clock. Very well. Let's do that.

10 Before I rise, one more name, GWR was mentioned in
11 the last set of read-ins and GWR also has the
12 protection of my General Restriction Order, so can't be
13 identified outside this room.

14 Thank you.

15 I'll rise now for the lunch break.

16 (12.56 pm)

17 (The luncheon adjournment)

18 (2.00 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

20 'Sandy' (read)

21 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next statement is
22 from an applicant who is anonymous and is known as
23 'Sandy'.

24 This now relates to Loaningdale. The reference for
25 'Sandy's' statement is WIT-1-000001301.

1 'Sandy' was born in 1965 and sadly since giving his
2 statement 'Sandy' has passed away, that was this year.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS FORBES: 'Sandy' tells us about his life before care
5 between paragraphs 2 and 9. He says he lived in Glasgow
6 in a nice area, lived with his parents, his older sister
7 and younger brother.

8 His mum kicked his dad out when he was three and she
9 then had the 3 children to bring up by herself. She
10 didn't have any help and that was difficult. She did
11 three jobs and he describes heavy poverty.

12 His mum met someone who took them on and his life
13 changed and this man made good money and would take them
14 on holidays. 'Sandy' said he had a relatively good
15 life. They ate well. They dressed well and they went
16 on holidays. He went to primary school, played
17 football, climbed trees but then his stepfather got
18 cancer and was in a lot of pain.

19 'Sandy' says watching him waste away in agony was
20 really traumatic and he by that time considered him to
21 be his father and his stepfather died when he was 11.

22 After that he started to misbehave. He had started
23 high school by that time and was acting out. He stopped
24 going to school. He was stealing cars and smashing
25 windows and he ended up at a Children's Panel and was

1 put on an unruly certificate at 11 and he was sent to
2 Larchgrove.

3 This part of his statement between paragraphs 10 and
4 15 was read in during Chapter 4 on 25 March this year,
5 that was Day 428.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: He was still 11 years old at that time. He
8 ended up being there for six weeks. He says Larchgrove
9 was okay because nothing sexual happened, but there was
10 a culture of physical abuse and he talks about physical
11 abuse from staff.

12 He then tells us at paragraph 16 that he ended up in
13 front of another panel when he was about 13 and it was
14 decided he would be sent to Loaningdale. He was taken
15 straight from the panel in a van to Loaningdale and he
16 tells us about Loaningdale between paragraphs 19 and 94.

17 I'll go to paragraph 19:

18 'I was about 13 years old when I was taken to
19 Loaningdale. It was out in the country near Biggar.
20 Loaningdale was a List D School for boys, which was
21 funded by Lanarkshire Council.

22 I remember driving up to the place. It was
23 a standalone grey, listed building, which was lovely.
24 It was set in lovely grounds with a few houses for staff
25 in the grounds. There was an arch, where horses used to

1 go through. It looked impressive from the outside.

2 I remember arriving and meeting GYF who

3 showed me around. I didn't get a good vibe off him.

4 I felt like I was going to get physical violence from

5 him or that he was a pervert. He showed me around and

6 where I was going to sleep. He told me the rules of the

7 place, but there weren't really any. He told me I would

8 get a quarter of tobacco a week, some papers and matches

9 but that you could earn more credits and get more money

10 by doing what you were told.

11 The main school building was only two floors. The

12 kitchen, dining room, laundry room, showers and

13 classrooms were all downstairs on the ground floor and

14 the dormitories were upstairs.

15 The boys were divided into a west wing and an east

16 wing, with about 18 boys in each, so there were about 36

17 boys in the whole place. Boys would come and go so it

18 wasn't always the same boys.

19 I was put into the west wing. The rooms in our wing

20 had four beds in them and some had two. I was put in

21 a room with two beds. I was there for two years and the

22 other boys would come and go, so sometimes I would be

23 sharing the room and sometimes I had it to myself.

24 I remember a wee boy called [and he names him] who

25 stuck out because he was half-caste.

1 The guy who ran the place was a man called
2 John Wilson, who stayed in a mansion on the grounds. He
3 would walk about with a kilt and sporran on. We only
4 saw him about once a month.

5 I was in the west wing and the housemaster there was
6 GYF [REDACTED], who had his own house on the grounds.
7 The housemaster in the east wing was Ron Reid, who was
8 nice. There was a man called John Porteous, who lived
9 in a house on the grounds with his wife and three kids.
10 He was an outwards bound guy who took the boys out
11 kayaking and stuff.

12 The females I remember at Loaningdale are Jessie,
13 who did the laundry, and Amanda Findlay, who was the
14 administrator. There was a maintenance man who we
15 called "Harry Honda" because he had a Honda motorbike.

16 The staff was very minimal. It was really
17 GYF [REDACTED] who SNR [REDACTED]. Ron Reid was quite
18 a laid back kind of guy, so GYF [REDACTED] made the
19 decisions. IPW [REDACTED] was also around a lot.
20 Sometimes there would be a student in to help in the
21 west wing.

22 In the school, IPW [REDACTED] was the PE teacher,
23 but he was really involved in running the school and
24 took boys away on trips and stuff. A woman called
25 IPY [REDACTED] took art classes. There was also a female

1 trainee social worker who came for a couple of weeks to
2 work in the school.'

3 'Sandy' then talks about the routine at Loaningdale
4 from paragraph 31:

5 'We got up at 8 am and went downstairs for a shower,
6 got dressed and went for our breakfast. We then had
7 a morning meeting every morning where GYF
8 would tell us what we were doing for the day, which was
9 a waste of time. He would have been better writing
10 "nothing" on a board, because we didn't do anything all
11 day.

12 We went to class, but we weren't there long and
13 didn't do much. None of the staff seemed to care, so
14 the boys just did their own thing. Me and some other
15 boys would play football outside during the day until
16 lunchtime. We would have our lunch then just hang about
17 or play more football until tea time. We were allowed
18 to smoke and got tobacco, so we would spend time
19 smoking.

20 We would watch telly in the evenings and would go to
21 bed at 9.00 pm. We caused chaos every night, as young
22 boys together would.

23 There would be a night watchman called IPX, who
24 would watch the boys at night. He was there every
25 single night. I only remember one night when he wasn't

1 and a woman watched the boys that night.'

2 He then talks about meal times and food from
3 paragraph 35:

4 'The cook was great. All the staff and the boys ate
5 at the same time and we all got the same food.

6 There were two cooks. One was called Marian and she
7 was good, but when she was off, there was another cook
8 on and she was rubbish. The portions were really small.
9 We didn't have to finish what we had on our plate if it
10 was something we didn't like, but if we didn't eat it
11 then we didn't get anything else.'

12 In relation to washing and bathing 'Sandy' says at
13 paragraph 37:

14 'The showers were downstairs. They didn't have
15 cubicles, which they should have had for our privacy.
16 All the boys just had to stand under the shower heads.
17 GYF or IPW would come in and look
18 at the boys' penises and tell us to hurry up as we were
19 showering.'

20 There is a section on clothing and uniform,
21 paragraph 38:

22 'We wore green sweatshirts in the west wing and the
23 boys in the east wing wore blue sweatshirts. You had
24 your name and a number assigned to you, which was sewn
25 into your clothes so you got them back after they'd been

1 washed. All the boys were different sizes so they made
2 sure you got your own clothes back.

3 The laundry room was downstairs and Jessie did all
4 the laundry.'

5 In relation to schooling, 'Sandy' says at
6 paragraph 40:

7 'There wasn't any education other than one class,
8 which was an art class taken by a woman called IPY .
9 All boys would be in that one class and we were all
10 different ages. It was okay if you wanted to paint, but
11 I wasn't interested in that. They never taught us any
12 proper school subjects or even any life skills or
13 anything important. Sometimes they'd roll in a big
14 telly and show us programmes about baboons or other
15 animals, and that was all the education we got.

16 GYF was a photographer and would take what
17 he called a photography class, where he would take
18 pictures with his big fancy, Nikon camera and give us
19 a small camera to take pictures with. He had a dark
20 room to develop pictures on the first floor in the west
21 wing of the main building. He would take boys into that
22 room one at a time to help him with developing pictures.
23 He took me in on three occasions that I can remember,
24 but maybe more. The photos I developed with him were
25 ones that I had taken on his camera.

1 We also got PE, which IPW [REDACTED] took.'

2 In relation to chores 'Sandy' says at paragraph 43:

3 'There was a list up on the wall that changed every
4 week. It listed boys' names and what their chore was
5 every day. It would be things like sweeping and
6 mopping. You got credits for doing these chores and
7 then you got money to buy tobacco and sweets.

8 GYF [REDACTED] would take a boy home to clean his house
9 every week.'

10 In relation to trips and holiday 'Sandy' says from
11 paragraph 45:

12 'We would be taken out in the minibus on day trips
13 sometimes. There would be about eight of us at a time
14 and GYF [REDACTED] chose who got to go. He would take us
15 out to the woods or something.

16 Once a year, boys would be taken to Dunbar for
17 a holiday. We would stay in accommodation that were
18 like barracks and we slept on bunk beds. Mr GYF [REDACTED] and
19 Mr IPW [REDACTED] would take us and the staff slept where the
20 boys slept.

21 GYF [REDACTED] and IPW [REDACTED] would also take us
22 on orienteering trips. We would be away for four days
23 and we would sleep in tents.'

24 He then says about visits and inspections from
25 paragraph 48:

1 'I didn't get any visits while I was there. No
2 social worker visited me in the two years I was there.
3 I don't think there was any care for kids back then.

4 I remember one inspection while I was there. The
5 staff were told in advance that the inspectors were
6 coming the next again week. I wondered what the point
7 was of that. The inspectors were upper class twats that
8 had no idea that kids were incarcerated in a place where
9 paedophiles and abuse was prevalent. They didn't talk
10 to the kids. They just made comments on the gardens.'

