

1 Friday, 4 October 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Chapter 9 of
4 this phase. We are starting this morning with reading
5 in some statements and then, after the break, we plan to
6 go on to a witness in person.

7 Ms Forbes, I see you're ready to go, are you?

8 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

9 'Cindy' (read)

10 MS FORBES: The first statement is from an applicant who is
11 anonymous and known as 'Cindy' and the reference for her
12 statement is WIT-1-000000870.

13 'Cindy' was born in 1968 in West Yorkshire. She
14 tells us about her life before going into care from
15 paragraph 2 onwards. She says that her dad was
16 an engineer and he was a work hard, play hard drinker.
17 Her mum was a stay-at-home mum and loved being a mum,
18 she was from a big family and she had four brothers and
19 two sisters and she was the youngest.

20 She says life in the family home was difficult
21 because when her dad was in the house, she would get
22 blamed for any trouble that took place and that her dad
23 was physically abusive towards her and violent to all of
24 the children. She talks about him being violent to them
25 in age order.

1 She goes on to say at paragraph 5 that she was a bag
2 of nerves when she was at home and she would sneak about
3 the house if her dad was home, because if he heard her,
4 she'd get a hiding. She says that she followed her
5 older siblings to the same primary school, which wasn't
6 good because she was the last one going to that school.

7 She says that they moved around a lot, looking back
8 at all the places they lived, they were forever
9 decorating. She says that she experienced sexual abuse
10 in her childhood when she lived in West Yorkshire and
11 she tells us about her experience at paragraph 7,
12 involving her sister, and then at paragraph 8, she talks
13 about sexual abuse involving her brother.

14 She then says that they moved up to the
15 Isle of Lewis when she was between 10 and 10-and-a-half
16 and she tells us about that in the following paragraphs
17 and that life up there for her wasn't easy, because they
18 had come from England.

19 She says that she lived there for 17 years in total
20 and I think she's talking about later in life as well,
21 and was repeatedly told to 'fuck off to where she came
22 from' and was called an English bastard.

23 Life was difficult in that community. She didn't
24 know Gaelic and she says that people spoke it on purpose
25 in front of her. She says then things at school weren't

1 good and for between three and six months, her brother
2 and her didn't go to school. She says she started to
3 get bullied after the first year of being at a place
4 called the Nicolson Institute.

5 She was terrified, she didn't have any friends and
6 she didn't want to be there. She started stealing
7 clothes in an effort to try to fit in and then she ended
8 up in court with others and it was said by the sheriff
9 that she was the instigator and she was in charge. She
10 tells us that the other children involved were all from
11 Stornoway and 'Cindy' says, at paragraph 12, that she
12 remembers sticking two fingers up to the judge and that
13 her dad dragged her out of court by the back of her neck
14 and she got two years' probation.

15 She talks about her life in Stornoway with her
16 family and that her dad was worse when they were there
17 and she says she would stay out and the police would
18 have to come looking for her. She was expelled from one
19 school, the Nicholson Institute, on two occasions and
20 she ended up going to Lewes Castle School. She had
21 a difficult time there as well.

22 She says that she thinks that at the time she
23 thought, if she carried on behaving badly, she would be
24 sent back to Yorkshire and be able to stay with her
25 older brothers and sister who were still living there.

1 She didn't think about her behaviour potentially leading
2 to children's panels and assessment centres.

3 She had a social worker there and she said that she
4 was no use to her and she was labelled a troublemaker
5 and a delinquent and was always seen as the one to
6 blame.

7 There were a couple of children's panels before she
8 went into care. At paragraph 16 'Cindy' says:

9 'Looking back, I was a rebel and I didn't give
10 a shit. I was out of control and no one was trying to
11 help me.'

12 She says there was a final children's hearing before
13 she was put into care and by that time, she was out of
14 control and she was staying away from the house and
15 would go into the forest and that the police and her dad
16 were always looking for her.

17 She says that the hearings that she went to were
18 really for the adults to do the talking and she just
19 remembers being told that she would be going to
20 an assessment centre in Inverness and thereafter, she
21 talks about the fact that she was sent to the assessment
22 centre in Inverness, and this is between paragraphs 20
23 and 50.

24 I think she thinks she was aged 13 when she went
25 there for three months, but it might have been a bit

1 more than that [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

2 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

3

4

5 She then tells us from paragraph 51 about her time

6 leaving the assessment centre [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

7 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

8 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] she

9 went for a visit to Balnacraig School and during that

10 visit, she spoke to [SNR] Mr [SGQ] and met [SNR]

11 [SNR], who she says was 'Mr [GHG]', but we have

12 records for 'Cindy' and we can see it's Mr [GHG] who

13 was [SNR].

14 She said that after that visit she got to go home to

15 Stornoway for a week or two before she went to

16 Balnacraig.

17 She then tells us about Balnacraig from

18 paragraph 53. We know from the records that she was

19 admitted to Balnacraig on [] 1983. She would

20 have been aged 14 by then and she stayed there until

21 officially [] 1984, when she was discharged and

22 she would have been 15 by that time and she wouldn't

23 have turned 16 until [] 1984.

24 She says from paragraph 53 that she knew that

25 Balnacraig was a residential school for girls. She

1 didn't know whether it was a secure place, but she soon
2 found out that they wouldn't let you out alone after she
3 went there and she started planning escape routes as
4 soon as she got there.

5 At paragraph 54 she says that staff saw her as
6 someone who would manipulate them. She says:

7 'I was quiet and I stood back to observe things.
8 I remember the words to a song that the girls at
9 Balnacraig used to sing, which quite neatly sums up how
10 we all felt about Balnacraig, when we were there.'

11 She sets out those words:

12 'Come to Balanie, come to Balanie.

13 It's a life of misery.

14 There's a signpost in the garden.

15 Saying welcome to all of thee.

16 Don't believe it, don't believe it.

17 It's a bunch of bloody lies.

18 If it wasn't for the panels I would be in paradise.

19 Build a bonfire, build a bonfire.

20 Put **SGQ** on the top. Put **GHG** in the middle.

21 And burn the bloody lot.'

22 'Cindy' then says that she has a photograph of
23 Balnacraig from a website and she can identify the
24 recreation room. Her first bedroom was above that
25 recreation room and she talks about there being a craft

1 room at the right-hand side of the back entrance and
2 that Mr SGQ office was in the centre of the ground
3 floor. All the bedrooms were upstairs.

4 She tells us at paragraph 56 that there was
5 a separate house for Mr and Mrs SGQ-SPO in the grounds
6 and there was a wall [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] from the house, where Mr SGQ and
8 his wife stayed, and that there were big grounds.

9 She says there were big sloping grassy areas where
10 they played roly-poly and could do gymnastics and there
11 were also bushes which they used to hide in to smoke.

12 At paragraph 57, she gives more of a description and
13 says:

14 'The entrance to the main house had big double
15 wooden doors. The entrance doors were on the far side
16 of the building from the driveway. You walked into
17 a porch then through another set of doors. Then there
18 was a wide wooden staircase that swept up. On the
19 left-hand side there was a door to the staffroom. The
20 first door on the right was Mr SGQ office at the
21 front of the building. There was another small room to
22 the right, where I remember a psychiatrist seeing me.
23 Further along, you walked down a short corridor and
24 turned right to an office in the middle. That office
25 was Mr GHG.'

1 She talks about the dining room being straight ahead
2 from the entrance door and there was a corridor from the
3 staffroom door and halfway down there is a nurses' room,
4 if you carried on walking a couple of steps down through
5 doors to the recreation room, which they called the
6 reccy room and there were chairs in there, a piano in
7 the alcove and some gym equipment.

8 She goes on to describe more of Balnacraig's layout
9 at paragraph 59 and says:

10 'If you came in the back entrance and turned right,
11 there was the craft room, which also doubled up as a
12 naughty room.'

13 She talks about there being portakabins in the
14 grounds to the side of the building with two classrooms.

15 Going forward then to paragraph 62, 'Cindy' says:

16 'It was an all-girls' residential school when I was
17 there but I know it became mixed after I left. All the
18 girls at Balnacraig were secondary school age up to 16.
19 There were about 25 to 30 girls at any one time.'

20 She talks about the girls being from all over
21 Scotland and she was considered the outsider because she
22 wasn't from one of the big cities or from Scotland. She
23 says some of the girls stayed there longer than she did:

24 'People were always coming and going with no
25 explanation why.'

1 But she discovered in adult life from other girls
2 who had been to Balnacraig that when she left, Mr SGQ
3 told them she went to St Mary's, rather than going home
4 to Stornoway. 'Cindy' mentions that girls were divided
5 between A and B blocks and they couldn't use each
6 other's showers and A and B blocks couldn't talk in each
7 other's bedroom, they could only mix in the reccy room,
8 the dining room and the classroom. She comments there
9 was no one for her to be pals with and she says that the
10 girls were pally with each other and says at
11 paragraph 64:

12 'They were always bitching about someone. That
13 someone was mainly me.'

14 She lists a number of girls that she remembers being
15 there at the same time as she was.

16 At paragraph 65 'Cindy' says:

17 'There was SNR and SNR who
18 were . Staff members usually
19 looked after the children or taught, but there were one
20 or two of the staff members who did both things. Over
21 and above those staff members, there were night staff
22 wandering about at night to ensure we didn't escape.

23 SNR was called SGQ, we all
24 called him SGQ. He is now dead. He was from
25 Yorkshire, he always had a fag and a whisky in his hand.

1 He was married to [REDACTED]. SGQ-SPO [REDACTED] lived in
2 a separate house on the grounds with a [REDACTED] dog
3 called [REDACTED]. I remember Mr SGQ [REDACTED] being in his office
4 in the main house, standing in front of the fireplace in
5 front of an open fire. There were two chairs and
6 a settee opposite and no desk. He would be sitting in
7 front of the fire speaking to me. I remember he used to
8 call me 'GHE [REDACTED]' or 'GHE [REDACTED]'. [REDACTED] and
9 SGQ [REDACTED] went on to get another school with children
10 after I left.

11 'SNR [REDACTED] was called GHG [REDACTED], he was
12 SNR [REDACTED]. He was known as GHG [REDACTED].
13 I know he is still alive. I heard he became a social
14 worker later on, but I don't know if that's true.'

15 She then talks about other staff members, including
16 [REDACTED], Mr SGQ [REDACTED]'s wife, who taught pottery or
17 photography and someone called GHF [REDACTED], who was
18 the matron.

19 She mentions some further staff members at
20 paragraph 68.

21 At paragraph 69, she talks about her first day and
22 she says that she soon realised she was going to be the
23 outsider in this new place because she wasn't Scottish
24 and she remembers she hated the school straight away.

25 She says at paragraph 70 she was put in a room with

1 a girl who she names first, who threw a knife at her in
2 the bedroom and that she did a runner after that
3 incident.

4 Then she was put into another room to share with
5 another girl who was quiet and they ended up falling out
6 and then she was moved to another room.

7 In relation to meal times, 'Cindy' said that they
8 all ate together in the dining room. There were round
9 tables and the staff decided who sat at which tables and
10 the only time you didn't was when you were being
11 punished and on those occasions, she was made to eat her
12 meals in the craft room.

13 She says at paragraph 72:

14 'At one point I went on a starvation protest for
15 about five days. I'd had enough of the place.
16 I remember that when I did that, I still had to sit at
17 the table in the dining room. They still placed the
18 food in front of me. I refused to eat any of the food
19 that they tried to tempt me with, they kept an eye on
20 me. After five days I was drained, I started eating
21 again because I was starving. I wanted to get out of
22 there and my protest didn't work.'

23 She says at paragraph 73 that there were occasions
24 when staff sat while you bathed and that depended on how
25 naughty you'd been:

1 'A staff member called GHF used to
2 sometimes sit outside on a chair with the bathroom door
3 open. She sat outside the bathroom to check I wasn't
4 self-harming. I remember her doing that mostly during
5 times when we were getting punished. I don't think she
6 was the one in charge of doing those sort of things,
7 I think with me it just happened to be her every time.
8 I don't remember having anyone else doing that with me.
9 You didn't get a shower or a bath when you were getting
10 punished and made to wear a tracksuit. I remember going
11 two weeks at a time without getting a shower because of
12 that punishment.'

13 She says at paragraph 74 they had to wear a school
14 uniform during the day and there were two uniforms,
15 a blue and a grey set. They were taught lessons in the
16 portakabins and she talks about getting her IQ tested
17 when she was there and that she achieved a score of 112.

18 She says at paragraph 76:

19 'The quality of the teaching was all right but there
20 were always kids messing around in class. I remember
21 that whatever you did in class, Mr SGQ got you for
22 it. That could be for anything. It was often because
23 you talked back in class. He'd mainly get you when we
24 had our tea time meeting with all the staff. He'd point
25 at you and shout, "You", or sometimes, "You, girl, stand

1 up". He'd look at me and say things like, "GHE",
2 I'd stand up with attitude. He'd tell me what I'd done
3 wrong and then tell me, "Tracksuit". That was always
4 the punishment, he used, putting on the tracksuit.'

5 She does talk about a positive thing in relation to
6 GHF, who would take her to church with another
7 girl and she liked that because she got to sing.

8 At paragraph 78, 'Cindy' says they didn't have to do
9 many chores. She doesn't know whether they were given
10 as a punishment. She remembers making up their own beds
11 and sometimes having to mop the bathroom floors.

12 She talks about trips at paragraph 79 and says they
13 went on different trips that were organised and that
14 GHF and another staff member came on those
15 trips. She says about a year into her time at
16 Balnacraig, there was a trip to Spain. She didn't go on
17 that trip. She says that Mr SGQ and his wife took
18 their favourites away but Mr GHG stayed behind at
19 Balnacraig and he was [REDACTED] when Mr SGQ was away.

20 We do know from her records, my Lady, there is
21 a reference to this trip to Spain and the fact that she
22 wasn't allowed to go on it and that she and other girls
23 had caused quite a lot of trouble when SNR
24 was away.

25 She goes on to talk about leisure time at

1 paragraph 80:

2 'There was no organised after-school activities.'

3 There were boardgames and there was a reccy room
4 where they could play records. There was a pony they
5 got to look after and she remembers herself and another
6 girl getting to go and groom it. They didn't get to
7 ride it though.

8 Small groups occasionally got to go into town with
9 staff members like GHF [REDACTED], but she didn't get out
10 often. They did get pocket money which was held by the
11 staff and she would save up hers to buy records. She
12 talks about at paragraph 83 going to visit Stornoway
13 rather than a hearing. She remembers that she didn't
14 want to go back to Stornoway but they made her.

15 Some girls went home at the weekends, about three
16 quarters, and there would maybe be 10 or 12 of them left
17 behind. She says she didn't have any family visits and
18 she had no social work visits, but that her mum and dad
19 were due to come over to see a pantomime at Balnacraig
20 and it didn't go ahead and her parents didn't come
21 across.

22 She says she remembers going to sing in an old
23 folks' home and everyone was watching her singing and
24 she was shy. She remembers there being a review hearing
25 partway through her time at Balnacraig and Mr GHG [REDACTED]

1 went over with her to Stornoway and she says at usual
2 the adults dealt with everything and she didn't have
3 a voice and the outcome was that she needed to stay
4 longer at Balnacraig.

5 Paragraph 87, she talks about healthcare and in
6 particular she says:

7 'The staff decided if you got any sanitary products.
8 Sometimes they'd give them to you and sometimes they
9 wouldn't. GHF [REDACTED] was one of the staff members
10 who didn't give you any sanitary products or clean
11 knickers if you asked.'

12 She talks about seeing a psychiatrist at Balnacraig
13 set up by SNR [REDACTED]. It was a male psychiatrist
14 and she said she gave him one-word answers and she
15 wasn't ready to talk.

16 At paragraph 89, she says she remembers a girl, and
17 she names her, and she says somehow this girl took
18 an overdose and she wound up on the bathroom floor. She
19 says:

20 'I remember GHF [REDACTED] dashing about when that
21 happened before they finally called an ambulance.'

22 At paragraph 90, she says she was given no life
23 education or money or how to run a house or teaching on
24 cooking. That came as a shock to her later at 18 when
25 she got her own place and there was no sex education,

1 but she did get lectured by Mr SGQ about boys and
2 sex. Up until that point, nobody had ever told her
3 about any of that stuff.

4 In relation to running away, 'Cindy' says at
5 paragraph 91:

6 'I ran away after the incident ...'

7 She talks about the incident with the girl who came
8 at her with a knife in the bedroom. She said that the
9 police found her and took her back and then, when she
10 got back, all her clothes had gone from her room and she
11 was put into a tracksuit.

12 At paragraph 92, she says:

13 'The second time I tried to run away, I wasn't
14 successful. That time is detailed in my records. I was
15 trying to get away through the front door and
16 GHF was holding me from behind. I was kicking
17 out with my feet whilst another staff member was locking
18 the door. I managed to get out of GHF grip
19 and got to the reccy room. I jumped up onto the chair
20 and put my foot to the window, unfortunately the window
21 closed in on me. Mr GHG then came up and started
22 shouting at me. He pinned me up against the wall by my
23 throat. I remember his face was close to my face and he
24 was spitting in my face. In my records it says I was
25 upset because I didn't get to go to Spain, but that

1 wasn't why I was trying to run away. It was nothing to
2 do with the trip to Spain. After that incident, I was
3 put into a tracksuit and every staff member was told to
4 watch me.'

5 She says that the third time she ran away she was
6 away for four days and she says that she ended up in
7 Glasgow and she tells us about that at paragraph 93.
8 She was in a flat when the police came in and they put
9 her arms up behind her back and marched her out to the
10 van and she was taken to the police station and put in
11 a cell. She says that she kicked off whilst there and
12 they pinned her to the mattress and she was later put
13 into a children's home in Glasgow for the night. She
14 was picked up the next morning and taken back to
15 Balnacraig. When she got back, GHF made her
16 strip off her clothes and searched her bag for fags.

17 She remembers two of the other girls used to chase
18 girls when they ran away and they were two of the
19 favourites in the school. She says that there was
20 a time when she and another girl ran away and 'they
21 chased after us' and she ended up getting into the town
22 before being caught by the police and she says after
23 that incident, that was it for her running away.

24 She says:

25 'I think by that time I realised my GCSE exams were

1 coming up and there was going to be a children's hearing
2 about me.'

3 That's at paragraph 94.

4 She then goes on to talk about abuse at Balnacraig
5 from paragraph 96 and says:

6 'The main form of discipline I recall being used at
7 Balnacraig was being told to put on a tracksuit, being
8 put in the craft room and being made to sleep in the
9 empty room upstairs. That whole punishment routine
10 could be your routine for one day or up to two weeks.
11 I remember it always being cold in the craft room.
12 There was a sliding door and a glass panel for staff to
13 see into the room. When you were in there, you had just
14 a tracksuit to wear. You had no jumper, no jacket or
15 slippers. There could be anywhere between two and eight
16 or nine girls isolated in the room at the same time.
17 Inside the craft room was always a staff member who sat
18 with us. Sometimes that was GHF [REDACTED]. The staff
19 member told you when you could go to the toilet. You
20 had breakfast, dinner and tea in that room.

21 'Part of the punishment involved the books that were
22 in the room. There was a trolley with books on it. You
23 had to pick a book from the trolley which you had to
24 read. After a while, Mr SGQ [REDACTED] would come into the
25 craft room. You could hear him coming down the

1 corridor. When he arrived, the staff member on duty
2 would leave the room. Mr SGQ would then decide who
3 to pick on. He would tell them to shut their book and
4 pass it to him. He would then look at the book and ask
5 things like, "What's the third word on the fourth
6 paragraph on the second page?" No matter what you said,
7 the word you picked was always the wrong answer. He'd
8 then tell you to read the book properly before leaving
9 the room. You weren't allowed to get another book for
10 ages. Mr SGQ picked on me a few times like that.

11 'Once in a blue moon, it would be Mr GHG who came
12 into the craft room when we were being punished. When
13 he came into the room, he'd either sit in a chair or
14 stand there twiddling his fingers and staring at us.
15 Looking back, he was intimidating us. He was doing that
16 to try and wind us up.

17 'On A-side of the building, there was an empty
18 bedroom next to the staffroom. They left the room empty
19 so they could put girls in there for punishment in their
20 tracksuits. If you were being punished, you were placed
21 in there to sleep instead of your own bedroom. All you
22 had was a sleeping bag. There weren't pillows, never
23 mind mattresses in the room. I remember one point when
24 there were 12 to 14 girls in there all being punished at
25 the same time. We were still cold from being in the

1 craft room all day. We could only use the bathroom when
2 staff said we could.

3 'The tracksuits were dark blue or black with
4 a yellow stripe down the side. They were always put on
5 to you after you came back after running away. The
6 staff would take away your clothes and make you wear
7 this tracksuit, sometimes with no underwear and no other
8 clothes. Being in a tracksuit meant that other kids
9 couldn't talk to you. If they did speak to you, they
10 would be told to get a tracksuit to put on and sit in
11 the craft room alongside you.'

12 She then talks about SGQ and GHG
13 and says:

14 'Some of the activities that they made us do at
15 Balnacraig were abusive. I remember we were made to
16 play a game called "murder ball". It was a physical
17 game where anything went. I remember that Mr SGQ
18 thrived on that game. He loved making us play that.
19 Another activity that Mr SGQ made us do that was
20 abusive was boxing.'

21 She says she fell out with a girl and they didn't
22 have a fight, they just fell out, and one day after that
23 happening they were in a meeting in the reccy room with
24 all the staff and Mr SGQ told them he knew what had
25 happened and that they'd fallen out and then he gave

1 them adult boxing gloves and said if they wanted to
2 fight, they needed to put them on and 'Cindy' says she
3 refused to do it.

4 Paragraph 101, she says:

5 'Mr SGQ took us every week to a leisure centre
6 called The Glebe. It was very rare that anyone took his
7 place when we went to The Glebe. Looking back, I think
8 that was because he was a pervert. I remember that when
9 we went there, we would all have to go in our
10 tracksuits. Mr SGQ used to watch us and make
11 inappropriate comments. There was a warm-up routine
12 that Mr SGQ would make us do. Whilst we did it,
13 Mr SGQ would make us say, "I must, I must improve my
14 bust. The bigger the better, the tighter the sweater".
15 He loved the swimming sessions he took us to because we
16 were all in swimming costumes. He'd look down the line
17 and look us up and down. You could see his eyes
18 lighting up when he did that.

19 'It was well known that both Mr SGQ and Mr GHG
20 had their favourites amongst the girls. Being
21 a favourite meant the girl had to sit on the chair arm
22 next to them in their offices and accepting them being
23 touchy-feely. They didn't force the favourites to go
24 into their offices. If Mr SGQ or Mr GHG were busy
25 doing other things, they just gave a gesture to the

1 favourites to say to go into the room. It didn't happen
2 all the time.

3 'I remember the main favourites with Mr GHG [she
4 names them and she also then names Mr SGQ 's
5 favourites]. Now and then other ones would go through
6 to the offices. I remember that if either Mr SGQ or
7 Mr GHG doors were shut you had to knock and wait
8 for them to shout, "Come in", before you could go into
9 the room. I remember times when I'd walk in and the
10 favourites would be there sitting on the arm of the
11 chair with Mr SGQ and Mr GHG arm around them.
12 Their arms would be round the favourite under their bust
13 and the favourite might have their hand round Mr SGQ
14 or Mr GHG neck.

15 'Sometimes you would discover that Mr SGQ or
16 Mr GHG door was locked. You'd discover that you
17 couldn't go in and it was quiet. I remember thinking to
18 myself, "Where's so and so?". You would look around the
19 reccy room and discover they weren't there. You could
20 tell from the smug looks on Mr SGQ and Mr GHG
21 face later on that something had happened. There was
22 one occasion when Mr SGQ came over to the school
23 building in the middle of the night. Mr SGQ came
24 over from his house to get a girl taken out of her bed
25 and down to his room. That wouldn't ordinarily happen

1 unless someone had really kicked off. I remember a girl
2 had to go down to his office. I can't remember her name
3 but it was one of his favourites. She was from A block,
4 so not from the block I was in.