11 He then talks about family contact from
12 paragraph 50:

13 'My mum had three children to look after in Glasgow,
14 so it was a lot to ask for her to come out and visit me.
15 She came to visit me once but she had to get two buses,
16 a train and another bus. It was a lot for her so I told
17 her not to come and see me again. It was my choice,
18 because I knew it was difficult for her.

19 If you were a good boy, you got to go home for the
20 weekend.

21 There were two minibuses to drop boys off on
22 Fridays, because boys were from all over. One bus would
23 drop Glasgow boys off at Buchanan Street in Glasgow and
24 any other drop-off points and one would go to Dundee and
25 Edinburgh and wherever else on the way. Then they'd

1 pick you up again from the same place on Sunday and take
2 you back to Loaningdale. I never got to go home that
3 often. I would be expecting to go home then GYF
4 would find some reason to stop me from going home.

5 I only remember being picked up in the minibus in
6 Glasgow three times, so I think I only got home on three
7 weekends.'

8 In relation to healthcare, 'Sandy' says at
9 paragraph 54:

10 'If you didn't feel well, then you told the staff,
11 who would phone the doctor in Biggar to get you
12 an appointment then take you to see him. On a few
13 occasions the doctor came to the school to see boys.

14 You would be taken to a dentist in Biggar or Lanark.
15 The staff would organise that, but they'd wait until you
16 were really in pain before they took you.'

17 'Sandy' then talks about discipline from
18 paragraph 56:

19 'There was no communication from the staff about
20 what your behaviour was like or what it should be like.
21 They had no interest in making boys behave better and to
22 get them home to their families. If you did anything,
23 they thought needed punishment, then they'd take away
24 privileges, like not let you home at weekends, making
25 you sit alone in your room, not letting you watch TV or

1 not give you pocket money. GYF [REDACTED] decided who
2 got these punishments and why. It could be if you
3 called another boy a name or had a fight. Most of the
4 time though, GYF [REDACTED] just used these as threats to get
5 me to do what he wanted so he could abuse me. Then he
6 would find some reason to cancel my home leave anyway so
7 he could keep me there at the weekend.'

8 'Sandy' then talks about abuse at Loaningdale from
9 paragraph 58:

10 'There was not so much physical abuse, but you would
11 sometimes get hit from GYF [REDACTED] and IPW [REDACTED]
12 if you didn't do as you were told. I was used to that
13 though and I thought it was normal.

14 When I first saw GYF [REDACTED], his jeans were so
15 tight that I could see everything in them. It wasn't
16 appropriate for work. I knew within three days that
17 GYF [REDACTED] and IPW [REDACTED] were dodgy, because
18 they'd come and watch us boys in the shower. We were
19 going through hormonal changes and trying to figure out
20 who we were and these men came and looked at us and made
21 us feel uncomfortable.

22 All the boys would slag off [he names the boy]
23 because he was half-caste and I used to stick up for
24 him. One time I went upstairs to the dormitories during
25 the day and I saw [he names the same boy] giving

1 Mr GYF oral sex. Boys weren't allowed upstairs to
2 the dorms, but I had just gone up because I had a
3 "fuck-it" attitude, but I was shocked by what I saw.
4 I thought if he tried it on me I would stab him to
5 death.

6 The boy who got the most credits through the week
7 would be called the top boy or head boy of the week and
8 would get to go to GYF's house to clean on
9 a Friday. GYF decided who got the credits and
10 he manipulated them and gave them to boys who he wanted
11 to abuse.

12 I was the boy of the week one week and GYF
13 took me to his house, told me to go in and hoover and
14 clean the kitchen. I went in and the place was
15 spotless. The next thing, GYF came in and told me
16 to clean the sink area in the kitchen. Then he came up
17 behind me and pressed himself against me. I didn't know
18 what to do. I was shocked but I managed to wriggle away
19 and get out of his house.

20 The second time I was top boy of the week, I was in
21 GYF's house in his living room, hoovering, when
22 GYF came in and pulled his jeans and either boxers
23 or pants down. I can't remember what underwear he had
24 on. He told me to come over to him. I didn't move. So
25 he came over to me and he said, "Don't worry, you'll get

1 20 credits". I said I didn't want 20 credits. He
2 manipulated me, the way paedophiles do, and he made me
3 give him oral sex. I never done anything actually. He
4 just put his penis in my mouth and masturbated himself
5 until I had his sperm all over my face. He then got
6 a tissue and told me to wipe it off.

7 I would end up being head boy every two or three
8 weeks and be taken to his house for him to abuse me.
9 This happened over the two years I was there.

10 IPW [REDACTED] was also there when GYF [REDACTED] was abusing
11 me one time. IPW [REDACTED] didn't do anything to me, but he
12 was masturbating while watching GYF [REDACTED] abuse me.

13 During the time I was there, it was always the four
14 same boys that would get most credits and be head boy of
15 the week. One was me, and the other three boys
16 I remember being head boy and going to GYF [REDACTED]'s house
17 a lot were [then he names three boys]. That doesn't
18 mean they were being abused because I never saw that
19 happen, but they probably were. No boy should have even
20 been in GYF [REDACTED]'s house at all because it was against
21 the rules for boys to be in the staff quarters.'

22 He then names a particular boy as one of the boys
23 who went to GYF [REDACTED]'s house and says:

24 'He was from a place called Ladywell just outside
25 Edinburgh and I knew he was getting abused. He had the

1 same sadness that I had. There was a procession of boys
2 coming and going from the place all the time so there
3 were always different boys for them to abuse. It was
4 like a production line of vulnerable boys for them to
5 abuse.

6 My first year there was an up and down balance of
7 good and bad. If I didn't do what GYF and IPW
8 wanted me to do, I wouldn't get any money for tobacco
9 and sweeties. If you were a good boy and did what you
10 were told, you got an extra 2 pence for every time you
11 were a good boy. GYF called it a credit and would
12 tell me that he'd give me a credit or five credits if
13 I did what he said, and that was a lot to a wee boy.
14 Sometimes at night I would notice that a boy who should
15 have been there wasn't in his bed. It makes me wonder
16 if GYF was taking them back to sleep at his house
17 and abusing them. Sometimes when there was no other boy
18 sharing my room, GYF would sleep in the other
19 bed in my room, so he could abuse me at night. He
20 should have been going back to his own house to sleep,
21 so he was breaking rules.

22 GYF tried to have anal sex with me, but I would
23 squeeze and not let him in. That didn't stop him
24 trying. He tried putting gel on me and would keep
25 trying but I would not let him do that to me.

1 The abuse continued from the age of 13 to 15, until
2 I left. He did it upstairs in the dormitories whenever
3 he could, in his house within the grounds and on the
4 camping and orienteering trips. He would get me to sit
5 on his lap in the lounge and I would feel that he was
6 erect. He would feel me up in front of other boys and
7 pretend it was a joke.

8 It wasn't just sexual abuse. It was psychological
9 as well. GYF [REDACTED] made me feel like I wanted the
10 sexual abuse to happen and it was what I wanted. He
11 abused me so much that he normalised it. I knew I liked
12 women, but GYF [REDACTED] told me it was okay and that I could
13 be bisexual. I was confused and wondered if what he was
14 saying was true. He must have abused me about 100 times
15 over the two years I was there and made me believe it
16 was normal. I never knew it was wrong because I hadn't
17 had sex education, but I felt like it was wrong.
18 I would sometimes be physically sick after he made me do
19 stuff. This country is so backward that I hadn't been
20 educated about sexual things or about understanding my
21 feelings.

22 I also had so much trauma from my father dying and
23 I was vulnerable, so GYF [REDACTED] was able to manipulate me.
24 He started chipping away at my confidence from the day
25 I got there, so he could control me. He knew he could

1 get away with it, because I was vulnerable and I had no
2 family visiting me. He would bribe me and offer me
3 extra credits to do what he wanted me to do. He took me
4 into his confidence and made me feel comfortable by
5 telling me that it was a nice thing he was doing, that
6 it was our secret and he only did it with me because he
7 really liked me. He told me about this big house he had
8 in Edinburgh that I could stay in with him when I left
9 care. He would also threaten to lock me in my room for
10 four weeks and take away any TV and pocket money
11 privileges. He threatened to call the police and get me
12 charged for stuff if I resisted. It was all to get
13 power and control over me. I was getting to be a big
14 boy by the age of 15, but it was difficult to disengage
15 from the manipulation, power, control and threats from
16 GYF .

17 GYF would take boys to the dark room one
18 by one under a pretence to develop pictures. He took me
19 in at least three times and when I was in there, he
20 would touch me and abuse me. GYF had friends who
21 were into photography, who would come to his house. One
22 time I was in the dark room with GYF and one of his
23 photography friends was also there. GYF was making
24 sexual innuendoes and slyly touching me in this small
25 room. GYF used to be in that dark room a lot, so

1 I think he was taking pictures of boys being abused and
2 developing them in there. I don't know if his
3 photography friends were involved in the abuse, but they
4 probably were. I don't remember any of their names.

5 GYF [REDACTED] was about 28 to 30 years old when
6 I was there. He was the most evil, manipulative monster
7 I've ever met in my life. He was an animal. He was
8 very cunning and would bring a girl from Edinburgh into
9 Loaningdale and say she was his girlfriend. It was just
10 a cover.

11 IPW [REDACTED] and GYF [REDACTED] would try and get you
12 away on trips and away from Loaningdale whenever they
13 could. They were abusing boys in Loaningdale, but there
14 were still other staff members about so they had to be
15 careful, I imagine. They'd take us orienteering for
16 four days and we'd sleep in tents. At night, GYF [REDACTED]
17 would come into my tent and do what he wanted with me.
18 I once saw IPW [REDACTED] having anal sex [and he names the boy
19 he referred to as a half-caste boy before] on one of
20 these trips.

21 We would be taken on holiday to Dunbar once a year
22 and we all slept on bunk beds in one room. Mr GYF [REDACTED]
23 and Mr IPW [REDACTED] slept in the room with the boys. I saw
24 GYF [REDACTED] having anal sex [and he names again the
25 same boy in the previous paragraph] in Dunbar.

1 One night in Dunbar, I woke up because I felt
2 something behind me. IPW [REDACTED] was behind me and
3 he had taken my hand and put it on his penis and his
4 hand was on mine. He was playing with my penis and
5 trying to get me to do the same to him. I was erect,
6 which I was embarrassed about, but I was having none of
7 it and I knocked him off my bed. He wasn't discouraged
8 and just got up and went into another boy's bed. I saw
9 him having anal sex with a boy. I also saw him getting
10 oral sex from one of the boys. He pushed the boy away
11 when he seen me, so he tried to hide it a little bit.

12 IPW [REDACTED] came to me on a number of occasions
13 in Loaningdale and when we were in Dunbar and sexually
14 abused me. He didn't target me as much though. He
15 targeted [then he names the boy he referred to as
16 half-caste again], who was just a wee boy.'

17 He then says he tried to protect that boy from the
18 other boys, but he couldn't protect him from the staff.

19 'Sandy' says he thinks that boy killed himself after
20 he left care:

21 IPW [REDACTED] did things differently. He would
22 start acting camp and prancing about and say to boys
23 that we'd go to the showers and see how big our penises
24 were. It made me feel really self-conscious, because we
25 were just wee hormonal boys. He told me to stay back at

1 PE one day and told me just to have my towel on, but
2 I kept my clothes on. That makes me think that he kept
3 boys back after class to abuse them.

4 It felt like the purpose of running Loaningdale was
5 just to exploit children. Nothing was done to teach us
6 or to rehabilitate us, to stabilise us and try to get us
7 back to our families. We were just there to be abused.

8 The boys didn't talk about the abuse between
9 themselves. Nobody talked about that kind of thing back
10 then. You would also be worried that you'd be made fun
11 of if other boys found out you'd given the housemaster
12 oral sex.

13 I wanted to be in the east wing, because I knew the
14 housemaster there, Ron Reid, wasn't a paedophile.
15 I asked to be moved but the only person I could ask was
16 GYF [REDACTED] and he wouldn't let me move because he had
17 a grip of me. With so many boys in one place it was
18 chaos at bedtime. There were boys going through puberty
19 and were hormonal, so they would be running around with
20 their penises out or masturbating. IPX [REDACTED] would come out
21 of his room and have a look and watch. He was a voyeur.
22 Then the boys would just go to sleep when they were
23 ready. I saw some boys go into IPX [REDACTED]'s room as well but
24 I never went. I stayed away from him as much as
25 I could. IPX [REDACTED] came into my room as well. He was about

1 50 years old.

2 [IPY], the art teacher, would let you have a wee
3 grope of her breasts, which was good. There was also
4 a female student who was doing a social work degree, who
5 came to work at Loaningdale for a few weeks. She also
6 let us have a grope of her breasts. Talking about
7 sexual things was endemic in the place.'

8 'Sandy' then talks about bed wetting from
9 paragraph 85:

10 'I was full of fear of [GYF] and [IPW], I used
11 to sleep with one eye open. I started wetting the bed
12 as a consequence of their abuse. The last time I had
13 wet the bed before that was when I was about 4 or 5
14 years old and living at home with my mother. A few of
15 the boys wet the bed in Loaningdale and it was the ones
16 who were being abused. It was very evident that there
17 was something going on with the boys, but nobody was
18 there to pick up on it.

19 [GYF] would put his arm around me and tell
20 me not to worry about it and that it would stop. He was
21 a very cunning man. Jessie, the laundry woman, who was
22 about 70 years old, thought the sun shone out of his
23 arse.

24 We had to take our wet sheets down to the laundry in
25 the morning, and I would be embarrassed because older

1 boys would make fun of you and call you "pish the bed".
2 The staff never did anything to stop the boys making fun
3 of us.'

4 'Sandy' then talks about running away from
5 paragraph 88:

6 'I ran away about ten times in the two years because
7 of the abuse. I was in constant fight-or-flight mode.
8 Loaningdale was in the country, so it was hard to get
9 away. I would offer to go to Biggar and do the
10 shopping, then I would steal a car and get away.

11 One time I ran away I stayed with a guy [and he
12 names him] who worked for the Co-operative Milk in
13 Glasgow and lived [he names the street] in Glasgow.
14 I woke up with the guy having his hands down my
15 trousers. The world seemed to be full of paedophiles
16 that nobody was looking for. This man was also
17 a scoutmaster, which I think he did to be close to boys.
18 He was about 35 or 40 years old at that time.

19 I would always get caught when I ran away and the
20 police would take me back. The punishment when I got
21 back was that I wouldn't get any credits, have to go to
22 bed early or get television privileges taken away. The
23 real punishment was the abuse. GYF would punish me
24 by making me do more sexual favours for him.

25 I didn't have anybody to talk to about the abuse.

1 My father figure had died. There was nobody at
2 Loaningdale I could talk to. Nobody was asking me how
3 I was.

4 When I ran away, the police would take me back.
5 I would ask them not to take me back to Loaningdale and
6 to take me somewhere else, like to Larchgrove or
7 somewhere safe. They asked me what I meant by safe, but
8 I wasn't going to tell them. It was a very difficult
9 thing to talk about. Sexual abuse wasn't talked about
10 at that time.

11 I was made to believe that the sexual abuse was
12 okay, because I was being told it was normal so
13 I wouldn't have gone out my way to tell anybody about
14 it. If someone had told me it was not normal, then
15 I would have known and might have told someone.

16 I ran away and left Loaningdale when I was about
17 15 years old. Then when I turned 16 they couldn't send
18 me back. I didn't speak to social work again after
19 leaving care.'

20 He then talks about his life after care between
21 paragraphs 95 and 104, and 'Sandy' says:

22 'I went back to my mum's.'

23 He worked in a factory for 18 months and then went
24 to London and worked for a demolition company for
25 two-and-a-half years. He got into a relationship with

1 a woman, I think that was for 22 years, and he started
2 taking heroin. He had kids and lost them and had to
3 fight to get them back.

4 'Sandy' said he studied law to get them back and he
5 did. At the time of the statement he had six kids and
6 a grandchild that he saw and moved back to Scotland, got
7 clean, got a job in a house and he opened two drug
8 projects and ran them.

9 He had family members who died from drugs and had
10 mental health breakdown and he talks about the impact
11 between paragraphs 105 and 113:

12 'I never had a choice about going to Loaningdale.
13 I never made a choice to be abused. I had no choice and
14 nobody was protecting me. The abuse ruined my whole
15 life and it was not because of any choice I made.

16 I was abused at a time when I was at a developmental
17 stage, so that has affected my whole life and left me
18 confused about who I am and what I am. The abuse took
19 away my self-esteem and my feeling of well-being.

20 I felt like I was less than anybody else. GYF
21 destroyed every single thing about me and every dream
22 I had. I was low in confidence and also very angry.
23 I had so much anger towards him as an adult that
24 I wanted to kill him. Luckily for me, he was already
25 dead.

1 I got into some trouble when I was 18 and 19 years
2 old and have convictions for firearm offences and
3 robberies. I thought I was going to be Al Capone and
4 I turned out to be Chicken George.

5 I went to London thinking I would get away from
6 everything and the memories of abuse, but you can't
7 escape them. They go with you wherever you go and it is
8 always there. You can picture it in your head.
9 I couldn't get the abuse out of my head no matter what
10 I did and was getting flashbacks, so I started smoking
11 hash to forget and be able to sleep. Then when my
12 brothers came to London, they were taking heroin and
13 I started taking it too. It helped me just forget about
14 everything and so I became an addict. I was really
15 clever as a young lad and could have done anything, but
16 I became a drug addict. That hurt my mum and my family
17 as well because they had to put up with it. I lost my
18 children because of the drugs and they had to go into
19 care for seven years. I had to fight for seven years to
20 get them back.

21 I always seemed to attract damsels in distress.
22 I think that's because I wanted to look after women who
23 I knew had been abused and needed to be cared for, so
24 I could look after them. My wife was a damsel in
25 distress and I ended up being with her for 22 years to

1 look after her. Whenever I would do anything sexual,
2 I would get flashbacks of the abuse. Sometimes a song
3 or something would trigger the memories of the abuse and
4 it would make me land right back at that same time and
5 place of being abused. I was using the drugs to get me
6 through it. It took me six years after being with my
7 wife to feel comfortable enough to have sex with her.
8 She knew something wasn't right and would ask me if
9 there was anything I wanted to talk to her about, but
10 I wasn't going to tell her or anybody.

11 I didn't want any of my family to know that I was
12 sexually abused. I was the oldest brother and the
13 oldest son so I didn't want any of my family to know.
14 I never told my mum, my psychiatrist or anybody. I only
15 told my brother [and he names him] when he told me that
16 he had been sexually abused when he was at Dr Guthrie's,
17 but even then I didn't give any details.

18 I wanted a normal life and was not able to have one.
19 I could try my best and get a job and house and be with
20 my family, but everything would catch up with me
21 eventually and then it would all implode and I would
22 lose it all again. I ended up in mental health
23 hospitals twice after having breakdowns.

24 I have struggled with depression and suicidal
25 thoughts as an adult. I spent half my life crying. It

1 kills me inside thinking I did those things. I will
2 never stop getting flashbacks until I die.

3 The thing I did learn from the abuse was to be
4 respectful in relationships. I always made sure that
5 any girlfriend or my wife wanted to do the sexual things
6 we were doing and that they had a choice. I always had
7 decency in me, but experiencing the abuse made me more
8 aware and I made sure I didn't do it to anybody else.'