5 'Both Mr SGQ and Mr GHG were very
6 touchy-feely. That happened with me. They always had
7 their hand either on your thigh towards your rear or
8 rubbing about under your bust. I remember times when
9 they'd look you up and down and stare at your bust or
10 your arse when you were walking. I remember times when
11 I was in Mr SGQ office when I was stood by the
12 fireplace in my school uniform and skirt. I'd be trying
13 to pull my skirt down over my knees and he'd tell me to
14 lift my skirt higher.

15 'Mr SGQ wasn't ever physical with me but I think
16 he was with some of the other girls. You could tell
17 when he was in a foul mood from his face. One time [she
18 names a girl] walked into a room with him in the morning
19 and we could see she had a black eye. We all knew that
20 Mr SGQ was the one who had done it. That was the
21 rumour that went round Balnacraig amongst the girls.
22 I think the staff were aware of that incident but did
23 nothing about it.

24 'There was no regular oversight of the girls by the
25 staff. If girls wanted to bully someone, they would

1 just wait for an opportunity when staff weren't there.
2 I think staff were aware that bullying was going on.
3 I know of occasions where staff heard on the grapevine
4 that two girls had an argument or that certain girls
5 didn't get on.

6 'Staff did try to police the bullying. If word got
7 back to staff that there was bullying going on, they'd
8 come rushing over from the staffroom. The girls would
9 hear GHF coming down the corridor and they'd
10 tell the others to stop whatever they were doing that
11 they shouldn't be. If staff actually saw any bullying
12 or violence, it would be brought up in one of the daily
13 meetings in the reccy room. If that was raised,
14 Mr SGQ would then just say, "Tracksuit". Depending
15 on how bad the situation was, there could be one or two
16 girls wearing a tracksuit on those occasions.'

17 'Cindy' then talks about the fact that Mr SGQ and
18 Mr GHG would look at her funny because she was
19 an observer, who would stand and listen, and she thinks
20 they knew they had to be careful what they said and did
21 around her and they kept her out of the offices a lot.
22 She didn't make any reports at the time. She says she
23 was always told she was a liar and was making things up
24 when she was young. She says that she kicked off
25 sometimes because she wanted out of the place but she

1 didn't talk.

2 She says at 110:

3 'Looking back, the staff just followed what
4 Mr SGQ told them to do. They knew about the way
5 Mr GHG and Mr SGQ behaved but chose to keep their
6 mouths shut. It was all covered up. They saw things
7 happening themselves and heard girls having
8 conversations about what was happening. The staff were
9 probably worried about their jobs so whatever Mr SGQ
10 said went and that was the law. They were also probably
11 concerned that they might get into trouble if they
12 reported anything.'

13 'Cindy' then says she left Balnacraig in the lead-up
14 to sitting her GCSE exams. She was aware there was
15 a children's hearing coming up in Stornoway and she was
16 told before she went to the hearing that she could stay
17 at Balnacraig and do her GCSEs or return to Stornoway.
18 She was told that Stornoway Castle School was willing to
19 take her and put her through her GCSEs and then she flew
20 over to Stornoway with Mr GHG.

21 During the hearing at Stornoway, Mr GHG explained
22 to the panel how well behaved she'd been and she
23 discovered that the decision had already been taken and
24 she says her records say:

25 'I chose to go back to Stornoway, but that

1 absolutely wasn't what happened in reality.'

2 My Lady, we know from her records that she went back
3 to Stornoway officially in [REDACTED] 1984 when she was
4 taken off the roll, but, after going home for Christmas,
5 she remained in Stornoway from [REDACTED] 1983 for
6 a trial period and enrolled at the Castle and there is
7 a letter that talks about the fact that the Castle
8 didn't put her in an O-Grade class and that she felt
9 that was a price worth paying if it would enable her to
10 remain at home.

11 They go on to say that at Balnacraig if she stayed,
12 they would have put her forward for O-Grades but that
13 her chances of success in passing were borderline and
14 that this educational question wasn't in itself a strong
15 enough argument to recommend she stay at Balnacraig. So
16 there is a bit of a conflict, I think, between the
17 accounts.

18 She says that she went back to Stornoway then and we
19 know from the records that this was earlier than I think
20 she thinks it was in 1984, but she was still 15 years
21 old.

22 She then talks about life after being in care from
23 paragraph 114 and she says there was no support from
24 social work when she returned to Stornoway and then she
25 talks about this issue about not being able to do her

1 GCSEs at Balnacraig. She then talks about an incident
2 that led to her being expelled from school.

3 She says at 15-and-a-half she got a job in a cafe.
4 Around this time she started drinking. Her dad got her
5 into going to the pub and there was issues of violence
6 between her dad and her and he punched her on one
7 occasion so hard that it resulted in her top front teeth
8 being pushed back, damaging at least four teeth.

9 She went to stay at her sister's house and she says
10 it was all covered up and in the end the story was that
11 she'd been drunk and tripped and hit her face on the
12 concrete steps outside.

13 She says there was another incident with her dad
14 involving an assault and at that time, she was able to
15 get on top of him and punch him and that after that, he
16 never touched her again and she says that he decided to
17 leave and go back to Yorkshire. Her mum was left
18 behind, but her mum later went to join him in Yorkshire
19 and left her on her own in the house.

20 She talks about the fact that she wasn't able to
21 really cope and she didn't know how to pay bills and the
22 council eventually came after her because the rent
23 wasn't being paid and tried to evict her. She took
24 an overdose at one point and was in hospital. Then she
25 says she was kicked out of the house by the council and

1 she contacted the newspaper and said she was homeless
2 and had nowhere to live.

3 She ended up staying at her sister's place for a few
4 months and then finally the council found her a house.
5 The bills, though, were coming in again and she didn't
6 cope. By the time she was 21, she was pregnant. She
7 had a baby boy, but she struggled with that and she
8 talks about that in the paragraphs that follow.

9 The baby's father and her were staying together.
10 They weren't married at the time. They got a bigger
11 house together and then got married when she was 25.
12 They then had a second son and it was a volatile
13 relationship at times and she says ultimately she lived
14 with him for nine years.

15 She had problems with one of her sons and she left
16 this husband in 1995. She didn't take her children with
17 her and she says at that time she had nowhere to live.
18 She ended up with her brother and his girlfriend in
19 Yorkshire. There were issues with the courts and
20 custody in relation to the children. I think at one
21 time she actually kept the children in Yorkshire after
22 a visit and a court ordered her to return them.

23 She got married again and then had another child and
24 that relationship broke down. She said she's had
25 various jobs since she returned to Yorkshire and she

1 lists the different types of jobs she's had.

2 She says that she got a council house in the same
3 area that her mum and dad lived in in Yorkshire and her
4 mum and dad at that time were nearby.

5 Then she talks about the fact that since that time,
6 her mum and her dad have passed away.

7 In relation to impact, 'Cindy' talks about that from
8 paragraph 126 and says living in Stornoway was a problem
9 and her problems started when she went to school there.
10 She has ongoing issues in relation to maintaining
11 friendships and relationships. She's had to teach
12 herself all of her life skills that she's needed and she
13 talks again about her education not being encouraged
14 during her time in care and thinks that she could have
15 done well academically had she been given a chance.

16 She says, at paragraph 131:

17 'I'm on my guard with everything and everyone.
18 I've been on guard since the age of four.'

19 She talks about Future Pathways from paragraph 133
20 and she started getting support from them in March 2021.
21 She talks about being able to record a music album,
22 singing, with their help.

23 She says that she heard about the Inquiry through
24 a [REDACTED] group she was involved in relating to
25 Balnacraig and that's a group for people who were at

1 Balnacraig for a certain time period.

2 In relation to 'Lessons to be learned', she says at
3 paragraph 137 that the first year at Nicholson Institute
4 she was a good pupil, but it was when the bullying
5 started that she started skipping school and carrying on
6 and that someone should have noticed that change and
7 stepped in to her help.

8 She talks again about not being able to sit exams
9 when she went back to Stornoway.

10 At paragraph 139, she says:

11 'Children in care need someone who has actually been
12 in that position of being in care themselves. I think
13 there should be mentors for children in care.'

14 She talks about that some more.

15 In relation to 'Hopes for the Inquiry' at
16 paragraph 140, she says:

17 'Children who are placed in care and can't go home
18 to their families, because they're a long way away,
19 should have a safe place to go.'

20 Again, she talks about at paragraph 141, her
21 suggestion that people like her should be allowed to
22 talk to children in care, pass on her experiences to
23 help them.

24 She's made the usual declaration and then she's
25 signed that and it's dated 7 December 2021.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'CC' (read)

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from a witness
4 who is anonymous and is known as 'CC'. The reference is
5 WIT.001.001.1250.

6 'CC' is someone who has given live evidence in
7 relation to Aberlour and her statement has been read in
8 on two previous occasions as well and I'll give the
9 references for that when we get to those parts.

10 'CC' tells us she was born in 1959 and she gives
11 background to going into care from paragraph 2. Again,
12 a lot of this has already been given in evidence but
13 essentially she talks about her family being gypsies and
14 that she had a very difficult relationship with her
15 mother and, indeed, to the point that her gran told her
16 her mother thought she was the devil and that she had
17 used a Brillo soap pad on her to take skin off her body.

18 She says that she first was in a children's home
19 when she was very young, a nursery home, but that was
20 a happy place and she was returned to her mother when
21 she was about three years of age. She was with her for
22 a short period of time. At that time, she was living in
23 a caravan up north and there was a very serious assault
24 by her mother on her, where she caused serious injuries
25 to her body and her private area.

1 Police became involved and there were other women in
2 the area that were very angry towards her mother about
3 what had happened and she was in the
4 Sick Children's Hospital in Aberdeen after that and then
5 she was sent to Aberlour. She says she spent most of
6 her childhood in children's homes.

7 She talks about Aberlour from paragraphs 12 to 17
8 and she gave live evidence on 11 December 2018, that was
9 Day 101, the transcript reference is TRN.001.004.5232.

10 She says she was there for only a few months, but
11 she does talk about abuse.

12 Thereafter, she was at The Dowans in Aberlour and
13 talks about that between paragraphs 18 to 38. Again,
14 there there was physical, emotional and sexual abuse and
15 she thinks that as a result of her telling someone about
16 this or because of reports of abuse, that that place was
17 closed down.

18 She then went into foster care and she talks about
19 that at paragraph 39. She was there for only about
20 three weeks, she thinks, and it was horrible. She says
21 that after that she was then returned to her mother
22 again.

23 She talks about living back with her mother from
24 paragraph 44. She doesn't know why that happened and
25 she describes her mother as being a complete and utter

1 psychopath and that living with her was an absolute hell
2 and there was sexual abuse from a family member. There
3 was emotional abuse. There was physical abuse from her
4 mother and she paints a very dark picture in the
5 following paragraphs of the way that she was treated by
6 her mother with regular beatings and leatherings with
7 a belt and being starved and being emotionally abused.

8 She thinks then she stayed with her mother at that
9 time for just under two years and says that there was
10 an occasion when her mother, this is at paragraph 56,
11 nearly took her head off with a mirror and that's what
12 led to her leaving. She ran to the police station and
13 she was sent to another children's home and she says she
14 was 12 at that time.

15 She does talk about going to school when she was
16 living with her mother, but she says she was abused by
17 the other kids who threw stones at her and called her
18 a "minker". There was a teacher who was really good to
19 her and was trying to help and she told the teacher she
20 was being starved and she said they used to keep her
21 back in the canteen every day to feed her up after the
22 other children had left.

23 She had a [REDACTED], paragraph 60, who she says
24 witnessed her mother assaulting her and didn't do
25 anything about it. She talks about going to the other

1 children's home from paragraph 62. Secondary Institutions - to be published

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later she was
3 only there for a short time.

4 She then talks about Calder House Remand Home and
5 she says that she was put there because she says she was
6 seen as being one of the ringleaders of bad behaviour in
7 the children's home.

8 She talks about Calder House between paragraphs 65
9 and 71 and that was read in on 19 July 2024, that was
10 Day 463, the transcript is TRN-12-000000096. There was
11 physical abuse, emotional abuse, confinement in a room
12 as punishment, and she thinks she was about 12 or 13
13 when she was there. She was only there for a few months
14 and then she was moved to Balnacraig by
15 a children's panel and she says she was nearly 13 by
16 that point.

17 She talks about Balnacraig between paragraphs 72 and
18 78 and says:

19 'Balnacraig was a beautiful old building with
20 a beautiful old oak and glass-panelled library. I think
21 I was there for around six to nine months. It was
22 a girls only school. I was the youngest. Some of the
23 girls were about 15 or 16. It was run by a man called
24 Mr Cowling. He was really big with black hair. He was
25 a horrible man. He assaulted me twice. He kicked me

1 down the stairs, ripped my hair out and punched me.

2 I can't remember the reason why.

3 'We weren't given proper sanitary protection. I had
4 to use a paper towel, cotton wool and a bit of mesh.
5 I bled so much I had to put in a special request to the
6 social work department for Dr Whites. It was
7 embarrassing to say the least. I can't remember any
8 women staff there. I can only remember Cowling.

9 'Cowling used to take a girl [she names the girl]
10 who was from Edinburgh into the wooded area at the back
11 of the home and fornicate with her. She was 15. We all
12 knew about it. We used to wait in the dormitory at
13 night and watch them sneak out. I can't remember any of
14 the other kids' names.

15 'There was a lot of bullying and pressure from the
16 other children. The place just didn't seem to be run
17 properly at all. I don't know if the staff were aware
18 of it, but they should have been. They must at least
19 have seen how Cowling behaved.

20 'One day I was in the library with [she names the
21 same girl that she mentions Mr Cowling being involved
22 with] and one other girl.'

23 She says:

24 'They decided to set a feather cushion on fire and
25 I stamped it out. [The first girl who she named before]

1 then said to me, "Do that again hen and I'll punch your
2 face in". I was really small and was frightened of her.
3 She was a good bit older than me and she seemed to be
4 the big shot in the home. They then set another fire
5 and there was nothing I could do. The place got burnt
6 down. They sat on top of the hill watching and
7 laughing. I really didn't think it was funny, but I was
8 frightened. We got dealt for it. I got sent to
9 Balgay Approved School.'

10 She talks about Balgay from paragraph 79 and that
11 evidence was read in on 16 February 2024, Day 419, it's
12 TRN-12-000000051.

13 She says she was 14 when she went there and she
14 spent about a year there and she says she was totally
15 out of control when she was there and she was beating
16 everybody up. She then talks about being in other homes
17 but doesn't know what order they came in and she names
18 them.

19 She then says she lived with [REDACTED] for
20 about a year and that's from paragraph 85. She talks
21 about going out with her sister from [REDACTED]'s
22 house one night when she was underage and dancing with
23 a man who raped her when he was walking her home. After
24 that, she said she 'flipped her lid' and they put her
25 into Brimmond.

1 She then talks about being in Brimmond from
2 paragraph 89 to 91 and she says she was only there for
3 one day and she assaulted Mrs ERL there and tells us
4 about that and then she was then put into cells at the
5 police headquarters and she was 15 at that point.

6 She was then sent to Gateside Prison in Greenock and
7 she was only 15 and that something had to be signed by
8 the Secretary of State to allow her to be put there
9 because she was too young. She talks about her
10 experiences at that prison in the following paragraphs.
11 She talks about assaults, self-harming and also she
12 mentions a sexual assault as well.

13 She says she went to a children's panel when she was
14 at that prison and she tried to show them bruises under
15 the waistband of her jeans and they just shrugged their
16 shoulders. She used to see a psychiatrist and she
17 showed him her bruises and that he knew she had been
18 sexually assaulted.

19 She was then moved to Cornton Vale, she was still
20 only 15, and again she talks about her time there from
21 paragraph 104 onwards and she talks about abuse there
22 and assaults.

23 She then says that she left Cornton Vale in
24 1975 and went to Cornhill Hospital. She says that
25 was a hospital for the criminally insane. She says she

1 wasn't insane, she was just damaged. She also did
2 18 months' borstal training at Cornton Vale.

3 She talks about Cornhill Hospital from paragraph
4 109, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** She says
5 she was there for a year.

6 Then she talks about life after care and she says
7 that, from paragraph 118, she was dumped in a bed and
8 breakfast in Aberdeen at 17 years old and there was no
9 aftercare. She slept rough for three years and then the
10 advice she was given was to get pregnant to be able to
11 get a council house. She was living on the streets and
12 was raped and abused and then she eventually was awarded
13 a house after a court case.

14 In relation to impact she says, at paragraph 124:

15 'I don't really know exactly how it's affected me.
16 I feel totally different from everybody else. I feel
17 like I don't fit in and don't belong. I'm a brown paper
18 parcel without a label.'

19 She feels stigmatised. She has no self-confidence
20 or self-esteem and she talks about self-harming,
21 suffering from depression and being diagnosed with
22 personality disorder and PTSD.

23 She does talk in further paragraphs from 137 about
24 her trouble with different agencies and how they see her
25 and she talks about that in a lot of details and

1 problems with her son as well and lack of support she's
2 received from different agencies.

3 At paragraph 164, she says:

4 'What I would want to come out of this is a centre
5 of excellence for abused children and adults. The
6 facilities obviously need to be separate. The bairns
7 need to be safe. Kids can't go through stuff like that
8 and then be left to rot like an old apple. That's why
9 they end up killing themselves or end up in jail.
10 That's what happens to a lot of them and it's all
11 because of what other people did to them. It doesn't
12 make sense to me. It's wrong.'

13 At paragraph 167, 'CC' says:

14 'I've felt a lot of relief getting all of this off
15 my chest. Nobody has ever listened to me before. I am
16 not a liar. Speaking to the Inquiry is not about money
17 for me. I would do anything I could to help make sure
18 that other kids don't suffer. That's what it's about
19 for me. I would give oral evidence if I thought it
20 would help.'

21 As your Ladyship has heard, she did.

22 She has signed her statement and it is dated
23 24 March 2017.

24 'Margaret' (read)

25 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement I have is from

1 an applicant who is anonymous and is known at
2 'Margaret'. The reference is WIT.001.003.0830.

3 'Margaret' tells us that she was born in 1970 in
4 Glasgow. She says that when she was eight, her dad died
5 and soon after that they moved to a different housing
6 scheme. She lived there with her mum, her brother and
7 her sister.

8 She says she had other older brothers and sisters
9 but they didn't live with them and she was the youngest.

10 After her dad died, her mum had to work, so her
11 siblings looked after her. However, she did what she
12 wanted and then, when she was still at primary school,
13 she started, about ten years old, started sniffing glue.
14 She started going about with an older crowd. They were
15 already sniffing glue. She started secondary school and
16 started skipping school in first year, she was
17 shoplifting and sniffing glue and the police would catch
18 her and take her back to school.

19 Social work became involved and she had to go to
20 children's panels. She said this was for skipping
21 school and for shoplifting, but they didn't know she was
22 sniffing glue. No one noticed that she was doing that
23 until she was about 13 or 14.

24 The panel, she said, were looking into why she was
25 skipping school and it eventually came out that she was

1 sniffing glue. She said that they didn't believe
2 anything she said at the panels. She was classified as
3 a troublemaker, an attention seeker, and an unruly
4 child. They sent her to an [REDACTED] for education, but
5 she says there was no education there. She says that
6 she ended up being taken back to the panel and they
7 decided she was going to Balnacraig.

8 She talks about Balnacraig from paragraph 10.
9 'Margaret' says she was 12 or 13 when she went to
10 Balnacraig and she gives a description of the layout and
11 what the school looked like.

12 She says there were 24 or 25 girls there in total
13 and she thinks she was the youngest. She also says she
14 thinks the youngest ever girl in Balnacraig was 11 years
15 old. She then talks about teaching staff and different
16 staff at paragraph 12. There was teaching staff and
17 care staff and she remembers some of them, who she
18 names, and she says that she remembers [REDACTED],
19 SGQ [REDACTED]'s wife, teaching art.

20 At paragraph 13:

21 SGQ [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] and he taught PE.
22 He had a study in the main house that had a big fire in
23 it. Mr GHG [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] and he was in
24 charge of punishments if SGQ [REDACTED] wasn't there. He
25 would shout in your face if you were in trouble.

1 'The teaching staff came in from outside and none of
2 the staff lived there, but there were always two members
3 of staff on duty at night. SGQ-SPO
4 ended up living in a house on the grounds
5 and then they stayed in
6 Balnacraig for a while.'

7 'Margaret' says that she was at home for a couple of
8 weeks after the decision was made to move her to
9 Balnacraig and she says that on the day that she was
10 leaving, they had to come and get her because she had
11 run away to use glue. When she went to Balnacraig, she
12 thought it was something out of Downton Abbey to her.
13 She remembers driving up the lawn and being scared and
14 not wanting to leave her mum. She says she didn't think
15 she understood the consequences of her actions.

16 At paragraph 17 she says:

17 'When I arrived at Balnacraig, I was introduced to
18 my key worker, Miss GHF, SNR, SGQ,
19 and SNR, Mr GHG. They went
20 through where I would be saying and they asked me if
21 I knew why I was there. They told me that if I was good
22 then I could go home at the weekends. I was taken
23 upstairs and given time to settle in. My mum and I went
24 into the toilet and she let me have a fag for the first
25 time. She told me that she loved me but that it was out

1 of her hands and that she couldn't do anything. I think
2 she felt powerless.

3 'I thought I was "Gallus Alice" before I went to
4 Balnacraig but it was scary when I arrived there,
5 because I was going into a strange place with girls that
6 I didn't know and some of them were big.'

7 She then talks about mornings and bed times. She
8 says the bedrooms were up two sets of stairs and then at
9 the top of the stairs, you could either go left or
10 right, depending on whether you were group A or B. She
11 says she was in group A:

12 'I was in a room for four girls when I arrived but
13 the size of room that you were in depended on your
14 behaviour, so if you were good then you would be moved
15 into a room with only three people and then only two.'

16 When she arrived, she shared a room with three other
17 girls and she says she still talks to one of them.

18 In relation to meal times at paragraph 22, she says
19 there was a big dining room:

20 'You sat at your key worker's table and she might be
21 there if she was on shift. Breakfast was cereal and
22 then you were given a biscuit on your morning break.
23 You went back to the house for your lunch and then for
24 an afternoon break. You were given dinner when you got
25 home from school and supper was at 8.00 pm.

1 'The food was okay and you got enough but you
2 weren't given anything in between meals. Now and again
3 you were taken out to the shop at the weekends to get
4 a sweet but your behaviour had to be perfect to be
5 allowed that.'

6 Paragraph 25, she says:

7 'The school uniform was a skirt, jumper and a shirt.
8 You wore one colour one week and a different colour the
9 next week, but I don't know why that was.'

10 She had to put a yellow cross with her initials on
11 her clothes to show that she was in group A. There was
12 no supervision in the evenings, 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm was
13 your own time and you could watch television if you
14 wanted.

15 At paragraph 28, she says:

16 'We were taken to a home for adults with
17 disabilities and I used to volunteer there on a Thursday
18 night, which I enjoyed.

19 'We used to go swimming or on the odd trip and at
20 weekends you could go to the shop on your own if you had
21 been well behaved, but there were no holidays.

22 'Miss GHF, my key worker, used to take us to her
23 house in Perth sometimes for a cup of tea, which was
24 nice because it felt normal, but she only did that if
25 you had been good.

1 'We were in school at 9.00 am until about 2.50 pm
2 and then you went home and changed your clothes. You
3 had to hang your uniform up and then do your chores.'

4 She talks about doing a social and vocational
5 studies at the school in modules and she did
6 a photography project in art which was the only
7 qualification she received, but she wasn't given the
8 certificate.

9 She says at paragraph 33:

10 'I never learnt anything at school. Everything
11 I have learnt is from after school, when I went back to
12 college in my 30s. The quality of education was poor
13 and I think they put the lessons in just to cover
14 themselves.'