9 'Sandy' then talks about treatment and support and
10 says at paragraph 114:

11 'I started seeing a psychiatrist and was supposed to
12 see him every month, but I didn't see him again after
13 four sessions because of the pandemic. I started seeing
14 a community psychiatric nurse as well, but I can't tell
15 her everything. It is a painful, embarrassing and
16 difficult thing to do talk about.

17 I take anti-psychotic medication, Olanzapine, as
18 a result of the abuse in Loaningdale. I take
19 anti-depressants every day for the emotional pain.
20 I take Pre-Gablin, which is for the psychological and
21 physical pain. I also take 20 milligrammes of methadone
22 every day now. I had stopped taking the methadone for
23 a while, but restarted it as a safety thing so that
24 I don't start taking heroin again.'

25 'Sandy' said he has never spoken about the abuse or

1 reported it and says he would never talk to the police
2 because he doesn't trust them and he hasn't bothered to
3 try to get his records. He says he doesn't think he
4 wants them because he doesn't think reading them would
5 be beneficial to him.

6 In relation to lessons to be learned, 'Sandy' says
7 from paragraph 118:

8 'There was no protection for children when I was in
9 care. I call it the Jimmy Savile days, when everyone
10 was at it, abusing kids. These institutions attracted
11 paedophiles. All they had to do was write a mission
12 statement and social work would give them money. They
13 could then employ who they wanted, and they were mostly
14 men who made up their own rules. There were no
15 background checks on workers, no enhanced disclosure and
16 no training given. They could do what they wanted,
17 whenever they wanted and get away with it, because
18 nobody was checking on them. I would hope all of that
19 is different now.

20 There needs to be more staff working with kids and
21 especially more women.

22 Kids should be taught about their own bodies,
23 boundaries and what is right and wrong, so if someone
24 abuses them they know it is bad and can tell someone.
25 There should be enough staff and people around so that

1 a child has someone to tell if they're being abused.

2 Where children are put in the care system, the money
3 should not be an issue. There should be enough money
4 spent as is needed to make sure children are kept
5 healthy physically, mentally and emotionally.

6 The inspectors who came to Loaningdale gave them
7 warning before they came. When inspectors visit
8 children's institutions, they should turn up unannounced
9 instead of giving the place warning that they are
10 coming.

11 Social workers assume you are a bad parent because
12 you take drugs and that is not the case. There are
13 reasons people take illegal substances, but social work
14 just remove your kids and put them in care if they find
15 out you take illegal drugs. Their ethos is to keep
16 families together but they do not do that. They just
17 put the kids in care and separate siblings. They should
18 first find someone within the children's own extended
19 family who can look after them.

20 A lot of social workers seem to have no experience
21 of growing up in poverty, disadvantage or being from
22 broken families. They just go to university, write
23 a few essays and then make decisions about families with
24 no clue. They have more power than the police, but
25 don't have enough resources to do the job. They need

1 more resources so they can be trained better and so
2 there can be more of them because their workloads are
3 too big.

4 Legal Aid has been cut so much that when parents do
5 have their children removed, they can't even get Legal
6 Aid to fight to get them back. The government is
7 cutting all funding for people and it is affecting
8 people at the bottom. We need money to be invested in
9 helping people.'

10 'Sandy' has then made the usual declaration at
11 paragraph 126 and he has signed that and it's dated
12 27 July 2023.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think Mr Sheldon may have a short
15 statement.

16 LADY SMITH: A short one we could do now. Thank you.

17 MR SHELTON: My Lady, there are actually two read-ins, both
18 of which are quite short and I hope that we might manage
19 to fit both in before the mid-afternoon break.

20 LADY SMITH: We'll see how we go. Which is the first one?

21 'Jockey' (read)

22 MR SHELTON: The first one is the statement of 'Jockey', his
23 statement is WIT.001.001.0211.

24 What 'Jockey' says in relation to Loaningdale is
25 very short indeed, but it's an interesting contrast with

1 the other establishments where he was placed, 'Jockey'
2 is really an applicant in relation to St Andrew's at
3 Shandon. He reports marked physical and emotional abuse
4 there. His comments about Loaningdale are in stark
5 contrast to that.

6 'Jockey' was brought up in South Lanarkshire. He
7 had a single mother who struggled and 'Jockey' acted
8 out. He found himself in care ultimately because he was
9 outwith parental control. He says that at paragraph 5.

10 Paragraph 6 he just says:

11 'Because of this behaviour, I was put into
12 a residential home called Loaningdale House near Biggar.
13 It was a great place and I had no problems with it. You
14 were there during the week and sent home at weekends.
15 It was a bit like boarding school.'

16 This was when he was about 14 years of age. He had
17 been admitted to Loaningdale, my Lady, from Calder House
18 in Blantyre and we'll be looking at Calder House in the
19 next chapter, but he says nothing about Calder House at
20 all.

21 As I say, my Lady, he then goes on to deal with his
22 time at St Andrew's, which was very unpleasant on his
23 account.

24 I understand, my Lady, that 'Jockey' is one of the
25 applicants who will be considered to give either live

1 evidence or as a read-in for that chapter, so I won't go
2 into that at this point.

3 LADY SMITH: That was when he was about 14 in that period at
4 Loaningdale, it can't have been all that long?

5 MR SHELDON: Yes.

6 If we then go to page 14, my Lady, he talks about
7 impact. Again, although what he says about Loaningdale
8 is in very short compass I'll just read all of that:

9 'I think that the biggest impact was the feeling
10 that I had been put into a place where I should have
11 been cared for and not abused. I know I was out of
12 parental control and had committed a crime, but I didn't
13 think I was being sent there to be punished. I kept
14 wondering why they were doing this to me. I felt that
15 it should have been like Loaningdale, where my
16 experiences had been real.

17 No one would believe what I was telling them about
18 what was happening to me. The first time I was told
19 that I was getting the belt I held my hands out.
20 I didn't expect that I would be belted over the bare
21 backside.'

22 That is a reference to St Andrew's, my Lady:

23 'I remember that you were unable to sit down
24 afterwards on the toilet. It was extremely painful.
25 There were always three or four staff present.

1 I don't blame St Andrew's for all of my later life,
2 but it was certainly a factor. I don't trust a lot of
3 people who allege that they are only there to care and
4 help you. I have this long memory of the belt which
5 I found to be the worst thing. I would have preferred
6 six months in the cell than getting the belt.'

7 He talks about being in jail in Kilmarnock when
8 a friend or acquaintance was brought in and that this
9 triggered all sorts of memories about his time in
10 St Andrew's. He says he never received any counselling:

11 'The way I dealt with my issues was to forget about
12 them. He told me that he would never have survived
13 without being present at the incident when we barricaded
14 ourselves in the television room. I have been to see my
15 doctor and have been prescribed medication as I keep
16 having flashbacks. When I used to resist getting the
17 belt I still see myself hiding under the table. It
18 makes me feel like a small boy again, starting to cry
19 and feeling unable to do anything as I know they will
20 succeed in belting me.'

21 In relation to lessons to be learned, he says that
22 authorities should make weekly inspections of the
23 institutions:

24 'The authorities should speak to the pupils at the
25 school privately so that the staff cannot influence what

1 is said. Assure the pupils that they can speak openly.

2 Give the pupils good education opportunities if they

3 want it. I know that it is "only me myself that can

4 help me". Counselling only opens a can of worms. If

5 you can manage without it don't open that can.

6 The belting was the main reason I wanted to speak to

7 you. There are other things about abuse in my head that

8 won't come out.'

9 He talks about his abusers at St Andrew's and

10 I'll leave that for the moment, my Lady.

11 He gives some further information and makes the

12 usual declaration and has signed his statement.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 MR SHELDON: So there is not a lot there, my Lady, but

15 I think it's worth --

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, it's interesting that he doesn't have

17 a bad thing to say about Loaningdale and says that

18 St Andrew's should have been like Loaningdale. That's

19 about the same era as the previous witness whose

20 statement was read in by Ms Forbes, isn't it?

21 MR SHELDON: Roughly, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Early 1980s?

23 MR SHELDON: Yes.

24 Sorry, I should have said that 'Jockey's' date of

25 birth was 1967, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR SHELTON: Loaningdale, [REDACTED] 1982, he had been in
3 Calder House, it seems from [REDACTED] 1981.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 Norman Sinnet (read)

6 MR SHELTON: The next read-in is an applicant who has waived
7 anonymity and his name is Norman Sinnet.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MR SHELTON: He was born in 1966 and his statement is
10 WIT-1-000001158. Norman was admitted to Loaningdale in
11 May 1980.

12 At page 1 he details his early life in West Lothian.
13 He said he had a great upbringing but started playing
14 truant and social workers became involved. He came
15 before a Children's Panel hearing, though he thinks he
16 may also have been before an adult court, because of
17 some of his behaviour.

18 He was sent into the care system in about 1978 or
19 1979 in the first instance to Howdenhall
20 Assessment Centre.

21 At page 2 he starts to tell us about Howdenhall,
22 again, my Lady, I'll leave that for the chapter on
23 Howdenhall, Liberton and St Katharine's, but just
24 briefly he says that Howdenhall was a horrible
25 experience and says that some of things they did to

1 children were shocking. He reports marked physical
2 abuse and suspects that sexual abuse may have been
3 taking place.

4 He was also then at St Katharine's, which he says
5 was more open than Howdenhall and seems to have been
6 a rather better experience. He said there just wasn't
7 the same type of violence in there and although the
8 classes that he had weren't very good, as I say it seems
9 to have been a better experience certainly than
10 Howdenhall.

11 He thinks he was only in St Katharine's for around
12 six months and, possibly because of his absconding, the
13 panel sent him to Loaningdale.