15 She said she was taken to the doctors a lot because
16 she was always sniffing and she was given cough medicine
17 and she was snoring and ended up having surgery to have
18 her adenoids removed.

19 At paragraph 35, she says:

20 'I went into the hospital for a perforated eardrum
21 and I was admitted to Perth Royal Infirmary for a few
22 days. Miss GHF came to hospital with a change of
23 pyjamas but that was the only visitor that I had because
24 my mum was too far away to visit. The staff at
25 Balnacraig didn't take me to get treatment when I first

1 started complaining about pain, so by the time I went to
2 hospital, my ear was oozing and I was getting bullied
3 for that.'

4 She says she self-harmed when she was at Balnacraig
5 and that Miss GHF was aware of that, but she wasn't
6 given any treatment. She was given a pep talk by
7 Miss GHF, who told her to get a grip, but she never saw
8 a doctor or a psychologist about it.

9 There is then a paragraph after 36 which isn't
10 numbered, this may be part of 36, but it says 'Work':

11 'You had to set the dining table, clean the floor,
12 Hoover and clean the toilets. There was a rota and you
13 had a chore to do every day. They had cleaners, but we
14 had to do our chores anyway.'

15 She says you got a pound on your birthday and you
16 had a birthday cake and she says that on the lead-up to
17 Christmas, they put on a play. She remembers being
18 'Molly' in 'Annie' and she was 'Bo the Drunk' in
19 'Calamity Jane'. They performed for parents, family and
20 friends who came up and she says that [REDACTED]
21 organised the plays and she enjoyed them. She went home
22 to her mum over Christmas.

23 In relation to visits from paragraph 39, she says
24 that she hardly ever saw her social worker and she
25 thinks one of them visited about every six months or if

1 they had a meeting. She said:

2 'When the social worker came, they told me that
3 I needed to behave or I would be in Balnacraig for
4 longer. But I didn't have a chance to speak to them
5 properly.'

6 She says that after a review, she was told that she
7 would be staying for another year and she was never
8 asked what she thought. She was told what was good for
9 her. There was no plan to get her back into mainstream
10 school, but she does know that other girls did leave
11 Balnacraig to go back to mainstream schools.

12 She went home most weekends and if she didn't, her
13 mum came to see her. At paragraph 42, 'Margaret' says:

14 'Group A got home one week and group B were allowed
15 home the next week. I don't know why they did that,
16 because there were some girls that didn't have anyone so
17 they never went home.'

18 She says in relation to family contact from
19 paragraph 43 that she would go and get her letters from
20 home from an administration room and they would already
21 have been opened. Her mum used to send postal orders
22 and that there was a woman who would cash the postal
23 orders for her. She was nice.

24 She says she used to phone her mum but there was
25 always a member of staff in the room, so she felt she

1 had to watch what she was saying.

2 In relation to running away, paragraph 44, she says:

3 'I ran away a lot and they would send the police out
4 to get me. Sometimes I would be kept in detention until
5 the duty social worker would come to bring me back. The
6 police were sometimes okay and sometimes they would
7 shout at me and lecture me, but they never asked me why
8 I was running away. I used to shout that I was being
9 hit at Balnacraig, but no one asked me about that.'

10 She says that when they got back from running away,
11 she would be marched into SGQ study and he
12 would tell her what her punishment would be. Sometimes
13 it was two weeks in the craft room, so she wouldn't get
14 any education for two weeks.

15 Paragraph 46, she says:

16 'While I was at Balnacraig, I progressed from
17 sniffing glue to smoking cannabis and then I began to
18 take LSD and speed at the weekends. As soon as I got on
19 the train to go home, I had 20 fags and then, when
20 I arrived home, I would get money from my mum and go out
21 to see what drugs I could get.'

22 She says at paragraph 48:

23 'I used glue until I was 14 and the staff at
24 Balnacraig were probably told that I did that, but no
25 one spoke to me about it. I didn't know what addiction

1 was or what withdrawals were. I used to shake my head
2 a lot and I had a few fights with other lassies because
3 they called me "Noddy". I wasn't given any advice.
4 There was no attempt to address my drug use and no one
5 explained to me what addiction was. My mum was telling
6 the social workers that they needed to help me because
7 she didn't know how to help. She didn't come from
8 an area where drugs were around, so it was a big blow
9 for my mum and she got no help with me.'

10 She then talks about abuse from paragraph 49:

11 'I had only been at Balnacraig for a few weeks when
12 SGQ [REDACTED] was physical with me for the first time.
13 We were all standing in a line on the front lawn for PE
14 and SGQ [REDACTED] was making us say, "I must, I must
15 improve my bust" while we did an exercise, but I was
16 a wee tomboy so I said that I didn't want a bust. He
17 hit me over the back of my head and dragged me up the
18 front lawn and into his study. He had his hand over my
19 face and he was screaming at me and telling me not to
20 disobey him. He was overpowering me and saying that
21 I had to do as he said if I wanted to see my mum at the
22 weekend. He would ask me if I wanted to go home and
23 then hang that over me. I didn't get to go home the
24 weekend after that happened.

25 'I can't remember what I did before this happened,

1 but I was just outside the dining room and SGQ
2 grabbed me. He had big shovel-like hands and he put one
3 hand over my face so that I couldn't breathe. He was
4 kicking my legs and I was shouting to Miss GHF, "He's
5 fucking kicking me and you're just standing watching",
6 he was trying to bring me to the ground and Miss GHF
7 was telling me to calm down. I was 13 or 14 at the
8 time.

9 SGQ was 50 years old or more and his wife,
10 , was a lot younger than him. She used to
11 take the art class and she was smelly. All of the girls
12 were in the class speaking about how smelly she was one
13 day and she caught us and gave us into trouble.
14 I answered her back and told her that she needed to wash
15 because she was stinking, so she marched me straight
16 into SGQ study and he battered me. He put
17 his hand over my face and I was being swung about by my
18 hair and shouted at.

19 'I had bruises after he kicked me, which the other
20 staff must have seen, but no one ever asked me where
21 they came from. They knew that he hit me.'

22 She then says that her friend, who she names, got
23 a tattoo of her boyfriend's name on her breast and that
24 they scrubbed it with a wire brush until she was
25 bleeding:

1 SGQ was scrubbing it and trying to remove
2 the tattoo. I saw that and her key worker, Mrs Liddle,
3 was there telling her to stay still and saying that she
4 shouldn't have done that.'

5 She then names another girl who SGQ used to
6 grab by the hair and kick:

7 'He tried to belittle her because she stuck up for
8 herself. He was violent to a few girls.'

9 Paragraph 55, 'Margaret' says:

10 'If you were in trouble for things like running
11 away, swearing or fighting then SGQ decided
12 what your punishment would be, and one punishment was
13 that you were sent to the craft room. The craft room
14 was a room at the back of the house with a back door and
15 a stone floor and it was always freezing in there. If
16 SGQ decided that you were to be sent to the
17 craft room then you would be taken there, made to strip
18 down to your underwear, and then given a 1970s
19 tracksuits to wear. You would be in there all day and
20 you were meant to do schoolwork, so they gave us
21 exercise books, but you missed out on actually going to
22 school. We weren't allowed to talk and if we did, then
23 they would add another day onto your punishment.
24 A teacher sat in the corner the whole time. You had
25 your meals in there.

1 SGQ was sometimes standing in the doorway
2 when you were stripping down to your underwear and he
3 sometimes came in to shout and bawl. Sometimes he would
4 come in and say you had been doing okay and you would
5 get out of the craft room soon and other times he came
6 in shouting at someone. He had a powerful voice.

7 'One time he came in and he was shouting at a girl
8 [who she names] who had run away, she was young and she
9 was from Dalry. He was screaming and bawling at her.
10 He screamed into her face and said, "I'm not the one
11 that fucked you". It sticks in my mind that he said to
12 her, "I'm not the man that stuck it up you and made you
13 bleed".

14 'I was in the craft room when that happened because
15 my friend had decided to run away and I had gone with
16 her. SGQ shouted at me, asking if I thought
17 I was going to be allowed to go to Blackpool. He was
18 shouting in my face and shaking me. I was meant to be
19 leaving to go to Blackpool that weekend. My mum had
20 told the school that we were going to Blackpool for two
21 weeks, when we were actually only going for one week,
22 but she said that so that I could have an extra week at
23 home. I never got to go to Blackpool. That's how
24 stupid I was really.'

25 She names another member of staff who she says she

1 thinks was in the craft room who was a key worker and
2 that she was telling us to shut up or we would get
3 another day in there. She goes on:

4 'If you backchatted SGQ [REDACTED] when you were in
5 the craft room then he grabbed you into the toilet. The
6 toilet faced the craft room and that's where he used to
7 hit me. It was a stone toilet with cubicles and old
8 white sinks. He would drag you in there and shout at
9 you, telling you that you had to listen to him if you
10 wanted to go home. I heard that happening to other
11 people and it happened to me. One of the times that he
12 dragged me in there he touched me on the side of my
13 chest.

14 'Some of the girls used to spend time in
15 SGQ [REDACTED] study. When I first arrived at
16 Balnacraig and I went into this study, one of the girls
17 was sitting on his knee. He used to have male friends
18 sitting in his study. I remember GZL [REDACTED], but we used to
19 call him GZL [REDACTED], because he smelled, and the other one
20 that used to be in there was GZK [REDACTED], he was a [REDACTED]
21 from Dundee. They had nothing to do with the school and
22 it was an all-girls' school so they shouldn't have been
23 there. The study was where a lot took place.

24 'I was bullied for a while because I let myself be
25 bullied. If girls had a problem then SGQ [REDACTED] would

1 wait until we were in the recreation room, where we had
2 our morning meetings, and he would give you a set of
3 boxing gloves. All the other girls would be sitting
4 around the sides of the room watching and he would make
5 the two girls fight. After a few punches, he would ask
6 who was quitting. The other staff weren't around to see
7 that but they must have known what was going on.'

8 She names two girls that that happened to.

9 She says they used to call one particular girl, who
10 she names, 'SGQ [REDACTED]'s pet':

11 'But now I think she was being groomed. When
12 I first went into the study, she was the one sitting on
13 SGQ [REDACTED]'s knee cuddling him. She was 12 or 13. We
14 used to give her a hard time for it. A girl called [she
15 names her] came to Balnacraig and she used to sit on his
16 knee as well. I would give her a hard time for that
17 because she was from my scheme, but I understood it as
18 well.

19 'I used to ask to go home at the weekends and
20 SGQ [REDACTED] would ask to feel my "wee Celtic legs",
21 because I was into Celtic. I used to call him a pervert
22 and tell him to "fuck off" when he asked to touch my
23 "Celtic legs", but I did let him do it. I would sit on
24 the arm of his chair. Then he would tell me to sit next
25 to GZL [REDACTED] and I would say no and tell him that GZL [REDACTED] was

1 stinking and a pervert. He would laugh at me when
2 I said that.

3 'These things happened during the day. We would
4 come back from school at lunch-time and SGQ
5 would ask us to come into the study and those other men
6 would be there. He would say, "Come and sit on my
7 knee", or, "Go and sit next to GZL ". That happened most
8 days. There would be between two and six girls in there
9 at a time. There were staff about but he would shut the
10 door of the study.

11 'SGQ made us play "murder ball" during PE.
12 He used to play it with us and I thought he was using it
13 as an excuse to touch girls. All the girls had to run
14 from one end of the room to the other and you could do
15 anything and use any physical contact. If you had
16 a disagreement with someone then you could try and
17 resolve it during "murder ball". When girls were being
18 physical to each other, he would either laugh it off or
19 try and separate it. We wore vests and shorts when we
20 played that game.

21 'SGQ let his son come into the home and he
22 was a lot older than us, maybe 19 years old.'

23 She names a girl who she says had a relationship
24 with him and SGQ allowed that:

25 'I don't know if there was anything sexual between

1 them. She used to go walking around the grounds with
2 him and she said that he was her boyfriend in front of
3 staff and the son was living with SGQ [REDACTED] and his
4 wife.

5 SGQ [REDACTED] used to get drunk and we would go to
6 the Isle of Skye Hotel in our housecoats to get him and
7 we thought that was fun. I moved into a two-person
8 bedroom with my friend [she names her]. He came home
9 drunk one night and was sitting on the stairs outside
10 the back door, which faced on to our bedroom window,
11 stroking the cat saying to us that he was "clapping the
12 pussy", he meant that as an innuendo. He would say
13 inappropriate things and ask personal questions, like
14 asking whether I had a boyfriend yet.

15 'Something happened to SGQ-SPO [REDACTED]'s
16 house and they moved into the main building. There was
17 a bedroom at the far end of the corridor that my room
18 was on and they stayed in there for a few months. They
19 didn't have their own bathroom and the bathroom that
20 I used would have been the nearest one to them. At one
21 point, he walked in when I was in the shower. I don't
22 know if that was an accident but he was a man in
23 an all-girls' school and he shouldn't have been in
24 there. He said sorry, but it made me feel a bit small.
25 Then afterwards he said he was going to get me and

1 I didn't know what he meant by that.

2 'I saw SGQ treating other girls badly and
3 I also saw him having his favourites. I was jealous of
4 the favourites, because I wanted to be allowed to go
5 home. Whether there was sexual abuse going on or not,
6 I don't really know, but they were definitely sitting on
7 his knee, touching knees and cuddling.

8 'I grew up on a housing scheme and I was older than
9 my age, so I knew that SGQ's behaviour was
10 wrong. I was taught not to talk to strangers or let
11 people touch you inappropriately. I knew that the
12 things that were happening shouldn't have been
13 happening, but no one was listening to me, because I was
14 just a troublemaker and I would be scared that if I said
15 anything, then I wouldn't get to go home.

16 SGQ was very derogatory and definitely
17 used his power of authority to belittle you. He would
18 tell me that I was there because no one loved me. He
19 made me feel so little.

20 'There was a girl who was embarrassed that she had
21 started her period and was hiding her pants. One of the
22 teachers must have found out about it and told
23 Mr SGQ. He gathered all the girls together and
24 pulled out all of the pants to embarrass her and called
25 her a "clatty bastard".

1 'I ran away and they didn't know that I had gone.
2 I went into town and I found the bus station. I was
3 looking for a way to get back to Glasgow. I met a girl
4 and started chatting to her and she said that she wanted
5 a phone box, so I said that I would show her one but
6 I stole her handbag. There was nothing in the bag other
7 than fags and shoes, so I took the fags, threw the shoes
8 away, and went back to Balnacraig. I had given the girl
9 my name and where I stayed, so the police came to the
10 door and asked for me but the staff said that I had been
11 in the house. The police spoke to me and I wasn't
12 allowed to go home for two weeks. SGQ started
13 calling me "muggins".

14 'On a Friday, there was a meeting to see how school
15 was going and whether you had been behaving. You had to
16 stand up in front of everyone and address SGQ
17 and ask to go home, but [I think that should say "if"]
18 he didn't like your manner then he wouldn't let you go
19 home. He started asking if "muggins deserved to go
20 home" and I hated that, so I would fight with him and
21 call him a "prick".

22 'I thought Miss GHF was meant to look after me,
23 which sometimes she did and sometimes she didn't. She
24 never did anything to me, but she witnessed SGQ
25 hitting me and she didn't stop him.

1 'I said to my key worker that SGQ [REDACTED] was
2 hitting me and that I knew that she had seen that, but
3 she would reply that I should stop misbehaving. I think
4 staff stayed out of the way when he was hitting us.
5 What he said went with everyone.

6 'I remember telling the children's panel that
7 SGQ [REDACTED] was battering me, but they didn't really
8 respond because they thought I was just attention
9 seeking.

10 'At Christmas time, the board of governors came and
11 I was sitting at a table with a doctor who was saying
12 what a lovely man SGQ [REDACTED] was, so I said that he
13 wasn't, and that he hit us all, but that was just
14 ignored. I was told to be quiet and the doctor didn't
15 say anything back to me.

16 'Sometimes I would try and phone my mum after
17 SGQ [REDACTED] had hit me, but they wouldn't let me phone
18 her. I tried to hide it from my mum though and I never
19 told her what he was doing. I told my sister that
20 SGQ [REDACTED] was hitting me but she didn't know what to
21 do. She sat me down and asked me why I was doing drugs
22 and I said that I didn't know. I didn't know what abuse
23 was. I thought that I had done something wrong and that
24 was the punishment.

25 'When I was 15, Miss GHF [REDACTED] took me to the doctor.

1 I didn't know why I was going to the doctor but
2 Miss GHF must have noticed that my period was late and
3 the doctor told me that I was pregnant. I was so
4 scared. The social worker came to Balnacraig and said
5 that I needed to tell my mother so I asked to go home to
6 tell her. I shouted it at my mum and ran away.

7 'No one sat me down and spoke to me about being
8 pregnant at 15 years old. They only spoke to me about
9 what I was going to do now. I was told that I was
10 stupid and that I had ruined my life. My mum said that
11 I wasn't to have the baby because I wasn't to waste my
12 life. I ended up having an abortion. My brother
13 stopped talking to me because he wanted to be a priest,
14 so to him, it was the lowest thing I can do. I was too
15 young to make a decision but I carried the guilt.

16 'That was when they released me from Balnacraig.
17 I was meant to stay until I was 16, but I left two
18 months early and went home to have the abortion. It was
19 an easy decision for them to hand me back to my mum and
20 not take responsibility.

21 'There was no panel to decide that I was leaving and
22 I don't think the social worker was even there. I kept
23 asking what was happening and Miss GHF said I was going
24 home for good and that was it. When I left Balnacraig,
25 I felt alone and I was scared. I felt they were just

1 passing me on to my mum and I was scared that she might
2 reject me and then where would I go?

3 'The social worker [she names her] was involved with
4 me until I had the abortion and then, when I turned 16
5 she washed her hands of me.'

6 She then talks about life after being in care from
7 paragraph 85 and says she had no support when she left
8 Balnacraig and she went off the rails, after the
9 abortion she self-harmed. She took an overdose and went
10 to hospital and was referred to a psychiatrist, but she
11 didn't go to the appointment.

12 She started smoking cannabis. She was taking other
13 drugs and shoplifting to fund it, she was taking LSD,
14 speed and ecstasy and then, when she was 19, she started
15 taking morphine. That was a habit for five years and
16 during that time she started injecting. She moved on to
17 methadone and then she was clean for a while and then in
18 her 20s, she started using heroin and her life
19 spiralled.

20 She became pregnant at 20 and that was the first
21 time she was referred to addiction services and her
22 daughter was born when she was 21. She was in
23 a co-dependent, violent relationship at that time and
24 she said she left that when her child was 18 months and
25 she left her child with the father.

1 She said that she continued to try to have contact
2 with her and she had access until she was eight years
3 old and the court stepped in.

4 She moved to Fife and her drug use became worse.
5 She had periods when she would be clean but then she
6 started using again. She then met her son's dad and got
7 clean, but then her son's dad was murdered and she
8 started using drugs again and she says, at the time of
9 this statement, she said she was clean and she had been
10 clean for ten years and she has an eight-year-old
11 daughter who lives with her, who has complex global
12 needs. She talks about the struggles she has trying to
13 get help with her.

14 At paragraph 90, 'Margaret' says:

15 'Five of us went back to Balnacraig for a reunion
16 about six or seven years ago. It was so strange and so
17 different. We arranged to go ourselves and my friends
18 asked me to go. We sat and spoke about our experiences
19 with the staff that were there. They thought that what
20 had happened to us was terrible and they said that it
21 was changed days.'

22 In relation to impact, she talks about that from
23 paragraph 91 and she says that she was taken away from
24 her mum for things to then happen to her that wouldn't
25 have happened in her own house. Her mum used to give

1 her a clout sometimes, but it was the 1980s so that was
2 normal. She says it took a long time to understand why
3 she went there and she gets angry that she put herself
4 there.

5 She says that people always want to blame the
6 parents, but she made her own choices.

7 At paragraph 93, she says:

8 'I just don't understand how they can treat children
9 the way that they did in Balnacraig and that's why
10 I hate the word "care". It shouldn't be called "care",
11 because there was no care. We're not statistics. We
12 were children in care, but we didn't really get
13 a childhood and I think I missed out on a lot of mine.
14 They took children away from their parents for the
15 carers to abuse them. I think it made me different with
16 my children.'

17 She says at paragraph 94:

18 'Instead of talking about what happened at
19 Balnacraig, I lost myself to addiction and my eldest
20 daughter was my biggest loss to addiction. I lost
21 myself in addiction as well and it took me a long time
22 to try and get out of it.

23 'Looking back at my roots and why I started using
24 drugs, I think I was lonely and grieving for my dad but
25 nothing was ever explained. Being at Balnacraig was

1 a battle of being abused and being angry. No one
2 listened to me and that made me become an angry person
3 for years. I used to get so angry that I blanked out
4 and that was scary. Anger was the only emotion that
5 I understood and it took me a long time to learn love.
6 Now I understand love and even if my daughter or son
7 just go away to the toilet then I say "I love you".'

8 She says that she had seen a psychiatrist and been
9 diagnosed with PTSD and she then saw another
10 psychiatrist who said she had PTSD from childhood and
11 since she's been diagnosed, she says, with complex PTSD.

12 At 98, she says:

13 'I still think back to Balnacraig and I have
14 flashbacks; it could be a smell, a touch or someone's
15 voice and I just go into my own head and I have to
16 remove myself. I can't say that it doesn't affect me.

17 **SGQ** often put his hand over my face, so now
18 I struggle going to the dentist. I can't have people
19 too close to me and I don't like people near my face.'

20 She said she did cognitive behaviour therapy and
21 there was a point when she was put on antipsychotic
22 medication, which she can only take during the week
23 because she has to be alert at the weekends.

24 Later, at paragraph 103, she says:

25 'I push people away and I don't want to get too

1 close to them. I link that back to Balnacraig. For
2 years, I didn't think I was worth anything and I was
3 like that right up until I became clean ten years ago.
4 I felt like nothing because SGQ told me that
5 would amount to nothing. I have had to work really hard
6 on myself just to even like myself. It took me a few
7 relapses to learn about addiction and grasp recovery.
8 I've worked on myself the last ten years and I'm proud
9 of myself. I've had to do classes to learn about
10 myself. I used to think I was stupid until my 30s when
11 I did courses, challenged myself, and realised that
12 I wasn't stupid. I haven't been able to work, one day
13 I'm okay and the next I can hardly get out of bed.
14 I take my daughter to school and then come home and shut
15 the curtains, shut the world out. I go from one extreme
16 to another.'

17 She then talks about being a member of 'Empower the
18 Empowerment', which is an online thing that she started.

19 At paragraph 108, she says:

20 'I'm not a victim anymore, I'm a survivor.'

21 She talks about, in relation to reporting abuse at
22 paragraph 109, she says she spoke to a drug worker about
23 Balnacraig and it was flagged up to the police and then
24 she gave him a statement but was told there would be no
25 further action. She was told that SGQ had been

1 lifted, questioned and then let go.

2 She says she re-reported it a few years later and
3 then, when she went to the police station in Glasgow,
4 the person behind the desk replied that it was a long
5 time ago and at that point she put up a wall and walked
6 out and she says she was sick.

7 Then she said she spoke to the
8 National Confidential Forum in 2019 and they said she
9 needed to report it to a specialist unit. They
10 investigated what she reported and then phoned her and
11 said there would be no further action because
12 SGQ [REDACTED] had died. She is angry because she knows
13 that he won't face justice.

14 In relation to, 'Lessons to be learned', at
15 paragraph 114:

16 'I hope that people realise the extent of what
17 happened and that other people feel empowered to come
18 forward. I hope they find some peace.

19 'Listen to children and believe what they say.'

20 She then talks about the fact that some of the other
21 girls from Balnacraig had reported what had happened.

22 She has made the usual declaration and she has
23 signed it. It's dated 28 November 2019.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 I'll stop there for the morning break and then

1 I'll sit again at about 11.45 am, when we should be
2 ready for the witness who is coming this morning.
3 Thank you.
4 (11.32 am)
5 (A short break)
6 (11.47 am)
7 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.
8 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next witness today is a witness
9 who will be known today as 'Terri'.
10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.
11 For 'Terri' we're going to use the screens, I think,
12 aren't we?
13 MR PEOPLES: My understanding is that that is her
14 preference.
15 LADY SMITH: Somebody is in place and ready to do it.
16 MR PEOPLES: I wonder if someone can perhaps do it before
17 'Terri' comes in.
18 (Pause)
19 'Terri' (affirmed)
20 LADY SMITH: 'Terri', can I just explain one or two things
21 before we begin.
22 First of all, about the screens. You now can't be
23 seen by anyone other than those of us immediately
24 engaged with taking your evidence, but your supporter is
25 here on the other side of that curtain. I can tell you

1 that in fact this morning, at the moment, we don't have
2 any members of the public here. There are some people
3 who have permission to view and listen to the evidence
4 remotely doing that, but they can't see you either.
5 They'll just hear you. Are you reassured?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Good.

8 Thank you for providing your statement in advance,
9 as well. It's been really helpful to have that, to be
10 able to study your evidence in preparation. It's in
11 that red folder on the desk in front of you and so it
12 will be available for you while you're giving your
13 evidence, if you'd find that helpful.

14 We'll also bring parts of the statement up on screen
15 as we're focusing on the bits that we'd like to discuss.
16 If that works for you --

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: -- we can keep that there as well.

19 Otherwise, 'Terri', my mission is to do what I can
20 to make the whole business of giving evidence as
21 comfortable for you as possible, knowing that it's
22 a difficult thing to do. You're coming here to talk
23 about things that are very personal to you, about your
24 own life, about things that happened a long time ago and
25 it may be distressing.

1 If you need a break at any time, that's perfectly
2 all right. You just tell me.
3 A. Okay, thank you.
4 LADY SMITH: If you need us to explain things better than
5 you think we are doing, just ask.
6 A. I will.
7 LADY SMITH: If we're not making sense, that's our fault not
8 yours.
9 I'll hand over to Mr Peoples now, if that's all
10 right by you.
11 A. Thank you.
12 LADY SMITH: Okay? Mr Peoples.
13 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.
14 Questions by Mr Peoples
15 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, 'Terri'.
16 A. Good morning, Jim.
17 Q. Can I begin, before asking you some questions, to give
18 our reference for your witness statement. You don't
19 need to worry about this, but it's just for our
20 transcript's purposes. Your signed statement is
21 WIT.001.003.0404.
22 'Terri' you have your written statement in front of
23 you, which you're welcome to refer to at any point.
24 There is also a screen in front of you, which also shows
25 the statement that you've given and so you are again

1 welcome to use that as well. Can I ask you, to begin
2 with, to turn to the red folder to the final page of the
3 statement.

4 Can you confirm for me that you have signed your
5 statement and dated it?

6 A. Yes, that is my signature and the date.

7 Q. You also say on that page that you have no objection to
8 your witness statement being published as part of the
9 evidence to this Inquiry --

10 A. No. No.

11 Q. -- and that you believe the facts stated in your witness
12 statement are true?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. 'Terri', can I go back to the beginning of the
15 statement.

16 First of all, can I ask you, and I only need the
17 year of your birth, can you confirm for me that you were
18 born in 1969?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. As her Ladyship has said, I'm not going to ask you about
21 everything in the statement that you've provided, but
22 it's all evidence, and it's all evidence that we
23 consider as part of our Inquiry, but I think, as you
24 know, today we're going to ask you really mainly about
25 one particular place, Balnacraig --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- that you stayed in for a time. So my questions will
3 be mainly about that place and only some parts of what
4 you tell us I'll focus on today, but again, please
5 appreciate that it's all evidence and we will consider
6 the whole of the evidence in due course.

7 You have a section called, 'Life before care'.
8 I don't want to go through the matter in too much detail
9 but you tell us that when you were living in the Angus
10 area with your parents, as a young person, I think your
11 mum discovered that your dad was having an affair behind
12 her back, she found out and regretfully she responded by
13 stabbing him and the upshot was that both your mum and
14 dad ended up in hospital, is that the situation?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You then had to stay with your father's brother and his
17 wife for a time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us at paragraph 4, 'Terri', that your mum went
20 to court over the matter and was put into a psychiatric
21 hospital for a time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Subsequently she, I think, spent a period of time,
24 I think 18 months, in Cornton Vale as well?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In relation to the same matter?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Moving on to the next page of your statement, you're not
4 entirely sure how long you were with your aunt and
5 uncle, but you were unhappy at the time and I think you
6 were looking to go into some sort of care setting.
7 Indeed, you went to the local social work office,
8 I think?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. The upshot was, I think, that you were then placed in
11 a children's home in the Angus area, I won't name it
12 today, and you spent some time there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us about that from paragraph 6 of your
15 statement, to paragraph 30.

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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21 Q. If I move on in your statement, at paragraph 31 you take
22 up the journey you were on by that stage. You'd been in
23 the home and then you were maybe about 11, around P7
24 time, you went back to live with your mum?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You started a new primary school around that time. At
2 that time you moved to Forfar with your mum?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. During this time you were seeing something of your
5 father and, I think, it's a brother that you have?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. You were seeing them as well during this period?
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. But your mum and your dad, they weren't together?
10 A. No, they were definitely separated from the stabbing.
11 They never reconciled in any way.
12 Q. Seeing your dad, I think you tell us that during this
13 period your dad would sometimes, when he saw you and
14 indeed your brother, he would be -- I think you describe
15 it as being physical at times?
16 A. Yes, very.
17 Q. There came a time, 'Terri', when you started at
18 secondary school, Forfar Academy?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. You tell us in the section 31 to 37 of your statement,
21 that you started skipping school quite a lot?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Then you and your mum moved to Arbroath for a time; is
24 that right?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You attended a different secondary school?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You tell us as well in this section that you didn't

4 really settle there; is that right?

5 A. I didn't settle at all. I was in three secondary

6 schools in first year, so I don't think I was there for

7 any great length of time in any of the schools. So by

8 the time I'd went to the third one, I'd had enough.

9 Q. This problem with the school, was that to do with what

10 was happening at home or what was happening at school or

11 both?

12 A. I think it was both, because nobody was understanding

13 where I was coming from either. There seemed no help,

14 no guidance.

15 LADY SMITH: How many different schools had you been at by

16 then, 'Terri'?

17 A. Well, I was in three different schools in first year.

18 I'd started in Forfar and then went to Arbroath Academy

19 and then went on to Arbroath High School, and then

20 subsequently went to another establishment and then went

21 on to Balnacraig.

22 LADY SMITH: So you --

23 A. So it was all pretty much within 18 month, I would have

24 thought, a year to 18 month.

25 LADY SMITH: Before that, where you were living had changed

1 because of your parents?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: Because of moving into the home from --

4 A. My whole way of life was just upside down, with nobody

5 there, not even my brother, 'cos they'd separated us.

6 LADY SMITH: I see. Where was he?

7 A. He was in another home in Aberdeen and I went to Forfar,

8 and then he then come down to Forfar and then we

9 separated again. So I'm not really sure.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR PEOPLES: What was happening was there was a lot of

12 changes of accommodation, your parents had split up,

13 although your father was seeing your mum from time to

14 time. You were separated from your brother and you were

15 attending a lot of different schools?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Before you went into a care setting for the first time.

18 Sorry, well --

19 A. Second time.

20 Q. The second time, yes.

21 As far as the period when you were still at home,

22 after the first children's home you'd been in, I think

23 you tell us in your statement that when you were about

24 13, you started going to pubs and drinking, is that

25 right?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Indeed, I think you tell us -- I think this is relevant
3 to something you're going to tell us about at
4 Balnacraig -- but you say that you started
5 a relationship at that point with an older man, who was
6 about 11 years your senior?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Indeed, you ran away to Glasgow with him?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You tell us he was taken to court but you say that you
11 did lead him to believe that you were a bit older than
12 you were?

13 A. Oh, yeah, definitely.

14 Q. After this spell at home with your mum, and against that
15 background, I think you spent a short time, a period of
16 a few weeks, in Burnside Assessment Centre when you were
17 about 13 years of age, is that right?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Essentially, because I think the view was taken that you
20 were outwith your mother's control, would that be a fair
21 way of putting it?

22 A. That's exactly what was said.

23 Q. You tell us about that at paragraphs 38 through to 43.
24 I don't think there was a huge amount that happened at
25 that time, other than that you weren't happy, you were

1 crying, you were running away at times, and you spent
2 a lot of time in your bedroom or watching TV --
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. -- while you were there, is that right, 'Terri'?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Then, having been at Burnside for this period of weeks,
7 you were taken ... I think, from what you say, you were
8 taken to Balnacraig School. You're not entirely sure
9 whether you went straight from a panel meeting or
10 whether you went home first?
11 A. No, I definitely didn't go home, but I think I might
12 have went straight from -- I went from Burnside to
13 a panel, the panel to Balnacraig.
14 Q. So you didn't get a chance to go back home at all?
15 A. No.
16 Q. Would that have bothered you at that time?
17 A. Well, it did bother me because I had nobody supporting
18 me. The social workers didn't turn up to any meetings
19 after three weeks, which made me have to stay there
20 longer again, before they decided what they were
21 basically going to do.
22 Q. In fact, you thought you were maybe going to be at the
23 Burnside place for maybe three weeks at most, but you
24 actually spent longer?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You tell us about your experience at Balnacraig School
2 from paragraph 44 onwards, which is page 10 of your
3 statement, 'Terri'. I'll ask you a bit more about that,
4 if I may.
5 Just to begin with, you say you were there probably
6 about three years in all, is that roughly correct?
7 A. Yeah, maybe just over, yeah.
8 Q. You do remember certain members of staff, perhaps for
9 different reasons, as we'll come to, but SNR
10 when you were sent to Balnacraig was a man called
11 SGQ, is that right?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. SNR was a man called Mr GHG?
14 A. Yes, correct.
15 Q. Just before I go on, did Mr SGQ have a nickname?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. What was he called?
18 A. 'SGQ'.
19 Q. 'SGQ'. How did they refer to Mr GHG, did they
20 have any names for him?
21 A. No, I think he was just 'GHG', he was probably the
22 nicer out of the two, to be fair.
23 Q. I think you tell us quite a lot about Mr SGQ, but you
24 do mention Mr GHG and we'll come to that.
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Of the two, you certainly think -- he was nicer?

2 A. He was just better at restraining you, whereas SGQ

3 used to punch and hit as well, whereas Mr GHG didn't

4 hit as much, but he's -- he knew how to restrain you.

5 Q. When you say knew how to restrain you, you mean in

6 a manner that didn't cause you a problem?

7 A. No, it used to cause me a problem, 'cos I've got

8 difficulty breathing, so it did used to bother me, but

9 nobody seemed to care about that.

10 Q. Can we just, while we're talking about this then, tell

11 us how you remember Mr GHG trying to restrain you

12 that caused you some breathing issues?

13 A. Well, the way that they would kinda take your arms up

14 your back, like the police would do, but they would

15 force you down on yourself, so you were like frogmarched

16 that way and you were bent down.

17 Q. You are describing, if you would be marched by a member

18 of staff, perhaps Mr GHG, you would be walking with

19 your arm up your back and --

20 A. Bent over.

21 Q. -- bent forward?

22 A. Yeah, because your hand's getting pushed that far up

23 your back, you don't have a choice but to go forward.

24 Q. Were there ever any occasions when you were put right to

25 the ground or taken to the ground?

1 A. Yeah, uh-huh. Yeah.

2 Q. Did that happen --

3 A. When you come back from the police station, you were in

4 the van and you knew every adult there had had enough of

5 you, you were just classed as a delinquent. Yeah, they

6 would get rough with us. I got rough back, to be fair.

7 Q. You would resist sometimes, I take it?

8 A. I did resist. I don't like authority, to be fair,

9 because they've never respected me as a person.

10 Q. 'Terri', were there occasions then when the restraint

11 would involve you not just being frogmarched with

12 your arm up your back, but there would be times when you

13 would be on the ground?

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 Q. When you were on the ground on these occasions, how were

16 you lying?

17 A. On your stomach.

18 Q. You are lying on your stomach?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So that's face down?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. Were you being held?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. How would the staff hold you when you were lying on the

25 ground face down?

1 A. GHG and SGQ used to be able to use their knees,
2 Miss GHF used to use her knees and her elbows.
3 Q. To hold you down?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. Where would the knee or the elbow be placed?
6 A. Anywhere they got it, definitely anywhere they could
7 place it. I don't think they had a particular place to
8 put their --
9 Q. What they were doing, as far as you were concerned, was
10 applying pressure with either a knee or an elbow to keep
11 you on the floor face down?
12 A. Yeah, yeah, so you calmed down.
13 Q. Okay. When they were doing this, were they saying
14 anything to you?
15 A. 'Just calm down'.
16 Q. Did you calm down?
17 A. No, 'cos it makes you feel worse.
18 Q. I just want to know --
19 A. No, it definitely doesn't.
20 Q. It didn't make you calm down?
21 A. Definitely not.
22 Q. Did that mean they held you down for longer?
23 A. Yeah, probably.
24 I think there were some other girls that was a lot
25 worse than me, to be fair but --

1 Q. Okay, okay.

2 A. Quite volatile in there as well, if you think about 24
3 girls, it's going to be some fights and a lot of the
4 fights between the girls, the staff would get involved
5 and be putting you to the ground as well so ...

6 Q. So this wasn't just something that happened to you, this
7 could be --

8 A. No, this was everybody. Everybody got the same
9 treatment, I would have thought.

10 Q. Did you see some of the other girls getting the
11 treatment you have described?

12 A. Oh yeah, yeah, definitely.

13 Q. Now --

14 A. I witnessed a few incidents.

15 Q. If I could go back to the statement, you tell us that
16 when you went to Balnacraig, 'Terri', you tell us at
17 paragraph 47, that the accommodation was split into two
18 sides?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. A and B, and there were 12 girls on each side?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The sides were separated by just a sliding door, you
23 say?

24 A. It was just a stairwell that went up and then split to
25 either side and there was just sliding doors on one

1 side.

2 Q. I don't need the person's name, but you tell us about

3 the youngest person there was maybe about 12 when you

4 arrived, but you think she had been there from the age

5 of 11?

6 A. I think she was there. I think she was one of the

7 youngest lassies that had ever been in there.

8 Q. You say the oldest, as you recall, were maybe around 16

9 or possibly 17?

10 A. Possibly just finished school but weren't actually left.

11 Q. But I take it that you were one of the younger girls

12 when you arrived; is that right?

13 A. Yeah, yeah. There wasn't -- a few younger than me.

14 Q. You tell us about the sleeping arrangements. You've

15 told us there were these two sides, A and B, and this

16 would be upstairs in the building; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. It's a grand old house?

19 A. It was a beautiful building.

20 Q. Okay, but the sleeping quarters were upstairs?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, you tell us a little bit about that. On your side,

23 you say you recall there being maybe five bedrooms?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. As well as a sick bay?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Then you say there were four rooms, plus an office, on
3 the other side?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. We have heard evidence that one side was called A and
6 one side was called B, do you recall that?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Can you tell us whether you were in A or B or is it
9 a long time ago?

10 A. I can't honestly remember. I was on the night with the
11 sick bay, I know that. I can't honestly remember now if
12 it was A or B now, 'cos -- I think it was A, but I'm not
13 sure, I'm not 100 per cent sure now.

14 Q. It doesn't matter if you can't remember. It's
15 understandable after this length of time. You do say
16 that on the upper floor there was, on one of the sides,
17 an office where a night shift worker would be sitting?

18 A. Yes, the office.

19 Q. Would that be one person or would there be more than one
20 person on at nights?

21 A. I think there was normally just one unless there was
22 a lot of trouble in the building, then I don't know if
23 there was a bit of a cross-over or ... but SNR
24 SNR and his wife stayed in the house
25 so ...

1 Q. We have --
2 A. They were always pretty much on call, to be fair,
3 I think.
4 Q. When you say they stayed [REDACTED], that's a house at
5 [REDACTED] the school?
6 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
7 Q. I think SNR [REDACTED]'s wife taught at the school for
8 a time?
9 A. Yes, she was the artist and the maths teacher.
10 Q. Okay. Just going back to the upper floor and the office
11 and the night shift worker, you think, probably
12 generally speaking, your recollection was there was
13 maybe just one night shift member of staff?
14 A. I think there was -- I think there was -- might have
15 been two right up to a certain time and then they might
16 have gone off, because I think -- I'm sure it was lights
17 out 9 o'clock and they would have been off shift by
18 10.00 probably.
19 Q. I think you called night shift workers -- there would be
20 presumably some sort of rota?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. You called them the night 'supey'?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Then you tell us that the number of girls who shared
25 a particular room upstairs would vary?

1 A. Yes, it did vary.

2 Q. You certainly recall at least a point in time when you
3 were there, when you were in the room with just one
4 girl, I don't need her name?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say you probably were only ever in a room with at
7 most two other girls?

8 A. I was, yeah.

9 Q. Would the girls be the same age as each other or did
10 it --

11 A. Er, I'm not really sure. I don't even recall how old
12 everybody was there either.

13 Q. It's difficult with girls or boys to put an exact age,
14 because some will be big, some will be small, some will
15 look more mature, some will look less mature, is that
16 right?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. I don't even know if they kind of put you
18 in as, like, maybe different things that you liked or
19 anything. I don't think -- I think they just -- that
20 was the empty space and that's where you were put.
21 I don't think there was any thought on their part.

22 Q. I was going to ask you at least, it wasn't your decision
23 where you got put?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. You didn't say, 'Well, I would like to share with so and

1 so', or, 'I'd like a room with only one person', or,
2 'I'd actually like my own room'?

3 A. No, no, you never got a choice, you were just --

4 Q. Told where to go?

5 A. I think the first room you were put in was because it
6 had the unbreakable windows and it didn't matter who
7 come, the first visit was SNR throwing his
8 big bunch of keys at this window to prove that it was --
9 you couldn't break out basically.

10 Q. He was trying to say that if you had any thoughts --

11 A. You're not going anywhere, you're not going anywhere.

12 Q. 'Terri', you have a section on routine and I'm not going
13 to take you through it in all the detail. We can read
14 it for ourselves but I do want to ask one or two
15 questions about what you tell us about the routine.

16 Can I turn to page 12, where you tell us about
17 chores and you say you did some washing of dishes and
18 washing of your own clothes and you say the only things
19 that were washed for you were your underwear?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Sometimes you had to do other jobs as a form of
22 punishment?

23 A. Oh, yeah, definitely.

24 Q. What sort of jobs would you have to do if you were
25 punished; can you remember?

1 A. Yeah. Just basically clearing the dining room,
2 resetting the dining room, cleaning the floors, cleaning
3 the tables, the chairs.

4 Q. But that was a punishment?

5 A. Well, if you weren't cheeky or anything, you didn't have
6 to do that. You just put it on the trolley and whoever
7 was on the punishment sorted it out.

8 Q. As far as school is concerned, you say teachers, did
9 they come in to the school to teach and then leave in
10 your time?

11 A. Yes, but I think they were all on a rota as well, that
12 they would work weekends.

13 Q. They had to be available to work weekends?

14 A. So they weren't just teachers or tutors, they were
15 actual care staff as well.

16 Q. They had some care responsibilities?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Did they also have to do that during the week, say after
19 school, at least maybe once a week to stay until perhaps
20 10 o'clock or whatever?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. I think they all done shifts like, they did
22 all work shifts.

23 Q. The school itself, you put it, I think, fairly sharply
24 at paragraph 54, 'I learnt bugger all at the school'?

25 A. I didn't, though.

1 Q. '... we did all the traditional subjects, but I don't
2 think they took account of the fact that they were
3 teaching young people whose heads were messed up. We
4 were angry, hormonal teenagers.'

5 Would you say that was the general --

6 A. That's the top and bottom of it, int it?

7 Q. Yes. You would say that's really how you would describe
8 most of the young people in your time?

9 A. Well yeah. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. You say it was hard to get pupils to do the work in the
11 class, but you tell us that in fact you did sit some
12 exams, some O-Level exams --

13 A. Yeah, yeah. I failed every one of them. I had to pay
14 for one as well.

15 Q. I think the one you paid for, you say you actually ran
16 away and didn't sit the exam?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, I didn't sit the exam so I had to pay for
18 it. I remember it well, it was 60 as well, that was
19 a lot of money back then.

20 Q. It was taken from your pocket money?

21 A. Oh yeah, I don't think I seen any pocket money from the
22 whole time I was there. I was either paying for windows
23 or paying for O-Levels.

24 Q. Would some of the girls that maybe were better behaved,
25 if you like, would they be getting pocket money and be

1 able to spend it?

2 A. Yeah, yeah, they got to go into the city centre and

3 spend it, unsupervised.

4 Q. But you weren't getting that chance?

5 A. I never got that chance. I was taken in by members of

6 staff and was only given the allowance that they got to

7 spend on me per year.

8 Q. You tell us a bit about leisure time, that you would

9 watch TV and listen to music, is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. There was a record player downstairs that you could use,

12 yes?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You say there were at least some magazines and books

15 around the place?

16 A. Yeah, yeah, there was, yeah.

17 Q. You could do crafts in the evening?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would that be something that the teachers would teach?

20 A. It was the same people that were doing English and maths

21 and geography with you that was in the actual home side

22 and doing different things with you.

23 Q. You actually say that you did some baking and, indeed,

24 you learnt how to make sweet treats?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Are you telling us that because you quite enjoyed doing
2 that?

3 A. Yeah, I do, and I still enjoy doing the same recipes to
4 this day.

5 Q. So that was one of the plus points?

6 A. That was when I was behavin'.

7 Q. You tell us about weekends, starting at paragraph 56,
8 'Terri', and I'll just ask you about that.

9 You say that there wouldn't be that many girls at
10 the weekend, just those that were on punishment or ones
11 that either didn't have a home to go or it wasn't safe
12 for them to go home, was that the sort of situation?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Young people could get regular home leave. I think we
15 have heard about this --

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. -- that they would get home leave provided they didn't
18 misbehave --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- or unless there was some reason why it wouldn't be
21 safe for them --

22 A. Well, everybody had to ask on a Thursday night if they
23 had permission to go home.

24 Q. I'll come back -- maybe I could just ask you generally
25 about this before going into some of the things that

1 might have happened later on. I will not deal with that
2 yet, but you say there was Thursday night, there was
3 an all-school assembly, was it, in the reccy room?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Mr SGQ would normally be presiding?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. The staff and pupils would be there?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Whether you got to go home or not would be discussed?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. If you were looking to go home, what did you have to do?
12 A. You had to stand up and ask for permission to go home.
13 Q. In front of all of the --
14 A. In front of everybody.
15 Q. The whole school?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. Am I right in thinking -- we will come to it more
18 specifically -- but was there a discussion at these
19 assembly meetings about the behaviour of pupils --
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. -- during the week?
22 A. Definitely.
23 Q. And whether that might or might not result in them not
24 getting home leave?
25 A. Definitely. He would laugh in your face and tell you to

1 sit back down.

2 Q. Your performance maybe during the previous week, or
3 perhaps even longer, would be discussed in front of the
4 rest of the school, you standing up there, Mr SGQ
5 saying some things, you saying things back, and then you
6 would be told whether you were going to get home leave
7 or not?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. If you had been misbehaving that week, would you also be
10 told that you might be getting a particular form of
11 punishment?

12 A. Well, you wouldn't actually get to ask if you were on
13 craft room, er, punishment.

14 Q. I don't mean you would ask, but did he tell you that
15 that's where you were going?

16 A. Oh, yeah.

17 Q. Would he do that at the assembly at times?

18 A. Yeah, yeah. You were called in front of everybody,
19 like.

20 Q. So they would know if you were going there, to the craft
21 room?

22 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah. Everybody was aware of what
23 ... everything that was gettin' done.