14 On page 7 he says:

15 'I was about 14 when I went to Loaningdale. I can't
16 remember how long I was there. I was always running
17 away from abusers. I got it into my head that I was
18 going to be abused in these places or be around people
19 being abused. I couldn't handle it and I just kept on
20 running. I think Jim Harvey took me to Loaningdale.
21 I can remember thinking, "here we go again".

22 I can remember arriving in Biggar and going up the
23 hill and passing a graveyard on the left. It was a long
24 driveway with trees. The main building was white. It
25 was a double-storey building, the staff quarters were in

1 the middle. There was an old building to the right-hand
2 side and the headmaster's office was there.'

3 Just thinking to the photographs that we saw on the
4 first day, my Lady, the main building, he certainly
5 seems to have thought of the main building as being
6 a modern extension rather than the old house, which is
7 perhaps the more prominent part of the photographs.

8 LADY SMITH: It would depend how you approached it, wouldn't
9 it?

10 MR SHELTON: He says it was run by an old Scotsman, who they
11 called Jock:

12 'He was a lovely man, I went to stay with him when
13 they shut the place down at Christmas and New Year.
14 I had Christmas dinner with him. Everyone went home
15 except for me. I had to stay with a member of staff.
16 I think it was because they knew I wouldn't go back.
17 I didn't want to be in these places because I had it in
18 the back of my mind, "abuse, abuse". I went to stay
19 with another member of staff called GYF [REDACTED]. He
20 was a Geordie. He was all right. He wasn't a physical
21 guy. It was all boys. There were about 30 or 40.

22 There was a dining room, kitchen and a big TV room.
23 The bedrooms were upstairs. I shared a room. A lot of
24 the people who worked in Loaningdale lived in Biggar.
25 One of the women who worked there was called

1 Jessie Allan. She used to ask me if she should iron my
2 clothes for me if I was going to run away again at the
3 weekend. The staff were called housemothers, there were
4 two of them, I got the feeling they were trying to look
5 after you.

6 I remember their big grounds and they made you do
7 gardening and painting. There was a football park and
8 you got to play football. There weren't any meaningful
9 classes. It was more doing stuff to fill your time.

10 Loaningdale was away from the abusers. I felt as if
11 I was away from it all. I tried to put things to the
12 back of my mind.

13 I ran away from there three or four times. My
14 family still lived in Blackridge. It was about 30 or
15 40 miles. It was all wee dark roads. I don't know how
16 I worked out how to get there, but I got to Carnwath and
17 saw the signposts for Forth, I followed the signposts
18 and had my bearings then. I told the police why I was
19 running away, but they didn't believe me, so it was
20 a waste of time. They weren't interested. They were
21 only interested in getting me back to where I was.

22 I remember the local policeman at Loaningdale knew
23 my father. He came from Harthill ...'.

24 He names him in short:

25 'When I ran away they knew exactly where to find me.

1 I didn't see much of my social worker, Jim Harvey,
2 once I went to Loaningdale. I think he'd retired by
3 then. I don't remember getting another social worker.
4 There might have been someone in the background.'

5 In relation to abuse he says:

6 'There was a really bad person who used to batter
7 us. His name was Mr HGK. He had a beard and black
8 hair. He was unmarried. He was a physical education
9 teacher. He was a bad man. He stayed in the second or
10 third cottage [REDACTED]. He battered us
11 if we didn't do what we were told. He made sure you
12 didn't have marks on your face. They knew what they
13 were doing. The staff were all right, but he was
14 an angry man. He was angry all the time.'

15 He then says he was there for less than a year, went
16 back to the Children's Panel and then sent to Rossie.
17 He says:

18 'I think they thought the further they sent me from
19 home that it would stop me running away. I was
20 14-and-a-half and stayed there until I was 16.'

21 Again, my Lady I'll leave that passage to the later
22 chapter on Rossie, but briefly just to note he says
23 Rossie was the horror of my life.

24 Just to summarise his life after care, page 12,
25 paragraph 59:

1 'They practically opened the door and let me out.
2 There was no support in place for me. It was just
3 a case of letting you get on with it.'

4 He basically got the bus home, where he bumped into
5 his mother and he says he felt relieved because he knew
6 that he didn't need to face any of them again. I think
7 he must mean the staff at -- well, any number of the
8 establishments possibly.

9 He says he started work, got involved in petty crime
10 and says that he's now worked as a long-distance lorry
11 driver for a number of years. His mother passed away
12 and his father moved abroad and eventually died. He
13 said that he had jobs for years before alcohol became
14 an issue.

15 'The abuse turned me into an alcoholic. I had done
16 really well going through rehab. I have some support in
17 place now. I found it hard being in contact with the
18 Inquiry. It's all come back. It has really affected
19 me. I don't know how I'm still alive. I've had
20 suicidal thoughts even about coming to speak about my
21 experiences. It's been hard facing up to it. I will
22 deal with it, then I'll get support. I've struggled
23 with feelings of guilt because I think I could have done
24 more and stood up to the abusers. I couldn't hold down
25 a relationship. I would have it for a few years, then

1 I would run away. I have four daughters and two sons.

2 I feel like I'm a let-down to everyone.

3 It's always in the background. I feel like everyone
4 is out to get me. It's always been in the back of my
5 mind. I saw a story on the news about a boy being
6 abused which brought it to the forefront. I think about
7 it morning, noon and night. I seem unable to get it out
8 of my head just now.

9 I think my past offending is linked to my time in
10 care. None of my brothers or sisters have been in
11 trouble. I feel like the odd one out. They always say
12 there is one bad apple and I have it in my mind it is
13 me. I chose alcohol. None of my family are big
14 drinkers.

15 I haven't made any claims for compensation. I would
16 give the money to charity. I don't want any money.
17 I wouldn't feel comfortable taking it. I think it
18 should go to a victims' charity. I hate the word
19 "victim", I survived through it.'

20 He says he has a support worker who makes sure he
21 goes to meetings:

22 'I just want to be normal.'

23 Over the page he says he hasn't reported any of what
24 happened in these places to the police yet and he says
25 he doesn't want to relive it, so he hasn't applied for

1 his records.

2 He says 'There should be measures in place to stop
3 this happening, there should be proper social workers
4 and proper places for children to go to get help and
5 support. Social work and the government should be made
6 accountable for their actions. They can't sweep it
7 under the carpet now. The genie is out of the bottle.
8 If any abusers are still living, they need to be made
9 accountable because it wasn't right what happened to us.
10 I really hope that it doesn't happen nowadays. If it
11 does happen then there is something very wrong with the
12 system.'

13 Again, my Lady, he's made the usual declaration and
14 signed.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 Let's have the afternoon break and then we'll see
17 how we get on after that. Thank you.

18 (3.00 pm)

19 (A short break)

20 (3.10 pm)

21 'Stuart' (read)

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
23 who is anonymous and known as 'Stuart'.

24 The reference for his statement is WIT-1-000001138.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: 'Stuart' was born in 1953 and he tells us about
2 his life before going into care between paragraphs 2 and
3 16. In summary, he tells us he was brought up in
4 Maryhill in Glasgow. He lived with his mother and
5 father. His father was in the RAF and then worked
6 shifts at a paper mill and his mother worked at a big
7 industrial laundry.

8 He suffered physical abuse from his mother on
9 a regular basis and for insignificant things. He got
10 involved in stealing and started getting into trouble
11 with the police from the age of eight and was assaulted
12 by the police when he was caught on one occasion and his
13 mum's attitude was that he must have deserved it.

14 When he turned 13, they moved to another part of
15 Glasgow and he stayed out late and when he got home he
16 was set about by his father. He was sent on occasions
17 to two different aunties to stay and each time he would
18 have to change secondary schools.

19 On page 4, paragraph 16, he tells us he was caught
20 stealing at about 13 and received 28 days at Larchgrove
21 Remand Home. There was no social work involvement. The
22 police charged him and he was summoned to go to court.
23 Between paragraphs 17 and 46 'Stuart' tells us about his
24 time at Larchgrove.

25 By way of summary he experienced corporal punishment

1 in the form of the tawse on the hands, physical assaults
2 by the staff on a daily basis and describes living in
3 constant fear with no compassion of any kind shown.

4 Going forward to paragraph 46, after the first
5 28 days at Larchgrove he went back to live with his
6 parents. This time he was 14. He wanted to get money
7 by any means and was caught stealing again. He went
8 back to Larchgrove again and it was as if he'd never
9 left.

10 He was then sentenced to three years at Loaningdale
11 Approved School in Biggar and he talks about that
12 between paragraphs 47 and 58. I'll start from
13 paragraph 47:

14 'Loaningdale wasn't a big place. There were only
15 about 30 boys in it. It was all boys. You called all
16 the teachers by their first name. It was great. It was
17 a great environment. There were no locked doors and big
18 grounds outside.

19 I think Jock Wilson was the head. Everyone just
20 called him Jock. It was all good staff in there.
21 I remember another staff member called Ken. He was tall
22 with a moustache. Your typical 1970s looking guy.
23 There was a lady too, but I can't remember her name or
24 any of the other teachers' names. You just got the
25 impression that the teachers all cared. They had

1 compassion. Everywhere else it was just a job for them.
2 These people at Loaningdale wanted to get you back into
3 society and on the right track. It was a dead free and
4 easy place.'

5 'Stuart' then talks about the routine from
6 paragraph 49:

7 'I don't seem to remember much about my first day
8 and the daily routine. I think it was because nothing
9 bad happened there. There were about four boys to one
10 dormitory. The food was fantastic. The dining hall
11 wasn't big. If you wanted a shower you could just go
12 for one and it didn't have to be with your dormitory
13 when you were told like everywhere else. You got to
14 wear your own clothes. On a Sunday, we went
15 hillwalking. They had wood workshops you could go to as
16 well and a big machine you could shine things on. It
17 was more like hobbies and crafts as opposed to actual
18 work or teaching. If you had your own money there was
19 a wee tuck shop to buy sweets.