24 Q. You tell us that there were only two types of punishment
25 involving going to rooms, if I understand what was the

1 situation. There was what you describe as the lighter
2 punishment, and was that to stay in the school, in
3 a room under close supervision?

4 A. Well, if you were on lighter punishment, you got to do
5 all your dishes in the dining room and you might be
6 supervised, but if you were put in the craft room, you
7 done all the dishes, you didn't get any free time, and
8 you were put back into this stone-built room to read
9 Shakespeare.

10 Q. So the craft room was a more severe punishment?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It was a room that you went to?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. How was it furnished?

15 A. With a little school desk and a school seat and your
16 slippers and a tracksuit and your underwear, that was
17 it. They thought that you couldn't run away in slippers
18 for some reason.

19 Q. Would there be a member of staff --

20 A. With you 24/7.

21 Q. If you had to go to the toilet?

22 A. With a member of staff.

23 Q. Where did you eat your meals?

24 A. In the craft room.

25 Q. Were you allowed to go to classes?

1 A. No.

2 Q. But you say that you had to read things?

3 A. Yeah, Shakespeare.

4 Q. Your recollection was that you had to read a lot of
5 Shakespeare?

6 A. Well, I looked at the pages, I'm not saying I read it.

7 Q. It was some sort of works of Shakespeare you had to look
8 at --

9 A. Oh definitely.

10 Q. I'll come back to that if I may, just because you'll
11 tell us a bit more about that when you were in the craft
12 room.

13 What happened -- you would be there all day and you
14 wouldn't be allowed to move about to other places, but
15 at night, what would happen? Where would you be
16 sleeping?

17 A. You were then moved up through the back quarters of the
18 building into another room, where we were given
19 a two-inch mattress to sleep on. And we were all kept
20 in the same room.

21 Q. Was there a bed in this room?

22 A. No, there was just a two-inch mattress.

23 Q. Could there be more than one girl there at the time?

24 A. Well, they wouldn't open the craft room unless there was
25 a few of yous being naughty, so there was probably

1 between four and six in the craft room at any one time.

2 Q. Were you allowed to speak to each other?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you allowed to speak to other young people if you

5 were going to the toilet, for example?

6 A. No. You weren't even allowed to speak to the staff.

7 Q. So you had to basically remain silent and read your

8 Shakespeare?

9 A. Yeah, I should be an expert on it, but I'm not,

10 I'm sorry.

11 Q. That's okay, I'm not going to ask you any questions

12 about Shakespeare.

13 A. Please don't.

14 Q. Or certainly not the content, I should say.

15 Obviously at weekends, if you weren't in the craft

16 room or being supervised closely, some of the staff

17 would take you places and take you on trips and things

18 like that?

19 A. Yeah, they did.

20 Q. It wasn't always --

21 A. No, no. No, no, there was some -- well, the ones that

22 done, like, the craft side of it, that was the teachers

23 and that was on the good days that they were getting to

24 be nice and fun with you, 'cos there was a lot of nice

25 staff in there that was just there to try and keep your

1 spirits up and they were there to help you but ... yeah.

2 Q. I think you tell us in fact that you recall one of the

3 teachers who would come in at weekends and had had

4 a previous career as a hairdresser and would dye hair

5 and do hairdressing?

6 A. Yeah, Mr Roy, he was lovely.

7 Q. Okay, and you tell us that at least some girls, but

8 I don't think you were one of them, got taken on

9 a holiday to Spain with Mr SGQ and his wife?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Now, you say you weren't invited. Was it ever explained

12 to you --

13 A. Why I was never invited, no, I just knew I was

14 naughty --

15 Q. Did you ask to go?

16 A. No, no, definitely not. I don't think it was very out

17 there that people were going either until it was kinda

18 done, 'cos I think there was only a couple of occasions

19 when I was there that a group of them went, which was

20 the same girls that used to hang out with Mr SGQ in

21 his office.

22 Q. So the girls that went on the trip to Spain, you say

23 were girls who would hang about his office, and you'll

24 tell us about some of the girls that hung about the

25 office in due course, but that's what you recall --

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. -- that they were the girls that got to go on holiday?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. Were they seen by other girls as more favoured or did
5 you see them as more favoured?

6 A. Mmm. No, not really. I didn't see them as anything, to
7 be fair. I think I got into a few fights with a lot of
8 them, so I kinda stayed clear of a lot of them.

9 Q. Can I just move on just now, 'Terri', in this part of
10 your statement to something you tell us about family
11 contact at paragraph 60.

12 You tell us you weren't really encouraged to keep in
13 touch with your family and, indeed, so far as
14 communications were concerned, Mr SGQ read all of the
15 letters that you were receiving?

16 A. Oh, yeah, yes.

17 Q. You say you know that because -- you also know he read
18 the ones that went out, because you say your brother
19 told you that he was not getting letters that you had
20 been writing and sending to him?

21 A. Yes, yeah. Yeah.

22 Q. And that Mr SGQ -- I think you maybe attempted to
23 communicate with the man that you ran away to Glasgow
24 with and he put a stop to that?

25 A. Yes, he did.

1 Q. He knew about your background, that you had gone away to
2 Glasgow?
3 A. Oh, yeah, he knew, he knew. He threw it in my face many
4 a times.
5 Q. I'll come back to that.
6 A. Sorry, I'm jumping.
7 Q. No, it's no problem, but just to see -- he had enough
8 knowledge of your background --
9 A. Oh, yeah.
10 Q. -- and this particular period of time when you ran away?
11 A. Mm-hmm.
12 Q. You have sections headed, 'Visits/inspections/reviews'.
13 I think we have covered some of this at paragraph 61,
14 you have told us about these weekly assemblies towards
15 the end of the week in the recreational room where you
16 had to stand up and ask if you could go home?
17 A. Yeah.
18 Q. You say if you were doing sanitary duty as a punishment,
19 or had done something wrong, you knew before you stood
20 up that you wouldn't get home?
21 A. Yeah.
22 Q. But you still had to stand up and ask?
23 A. Yeah. You knew you weren't either. That was the --
24 I think he just liked to ridicule you. That was the top
25 and the bottom of what the man liked to do.

1 Q. You tell us and maybe I'll just -- at paragraph 62 you
2 say that SGQ at these assemblies, and perhaps
3 more generally too, but at these assemblies, he would
4 ridicule girls by bringing up things they'd done and
5 then he'd tell them that they couldn't go home?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. You give us one example of that. Can you just tell us
8 what happened on that occasion? Do you see at
9 paragraph 62, 'Terri'?

10 A. Yeah, I do. Well, I'd been naughty and ran away again.
11 Er, I think a lot of it, I needed my own space and my
12 own head space, and I never, ever got that either, so
13 running away and doing this stress walking that I like
14 to do.

15 I'd been away and got caught by the police and I was
16 actually sittin' on the toilet when the police come into
17 the toilet and in reaction to them, I'd bit the
18 policeman, so I was actually charged with cannibalism,
19 so back when I'd asked to go home, he'd brought it up
20 that I couldn't go home because I'd been charged with
21 cannibalism.

22 Q. 'Terri', in fairness to you, I think how you put it in
23 your statement is that you were charged more
24 specifically with biting a police officer?

25 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. But that Mr SGQ, when he raised the matter at these
2 assemblies, said that ... he paraphrased it by using the
3 expression you had been charged with cannibalism, was it
4 Mr SGQ that used that word?

5 A. Yeah, both of them. The police force and -- that's what
6 I was charged with, 'cos I bit him.

7 Q. That's your recollection.

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 Q. All I'm suggesting is that whatever the precise charge
10 was that was read out to you and appeared on some sort
11 of charge sheet, Mr SGQ at least, at assembly in
12 front of the whole school --

13 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

14 Q. -- said that -- because he knew this episode had
15 occurred, you stood up, and in front of the school he
16 raised the matter and said in front of the rest of the
17 pupils that you had been charged with cannibalism, is
18 that what it comes to?

19 A. Yes, same as another occasion when they've read out that
20 a girl couldn't go home because she'd been charged with
21 prostitution. That's nobody's business.

22 Q. So you remember that being said?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You were there?

25 A. Yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: 'Terri', you also said you'd been doing this
2 stress walking that you liked to do. Tell me about
3 that?
4 A. Yeah, I just -- when I'm anxious, I just like to walk,
5 so I tend to just walk in circles, er, and my friend'll
6 tell you that I've made her do 14,500 steps around
7 Edinburgh in the last -- yesterday. She's enjoying her
8 seat today. It is down to being stressed.
9 MR PEOPLES: You say that in the three years or so you were
10 there, you reckon you only were given some home leave
11 some weekends over perhaps at most an eight-month period
12 within that three years?
13 A. Yeah, yeah.
14 Q. The rest of the time you were on punishments and weren't
15 being allowed to go home?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. You say your mum wasn't someone who came to visit, so
18 you'd only see her if you went back home?
19 A. Pretty much, yeah.
20 Q. Would she speak to you on the phone?
21 A. She didn't really phone either. My brother done a lot
22 of the phoning, my mum would see me on the weekend and
23 that was it.
24 Q. When you were at home, she'd see you but not --
25 A. Yeah, yeah, she would come and meet me from the train

1 station.

2 Q. When you got a call from your brother, for example, at
3 the school, would you be allowed to take that call in
4 private?

5 A. No, there was always somebody there in the office.

6 Q. Did that inhibit you from saying things about what was
7 going on at the school?

8 A. No, we had our own code so we could communicate.

9 Q. You and your brother?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. Do you recognise that maybe some people at the school
12 might have found it difficult to speak to a family
13 member in front of a member of staff?

14 A. Yeah, you couldn't say that much. I think I probably
15 said a lot more and that got me into more trouble,
16 because I would say things, 'cos I don't think I've got
17 much of a filter so ...

18 Q. Was there an attempt to stop you using the phone at any
19 point?

20 A. Well, just the fact that I was always on punishments, so
21 I never got to use it then.

22 Q. So if you're on --

23 A. I suppose I didn't really use it that often either.

24 Q. If you were on punishment, as you were frequently, you
25 weren't allowed to take calls or make calls?

1 A. I think if you were not on punishment, you could be
2 phoning people but --
3 Q. Yes, but if you were on punishment --
4 A. No, you didn't get any of that.
5 Q. You didn't get the chance?
6 A. No, no.
7 Q. As far as social workers are concerned, you would have
8 had a social worker when you were there?
9 A. Yeah.
10 Q. You say you don't remember seeing that person very
11 often?
12 A. Didn't see any of them very often.
13 Q. You don't remember any form of official inspection?
14 A. No.
15 Q. If there was an official inspection, they didn't come to
16 speak to you?
17 A. Didn't know there was meant to be one then.
18 Q. You didn't know?
19 A. No.
20 Q. You tell us that you think around every 12 months, you
21 would have to go to a panel to review your case; is that
22 right?
23 A. Yes, yeah.
24 Q. What did you think of these panel meetings? At
25 paragraph 66 I think you feel that you didn't really get

1 any chance to participate?

2 A. It was just all adults speaking about me, telling each
3 other where they were going to put me or what to do with
4 me.

5 Q. Were you asked any questions about how you were being
6 treated?

7 A. No. I would have said many a things. I would have said
8 about police brutality a few times as well and I would
9 have said every time anythin' happened.

10 Q. So you weren't afraid to speak up?

11 A. No, no, definitely not.

12 Q. On the occasions when you spoke up at a panel, what
13 response did you get?

14 A. Nothing, nothing.

15 Q. Did anything follow after the panel about the matters
16 you'd raised with them?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did they do any investigation?

19 A. Nothing. You didn't even see a social worker for ages
20 then.

21 Q. The way you put it at paragraph 67, 'Terri', is it
22 seemed to you that they really had already set out what
23 was going to happen and it was just going through the
24 motions?

25 A. Yeah, definitely.

1 Q. I suppose at that stage they would have received reports
2 about you from the school?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The school would be saying what they thought was best;
5 is that right?

6 A. Yeah, pretty much.

7 Q. Now, you tell us about your key worker at paragraph 68
8 and you say she was a lovely lady?

9 A. She was.

10 Q. But you didn't really have any clear understanding of
11 what she was supposed to be doing, because you don't
12 recall having to spend time with her on a one-to-one
13 basis, so you weren't getting that sort of planned
14 one-to-one discussions with your key worker?

15 A. Definitely not. I knew she was my key worker. She used
16 to spend the money that was allocated to me when we went
17 shopping and --

18 Q. Did you ever tell her what was going on or did you --

19 A. I think she kinda knew and it would have been said, 'cos
20 I do remember her coming to my room and asking if I was
21 okay and trying to comfort me because I was just crying
22 and crying and crying, er ... but nothin' getting done
23 about it. Just --

24 Q. So if you spoke about it and she came to your room --

25 A. I would have said, well, it's like I don't want to be

1 here. I want to be with my parents.

2 Q. So when that happened then, then nothing came of it?

3 A. No, no. She would stop you from crying. That was --

4 her only intention was to stop you crying.

5 Q. Did she ever say to you, when you told her things that

6 were happening, 'Well, leave it with me, I'll do

7 something about it'?

8 A. No, it wasn't even acknowledged, it was just, 'Stop

9 crying', basically, pat you on the back, 'You'll be

10 okay, go to sleep. Another day tomorrow'.

11 Q. Did you form any impression, when you told her about

12 things that might be happening at Balnacraig, did you

13 form any impression whether she believed what you were

14 saying?

15 A. I think after a year I would have just gave up and just

16 kept on running away to be fair. Nobody would listen.

17 When you were trying to talk -- they had it all set out.

18 They knew where you were going.

19 Q. Do you think your social worker believed the things you

20 were telling her or not or can you not really --

21 A. No, I don't -- I don't know if they've heard it that

22 many times that they just think it's rubbish or if they

23 do genuinely do hear you, but they're struggling to know

24 what to do with that information themselves.

25 Q. Now, you tell us that you were always running away, that

1 is paragraph 69 and forwards. You put it in a nutshell
2 at paragraph 70:
3 'Nobody ever said why I kept running away from the
4 place.'
5 Your impression was you were just considered to be
6 'toerags'?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. And seen as a nuisance to the police, because you were
9 running away constantly?
10 A. Yeah, yeah.
11 Q. What you do say at paragraph 70 is had you been asked,
12 you would have been prepared to tell them what was going
13 on --
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. -- and what was happening; is that right?
16 A. Yeah, definitely.
17 Q. You also say at paragraph 71, and maybe this is you
18 recalling some of the occasions that you were involved
19 with the police, that you maybe went on the odd rant?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. You feel that on those occasions, they wouldn't have
22 been believing what you were saying?
23 A. They wouldn't have been listening.
24 Q. Certainly when these occasions occurred, the police
25 didn't take any action that you're aware of to

1 investigate what you were telling them when you were
2 shouting or ranting, or even if you weren't shouting and
3 ranting and saying something? You don't remember them
4 saying, 'We'll look into that'?

5 A. Nobody -- no, no.

6 Q. Am I right in thinking they would just simply -- maybe
7 with a short spell in the cell, but they would
8 eventually take you back to Balnacraig?

9 A. Yeah, as soon as there was a van going that way.

10 Q. I think you tell us that there were occasions when you
11 would get a slap from some of the police?

12 A. Oh, yeah.

13 Q. Although you do say that you, well, maybe tried to give
14 as good as you got?

15 A. Well, I've always kinda said that I gave as good as
16 I got, so they taught me how to fight.

17 Q. On discipline, just to deal with that, 'Terri', at
18 paragraphs 73 to 75, before we turn to abuse as such,
19 you say if you were cheeky or swore at staff, or didn't
20 do something you were told, you would be punished by
21 putting on sanitary duties, and you have told us about
22 that already, the sort of things you might be asked to
23 do?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 Q. You've told us about the recreational room that you

1 might have to be there and stay with a member of staff
2 during the day for a period?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You have told us about the craft room punishment as
5 well, and what that involved, although we'll go into
6 what happened at the craft room shortly.

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. You say that another punishment was stopping pocket
9 money?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. I suppose another punishment, although you don't mention
12 it as such, is you wouldn't get home leave?

13 A. Nuh-uh. You never got any home leave.

14 Q. You tell us about abuse at Balnacraig starting at
15 paragraph 76.

16 You start generally by saying you were physically
17 and mentally hurt when you were there, you say there was
18 no support or care, nobody checked on you if you were
19 upset and crying, although I think you maybe say that
20 your key worker at least did?

21 A. I think right at the very start, I can actually
22 visualise her sitting on the end of the bed now, but
23 I wasn't thinkin' back when I've gave that statement.

24 Q. Can we move on to paragraph 77 where you tell us a bit
25 more about Mr SGQ , SNR . I'll ask you

1 about that now.

2 You describe him as a horrible man who would say

3 rude and crude things to you?

4 A. Definitely.

5 Q. Now, can you tell us the sort of things he would be

6 saying about you and other girls? You give us some

7 examples in paragraph 77?

8 A. I can read it straight off of there to be fair because

9 --

10 Q. Would you like to read it for us if you can?

11 A. He was a horrible man. I believe he is dead now, and

12 I know he is, but he used to say rude, crude things to

13 us. He would call the girls sluts, tramps, insinuate

14 that most of them were prostitutes. He called me a

15 'cock tease' because I wouldn't sit on his lap,

16 I wouldn't lift my skirt up in his study.

17 Er, he'd tell you that you'd never amount to

18 anything. They told me I'd have six kids and I'd end up

19 in jail and I wouldn't come out of the prison service.

20 Q. I think you say that on reflection that you were young,

21 vulnerable girls and he made you feel useless and

22 worthless?

23 A. Definitely.

24 Q. This wasn't just you --

25 A. No, no. No, no.

1 Q. -- this was his general way of dealing with the girls?

2 A. I don't think anybody in that building would not have

3 come across something that that man said that he should

4 never have said.

5 Q. You say that looking back, although you, I think, never

6 sat on his knee --

7 A. No, no, I refused.

8 Q. -- you felt that it was a form of grooming looking back?

9 A. Oh, definitely.

10 Q. You tell us there were a group of girls he would take to

11 his study and would ask them to sit on his knee?

12 A. Yeah, and they did, and that was the ones that now, like

13 looking back on it, you can put two and two together and

14 not actually come up with five. Because we've never

15 discussed it, it was still only insinuating, but that

16 was definitely a groomed girl.

17 Q. I think we get the picture. You tell us in paragraph 78

18 you don't know how far Mr SGQ took matters when this

19 happened. Can you recall seeing girls on his knee?

20 A. Oh, yeah.

21 Q. Can you recall what you saw when they were on his knee?

22 What you could --

23 A. His hands were in the wrong position. They shouldn't

24 have been sitting on his knee, full stop, but if they

25 were missing their father and that's what they were

1 looking for, their father's cuddle, then, okay, I maybe
2 do get it in one sense, but he would talk about your
3 breasts, he would talk about your bum, you could see it
4 in his face, he was thinkin' other things. While he was
5 touching a lass, he'd be looking at another lass and
6 telling her to pull her skirt up a bit more. I walked
7 out at that point. I think I told him to do more than
8 eff off.

9 LADY SMITH: How old were these girls?

10 A. Definitely between 13 and 15. Definitely in the age
11 group -- I don't think there was many up to 18 ever in
12 Balnacraig while I was there. I know there was a couple
13 that left and they went into their own, like, living
14 arrangements in the city centre because they couldn't go
15 back home, but they were definitely all under 16.

16 MR PEOPLES: You are saying that from what you saw, it was
17 apparent to you that this wasn't a fatherly cuddle?

18 A. No, no, definitely not. Definitely not.

19 Q. You explained why that wasn't the situation because of
20 what was being said, what he was doing when he had them
21 on his knee?

22 A. Yeah, definitely.

23 Q. Where did he position his hand and arms?

24 A. Well, where you would position your hands if you were
25 an adult consentin' to sex, I would have phrased it now.

1 Q. I know it's -- you don't have to be too shy with us.
2 Where were his hands, for example?
3 A. Well, on your hips, and he was definitely thrusting with
4 them, because you could see the movements.
5 Q. He would be making thrusting movements when they were on
6 his knee?
7 A. Yeah, 'cos I remember the old joke 'I'm saying about
8 sitting on my knee and seeing what pops up' and that
9 kind of stuck in my head forever. I know it's an old
10 joke, and it's not his joke, but it's one that really
11 shouldn't be getting used in front of young girls.
12 Q. So his hands, you said, were on the girls' hips?
13 A. You'd see them up on their backs and coming around their
14 breasts at time. I never stayed in his office long.
15 I would stay there, have a quick look, get a quick heat
16 of his fire and I can't be in here, he'd stress me out
17 to the point that I didn't like the man.
18 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me, 'Terri', that that's a joke
19 that he used when the girls --
20 A. He used to use that joke, yeah, and it was only later on
21 as an adult that I've heard it from ... I don't know who
22 the comedian is now, but it's an old one that's probably
23 banned off the BBC now.
24 MR PEOPLES: So it wasn't an original from him, but it was
25 one he used?

1 A. No, no, it definitely wasn't an original from him,
2 I don't think.

3 Q. You do say he made attempts to persuade you to sit on
4 his knee but you refused?

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. You tell us in paragraph 78 that you recall him saying,
7 at least on one occasion, 'Come on, I know you like
8 older men'.

9 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

10 Q. I take it you link back to what he knew about your
11 earlier relationship with the older man?

12 A. Yeah, yeah. Definitely.

13 Q. You also say that the effect of saying that to you was
14 to make you feel bad about what you had done in your
15 past before you got to the school?

16 A. Yeah, definitely. Yeah.

17 Q. You tell us that there was a fire in his study and that
18 he would tell girls to lift their skirts up to get
19 a better heat?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You said earlier you were saying things like that when
22 he had a girl on his knee at times and looking in the
23 direction of other girls who were in the study?

24 A. Yes. Yes.

25 Q. You also tell us, I think, that there were times when he

1 would have a male friend there as well, who would ask
2 girls to sit on his knee, is that right?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. You think his name was GYQ ?
5 A. I definitely think his name was GYQ , but I couldn't
6 swear on his name.
7 Q. Did you ever see anyone other than the man that you
8 thought was GYQ ?
9 A. No, I just remember him. I know there was other people
10 there, but he was like the creepy guy. I've said it on
11 there, he was creepy.
12 Q. From your perspective, he was at least the creepy guy
13 that you can remember being in the study?
14 A. I'm looking back now thinking I can actually visualise
15 him, along with SNR and looking pretty
16 similar, so I wonder if they were maybe actually related
17 now.
18 Q. What age was GYQ ? Was he the same sort of age as
19 Mr SGQ ?
20 A. Probably a bit younger, because he was definitely an old
21 guy by the time we got there as well.
22 Q. Well, I suppose you might see old as being -- I think he
23 would be about 50 at the time?
24 A. I must admit I used to think 40 was old to be fair.
25 It's not now.

1 Q. He was certainly a lot older than the girls that were
2 sitting on his knee?

3 A. His wife was young, so he was definitely more his age
4 group and not his wife's age group.

5 Q. You tell us at that paragraph, 'Terri', that there was
6 at least a time you remember when you told him to fuck
7 off?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. When he was asking you to sit on his knee?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Indeed it got you banned from the study?

12 A. Yeah, I then got told I was not allowed back in the
13 study.

14 Q. Okay, then you tell us about the trip to Spain, and
15 I'm not going through that with you this morning, but we
16 can read what you say about that trip.

17 Can I take you to paragraph 81, 'Terri', where you
18 tell us that Mr SGQ would take some girls for PE on
19 a Thursday to what you describe as a special school, The
20 Glebe School in Scone?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say you went there to use their gym hall?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You would go on a minibus?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. He would take a number of girls with him?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You actually think he might have just been taking the

4 girls that were on punishment, but maybe you're not

5 sure?

6 A. I'm not really sure. I don't know if it was maybe his

7 favourite girls that he was actually being able to

8 totally manipulate.

9 Q. You weren't one?

10 A. I definitely wasn't one, but I was always on punishment

11 so ...

12 Q. At any rate you went on some of these trips?

13 A. Oh, yeah, yeah.

14 Q. To The Glebe School?

15 A. I think it was actually classed as our PE for the week.

16 Q. Okay. You say that when you got there the girls would

17 be playing football and basketball, but there came

18 a time when Mr SGQ said it was time to play the game

19 of 'murder ball'?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. I'll just say that you tell us that involved a medicine

22 ball which would be thrown at you by him and some of the

23 people would land on their bums?

24 A. Oh, yeah.

25 Q. Then he would get you to play 'murder ball'?

1 A. Yep.

2 Q. A game without rules?

3 A. No rules.

4 Q. You would be split into teams and the idea was to get

5 the ball from either one end or the other end?

6 A. Well, you would be at one end and you had to get the

7 medicine ball to the opposite end.

8 Q. I think the way you describe it is everybody would be

9 fighting, punching and kicking each other, and he just

10 stood there and watched us and seemed --

11 A. He definitely liked it, he definitely liked to see us

12 all fightin'.

13 Q. He seemed to enjoy it?

14 A. And encouraged it.

15 Q. You have told us already, and I'm not going to repeat

16 it, about the punishment for running away and also, if

17 there were other misdemeanours in his eyes, that you

18 could have the lighter punishment or you might be put in

19 the craft room. So I'm not going over that again. You

20 have described the craft room at paragraph 83.

21 What I would like to ask you about is what you tell

22 us at paragraph 84. You have already described the

23 craft room and that you remember reading Shakespeare's

24 works, or at least being told to read Shakespeare's

25 works, and you say that Mr SGQ would sometimes come

1 into the room. Can you just tell us what happened on
2 those occasions?

3 A. Well, you'd be in the room minding your own thoughts, if
4 the girls weren't actually fighting between themselves,
5 because there used to be quite a lot of fights broke out
6 between us. And you always heard Mr SGQ coming along
7 the hall, because he carried that bigger bunch of keys.
8 You could hear the keys rattling.

9 So that would get your adrenaline going because you
10 knew, as soon as he come to that door, which was
11 a sliding door, you had to then stand up as quick as
12 possible and turn your back to him because he didn't
13 want to see us, because we were just scum basically.

14 Q. Did he say that at the time?

15 A. Yeah, we got called everything. We got told that we
16 should have been ashamed of ourselves, our parents would
17 be ashamed of us. Er, and then like because we had
18 Shakespeare to read, he would be quite good at asking
19 you, like, what the 12th word was on the third paragraph
20 on page 84 or whatever, and I learnt over the times
21 I've been on punishment that pick a small word, you
22 might actually be lucky.

23 I couldn't read the whole of Shakespeare and recite
24 it back to him, so I always did pick little words, but
25 I never seem to get them right. He would literally just

1 grab you by the scruff of the neck and pull you over the
2 tables.

3 Q. I think you actually say at paragraph 85 that if you got
4 the word wrong, and, I think, you tell us you always got
5 the word wrong --

6 A. I don't think I ever got it right, so my logic wasn't
7 working for me either, but I did always believe it might
8 have been a small word but we never got to check so we
9 would never have known whether we had the right word or
10 wrong word to be fair. So we don't know.

11 Q. But you tell us that when he grabbed you by the neck or
12 hair, he would take you out of the room, is that what
13 you recall?

14 A. He would drag you out the room by your hair. He'd take
15 you outside, into the little hallway, and if you were
16 trying to restrain like I would, I was quite notorious
17 for headbuttin', bitin', punchin', scratchin', I think
18 you name it, I was fight or flight, and because
19 I couldn't move, I would fight --

20 Q. You tell us?

21 A. -- so he would slap me. He slapped me a few times. He
22 punched me.

23 Q. Where did he punch you? What part of the body?

24 A. He'd slap me in the head, he'd punch you in the back of
25 the head, he'd punch you on the shoulder. I remember

1 getting punched in the stomach from 'im and him saying
2 that I would never have kids, and that was not nice.
3 Q. You say he punched you in the ribs --
4 A. He punched me in the ribs and the back of the head,
5 anywhere he wanted, and it depended on how good you were
6 at ducking as well, 'cos I was quite good at ducking.
7 Q. Then you say that in paragraph 85 that there were times
8 when he would grab your wrist and squeeze it?
9 A. Oh, yeah.
10 Q. Was that something you --
11 A. He never seemed to bruise you for some reason, so he was
12 able to, like, hold you and get you on that pressure
13 point there and actually -- it was that sore you would
14 just go with him. You wouldn't, like -- you knew he was
15 just going to get harder and harder and harder.
16 I've broke this wrist, so my fear was he was going to
17 bust my wrist again.
18 Q. It was quite heavy pressure on your wrist?
19 A. Oh yeah, definitely.
20 Q. Was it painful at the time?
21 A. Yeah, yeah.
22 Q. Did you react to the pressure in any way by shouting?
23 A. Yeah, I screamed, I shouted, I probably swore my head
24 off at 'im as well.
25 Q. Did you ask him to let go?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Did he do so?

3 A. No. You would ask him to let go. If they weren't so

4 harsh with you and said, 'Look, you've got to go through

5 that door and turn right. If you don't do it then

6 you're on more punishment', I bet you 99 per cent of the

7 girls would have just walked through, because they don't

8 want the grief.

9 Q. When all this was happening with you, I know you have

10 said it was fight for you rather than just go with

11 him --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- and you describe what did happen, but when this was

14 happening, and he was dragging you out and doing these

15 things, what was he saying to you?

16 A. That we were delinquents.

17 Q. Was he shouting?

18 A. No, he didn't really shout either. I don't recall him

19 screaming at us. I think I was probably the loudest

20 one.

21 Q. He would be calling you a delinquent?

22 A. You were definitely a delinquent. You were a no-good

23 toerag, a waste on society. Like, we shouldn't even be

24 here.

25 Q. Was this being said when he was doing this in the craft

1 room, he was taking you out --

2 A. Yeah, it was like --

3 Q. These things were being said to you at that time?

4 A. Sometimes you didn't know he was coming to you or coming

5 to somebody else, because you had your back to him.

6 That's putting the fear into people straight away. You

7 don't know that at the time.

8 Q. Would other staff be aware of what was happening?

9 A. Definitely.

10 Q. If you were in the craft room before he came, there

11 would be someone in there with you, wouldn't there?

12 A. There'd be roughly four tables down each side and then

13 there'd be a table at the front where the member of

14 staff would sit facing you.

15 Q. What would the member of staff do when Mr SGQ came in

16 and you were facing with your back to the wall?

17 A. Nothing, they would just sit and carry on reading their

18 book.

19 Q. If he dragged you out --

20 A. They just sat there, they didn't get involved.

21 Q. They just sat?

22 A. Yeah, they just sat.

23 Q. Did they say anything?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did they try to stop him doing what he was doing?

1 A. No, you weren't allowed to talk in the craft room, so
2 the staff weren't allowed to talk to you either.

3 Q. No, but I mean when Mr SGQ came and started doing the
4 things you've said, did they do anything?

5 A. Nothing. No, just sat there. They had to watch the
6 other girls that was there. That would have been --
7 they didn't do nothing. They just sat and either
8 continued reading or stood and actually sat and watched
9 it. I was getting dragged out backwards, I'm not really
10 100 per cent what they were doing to be fair, but they
11 would have just had to carry on.

12 Q. You have no recollection of any occasion where
13 someone --

14 A. I don't recall anybody coming out and going, 'Oh, stop
15 that, that's out of order'.

16 Q. There would be different staff at different times in the
17 room supervising?

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. So a number of staff would get to see this?

20 A. Definitely.

21 MR PEOPLES: I'm conscious of the time. It's maybe --
22 I'm not, I think, quite ready to finish.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Terri', we would usually stop now for the
24 lunch break and I can do that, if that would work for
25 you.

1 A. I'm okay if you want to carry on.

2 MR PEOPLES: I'm happy to carry on.

3 LADY SMITH: 10 minutes?

4 If that's okay for you, we'll carry on.

5 MR PEOPLES: There are a few matters I just wanted to cover

6 with you, 'Terri', if I may.

7 A. Yeah, no, no.

8 Q. We're not far from the end of this section.

9 A. I'm still waiting on a couple of bits so yeah.

10 Q. Perhaps we can move on to one of them, at paragraph 87.

11 You tell us that you have some scars on your left

12 arm to this day, which are a legacy of an occasion when

13 Mr SGQ took layers of skin off you by removing

14 tattoos?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. He did that to you and another girl, is that right?

17 A. Yeah, there was, there was another girl there, so --

18 Q. Basically I think what you tell us is he --

19 paragraph 87 -- he got hold of your arm and scrubbed it

20 with a wire brush, which was fairly sizeable, is that

21 right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. It wasn't a nailbrush?

24 A. No, no, no, no. It was a wire brush that I now know

25 that you would clean a hot stove with or a barbecue

1 with.

2 Q. Was it wire?

3 A. Oh, it was a wire brush.

4 Q. It was not a hair brush?

5 A. No, no, I wish it was.

6 LADY SMITH: These were tattoos that you'd done yourselves

7 using a pen?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: If I just read out what you tell us in your

10 statement:

11 'I was crying and screaming and the blood was

12 pouring out of my arm but he held on to my wrist and

13 kept scrubbing. He then poured new skin liquid on my

14 arm, which stung like hell. He did the same to another

15 girl.'

16 You say you're sure that Miss GHF was there at the

17 time?

18 A. I'm sure it was Miss GHF that was there.

19 Q. I think Miss GHF, we have had a chance to speak to her,

20 and she doesn't remember an incident of this kind

21 involving removal of a tattoo and, whilst she doesn't

22 remember, she finds it hard to believe that such a thing

23 would happen, but she certainly has no recollection of

24 it. What do you say to that?

25 A. That's Miss GHF all over, she's not going to be held

1 accountable at all. She's not going to admit to
2 anything, but I definitely know, me and another girl,
3 I won't mention her name, we were both there. We both
4 know what happened and I can feel where the skin is
5 missing on my arm and there's still a tiny bit of tattoo
6 left that he missed so ...

7 Q. If a member of staff was, let's not have an argument
8 about who might have been there, but if a member was
9 there, you have no recollection of a member of staff
10 attempting to stop Mr SGQ doing what he was doing?

11 A. Nope, none whatsoever.

12 Q. So a bit like the craft room?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You also say that Miss GHF was a bit cheeky and would
15 wind you up, and the example you give is that she would
16 say to some girls, who were overweight, that they
17 shouldn't be having seconds because they were fat
18 enough?

19 A. Yeah, definitely.

20 Q. You say, well, she shouldn't have been saying that sort
21 of thing?

22 A. No, 'cos she wasn't a thin lady. She was a big lady
23 herself, so you would have thought she had a bit more
24 compassion but I shared a table with a lass that was
25 probably just older than me, or around the same age as

1 me, and she was struggling with her weight, but she
2 didn't have to be embarrassed and be told not to eat.

3 Q. I have to say, you have perhaps anticipated what
4 Miss GHF has said to us, that her position, as
5 I understand it, is that she was overweight herself, and
6 I think you have confirmed that. She says that being
7 overweight herself, it's the last thing she would say to
8 someone else, but you say she did say that?

9 A. Definitely, and there's other witnesses, and I hope
10 they've all come here as well. I really do.

11 Q. Okay, you also say she could be rough at times and would
12 grab and pull you into your rooms?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. In fairness, you do say, in Miss GHF's defence, you
15 think this was more trying to control rather than any
16 intention to deliberately hurt?

17 A. Yeah, I think that was her way of taking control of the
18 situation, more than to be in the same part with
19 Mr SGQ, 'cos he definitely enjoyed what he was doing.

20 Q. I get that. I have to say what Miss GHF would say is
21 that she has no recollection of grabbing girls and
22 pulling them into rooms and has no recollection of that
23 sort of thing happening, but that's what she says.
24 I'm just letting you know.

25 A. Yeah, that's fine.

1 Q. Now, if I could just move on. You have already told us
2 that you know that staff would know what was going on
3 and you've explained why.

4 There is one more matter which I want to deal with
5 that we have still to deal with and it's something
6 involving Mr GHG . You tell us about that at
7 paragraph 90.

8 You tell us that there was an occasion when you were
9 taken back to Balnacraig in a police van after running
10 away and you tell us that, when you arrived back,
11 Mr GHG , and I'll just read out what you tell us at
12 90:

13 'He grabbed me by the throat and pulled me out of
14 the van and then pushed me into the main building. The
15 police and staff members would have seen this, but must
16 have thought it was okay because they said and did
17 nothing.'

18 You said you ended up lashing out and kicking
19 Mr GHG on that occasion, is that right?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. Now, can I just put to you what Mr GHG has said
22 about this?

23 A. I would love to.

24 Q. I'll tell what you he says. He says in response to this
25 that that would not be the way he worked, if a young

1 person returned to Balnacraig after absconding, and if
2 he had any difficulty getting a girl out of the van,
3 a police van, he would have asked the police to assist
4 him to do so.

5 I'll tell you what he's saying overall and you can
6 comment after that.

7 A. Thank you.

8 Q. He says:

9 'There's no way a sane person would assault a child
10 in the presence of the police.'

11 He never grabbed any girl by the throat. He says
12 that -- I think he puts your evidence down to incorrect
13 memory.

14 A. Oh, right, okay.

15 Q. And saying doing something of that type was simply not
16 him.

17 But he does accept if anyone did that, it would be
18 a clear case of assault or abuse.

19 What do you have to say to that, 'Terri'?

20 A. That's what an ex-copper would say, isn't it? He knew
21 every single police person, everybody, including, like
22 -- Scotland Yard used to get bandied about as well.
23 I didn't even know what Scotland had anything to do with
24 anything, but it was all down to status, and he
25 definitely did grab me out of the van by my throat and

1 push me into the main building, because I don't like
2 nobody going near my neck now at all. So he is going to
3 back himself up. He was a copper though.

4 I know what happened.

5 Q. Okay. Now, you tell us at paragraph 91 that the impact
6 and effect of all of the things that were going on and
7 how you were being treated at Balnacraig, you say that
8 the result of constantly being belittled, it leads you
9 to believe you're useless and worthless and your life
10 doesn't matter, that's how you felt?

11 A. It's true, yeah.

12 Q. I think that you tell us that you left Balnacraig in
13 [REDACTED] 1985, shortly after turning 16?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You have a section on 'Life in care' from paragraph 94.
16 'Terri', I'm not going to deal with that today. We
17 can read it. You have told us very frankly and fully
18 how your life unfolded after that and we can read that
19 for ourselves. I think you have had ups and downs, and
20 we can read that, and have had issues with your mental
21 health from time to time.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And still do, I think?

24 A. Yes, definitely.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Terri', I have studied that and I see how your

1 life unfolded after that time.

2 A. Thank you.

3 MR PEOPLES: You have told us that despite the struggle, you

4 always attempted to work and carry on as best you could,

5 is that the case?

6 A. Yeah, definitely.

7 Q. Indeed, you tell us towards the end of your statement,

8 'Terri', that while you were written off at school and

9 would not make anything of yourself and would end up in

10 prison, that as an adult you did highers and completed

11 a chefs' course and that, at least, showed you that you

12 were capable of a lot more than they thought you were,

13 is that right?

14 A. Definitely, because I didn't think I was capable.

15 I never got any encouragement, and I do feel as if, had

16 I been given the education that I was supposed to have,

17 whether I was with my parents or in care, I would have

18 had a better education, and I would have been able to do

19 something with my life, instead of fighting everything

20 that everybody else has said about me, that I was

21 worthless and useless. To the point that I've had

22 several attempts on my own life and that is down to

23 people speaking to me the way they have. I've only

24 learnt since I was in my 50s what a lot of my past has

25 actually been about.

1 And coming through this now, it's made me more
2 determined that I needed this out. I need it for
3 closure for myself and I've now got a son that I never,
4 ever thought I would have and he's gave me the will to
5 live, that I don't need permission from anybody else to
6 live my life, and I will live it the best way I can, but
7 it's the impact of my life that has given me the
8 struggles that I've got today that I do struggle with
9 a lot of the time.

10 MR PEOPLES: 'Terri', I hope you get the closure you're
11 looking for having come here, because I think you wanted
12 to come here and you wanted to tell us in person about
13 your experiences and the impact of them.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. These are all the questions I have for you today.
16 I realise it was difficult to tell us what you've told
17 us and can I simply wish you all the best in the future.

18 A. Thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: I hope you do get your closure.

20 A. Well, I think I'll get some closure, it might never
21 close but I will have some closure out of this.

22 LADY SMITH: 'Terri', can I add my thanks to you for coming
23 here today and being able to talk so openly and
24 helpfully about your experiences at Balnacraig. It's
25 been of enormous assistance to me and the work we're

1 doing here.

2 A. Well, I hope I've helped in the case for the ones that
3 couldn't get here, because I really did not want to come
4 at the start.

5 LADY SMITH: You've done really well in getting here and
6 talking to us the way you have done.

7 So thank you for that. I'm now able to let you go.

8 Safe travels back home and I hope the rest of the
9 day is restful for you.

10 A. Thank you.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: We have mentioned two people this morning who
13 are not to be identified as referred to in our evidence
14 outside this room, one of them is Mr GHG and the
15 other is a man referred to as GZL .

16 I'll rise now and maybe keep in touch with me to let
17 me know the final plans for this afternoon.

18 MR PEOPLES: I think it was GYQ in fact as well, and Mr --

19 LADY SMITH: GYQ .

20 There are a number of nicknames.

21 MR PEOPLES: Yes, there were. So anything that was
22 a nickname that might identify an individual would also
23 be covered by what you are saying to those listening.

24 LADY SMITH: Very well.

25 I'll rise just now for the lunch break.

1 Thank you.

2 (1.15 pm)

3 (The luncheon adjournment)

4 (2.15 pm)

5 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

6 'Emma' (read)

7 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next piece of evidence will be
8 a read-in and it's a statement from an applicant who
9 will be known as 'Emma'.

10 I'll give the reference for that statement at this
11 stage, it is WIT.001.001.7583.

12 'Emma' was born in 1964, she has a section in her
13 statement about life before care, and I'll not read it
14 all but I'll pick out one or two things from it.

15 Her parents divorced when 'Emma' was five, but
16 although they were divorced, her father would still come
17 to the house that 'Emma' and her mum were living in. At
18 that stage she had a sister and two brothers and she was
19 the youngest of four, but she tells us that her father
20 ended up having an affair with a relative and moved in
21 with that person and they then married and had five
22 children, so she has more step siblings, if you like, as
23 part of a larger family.

24 She says also that before and after her father left,
25 he was a bully, she says, towards her mother, and that

1 she thinks her mother was also scared of him at
2 paragraph 4.

3 (Pause)

4 I was saying that 'Emma's' mother was scared of
5 'Emma's' father. 'Emma' goes on to tell us that her
6 father sexually abused her and, indeed, she also says
7 her father's father also sexually abused her at
8 paragraph 4, but at the time she didn't say anything to
9 her mother, about what her father was doing to 'Emma'.

10 She also tells us at paragraph 6 her brother would
11 hit her and, indeed, on one occasion kicked her down
12 a flight of stairs.

13 She tells us at paragraph 8 that she went to
14 primary school and then to a secondary school in Perth.
15 She remembers, before ever going into any care setting,
16 walking to the local social work offices in Perth and
17 telling them that she wanted to be taken into care.

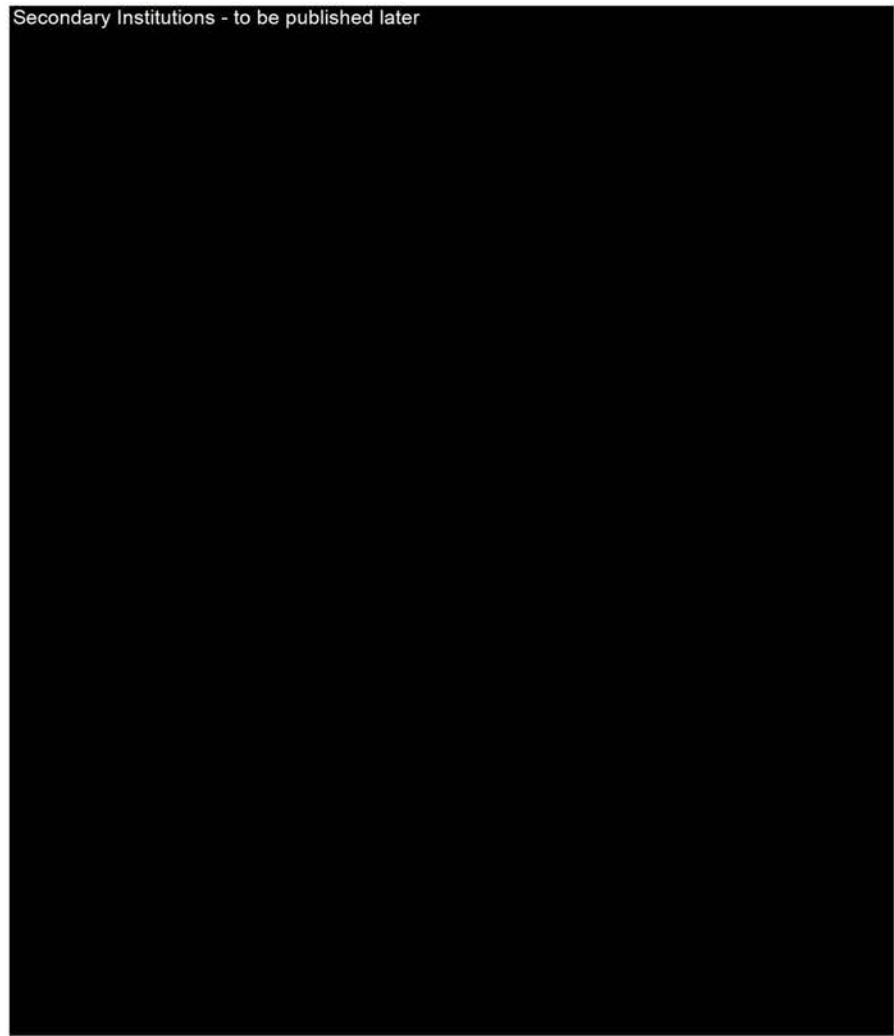
18 At paragraph 9, she tells us that that was when she
19 met her social worker, but she didn't tell her about the
20 abuse from her father, but said she wasn't wanting to go
21 to school. She said she wasn't happy at school and was
22 getting bullied and, indeed, she goes on to say that
23 because of bullying she stopped going.

24 Then at paragraph 11, the social worker came round
25 to the house a few times to try and encourage her to go

1 to school but she refused and eventually went before
2 a panel. She tells us that the panel asked if she
3 wanted to go into a home and she told them that she did
4 and they agreed to that request.

5 She then tells us about her life in a home in the
6 Tayside area, where she spent around three months at the
7 age of 14. I'm not obviously going to read all of that.

8 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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21 Eventually, it appears, that she was given a choice
22 really whether she wanted to stay or go home and I think
23 she said -- well, rather her social worker said it was
24 her choice to go to the home, because she had said in
25 the first place she wanted to go there, but there came

1 a time, I think, when she went back home to her mother
2 at paragraph 37, page 10.

3 I think this is when she just turned up on one
4 occasion but she stayed there and it appears that the
5 social worker then found a place for 'Emma' at
6 Balnacraig and she says she was quite happy to be going
7 there and she would be about 14 at the time, this is
8 paragraph 37.

9 At paragraph 38 she says that before she actually
10 went there, she had a visit where she met SNR
11 SNR, Mr SGQ, and SNR, 'Mr GHG'. I'm
12 going to refer to him as 'GHG' now because I don't
13 think there is any doubt who it is, it is just the
14 spelling.