20 I don't specifically remember any schooling there.
21 There were no classrooms or work. On a Friday, we would
22 all go into a big boardroom and have a group discussion
23 type of thing. All the boys and all the teachers would
24 be there. The teachers would say that they had heard of
25 problems between people through the week and ask them

1 what it was all about. It was just to discuss what had
2 happened really. I may be wrong, but a few years after
3 this, they opened up the special unit in Barlinnie for
4 murderers and serious offenders. I think what they were
5 doing at Loaningdale was a test to see how the group
6 discussion worked out.

7 Mr Hamilton, the deputy headmaster of North
8 Kelvinside School, came down to visit me at Loaningdale.
9 He said when I got out I was to go back to North
10 Kelvinside School and see him and he would set me on the
11 right path. I only knew him when I was in getting the
12 belt from the headmaster at school. He must have seen
13 something in me that other people didn't. I thought
14 that was great that he did that. I thought someone
15 actually thinks about me. But unfortunately I got sent
16 to another approved school and didn't go back to see
17 him.

18 I never felt like I was being assessed at
19 Loaningdale, but they must have been assessing me. They
20 always asked how you were getting on and what you had
21 been doing that day.

22 There was no discipline at Loaningdale. I think
23 they might have taken away your time to go to the tuck
24 stop or something like that, but nothing physical. If
25 there were fallouts it would be resolved at the Friday

1 meetings. All the boys in there were quite intelligent.
2 There was no bullying or anything like that.

3 I was only at Loaningdale a matter of weeks and
4 broke into the local Co-operative. I was caught by the
5 police and taken to Lanarkshire Court the next day.
6 I pled guilty and was admonished but recommitted to
7 a different approval school, Thornly Park. It was one
8 of the biggest mistakes I ever made. Loaningdale was
9 for handpicked boys. I don't know if it was to do with
10 intelligence. I found out later that the maximum time
11 people ever did in there was around eight months. It
12 was a good place. I was just an idiot trying to be big.
13 I took their kindness for weakness I think.

14 When Loaningdale first opened a guy from Aberdeen
15 was sent there and murdered one of the local girls. It
16 was the first case in Britain that someone was convicted
17 purely by their teeth, as he had bitten her on the
18 breast. After that the relationship between the town
19 and the Approved School wasn't great. We were made
20 aware of it and told we were not allowed to go into the
21 town but could wander around the grounds.

22 I have no recollection of abuse at all at
23 Loaningdale. I saw some guys from there later in life
24 who said they could still go down that way fishing and
25 visit Jock Wilson. That was how good it was. I never

1 went back. After the murder, what we did breaking into
2 the Co-operative was the next worst thing. I was too
3 embarrassed to go back.

4 One of the boys who broke into the Co-operative with
5 me had been at Loaningdale before and had gone back as
6 he was struggling. Before he left the first time he was
7 told by staff that if he was ever struggling and felt
8 like he had nothing, to go back to them and they would
9 help him get back on the straight and narrow. That's
10 why he was back there. Then he broke into the
11 Co-operative with me and ended up in a borstal.

12 I could never say a bad word about this place. They
13 could never have taken me back. They wanted to keep
14 a good relationship with the town and had to show that
15 I had been punished. I let them down. I felt rotten
16 afterwards.'

17 'Stuart' then tells us about his time at
18 Thornly Park School between paragraphs 59 and 112. In
19 summary there he tells us that he witnessed verbal
20 abuse, sexual abuse and physical assaults. There was
21 bullying by other boys. He was disciplined for running
22 away. And he experienced himself emotional abuse from
23 staff, witnessed sexual assault by staff on another boy
24 and there was inappropriate group punishment.

25 'Stuart' was at Thornly Park for about 18 months and

1 when he left he went back to live with his mum. When he
2 left he was 16. He got a job in a supermarket as
3 a store boy.

4 Then from paragraph 113 onwards 'Stuart' tells us
5 about his time at Longriggend Detention Centre,
6 Glenochil and Barlinnie and these parts of his statement
7 were read in on 3 November 2023, which was Day 384 of
8 the Inquiry.

9 In summary, after he left Thornly Park, 'Stuart' was
10 caught stealing scrap metal. He went to court and was
11 sent to Longriggend on remand for two weeks. He
12 experienced physical assault from the staff, always two
13 or three at a time. He had met his future wife by this
14 point and she was coming up to visit every other day.
15 He then went back to court and was given three months in
16 Glenochil Detention Centre and he talks about physical
17 assaults by staff, the beatings were horrendous and he
18 talks about the regime and the physical experience and
19 he mentions being there for the two months, eight days
20 and a breakfast and the day he was supposed to be
21 released he was taken to Barlinnie instead as there was
22 a warrant out for his arrest.

23 In Barlinnie there was violence amongst the inmates
24 and he served nine months in Barlinnie and turned 18 in
25 there.

1 'Stuart' then talks about his life after care and he
2 says he went back to stay with his parents. He had
3 a few jobs but they never lasted. He loved the army
4 cadets, but once you had been in homes you were of bad
5 character and couldn't get into the army so he didn't
6 apply.

7 He married his wife. His dad bought them their
8 first house and they had four sons, although one passed
9 away as an infant. 'Stuart' worked as a civilian for
10 the American navy and worked in a newsagents, but he
11 went off the rails and in his words he became
12 a professional criminal.

13 Drinking became a problem. He eventually separated
14 from his wife, although he still speaks to his wife now
15 and has a good relationship with his sons.

16 He also spent some time in prison in Germany. He
17 seldom drinks now but does smoke cannabis daily and he
18 tells us he has an issue with his waterworks, at one
19 point he nearly died.

20 He talks about impact at paragraph 170 and says that
21 he's been married for 51 years and it means nothing to
22 him, except for his four sons.

23 He says he has no feelings and he thinks that was
24 because of his time in care. He mentions again about
25 wanting to join the army when he was younger and speaks

1 about the fact he never got any further education.

2 At paragraph 175 he says that he loves his
3 grandchildren and would do anything for them and that
4 he's never laid a finger on any of his children.

5 In relation to treatment and support at
6 paragraph 177, 'Stuart' says he hasn't spoken to anyone
7 about his time in care and it's not something he would
8 want to do. He did tell his wife about what had
9 happened and a few of his pals that were in there too,
10 but that's it.

11 He did go to see a psychologist, but he didn't think
12 that she liked him and he thinks that now he would only
13 see a psychiatrist and that's probably what he needs,
14 but it's maybe too late. He's never reported any of the
15 abuse he suffered to the police and he thinks you just
16 don't do that. They're the enemy.

17 In relation to lessons to be learned, he says from
18 paragraph 182:

19 'There was no compassion or understanding in these
20 places.'

21 At paragraph 184:

22 'Thornly Park used to be a ragged school for
23 orphans. When I was there, the place was still
24 Victorian. I think it should be smaller institutions
25 that are more intimate like Loaningdale. That would be

1 better. There were children sent to these places at
2 eight years old. That shouldn't have happened.'.

3 At paragraph 186 he says:

4 'Children need someone that isn't just going to ask
5 them a few questions but will look into their whole life
6 and help treat their problems. One or two questions
7 doesn't give you the full picture. Social workers need
8 to know that.'

9 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, 'Stuart' says
10 at paragraph 187:

11 'I don't think you will be able to change anything
12 because it is too far in the past. I just want to let
13 everyone know that this was the way it was then and we
14 should have been listened to but no one did. We were
15 all ruled by fear and terror, so no one could speak out.
16 It happened to everyone. It wasn't just me.

17 I just hope it does somebody somewhere some good
18 when they read this.'

19 He has made the usual declaration and signed that
20 and it is dated 1 September 2022.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon now has a statement to read
23 in.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1 'Isabella' (read)

2 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this is the statement of 'Isabella'.

3 The reference is WIT.001.001.0813.

4 'Isabella' was born in 1974 and was at Loaningdale
5 probably around 1988 to 1989. She says she was 14 when
6 she went and 15-and-a-half when she left.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR SHELDON: 'Isabella' tells us about her young life and it
9 sounds as though it was very difficult. Her father was
10 abusive to her and to her mother. He very seriously
11 sexually abused 'Isabella' from a very young age. Her
12 mother left her father when 'Isabella' was eight or
13 nine, but 'Isabella' seems to have continued to live in
14 family with her father.

15 She says her father also abused her aunt and
16 possibly her sister. She says on page 2, paragraph 7,
17 that one day when she would have been 11 or 12 she
18 caught her father doing something to her sister so she
19 attacked him with an axe:

20 'That's when he took me to the social work
21 department and told them that he couldn't cope with me
22 and I was taken out of the family home and put into
23 care.'

24 'Isabella' was then in a number of children's homes
25 in the west of Scotland, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
2
3
4
5 Secondary Institutions - to be published later she's then sent to Cardross
6 Assessment Centre.

7 That, of course, will be subject of another chapter
8 of this case study, my Lady, but I'll just take it
9 briefly just now, because it is a very short passage.
10 She says:

11 'Cardross was a big building built in different
12 sections. I think there were maybe six units. I only
13 really got to know my own unit. There was a main room
14 with chairs in the middle, a television and bedrooms off
15 this room, kind of like a prison set-up. There were
16 about ten people in my unit and I had my own room.
17 There was a big canteen but I don't think I ever went to
18 it and just ate in my unit. Most children were high
19 school age.

20 I remember there was a girl [who she names] came to
21 our unit for a while and she was taken out every night
22 down to the basement or to the shower block and she was
23 screaming. It would echo through the building.
24 I remember questioning it and they said she had
25 nightmares so she was taken down there so she didn't

1 disturb the other children.