15 She tells us of Balnacraig from paragraph 39
16 onwards, she tells us she was there for two years and
17 that there were dorms A and B upstairs and some smaller
18 rooms. She says she was in a dorm at first and moved to
19 a room and each room had two to four beds. It was all
20 girls when she was there and the age range, she said,
21 was from nine to 16 and she thought there was probably
22 24 girls. She tells us she had a wardrobe where she
23 stored her stuff.

24 At paragraph 40, she says Mr SGQ was SNR.
25 His wife worked there and that Mr GHG was SNR

1 SNR . She tells us a bit about the routine. I'll just
2 pick out at paragraph 42, she does say that after
3 breakfast, the pupils would go to the recreation room,
4 I think that's the reccy room that we've heard about,
5 and sit on chairs round the room. Teachers and night
6 shift care staff would come in and there would be
7 a meeting. Mr SGQ would be or, in his
8 absence, it would be Mr GHG . She says this morning
9 assembly happened every day and she describes the
10 purpose of it by saying:

11 'They just really discussed if there had been any
12 incidents the previous day or night and if there was
13 anything happening that day. We then went to our school
14 classes. After school, there was a similar meeting,
15 like the one that took place in the morning. We usually
16 discussed what activities were taking place that
17 evening. Grievances were also discussed and boxing
18 fights were arranged between the girls if anyone had
19 been fighting that day.'

20 Something we've heard about before.

21 LADY SMITH: Not the first time, yes.

22 MR PEOPLES: She tells us about food, and she makes the
23 point that you weren't forced to eat the food at
24 paragraph 43, and that the girls could wash and shower
25 when they wished, at paragraph 44.

1 As for leisure and recreation, she tells us about
2 that, starting at paragraph 47, that there was
3 a recreation room and there was a television and she
4 spent a lot of time there. She says there were books
5 and games that she could play and there were other
6 activities, which she mentions. What she does say is
7 there was more emphasis on activities than there was on
8 education and that she was allowed out of the school,
9 provided she had been good. She said she had to get
10 permission and she says:

11 'I usually asked for that when we were at the
12 meeting with Mr SGQ in the evening.'

13 She then goes on to say that one of the games that
14 the girls used to play was called 'murder ball'. If
15 I just take the final couple of sentences in
16 paragraph 48, she says:

17 'It was a brutal game. God forbid if there was
18 a girl in the other team who hated you. We used to beat
19 the crap out of each other. It was a bit like rugby but
20 there were no rules. Mr SGQ and Mr GHG both
21 liked this game.'

22 As for schooling, she says that she was schooled
23 within Balnacraig itself, doesn't think the teaching was
24 very good. She had different teachers for each subjects
25 and girls who were doing exams had to sit them outside.

1 She says she personally didn't sit any exams.

2 She says if a teacher was off sick, Mr SGQ would

3 fill in:

4 '... but his idea of filling in would be make us

5 play "murder ball", sword fencing or gymnastics.'

6 She tells us that birthdays and Christmas were

7 celebrated, I'll not go into the detail but she tells us

8 that at 52.

9 As for visits and inspections, she says, at 53, that

10 she regularly went out of Balnacraig to see her mum.

11 She remembers someone coming in to psychiatrically

12 assess her, and I think we have heard evidence there was

13 a school psychiatrist, and she said all the girls were

14 seen by the psychiatrist. I think that might be

15 Mr Woods, who has been mentioned before.

16 As for her social worker, the external social

17 worker, she said she did see her a few times but not

18 very often. This is paragraph 54.

19 As for discipline, she says:

20 'If you were bad or did something to get punished,

21 you would be made to do the dishes, which meant someone

22 doing the cleaning rota would get off with doing it.

23 Sometimes you would get fined.'

24 If she was ever late home or had been fighting or

25 rude to staff, she would get fined.

1 She says:

2 'If you were really bad at Balnacraig you got put on
3 what was called the sanitary squad.'

4 She says at 56:

5 'When you were on the sanitary squad, you were
6 called a "scrubber" and a "toerag". Mr SGQ might
7 call for "two toerags" to go to his room to clear away
8 his dirty dishes. When you were in there, he would just
9 insult you and make a fool out of you. Sometimes he
10 would quite often just ignore you too.'

11 She says she might also have to do the tea dishes as
12 well.

13 At 58, she says again you were made to wear blue
14 overalls and your own clothes were taken away,
15 especially if you were a runaway. She said you would
16 have to go to classes wearing overalls. She says:

17 'I wasn't allowed to go out when I was on the
18 sanitary squad and pocket money was stopped.'

19 As for abuse, she says she did like Balnacraig,
20 although sometimes it was a bit of a nightmare living
21 with 24 other girls:

22 'The only thing I really think was bad about
23 Balnacraig itself was that the teaching was poor.'

24 She left with no certificates to show for her time
25 there.

1 At paragraph 60, perhaps this is something which is
2 the principal focus of her statement:

3 'The only thing I really didn't like about
4 Balnacraig was the way Mr SGQ and Mr GHG
5 interacted with some of the girls. There was one girl
6 who used to sit on Mr SGQ's knee and was all over
7 him. Mr SGQ would sometimes try and encourage me to
8 sit on his knee or on the arm of his chair beside him.
9 I refused. Other girls did the same to Mr GHG.
10 This was inappropriate and it was wrong. There was
11 a girl [she names this girl and also her nickname] and
12 she used to sit on Mr GHG's knee.'

13 She goes on to say that:

14 'Mr SGQ and Mr GHG used to call me "BB",
15 which was short for "boobs and bum". They never tried
16 anything on with me or did anything sexual. I think
17 they just thought it was all banter. I had come from
18 an abusive background and I didn't like the way they
19 were with the girls.

20 'The only thing Mr SGQ ever did to me was he
21 slapped me on the back of my head. He hit me when
22 I went into his office. He would clap me on the back of
23 my head and when I told him to stop, he just said he was
24 helping me on my way.'

25 At 63, she continues:

1 'If two girls were fighting in Balnacraig you would
2 be made to put boxing gloves on in the recreation room
3 and fight it out. Mr SGQ and Mr GHG would make
4 you. They would make you do this even if you didn't
5 want to fight. The fight sometimes only stopped when
6 there was blood, but not always. This happened to me
7 and another girl [whom she names]. I didn't want to
8 fight and I tried to run away. I was called a coward.'

9 She also recalls an occasion when two other girls,
10 whom she names, were fighting with gloves. One was much
11 bigger than the other, but I think it's the smaller
12 girl, she says, really beat the crap out of the bigger
13 girl and it was eventually stopped. She says on that
14 occasion Mr SGQ was trying to stop it but they kept
15 on fighting. She says:

16 'We all had to sit and watch the boxing. If anyone
17 got hurt, they got treated by a member of staff in the
18 medical centre within Balnacraig.'

19 She then tells us that after a year being there, she
20 was asked if she wanted to stay at her mother's house
21 and come back to Balnacraig during the day for lessons.
22 It appears that that became the arrangement, but she
23 left Balnacraig completely, I think, just before the age
24 of 16 and says that after she left, she never saw her
25 social worker or anyone else from the

1 Social Work Department again.

2 As for reporting she says at 66 she's never told
3 anyone:

4 'I never told anyone about what was happening in
5 Balnacraig.'

6 She tells us about life after care and essentially
7 I think one can read this for ourselves. Clearly, it
8 wasn't an easy time and it's not an unfamiliar
9 situation. She went to live with her mum when she was
10 17. She had her son and so forth and she said it was
11 hell living at her mum's and she had quite a few moves
12 after that.

13 What she does say, and maybe I should just pick this
14 up, is that in 1993 she received a visit from the
15 police, because her sister had made an allegation
16 against her dad. 'Emma' says:

17 'I told them I couldn't be part of it and didn't
18 make a statement.'

19 But she did say that her sister was telling the
20 truth but that she later dropped the charges. I wonder
21 if that's her stepdad rather --

22 LADY SMITH: That would fit, wouldn't it?

23 MR PEOPLES: It would fit more. I don't think she's

24 mentioned -- I may be wrong, but I think that's

25 perhaps -- but at any rate, it's something to do with

1 what happened in the community and she had some
2 difficult times thereafter, as she tells us. I'm not
3 going to read all of that.

4 She tells us in the section on impact, which begins
5 at paragraph 73, she says that she self-harmed as
6 a child, but she tells us this happened first before she
7 went into care and indeed she says:

8 'It is quite difficult to say how much my time at
9 home, my time in care and my life after care has
10 impacted on me.'

11 At any rate, she says she doesn't trust any men any
12 more, but she does think it probably was because of her
13 experience with her husband.

14 She says her education was poor at Balnacraig and
15 was never really taught anything. She's had some
16 therapy since leaving care, at paragraph 76 she tells
17 us.

18 LADY SMITH: I think 'Murray' is misspelt there.

19 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think it is the one in Perth, Murray
20 Royal.

21 She says she has never seen or asked to see her
22 records and it's clear from her lessons to be learned,
23 I think, that she really feels that her social worker
24 bears a large share of blame for her situation, because
25 she failed to listen to what she was saying. Again,

1 that's not an unfamiliar thing that we've heard during
2 this Inquiry, indeed, this chapter.

3 She says the usual declaration and she signed her
4 statement on 22 March 2018.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Lisa' (read)

7 MR PEOPLES: If I could move on to another read-in. This
8 time an applicant who has the pseudonym 'Lisa'. Her
9 written statement is WIT.001.001.9372.

10 'Lisa' was born in 1972. She tells us that she and
11 her mother lived with her gran and grandad, along with
12 an uncle, and that they were in that arrangement until
13 she was about four. She had no siblings at that point.

14 She tells us that her mum was always a drinker and
15 she met 'Lisa's' stepdad when 'Lisa' was about four
16 years of age. When that happened, 'Lisa' and her mum
17 moved from her gran's house and the three, that's mum,
18 stepdad and 'Lisa' lived together and that they moved
19 around to different flats in Dundee.

20 She tells us that her mum married her stepdad and
21 children were born of that marriage. I think she has
22 a sister, two stepsisters and a stepbrother, who will be
23 younger. It appears that her mum and stepdad some time
24 later had two further children when 'Lisa' was in her
25 teens.

1 At paragraph 5, she says her mum and stepdad had
2 a very volatile relationship and her 'stepdad would beat
3 us up' and she says 'he didn't like us', I think that's
4 certainly maybe more 'Lisa'.

5 She talks about days of getting battered by him.
6 No, she does say she '... didn't get it as bad as my
7 mum, but it was bad enough', so it is really both her
8 mum and herself were being beaten up on a regular basis
9 when the stepdad was drunk.

10 Indeed she tells us that her mum would sometimes
11 leave home after a fight with her stepfather and would
12 take 'Lisa' with her and that she would go to her gran's
13 on these occasions, or aunt, and, indeed, on occasions
14 stayed with Women's Aid. Then, she says, whenever they
15 returned to the family home, her stepdad would blame
16 'Lisa'.

17 She says he physically and sexually abused 'Lisa',
18 which started when she was four years of age and lasted
19 until she was 11.

20 She says that she started at a primary school in
21 Dundee and was running away when she was six years of
22 age. She recalls an occasion when she was about eight
23 years of age, at paragraph 8, when her stepdad smashed
24 a plate over her head, bursting a blood vessel in her
25 eye and her mum had him charged, but the next day 'Lisa'

1 tells us she was marched to the police station and made
2 to tell the police that she was lying.

3 She sees that as a situation where her mother was
4 very much a victim of domestic abuse. Then she says:

5 'I don't think anybody would believe me about the
6 abuse.'

7 She says her stepdad would say to her that nobody
8 would believe her if she said anything.

9 At paragraph 11, she says she was 11 or 12 when she
10 first went into care. She was at high school in Dundee
11 at that point. She says her mum had been hitting her
12 little sister and could be quite physical with the
13 younger children when she was drunk, and she says that
14 she tried to stop her mum hitting her little stepsister
15 and got into an argument with her, and she says she left
16 to go to her gran's because her mum was going to hit her
17 with a hammer. She was picked up by the police and she
18 said ended up going into care for a few weeks, at a
19 place of safety in Dundee, I think, to put it shortly.

20 After a short period, she was back home and she says
21 at that point her mum wasn't drinking and the house was
22 tidy and the stepdad was away, although he was coming
23 back and forward.

24 She says, however, there was a lot of police
25 involvement and they would be back and forth to the

1 house all the time because of beatings of her mother by
2 her stepdad.

3 She tells us, at paragraph 15, that she started
4 rebelling and bunking off school and ran away a few
5 times. Her mum called social work and told them that
6 'Lisa' was out of control and that that was when she
7 went into care when she was 12 years of age. She was
8 taken to Burnside House Assessment Centre in Dundee and
9 she spent about three weeks there for assessment.

10 She then went to a children's home for a few months
11 and she's not entirely clear which came first, it's
12 immaterial for present purposes, but she tells us about
13 the children's home, where she spent around four months
14 when she was 12 or 13.

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later she appeared
7 before a panel and was moved to Balnacraig.
8 She tells us about Balnacraig starting at
9 paragraph 38. At paragraph 41, she tells us
10 SGQ was SNR and he and his wife
11 stayed in a house and that she
12 remembers his wife being her maths teacher and that
13 Mr -- again it is 'GHG' she has, but I'll treat it as
14 GHG, because I think we're clear it is Mr GHG,
15 was SNR.
16 There were about 25 to 30 girls when she was there.
17 The youngest, she thinks, was about 10 or 11 and had
18 been there for a while, she says, and that the oldest
19 girls were about 16 years of age.
20 Girls were split into groups and every group had
21 a key worker who was in charge of them. She names the
22 key workers; two males and two females, including
23 a Miss GHF.
24 At paragraph 44, she says she was 12 or 13 when she
25 went in. At 45, she says:

1 'I remember getting a bad vibe from SNR ,
2 Mr SGQ . All the kids called him "SGQ ". There was
3 something about him I didn't like. He would have girls
4 sitting on his knee and he would cuddle them. I think
5 I had become aware of things like that because of what
6 my stepdad had done to me.'

7 She talks about the routine from paragraph 47
8 onwards and I'll just pick out some things from that if
9 I may. The girls had a school day and then had reccy:

10 'All the girls and staff would be there. If you
11 were in trouble for something, Mr SGQ would pull you
12 up in front of everyone at reccy.'

13 Moving forward, at paragraph 53, she does recall the
14 odd job man called Neil, who she says used to creep the
15 girls out:

16 'He would stand and watch girls as we collected our
17 laundry in our pyjamas.'

18 She has got quite a lot about the routine but again,
19 I think we can read that and it's probably pretty
20 consistent with things we've already heard about the
21 general routine.

22 If I move on to the schooling. She says that pupils
23 had a school uniform. As for subjects, she says at
24 paragraph 61:

25 'We did maths, English, contemporary social studies

1 and social and vocation studies. Different teachers
2 took different subjects, like in a normal high school.
3 Mrs [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED] wife, took maths and art
4 classes.'

5 She mentions the English teacher, Mr Roy, who we
6 have heard evidence about.

7 She then says at 62 that Mrs [REDACTED] opened a school
8 and stopped teaching at Balnacraig after a while. She
9 goes on:

10 'Mr SGQ [REDACTED] took the physical education class.
11 I think he was an ex-sergeant major, so he had us
12 running up and down the hill. We would go to a place
13 called The Glebe School in Scone to use their gym for
14 an hour. Afterwards, Mr SGQ [REDACTED] would make us run back.
15 It was quite far, it was just tough if you were
16 struggling, basically.'

17 She says that she found schoolwork quite easy and
18 that girls sat exams and they were recognised
19 qualifications. In her case, she says, she obtained
20 standard grades in English, maths, contemporary social
21 studies and modern studies and also an O-Level in art.

22 After school, she says:

23 'We would have reccy, then get dressed into normal
24 clothes.'

25 Out-of-school clothes.

1 She tells us school would put things on for them in
2 the evening and there was a good and varied selection of
3 activities. I'm not going to read all of that, but it
4 is clear she makes that point, and I think it is one
5 that many have done so I won't labour it here.

6 As for birthdays and Christmases, she tells us that
7 kids normally went home over Christmas and New Year.
8 She said she stayed in Balnacraig over one Christmas,
9 because her mum wasn't speaking to her. She was the
10 only girl who didn't get home that Christmas. She says
11 it wasn't bad because she had run away and had been
12 sleeping rough for about four months before that. She
13 said:

14 'The staff made the most of Christmas. A Christmas
15 tree got put up ..."

16 And, indeed, Miss GHF took her to her house for
17 Christmas Day and the staff gave her presents.

18 As for visits, home and social work visits, she says
19 the girls were allowed home every second week:

20 'If you wanted to go home, you had to stand up in
21 reccy and ask to go home in front of everybody.'

22 She tells us that girls got pocket money, but they
23 wouldn't be given the pocket money unless they were
24 going home for the weekend. The school would buy her
25 train ticket and take her to the station on a Friday and

1 on a Sunday would pick girls up from the station by the
2 school bus.

3 She says she was still going home some weekends at
4 that time and that her stepdad was not sexually abusing
5 her, but there was -- emotional abuse was still
6 happening, and she says:

7 '... he would still give me a whack over the head
8 now and then.'

9 And her mum was still hitting her on these
10 occasions, she says:

11 'I was still getting battered and getting dragged by
12 the hair.'

13 She then goes on to say something, which I think
14 gives a certain perspective on these things, at
15 paragraph 76:

16 'You have to live in that environment to understand
17 it. You don't want to tell social workers because you
18 still want to get home to see your sisters and brother.
19 I wanted to see my mum too, even though she was doing
20 a lot of it. It wasn't like the social workers didn't
21 know about my mum's drinking, because they would see her
22 pissed nine times out of ten when they went over to the
23 house.'

24 She does obviously say that whatever was going on at
25 home, she wanted to be there.

1 She says that she and her sister had a lot of
2 communication when she was in the school and would talk
3 to each other on the phone. She says this was her
4 attempt to be protective of her younger sister and would
5 tell her to make sure the fire was off and other things
6 because of her mother's drinking and so forth.

7 She tells us that things remained volatile between
8 her mum and stepdad and, indeed, all of her siblings
9 were taken into care at one point for three weeks for
10 assessment because of her mum's drinking, and that two
11 of them had run away when her mum had been drinking but
12 it appears that they were all returned to her.

13 She tells us about two of her younger stepsisters
14 who were born when she was in Balnacraig, but she didn't
15 have any regular contact with them and she doesn't
16 therefore have much of a relationship with them in her
17 adult life.

18 As for visits from her social worker, she tells us
19 that her then social worker would visit about once every
20 fortnight and he would speak to her alone. She said she
21 did tell him about her stepdad abusing her on one
22 occasion, but he didn't do anything about it.

23 She goes on to say that she was running away a lot
24 and would sneak to her gran's or sleep on the street.
25 She wanted to be anywhere but at Balnacraig or:

1 '... at my mum's. I was doing this all the time.

2 It was easy to do. The place wasn't locked.'

3 She goes on at paragraph 83 to say:

4 'When you ran away, you would be put in what we
5 called "in reccy" or "in craft room" as a punishment.

6 If you were put in reccy, it meant you would have
7 a staff member with you from the minute you woke up to
8 bedtime. They would stay with you as you got dressed
9 and went down to breakfast. You would have extra duties
10 doing work in the laundry or washing dishes. We called
11 this "sani squad", as you were doing sanitary work. You
12 would do this before and after school. You'd have to
13 iron all the sheets and tablecloths at night if you were
14 in the laundry. I can't remember how long you would do
15 this for.

16 'When you were put in craft room as a punishment,
17 you would be supervised by a member of staff all day.
18 It was a tiny room at the back of the house. It had
19 tiles all around it and a concrete floor. It was
20 freezing and you would be taken in there in your pyjamas
21 and bare feet as soon as you woke up. The staff member
22 would have a little heater by their feet, while you
23 would be sat there freezing all day. It just had a few
24 chairs and tables in it and you would have to sit and
25 read Shakespeare all day. If you had a decent member of

1 staff, you would maybe get to read a normal book. If
2 anybody came in, you had to stand and face the back of
3 the room. You would have breakfast, dinner and tea in
4 the room. A member of staff had to take you to the
5 toilet.

6 'You had to stay in the room from 9.00 am until late
7 at night, until after all the other girls had gone to
8 bed, which could be as late as 10.00 pm. You were
9 basically not to have contact with anybody else. You
10 would have to wear the same jammies to bed and wouldn't
11 get any supper. You would get to have a shower every
12 second night during the time you were in craft room.

13 'The craft room was the worst punishment you could
14 get and it could last for weeks. I was in there about
15 six or seven times I think. Once you got out of craft
16 room, you would be put into reccy for a while.'

17 She then goes on to say that when she was about 14
18 she told Miss GHF about the abuse from her stepdad.
19 Miss GHF was a key worker, she says, but also one of
20 the supervisors in the home:

21 'I wasn't going home that weekend and everything was
22 just becoming too much for me, so I told her. She said,
23 "Shush now".'

24 Perhaps I should just say that we have had
25 a statement from Miss GHF, so I should maybe just refer

1 to it at this stage. She says in relation to this
2 matter, in the statement she has provided to us, that
3 she doesn't remember being told about sexual abuse by
4 'Lisa's' stepfather, but in that situation there would
5 have been a conversation, she says. She wouldn't have
6 used the words attributed to her and she said that had
7 there been a disclosure of abuse, Miss GHF would have
8 reported it and she says she had to report any
9 disclosure as part of her responsibilities. I think she
10 indicates she may have done so on other occasions, so
11 that's her position to the Inquiry.

12 If I go back to 'Lisa's' statement. At
13 paragraph 88, she tells us that she ran away to London
14 with her friend and she says that one of the girls she
15 was in the children's home with, the previous home that
16 she was in, gave her an address, her mum's address in
17 London, and that that was where she planned to head. As
18 soon as she got there, she said that the friend's mum's
19 boyfriend phoned the police and that she was put in
20 a house in Islington and met social workers there.

21 This was, I think, as a sort of temporary situation,
22 while they were arranging to take her back to Balnacraig
23 at 89.

24 She tells us that she was allowed to do what she
25 wanted during the day at that time and be coming back

1 later than she was supposed to. She did this for
2 several days because she wasn't wanting to go back to
3 Balnacraig.

4 During that period, she says, when she was out in
5 Islington, she was raped and badly beaten by three
6 strangers, three male strangers, who took her in a car.
7 She says she managed to get out of the car and went to
8 a nearby police station. Her clothes were taken and she
9 had tests done. She stayed there for a few days and she
10 was taken around the area to see if she could recognise
11 the perpetrators, but wasn't able to do so.

12 She tells us that a few days later, she was flown
13 back to Balnacraig from London and she was met by her
14 mum and her social worker. She says that she thinks she
15 just cried, but they didn't speak to her at that time
16 about the matter. She says when she went back to
17 Balnacraig, at paragraph 92, none of the staff spoke to
18 her about what happened but she says they must have
19 known:

20 'I had been badly beaten and you could see it.
21 I told the girl I shared a room with, but that was it.
22 Nobody else knew and nobody else spoke to me about it.'

23 She says, at 93, that her social worker came to
24 speak to her the day after she returned, and that he
25 wanted to speak about her stepdad, and she says she

1 remembers talking to her social worker about it and
2 telling him all about the sexual abuse by her
3 stepfather. She was told by her social worker that he
4 was going to have to speak to 'Lisa's' mum about it,
5 which she was content with.

6 She says the social worker came back a few days
7 later to tell her what had happened and told 'Lisa' that
8 her mum didn't believe it about the stepfather and
9 didn't want to have anything more to do with 'Lisa'.
10 She said her mother had said that she was jealous of her
11 stepdad and she says at that point, nothing was done
12 about her stepfather and her social worker didn't
13 mention the matter again.

14 She says that the police did come from London after
15 she got back to Balnacraig with photographs to see if
16 she could pick out the men who had attacked her, but she
17 wasn't able to do so.

18 She's then got a section about abuse in Balnacraig,
19 where she says:

20 'The staff at Balnacraig knew what had happened to
21 me when I came back from London.

22 'I refused to go to the doctors when I came back.
23 I had already been checked in London. I was only a kid
24 and that had happened to me. My mum didn't want to talk
25 to me and my stepdad had been abusing me for years.

1 I just felt so alone, like I had nobody. I felt like
2 I had already been through all that and I didn't want to
3 go through it again.'

4 She then says that:

5 'About three weeks after coming back from London,
6 Mr SGQ told me to stand up in reccy. He said,
7 "[Lisa's' surname was used by him] get on your fucking
8 pins, you're going to the doctor. I'm not having you
9 spreading VD or AIDS around my school".'

10 'Lisa' says that she sat back down embarrassed. She
11 goes on:

12 'He said that in front of everyone and he had no
13 right do it. Only the staff had known about what had
14 happened to me in London. Mr SGQ hadn't mentioned
15 that I had been raped. Some of the girls called me
16 a slut and other names because of what he said in
17 reccy.'

18 She goes on at paragraph 100:

19 'That was how Mr SGQ the school. He
20 controlled people with humiliation. You don't say
21 things like that about people in front of everyone. It
22 was humiliation. He pulled other people up and
23 humiliated them too.'

24 She then says she was made to go to the doctor a few
25 days after that and take tests:

1 'No staff member or girl spoke to ['Lisa'] about the
2 matter. The staff must have known what had happened.
3 I wasn't offered any support, but in fairness, I did
4 keep running away.'

5 I think she was away for some time.

6 She then goes on to say she ran away after this and
7 was away for a long time and believes she managed to
8 stay away from August until [REDACTED].

9 I think that's in 1986, that she was away. She says
10 she thinks she was caught and put into
11 Burnside Assessment Centre for assessment and she said
12 she ran away because:

13 'I knew there was going to be a panel and they
14 wanted to send me back to Balnacraig.'

15 She says she was away for about four months and
16 slept in cars and her little sister would bring her food
17 when she could. Her gran gave her money and she would
18 stay with her now and then. She would be, as she put
19 it, 'here, there and everywhere', she slept in sheds and
20 gardens, the police were looking out for her. They
21 would see her outside her gran's, but she would use the
22 back door to escape. She was eventually taken back to
23 Balnacraig just before [REDACTED] 1986, [REDACTED]
24 and she stayed there over the Christmas and New Year
25 period, because her mum was still not talking to her.

1 She says she was the only child there that year, but
2 didn't mind because she had been sleeping rough for
3 about four months.

4 She goes on:

5 'I never felt safe with Mr SGQ . It was like home
6 from home. He was very regimental. He wouldn't tell
7 you off in private. He would do it in front of
8 everyone. There was something about him that creeped me
9 out badly. He had his favourites who took him his
10 breakfast in his office and he would sit them on his
11 knee. He never asked me to do that. He was sleazy. He
12 made me feel uncomfortable. I don't just find any
13 person creepy, but he creeped me out.'

14 She then goes on:

15 'I used to take Mr GHG his breakfast and he
16 didn't do anything like that.

17 'Mr SGQ picked who he would hit based on who he
18 thought wouldn't hit him back. A few times he took
19 girls out of the craft room and across into the TV room.
20 He would beat them up in there, you could hear him
21 throwing them about. There was an old gym horse in the
22 room, girls would come back with a fat lip. They would
23 also tell us that he had beaten them up. This happened
24 quite regularly. He was definitely beating those girls
25 up. Nobody else would be in the room, apart from him

1 and the girl being beaten.

2 'I heard him hit girls a few times in the TV room.
3 He never hit me. I always thought that if he hit me,
4 I would hit him back. I think that's why he never hit
5 me. He picked his victims and they were the quiet
6 ones.'

7 'Lisa' then says that Mr SGQ beat a girl, whom
8 she names, because she wrecked her room and barricaded
9 herself in. She says, 'I think she had had enough of
10 the place' and 'Lisa' was sent in to get her, but she
11 wouldn't come out.

12 'Lisa' says she liked the girl and the girl told her
13 not to leave because Mr SGQ would beat her up. She
14 says 'Lisa' came out and that Mr SGQ managed to get
15 into the room and that Mr SGQ shouted and 'Lisa'
16 vaguely remembers people storming the room to get her
17 out, I think that's the other girl, but she doesn't
18 remember if it was the police or staff. She says when
19 the girl did come out, she was bashed up and there was
20 blood. She says:

21 'In my opinion, it was Mr SGQ who had done it to
22 her. She was sent to Glasgow and she didn't come back.
23 She was about a year older than me and was 14 or 15 when
24 this happened.

25 'I felt uncomfortable in Balnacraig. I should have

1 felt safe but I didn't. I didn't like it. Some of the
2 staff were really nice but everybody was under
3 Mr SGQ [REDACTED]. None of the staff ever questioned his
4 actions.'

5 She then goes on to say that eventually her visits
6 home started up again at 112, but her stepdad would
7 sometimes be there when she went home. She says the
8 staff told her to let them know if he was there, but she
9 says she wouldn't do because then they would have
10 stopped her going home and she wanted to see her mum,
11 sisters and brothers, which I think echoes what she said
12 previously.

13 She said she got home that year, it was her last
14 Christmas at Balnacraig, that was 1987. She said her
15 mum and stepdad went out and came back drunk, there was
16 a fight about money and the meter running out. There
17 was a big argument and the stepdad grabbed 'Lisa' by the
18 throat and she had fingermarks around her neck as
19 a result. Her mum went to hit her stepdad with a hammer
20 and she says there was blood over the door.

21 The following morning she says her mum was worried
22 that her stepdad would be lying at the bottom of the
23 stairs deceased, but in fact he had gone out and came
24 back the following day and her mum called the police.

25 'Lisa' told the police that her stepdad had

1 strangled her and then she says her mum made the police
2 come back and made 'Lisa':

3 '... tell the police that I had made it up and he
4 hadn't strangled me.'

5 She then says she left Balnacraig when she turned
6 16, which I think is in 1988 shortly after her birthday,
7 after a panel hearing. She then tells us about her life
8 after care.

9 She also has a section starting at page 20 at
10 paragraph 119 about reporting. I think I've already
11 covered that. She says she reported things to her key
12 worker or supervisor and her social worker, but nothing
13 came of that.

14 After care, she has a section there and, again,
15 I don't want to go through the whole of that. We can
16 read it. Obviously she had -- there's a lot of things
17 going on, some good and some not so good, but she did
18 say, I think, at one stage that, if I can pick up at 130
19 of this part of the statement, that she said that she
20 had told her mum that she, 'Lisa', had spoken to her
21 brother's social worker and told the social worker about
22 the sexual abuse from her stepdad. She was 21 at the
23 time when she did this.

24 She says that she and her mum went to her stepdad's
25 house and confronted him on the matter. She says he

1 spat in her mum's face:

2 'My mum knew what her husband was like and she said
3 that she knew from his reaction that I was telling the
4 truth about the abuse.'

5 She said she also told the police at this time when
6 she was 21.

7 She says after that, at 133, that her mum never
8 really got together with the stepdad again but was
9 continuing to drink every day and 'Lisa' moved about the
10 country during this period.

11 What she does say, at 135, is that she did try to
12 get on with her life, worked and went to university, got
13 a degree and she moved down to London. She had had
14 a son and she went back there because, although she
15 wasn't with the father, she wanted the son to have some
16 form of relationship and contact, but it didn't really
17 work out. She came back to Scotland.

18 She met someone else, got married, had more
19 children. She tells us about the situation with her
20 mother, that when she was in her 30s, at 137, she
21 learned that her mother had cancer and she tells us that
22 her mother told 'Lisa' that 'Lisa's' decisions as
23 a youngster had affected her younger siblings and that's
24 why they were in care. I think at that stage she had
25 other problems as well and I think the upshot was she

1 just stopped contact with her mum.

2 She says in terms of her father that, I think, on
3 two occasions she told the police in her 20s and she
4 says at 142 that her stepdad was pulled in and
5 questioned, but nothing came of it because he wouldn't
6 admit anything, and there was still no corroboration of
7 'Lisa's' version, but she does say that she received
8 criminal injuries compensation.

9 I'm not going to repeat the impact. I think again
10 she probably feels that if people had listened and done
11 something, it would have been a very different story.

12 She goes on on that matter and I think we can read
13 that for ourselves in due course.

14 'Lisa' signed her statement on 6 June 2018 and she
15 says the usual declaration.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. We are going to read in
17 one more before the day is over?

18 MR PEOPLES: Possibly two if we can.

19 LADY SMITH: We'll have a break now in any event, five or
20 ten minutes and we'll sit again.

21 (3.12 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (3.20 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

25

1 'Alison' (read)

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

3 who is anonymous and is known as 'Alison'. The

4 reference is WIT-1-000000623.

5 'Alison' was born in 1970 and she says that she was

6 given a surname when she was born but she doesn't know

7 who her real dad was and she was given the name of

8 another man that her mother had met.

9 She had a younger sister, who is now deceased, and

10 she had another younger sister and a brother. They all

11 had the same mum but different dads.

12 She can't really remember her early life. She just

13 remembers staying with her aunt somewhere in Glasgow,

14 her mother's sister, and not with her mother, and she

15 doesn't know how long that was for or why.

16 She does have a vague recollection of her uncle

17 coming into her room and putting something under her

18 pillow, but, looking back, she thinks that she was

19 sexually abused in some way by him, but she has no more

20 memories than that. Very limited memories of her

21 childhood.

22 Her sister and her were put into Nazareth House and

23 from records she has seen, she would only have been six

24 at the time in 1977. She thinks that both her sister

25 and her were in care before that as well, but she

1 doesn't remember and she doesn't know where that was or
2 for how long. Indeed, my Lady, we do have records to
3 show she was in another place before she was in
4 Nazareth House, but it doesn't say where.

5 She tells us about her time in Nazareth House from
6 paragraph 9 onwards and she does talk about some issues
7 to do with punishments for not eating and being force
8 fed. She also remembers her sister being assaulted by
9 one of the nuns there and one of the boys who were there
10 having his hands down his pants at one point. She
11 doesn't remember if anything else happened.

12 She left Nazareth House in [REDACTED] 1980. She would
13 have been nine-years old and so she had been there for
14 three years. She went to stay with her mum for a bit.
15 Her mum had a new boyfriend and they were living with
16 him and his family in Cumbernauld and so she and her
17 sister went to live with them as well and she took his
18 surname and started calling him 'Dad'.

19 She enjoyed being with them, but then they split up
20 and her mum got her own house and she didn't want to go
21 and live with her mum, she wanted to stay with the man
22 her mum had been with. However, she couldn't do that.

23 Her mum then met another man and she woke up one
24 night to him sitting at the bottom of her bed and
25 telling her that he was her new dad and he would assault

1 her. She hated him. He was an alcoholic. She would
2 run away all the time and she remembers an argument she
3 had with her mum and her mum smashing a milk bottle and
4 holding it to her neck.

5 She remembers social work being involved and
6 remembers going to primary school and secondary school,
7 but doesn't remember going to school a lot and says she
8 would always get bullied because she wasn't dressed
9 right and she was ashamed, embarrassed and she would
10 skip school.

11 She said she only did half of her first year at high
12 school before she went to Cardross. Her sister didn't
13 go that time, it was just her, and she talks about
14 Cardross from paragraph 57 onwards. She thinks she went
15 there in 1981. However, we know from our records that
16 she was in Cardross from [REDACTED] 1984 to [REDACTED] 1985,
17 which was just a period of four months, when she was
18 aged 13 to 14 years old. Her memories of being there
19 are even fewer than at Nazareth House.

20 She does remember running away from Cardross and
21 losing her virginity to a man at a party in a house that
22 she ended up in.

23 She says she never got home to see her mother and
24 her mother never came to see her. However, we do know
25 from her records that she did go home and she was not

1 returning when she was supposed to and that was one of
2 the reasons why she ended up going to Balnacraig.

3 She talks about leaving Cardross at paragraph 64 and
4 says she was taken from Cardross to Balnacraig in around
5 1982 or 1983. Again, we know from her records it was
6 later. She was admitted to Balnacraig on [REDACTED] 1985
7 and she stayed there until [REDACTED] 1986, so she was
8 there two years when she was aged 14 years to 16 years.

9 She then talks about Balnacraig from paragraph 65
10 onwards and give us some information about the building
11 and she says that they were never allowed outside
12 without a member of staff.

13 She says, at paragraph 68, SNR [REDACTED] was
14 Mr SGQ [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED] was Mr GHG [REDACTED] and
15 Mr SGQ [REDACTED]'s wife, [REDACTED], was one of the teachers in
16 the school there.

17 She remembers another member of staff called
18 Miss GHF [REDACTED] and she says Balnacraig was all girls, 24 of
19 them, aged between 12 and 16. She tells us about how
20 she addressed staff at paragraph 71 and that was
21 'Mister' or 'Miss' and they called Mr SGQ [REDACTED] 'Sir',
22 although he had the nickname 'SGQ [REDACTED]'. They didn't call
23 him that to his face.

24 Most of the time at Balnacraig, 'Alison' said she
25 kept to herself and she doesn't have a recollection of

1 being scared of any of the staff or teachers and she
2 would say she was dealt with at Balnacraig a lot better
3 than she was at Nazareth House.

4 Going on, she talks about the bedrooms and how they
5 were set up and there being a couple of different
6 dormitories on the top floor. The first one she was in
7 had five or six beds in it.

8 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, just to correct you, I think she
9 said that she'd dealt with being at Balnacraig a lot
10 better than she had dealt with Nazareth House.

11 MS FORBES: Apologies, my Lady, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: I think you said 'she was dealt with', that is
13 different. If we can just get that corrected for the
14 transcript.

15 MS FORBES: Yes. She said:

16 'I dealt with being at Balnacraig a lot better than
17 I had with Nazareth House.'

18 She explains perhaps that's because she was older
19 and she had been through the system a lot by then.

20 She talks about the staff office, at paragraph 76,
21 being on the same floor as the dormitories, and she said
22 that she got up earlier than the rest of the girls
23 because she wanted to get showered and do her hair
24 before everyone else. They all ate together in the
25 dining room and there was always a few members of staff

1 eating with them.

2 She talks about there being a uniform at
3 paragraph 79 for school, otherwise they wore their own
4 clothes and the uniform was a grey skirt and jumper,
5 a white shirt and tie and trainers. She would be
6 embarrassed because she didn't have a lot of clothes.
7 Most of the time she was ashamed of what she had to
8 wear.

9 At paragraph 80, she says:

10 'Often I was glad to be put in the tracksuit that we
11 had to wear as punishment.'

12 She talks about the reccy room at paragraph 81, she
13 says they would listen to music there and she remembers
14 getting taught how to knit and playing bingo with an old
15 woman who was a member of staff.

16 She says they were never allowed outside without
17 a member of staff and the whole time she was there she
18 never went outside the grounds to do anything.

19 The only trip she recalls, at paragraph 84, was to
20 Haggerston Castle, where they were taken by the minibus
21 that Balnacraig had and they stayed there for a couple
22 of nights. That is something that is mentioned in her
23 records as well.

24 She talks about classes for school being held in the
25 outhouse that was separate from the main building and

1 there would be maths and art classes taught by
2 Mr SGQ's wife and there was a man who came in to
3 teach, she thinks, English.

4 She says she doesn't remember any problems at
5 school, although she says she had no qualifications when
6 she left.

7 She remembers a time, she doesn't know if it was
8 Christmas or something, but a man sat at a table in
9 Balnacraig with her and gave her a bottle of perfume and
10 she was over the moon because she hadn't been given
11 a present for years.

12 At paragraph 90 she says:

13 'There was a dance and Mr GHG, SNR
14 SNR, asked me to dance and I remember it was
15 a slow dance. As we danced, he asked me to be his
16 au pair when I left. It never happened, but I was so
17 pleased because I had a bit of a fancy for him.'

18 She thinks that her mum came to visit her twice in
19 the whole time she was there and she then says that on
20 a Friday, this is at paragraph 93, they had to go down
21 to the reccy room and sit in a big circle around
22 Mr SGQ. She says:

23 'One by one we'd all have to stand up and ask
24 "Please, sir, can I go home?" You would then only get
25 to go home if he thought you had behaved. Girls did go

1 home but I seldom did. I think part of the reason for
2 that was that I wasn't happy at home and I didn't want
3 to go anyway.'

4 She says about running away at 95:

5 'If you ran away or you did anything wrong, you
6 would be put in a tracksuit and slippers. I ran away
7 a lot so I was in that tracksuit a lot. I remember one
8 being in the tracksuit and slippers when I ran away, but
9 I can't remember where I got to.'

10 She talks about discipline and punishment from
11 paragraph 96 and says that if anyone did anything wrong,
12 they wouldn't be allowed to go home and they would have
13 to wear the tracksuit and slippers as punishment.
14 Sometimes you could be fined and put down to the reccy
15 room, although she doesn't remember ever having any
16 money. She remembers swearing one time and one of the
17 teachers told her money would be taken off of her. She
18 says she doesn't have any idea whether her mother was
19 sending her money, but she never saw any if she was.

20 At paragraph 98, 'Alison' says:

21 'Sometimes you would be locked in a wee room on the
22 ground floor by yourself if you'd done something really
23 bad, if you had been disruptive or whatever. That
24 happened to me a couple of times. The room was maybe
25 15 feet by 8 feet and all there was inside was a light,

1 a chair and a sink. There was a window but it was small
2 and had frosted glass, so you couldn't see out. You
3 wouldn't be locked in overnight, but you could be in
4 there for a few hours.'

5 In relation to bed wetting at paragraph 99, she says
6 she knows one girl wet her bed. She says Mr SGQ
7 mentioned it in front of everybody about this girl
8 having done so, humiliating her.

9 In relation to abuse, she talks about that from
10 paragraph 100, and she says:

11 'Often six or seven girls would be with Mr SGQ in
12 his office and one of them would sit on his knee. Often
13 when we were in there, SGQ would make rude,
14 sexualised comments to make us laugh. It was as if we
15 were all trying to get his attention, but at the time we
16 didn't think there was anything wrong in what we were
17 doing. He was encouraging us to sit on his knee and we
18 wanted to, we wanted his attention.

19 'Most of the time Mr SGQ was the only adult in
20 his office with the girls, although sometimes Mr GHG
21 would be there as well. I wasn't aware of anything
22 indecent happening at the time, but more recently, after
23 I joined [REDACTED] group, I saw that other girls made
24 comments about Mr SGQ behaviour. One girl
25 mentioned that another girl had been moved from

1 Balnacraig while I was there because she had made
2 allegations of sexual abuse against SGQ . I don't
3 know if anything else happened, but this girl also
4 commented that Mr GHG was sleazy too.

5 'To me, when I was there, I wasn't aware of there
6 being anything sexual. I wanted to be a teacher's pet.
7 Looking back now, I craved an older man's attention.
8 Some girls refused to go near his office but I didn't
9 click as to why at the time. Looking back now, I know
10 SGQ behaviour wasn't right and nor was it right
11 that Mr GHG asked me to be his au pair and had
12 a slow dance with me.'

13 She talks about a situation from paragraph 103 where
14 two girls, who had not been getting on, started to fight
15 one day and one of the other girls tried to break it up
16 and she told her just to let them fight and as they
17 fought, one of the girls ended up putting the other
18 girl's head through a window and she had ended up
19 cutting her face on shard of glass. She thinks she was
20 taken to the hospital afterwards because it was a bad
21 cut.

22 A short time later, she was in the reccy room and
23 Mr GHG told her Mr SGQ wanted to see her in his
24 office and she says:

25 'I went up and all the staff were sitting in

1 a semicircle and as soon as I walked in, Mr SGQ
2 punched me right in the face with his closed fist.

3 'I went flying and SGQ started screaming at me
4 about how I had scarred the girl for life because I had
5 stopped the girl from breaking the fight up. He blamed
6 me for it and didn't give me a chance to explain why
7 I hadn't stopped them.'

8 There is, my Lady, a reference in her records to
9 this incident and Mr SGQ had remarked in a letter
10 that there had been an incident and that she had not
11 allowed a fight to be broken up and a girl had been
12 seriously injured, but obviously there's no record of
13 any assault by him on her at that time.

14 She says at paragraph 107 that when her mum came to
15 visit her, she told her about getting punched by
16 Mr SGQ and she thinks that she told a social worker,
17 but nothing ever came of it. She says she remembers
18 pretty much as soon as she turned 16, the front door
19 being opened and leaving Balnacraig and she went back to
20 her mum.

21 I should say in relation to 'Alison's' comments
22 about not receiving any qualifications, there is again
23 a record of her obtaining standard grades and an O-Level
24 and that was something that she was unaware of and she
25 didn't get the certificates for that, but she did pass

1 them.

2 LADY SMITH: She didn't get the certificates?

3 MS FORBES: No, she didn't know about it, yes.

4 She says thereafter she had no further contact with
5 her social worker and there was no support. She had
6 gone back to stay with her mum, but her mum had met
7 another man who was her youngest brother's father and
8 she didn't like staying there and never felt
9 comfortable.

10 Life after being in care; she went on to share
11 a house with a man and she was going to take a job as
12 an au pair in London, but she didn't have enough money
13 to get the bus there. She said that she would sleep in
14 the house she shared with the man with a chair up
15 against the bedroom door handle.

16 She was there for a few months before she went and
17 stayed in a private let with two girls and she got a job
18 with a YTS scheme in the sheet metal works, but that
19 didn't last long.

20 She met a man when she was 17. They got a house in
21 Glasgow and had two children together, but there was
22 a lot of domestic violence. It was an on and off
23 relationship and she was back and forward in between
24 refuges and places and then back with him and that
25 continued until I think she says she was about 25.

1 She got a job in telesales and met another man when
2 she was 32 and she had another child, a son, and then
3 they separated after a year or two.

4 When she was 36, she went to college to study health
5 and social care and she did two years at college and
6 then took a year out to spend time with her son. She
7 wanted to go into mental health nursing and she went to
8 university and she would have qualified in 2013, but,
9 halfway through her third and final year, her sister
10 died and she took a year out and then took her a while,
11 but she went back in 2014 and qualified in mental health
12 nursing the following year. She continues to be
13 involved in mental health work in different hospitals.

14 In relation to impact, 'Alison' says she felt quite
15 institutionalised by the time she left Balnacraig and
16 went off the rails in her early 20s. She was used to
17 being told what to eat, when to sleep, what time to get
18 up, and she even ended up with a man who controlled her.
19 She says she's very insecure and can't hold
20 a relationship. She carries a lot of shame and there is
21 this constant feeling of shame of people knowing she
22 grew up in care and also they might know who her mum is.

23 She says, in relation to her education, that that
24 was a shambles and she managed to educate herself when
25 she was older. She says some of the mental health

1 nursing she studied focused on childhood experiences and
2 she found that upsetting.

3 She says, in relation to counselling in
4 paragraph 136, that she has been for counselling
5 a number of times and she would like to pursue more
6 counselling and she does have some records from
7 Nazareth House but not from Balnacraig.

8 In relation to 'Lessons to be learned', at
9 paragraph 145, she says the Social Work Department need
10 to listen to children:

11 'I was never given an opportunity to tell my social
12 worker what was happening but I'm positive that my mum
13 told Nan McCabe [that's the social worker] how I was
14 getting treated and yet nothing happened.'

15 She says more in the following paragraphs that we
16 can read. At paragraph 153, she says:

17 'Some girls that were at Balnacraig set up
18 [REDACTED] a few years ago and I joined the group.'

19 I think that's the [REDACTED] that's been
20 referred to --

21 LADY SMITH: It was referred to before, yes.

22 MS FORBES: Yes.

23 My Lady, she has made the usual declaration and she
24 signed her statement 25 February 2021.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 Well, I think we'll stop there for today and sit
2 again on Tuesday at 10 o'clock. Are we starting with
3 an oral witness on Tuesday?

4 MS FORBES: We do, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 Have a good weekend, everybody.

7 (3.40 pm)

8 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
9 on Tuesday, 8 October 2024)

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