2 We couldn't buzz gas or anything like that at
3 Cardross, but staff would take us to the shop at the
4 bottom of the road sometime. We weren't allowed to go
5 on our own.

6 Sometimes we were allowed visitors but they weren't
7 allowed into the actual unit. I was allowed home some
8 weekends and I remember I was allowed out for my
9 grandfather's funeral.'

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11
12 She says she remembers taking an overdose once after
13 she had been to visit her father,

14
15
16
17

18 She was taken to hospital:

19 'If you were bad at Cardross the punishment was that
20 all the posters were removed from your wall, all my
21 clothes and my teddy were taken away, leaving me with
22 only my pyjamas and a mattress on the floor. You
23 weren't allowed out of your room.'

24 She then goes on to look at Loaningdale and says:

25 'I moved to Loaningdale when I was 14 and left when

1 I was 15-and-a-half. Again, I think it was a decision
2 made at a Children's Hearing that I got moved.
3 Initially I was supposed to be going to another all
4 girls' home, but my dad saw there were a couple of girls
5 going who I knew from Clydebank and he said he didn't
6 want me to be there, so I went to Loaningdale. It was
7 all because I wasn't going to school.

8 Loaningdale was run by the council and was divided
9 into two sides, a girls' side and a boys' side, and
10 there was also a big house which is where the manager's
11 office was and other different rooms. There was a yard
12 attached with a school. And it was all set in its own
13 grounds. Part of it was an older building, but I'm not
14 sure why it was built or what it was before it was
15 a home. It was designed for children between the ages
16 of 12 to 16 years old. There were 20 children there
17 initially, but this decreased towards the end when it
18 was closing. It was mixed with boys and girls, but for
19 sleeping there were boys on one side and girls on the
20 other in different dorms. The rooms were either single,
21 double or some with four beds. There were children
22 there from Edinburgh and Glasgow and all over Scotland.

23 There were day staff there just for the schooling
24 and there were day care staff and night staff. Two
25 members of staff lived on the grounds. One was a woman

1 who lived with her husband and kids in a house not
2 attached to the home. The other was a man,
3 GYF [REDACTED], who lived in a flat [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] When I first
6 arrived, there was an older man SNR [REDACTED] but he was
7 retiring. [REDACTED] became SNR [REDACTED]
8 then a Mr LUJ SNR [REDACTED]. He was Irish and staff
9 didn't like him [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED].'

11 She says:

12 'I can't remember the name of woman who took me to
13 Loaningdale, but I remember being terrified when
14 I arrived there. I was put in a bedroom with another
15 girl and she just sat in the window sill and rocked
16 backwards and forwards all the time. She had apparently
17 beaten someone with a rolling pin just before I went in.
18 She was actually a wee scared girl herself.'

19 She says that children had to be up, washed and
20 dressed by 8.30 am ready to start school at 10.00 am:

21 'There were school buildings on site and teachers
22 came in to teach us things. I went to some of the
23 classes like woodwork and art because I liked that. We
24 just really took the piss out of the teachers at the
25 classes and didn't even go to all of them.

1 There was a cook in the home and we had set meal
2 times. The food was okay. We were quite well fed.
3 Sometimes at the weekend the staff would take me into
4 the kitchen and we would make stuff.

5 There was a uniform, but it consisted of a pair of
6 Wrangler jeans, a jumper and Reebok trainers. I think
7 they must have got a job lot of them. I think it was so
8 we were all the same for children who had nothing.

9 Most children would go home at the weekends, but
10 some didn't. I went to my dad's quite often but
11 I stopped for a while. When I went home I would usually
12 get dropped off at St Enoch's Shopping Centre in Glasgow
13 on the Friday, and get picked up there on a Monday.
14 There was less sexual abuse when I was going home to my
15 dad's then, but there was still some violence.'

16 She says that on one occasion she took a boy home
17 with her and he stayed at her dad's for the weekend.
18 Her dad later phoned Loaningdale and told them that we
19 were having sex at his house, but we weren't. I stopped
20 going back to my dad's after that.

21 I went for a while at Loaningdale without a social
22 worker. I can't remember her name, but once when
23 a woman did come I was really nasty to her. I think
24 I blamed her for not taking me seriously.

25 I continued to self-harm in Loaningdale and I knew

1 the reasons were all because of my mum and dad. I cut
2 myself quite a lot. I would often communicate my
3 thoughts to staff by writing it down. I don't really
4 remember needing to go to the doctors. When I cut
5 myself in the home, which I did sometimes, staff would
6 clean me up. There was one time when it was [REDACTED]
7 and they had to take me to the local hospital.
8 Self-harm was a big feature when I was at Loaningdale.
9 I remember when I needed dental treatment I would go to
10 the dentist in the nearby town.

11 Bill Whiteside took me and another boy to Edinburgh
12 Zoo and I don't really remember much else, although I do
13 vaguely remember something about ice skating. I don't
14 think there were many trips, because we were all too
15 wild.'

16 She doesn't really remember too much about Christmas
17 or birthdays when she was at Loaningdale:

18 'Can't remember how or if we celebrated them.'

19 She says it wasn't as easy at Loaningdale [REDACTED] Secondary Institutio
20 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions to get gas, drugs or alcohol:

21 'But we were still wild. There was some sex going
22 on and I think we all knew it was happening. I'm not
23 sure if the staff knew.

24 The doors at Loaningdale weren't locked and you
25 could just walk out, you weren't supposed to walk out

1 but we did go out sometimes to the nearby town. One
2 time it wasn't that I ran away, it was just that
3 I didn't want to go back. I was too scared to go back
4 because I was frightened of another girl in the home.
5 On that Monday morning, we were waiting in the centre of
6 Glasgow to get picked up and taken back to Loaningdale
7 when I met a couple of boys that I knew, so we decided
8 to all run away together and we went to Beith in
9 Ayrshire.

10 Later I got drunk and passed out and slept in
11 a school. The next thing I knew I got woken up by the
12 police and the fire service because a different part of
13 the school had been set on fire. I spent the next four
14 days at Greenock Police Station in a cell. I was only
15 15 at the time. My dad and my granny got to visit me in
16 the police station and my granny insisted that I get
17 seen by a medical person and that I get clothes and
18 a blanket. I wasn't really treated very well until my
19 granny came to see me. I went to Kilmarnock Sheriff
20 Court and from there I was taken to Kerelaw secure unit
21 for a week.'

22 She says a little about that later, my Lady. She
23 says:

24 'One of the staff, GYF [REDACTED], but we just called
25 him GYF [REDACTED], lived in a flat [REDACTED].

1 He would take different boys and girls into his flat
2 apparently to do arts and crafts. One time I was in his
3 house, and I can't remember why, but when I went into
4 the room a boy and GYF were both rustling and
5 adjusting the front of their trousers. The boy was
6 upset and was fixing the front of his trousers. GYF
7 was doing the same and he was flustered. I can't say
8 that I saw their private parts, but they jumped and were
9 sorting themselves and there is no doubt that some
10 sexual act had taken place. It was the same as I had
11 seen with my dad and my sister. There were other
12 children there -- there were two other girls, one whose
13 dad was a policeman and her mum was a social worker.
14 I never spoke to them later about it or asked what had
15 happened, but I knew one of the girls was scared so
16 I told her not to go back into his flat. The boy was
17 probably the same age as me.'

18 I should just add, my Lady, that that passage in
19 'Isabella's' statement should be read in conjunction
20 with a police statement which she gave in May 2016. The
21 reference for that is PSS-000026481.

22 She says that after this incident she remembers the
23 two boys went out and a boy set GYF's shed on
24 fire. One of the boys said something like, GYF
25 can't abuse us now' or GYF can't take us in there

1 now'.

2 She concludes about Loaningdale:

3 'Loaningdale was a joke of a place and the staff
4 were too busy dealing with their own relationships, but
5 Mr Whiteside was really nice. Even when I went to Hill
6 Park Children's Home I wrote him a letter and he wrote
7 back to me. There was nothing untoward against him.'

8 She said that she is one of the last children to
9 leave Loaningdale as the place was getting shut down and
10 it was shut down, my Lady, in 1989:

11 'The staff told us it was apparently because
12 a petition had gone round the town because we were so
13 wild and unruly. Leading up to that, there were a lot
14 of inspectors coming in and out but I don't really know
15 who they were.'

16 She then talks about being sent to Kerelaw and she
17 was only there for about a week and she doesn't report
18 any abuse there, my Lady. She just says that she was
19 really scared and the staff weren't very nice to her.
20 But then says that Bill Whiteside from Loaningdale wrote
21 a letter saying I could go back to Loaningdale.

22 She was then in another children's home, near
23 Glasgow and reading short then to page 20, paragraph 75,
24 she talks then about reporting of abuse and she
25 concentrates largely on reporting of the abuse by her

1 father and she notes that in paragraph 75 that having
2 disclosed the abuse and she told the social worker that
3 she may have been pregnant because of it, she says that
4 she backtracked later on and told them that it didn't
5 happen:

6 'I never said anything more about it and I was left
7 at home.'

8 She told a social worker **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
9 about her father's abuse but nothing ever happened. Her
10 sisters were both taken into care and they were
11 interviewed but denied anything had happened and because
12 there was no other evidence they were returned to their
13 father as well.

14 She continued to visit her father, this is
15 paragraph 78, and sometimes a friend came with her and
16 they suspected that he'd been doing something again to
17 'Isabella's' sister and she doesn't know if anything
18 ever happened about that.

19 Her dad continued to deny it and perhaps just worth
20 taking paragraph 82, my Lady:

21 'At church I used to tell the priest in confession
22 what my dad had done.'

23 She names the priest and she said:

24 'My dad had cottoned on to it and another priest
25 used to come out of the house, but dad would frighten us

1 and tell us that God was watching us and it was God that
2 was making him do these things to us.'

3 In paragraphs 83 to 85 she talks about Secondary Institutions
4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later .

5 Paragraph 86 she talks about reporting abuse at
6 Cardross and Loaningdale and she says she told a man at
7 Cardross, a key worker, about the abuse by her father
8 and at Loaningdale, but she says:

9 'No one ever took me seriously. I stopped telling
10 them because no one was listening and I didn't see the
11 point. All the staff at Loaningdale would have been
12 aware about the abuse I was suffering from my dad.'

13 She then goes on to talk about life after care.

14 LADY SMITH: She would think that because it was on the back
15 of that that she ended up going into care at all.

16 MR SHELDON: That must be right.

17 She got pregnant at 17, moved in with her partner
18 and for a while everything was okay. But says that she
19 got into a horrible situation. She moved to Nairn and
20 she eventually I think got custody of her children. She
21 says she's been to college and got a National
22 Certificate in social care and has also done other
23 courses.

24 She talks about impact and says that she started
25 self-harming when she was 11 or 12 years old and took

1 overdoses, [REDACTED]. She says at the
2 end of paragraph 90 she felt hurt and anger towards my
3 dad, my mum and the care system. Basically everybody.'

4 She says:

5 'I was raped when I ran away [REDACTED]
6 I blame myself for putting myself at risk. Once I was
7 raped by my own friend, at least I thought he was my
8 friend. I was raped more than once as an adult and felt
9 worthless. What happened to me was horrendous and there
10 was nobody I could turn to.

11 [Her social worker] was the only one I could turn to
12 and she left. A lot of the time I didn't see a lot of
13 what happened to me as being rape or abuse. I knew it
14 wasn't right and I didn't like it.'

15 She talks about having received a criminal
16 conviction for house breaking. This was the incident
17 when she ran away to Beith and --

18 LADY SMITH: This is when the school was set on fire and she
19 was found there, that led to her going to Kerelaw.

20 MR SHELTON: Yes. She says she also had a conviction for
21 assault because she and another girl got involved in
22 a fight when she was 14. She applied for a college
23 course for a National Certificate in social care and was
24 accepted, but my disclosure came through a couple of
25 months later and it showed my conviction for theft and

1 assault. I was told I couldn't continue on the course.'

2 She contacted APEX, a company that help you get back
3 to work if you've been involved with the police, and she
4 says the house breaking charge was really ridiculous
5 because:

6 'We had just climbed in a window and I had the
7 janitor's jacket and hat. I had to fight it and wrote
8 to the Scottish Ministers.'.

9 She says that although she completed the course:

10 'I had to find my own placement, because they
11 couldn't insure me to do it because of my convictions.
12 I completed the other courses but I know that my record
13 is going to haunt me when I try and get work and it is
14 always going to be hanging around in the background.
15 I worked in a care home as a general kitchen assistant
16 and I have tried to help by doing voluntary work here
17 and there. I tried to do some voluntary work with
18 children with disabilities, but again couldn't because
19 of my disclosure. It seems that it doesn't matter what
20 I do to try and better myself, I just get battered back
21 down because of what has happened before in my past.

22 I didn't get any education in any of the homes, none
23 whatsoever. I tried to do courses subsequently, but
24 I can only get on courses that don't need a disclosure.
25 I now can't get a job and am not really ready to go back

1 to work anyway.'

2 She talks about health impacts and says that she got
3 involved in buzzing gas and took drugs, because of
4 injecting developed hepatitis C. She didn't self-harm
5 when she was using heroin because she was using that to
6 self-medicate and she managed to stop using heroin about
7 ten years ago and is now on a methadone programme.

8 She has had a few breakdowns over the years and been
9 hospitalised with depression. She suffered
10 a neurological event and she said that she couldn't walk
11 or feed herself:

12 'The psychiatrist said it was apparently
13 an accumulation of everything that had happened to me
14 over the years. He was surprised that it hadn't
15 happened before.'

16 She is still weak down the right side of her body
17 and the only positive effect of this was:

18 'I no longer dwell on any thoughts of self-harming.'

19 She says her sleep's affected:

20 '... until a year and a half ago I just used to
21 sleep on the sofa and I wouldn't even go to bed because
22 of the nightmares.'

23 Paragraph 98:

24 'Everything that has happened to me has affected me
25 massively and I can't really put it into words. It has

1 made me physically and mentally ill. I don't know if it
2 has all been the care homes' fault, my dad's fault or my
3 own fault.'

4 She says her kids have suffered because of what she
5 went through:

6 'I just haven't been a proper parent for them.
7 I was just not there for them because I was using drugs
8 and they saw their dad beating me up. Once I got beaten
9 up by my partner and I had to flee the house and I had
10 nowhere else to go for help and ended up at my dad's for
11 a while. As much as I hated him, he was the only parent
12 I could turn to and the only adult I knew. He had to
13 look after my boys and he took that chance to abuse
14 them. I didn't know it at the time but they have since
15 told me. I have since cut all contact with my dad. My
16 boys also had to go into foster care for a week or two
17 because I was ill and their own dad couldn't look after
18 them.'

19 She says that her children, her boys, have been in
20 trouble with the law because of anger issues and she
21 says:

22 'It has affected my ability to have relationships.'

23 She hasn't been in a close relationship for over ten
24 years:

25 'Previously I would pick the first person who

1 expressed an interest in me and I had this preconceived
2 idea that if somebody wanted to have sex with you that
3 meant they loved you and I would give myself away to
4 them. I now can't trust anybody and I don't even want
5 to have any friends, apart from one person [who she
6 names].

7 I now just feel that I don't like myself and
8 sometimes I feel like a useless piece of shite.
9 I thought that it must have been something that I did,
10 because it can't be all of these people's faults.
11 Everything that has happened to me has massively
12 affected my own self-worth and self-esteem. I now
13 probably have more self-awareness and do my best to keep
14 myself safe, and by that I mean don't let anybody get
15 close.'

16 She says she is:

17 '... not sure who I apportion most of the impact on
18 my life to. My dad is at the forefront of my mind just
19 now, because all this is going on just now with the
20 police. The care side very much so, because I still
21 didn't learn how to trust anybody.'

22 She talks about a particular incident while she was
23 in care that she won't forget:

24 'I don't really talk about it very much and I have
25 never really told many people about that. I feel like

1 I wasn't safe anywhere, nowhere, so a lot of what went
2 on in the care system, maybe I just didn't take much
3 heed at the time, but thinking about it now as an adult
4 it really fries my brain.

5 I think about things that happened to me all the
6 time. I think about my dad, my mum and the whole care
7 system. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions when I ran away from Loaningdale.'

9 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]

12 LADY SMITH: Oh, yes.

13 MR SHELTON: Reading short, over the page to 28,
14 paragraph 106:

15 'If a child ever told me they were in care and this
16 was going on or if it was happening in their home,
17 I don't know if I would advise them to come forward or
18 not. It is a horrendous thing to go through, to sit and
19 tell people and then they don't take any heed of it.

20 I wouldn't say anything drastic really happened to
21 me in care that was abnormal compared to what was
22 happening at home.'

23 Although she refers again to [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

24 In relation to Loaningdale she says:

25 'At Loaningdale I can't be 100 per cent, but I know

1 there was something not right there, so I just feel like
2 the whole system is rubbish. Everything has had
3 an impact on my life. I think maybe when I got out of
4 my dad's house I thought that was great because they
5 would now look after my two sisters, but obviously they
6 didn't do that. They didn't look after me either and it
7 was just worse and worse.'

8 Reading short again, my Lady, to 110, page 29:

9 'It was only last year that my friend told me about
10 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and she suggested
11 I contact you. I phoned and I gave a lot of details to
12 the lady on the phone. As a result, the information
13 I gave was passed to the police and the police are
14 making enquiries into my dad. I think they have
15 uncovered quite a lot, because my sisters have now
16 spoken up. The police and the Procurator Fiscal's
17 office have told us that other stuff has come to light
18 that they cannot discuss for legal reasons.
19 I'm grateful to the Inquiry for passing the information
20 on to the police for me and that now something is
21 actually getting done.'

22 She repeats that she's now off heroin and on
23 a methadone programme and says that she is going to
24 start on a new type of medication for hepatitis C.

25 She went to counselling about what happened with her

1 dad, but it just left her very angry. She has a CPN,
2 who she sees once a fortnight, and also saw
3 a psychologist, but stopped because there were too many
4 other things going on, and she sees a psychiatrist once
5 a month:

6 'I'm also seeing a specialist in neurology following
7 my breakdown. I think the best help and support that
8 I get are from the CPN and psychiatrist and my friend,
9 who I see or speak to every day, sometimes twice a day.'

10 In relation to lessons:

11 'I would like to think that not just anybody can
12 work in any of these care homes. I think the
13 disclosures really don't mean anything. One thing
14 I would like to see is more inspections of care homes,
15 but then again I wouldn't trust that they would actually
16 get done.'

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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21
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23 There should also be somebody outside the children's
24 home who can speak to the child to check on their
25 welfare and also give the child somebody they can speak

1 to and confide in.'

2 She says a bit about her records and has made the
3 usual declaration, my Lady, and the statement was signed
4 in 2017.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 We are going to stop there for today, Mr Sheldon.

7 Before I rise, some names in relation to
8 Loaningdale, the people whose identities are protected
9 by my General Restriction Order, GYF [REDACTED], Mr HGK [REDACTED]
10 Mr LUJ [REDACTED], Mr IPW [REDACTED] and somebody called IPY [REDACTED]. They
11 can't be identified outside this room.

12 Tomorrow, what is the plan?

13 MR SHELDON: Tomorrow morning, my Lady, we have an oral
14 witness, Elizabeth Ridder, who is the organisational
15 witness for Dr Guthrie's Association.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 Until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

18 (3.55 pm)

19 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on

20 Thursday, 6 June 2024)

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