

Friday, 8 November 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to this chapter of our case study looking into the provision of residential care for children in secure and similar establishments.

Now, as I said last night, we are going to turn to read-ins this morning before we have a witness in person this afternoon. Where are we going to start, Mr Peoples?

MR PEOPLES: Yes, we are going to start with some read-ins relating to Newfield.

LADY SMITH: Newfield, yes.

MR PEOPLES: I am going to do the first one this morning and I think Ms Forbes will do some more to complete what I call the 'Newfield read-ins'. If time allows, we will move on to some read-ins about the other establishment, Beechwood, this morning.

LADY SMITH: Yes, and that's the establishment that Susanne Millar is going to come back and set the scene for.

MR PEOPLES: She is going to speak about that and we had some evidence yesterday from the live witness about that particular establishment. So that's the plan for today.

LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

1 MR PEOPLES: So, if I can begin with the first read-in, it
2 is from an applicant who has chosen the pseudonym
3 'Christina'.

4 'Christina' (read)

5 MR PEOPLES: 'Christina's' statement is WIT.001.002.0605.

6 If I can just begin; 'Christina' was born in 1977 in
7 Glasgow. She tells us about life before care between
8 paragraphs 3 and 13 of her signed statement.

9 Just briefly, her parents separated when 'Christina'
10 was very young. Her dad was given custody of
11 'Christina' and an older sister. The children stayed
12 with their mother at weekends. She tells us that her
13 father physically abused 'Christina' and her sister on
14 a regular basis with a belt and that 'Christina' often
15 ran away.

16 She had a social worker from the age of 8 and,
17 indeed, she says she had the same social worker -- which
18 is perhaps unusual -- from the age of 8 to 18. She
19 tells us about the fact that she was bullied at school.

20 She says that around the time that she was at
21 secondary school, or secondary school age, she went to
22 stay with her mum and her mum's second husband and she
23 recounts an occasion when she was about 13, which would
24 be about 1990, when her mum's second husband grabbed her
25 outside some shops and punched her on the back of the

1 head. 'Christina' ran to a social work office and was
2 put in a place of safety.

3 She says she was very small, so people did think she
4 was a lot younger than 13. Her first residential care
5 was in a children's home in Glasgow. She tells us about
6 that between paragraphs 14 and 44. I am not going to go
7 through that in detail, but I will just pick out a few
8 things.

9 She went to high school and it appears, after
10 running away from school and refusing to go back to the
11 same school, she was actually sent as a day pupil to the
12 Good Shepherd, in Bishopton. At her children's home she
13 did see her social worker on a regular basis.

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

to Newfield Assessment

16 Centre, which she tells us about from paragraphs 45 to
17 52.

18 So far as her period there is concerned, we have
19 some records which would tell us she was admitted on
20 [REDACTED] 1993 and stayed until some point
21 in [REDACTED] 1993. Then she appears to have been away
22 from the Centre for a short time, but she was readmitted
23 on [REDACTED] 1993 and stayed until the [REDACTED] 1994,
24 so we are dealing with the period 1993 to 1994.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR PEOPLES: Now, she tells us, at paragraph 45 -- she puts
2 it this way: that Newfield was a place for badly behaved
3 children. Clearly, that was the perception of both the
4 youngsters and perhaps the adults as well.

5 She had her own room, she tells us, but she says it
6 was like a 'wee cell'. So, again, this is something
7 that is likened to being in a locked prison environment.
8 She says staff were really nice at first because she was
9 always crying and she was very small for her age and
10 looked much younger than the age she was. She saw her
11 social worker regularly, and she tells us that school,
12 or her schooling, was at the centre.

13 She has only got a short piece about abuse, at
14 paragraphs 49 to 50. Really, the memory she shares is
15 to do with segregation and restraint. She tells us that
16 she was taken to what she calls the 'white room', which
17 is where she says staff would restrain her. 'It was
18 extremely painful', is how she puts it. She would be
19 left for about an hour, she says, and she says this
20 would happen not just to her, but to a young person if
21 the person got angry. She tells us that this restraint
22 was happening perhaps a few times a week. She says that
23 because she was constantly or continually being
24 restrained, she ran away a lot, but was usually caught
25 fairly quickly.

1 LADY SMITH: She says, in paragraph 49, something about
2 cutting herself. It's not clear whether what was
3 happening was she was self-harming and the staff's
4 reaction was to try and stop her and that led to
5 a restraint or she was self-harming because she was
6 being restrained.

7 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: You can't really tell, can you?

9 MR PEOPLES: Not really, no.

10 LADY SMITH: No.

11 MR PEOPLES: I suppose whatever was happening, perhaps the
12 way it was dealt with was not --

13 LADY SMITH: Not right.

14 MR PEOPLES: -- appropriate one way or another, whether it
15 is cause and effect or whatever, but yes, it is not as
16 clear as it might be.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR PEOPLES: She did run away, she says, on an occasion she
19 was in fact due to attend a panel hearing and she tells
20 us she missed the appearance and a warrant was issued
21 for her apprehension. She says she was then sent, when
22 apprehended, to Kerelaw for several days before
23 appearing in front of a further panel, who sent her to
24 Cardross Assessment Centre.

25 She does say, at paragraphs 51 to 52, that she

1 thinks she did tell the panel what was happening at
2 Newfield and she did wonder whether that was why she was
3 sent to Cardross. This may be an occasion when, if she
4 is correct, that the panel were informed and they took
5 a decision based on, to some extent, her own
6 information.

7 She was at Cardross for a few months. She tells us
8 about that at 53 to 54. She doesn't recall very much
9 about the place and just describes it as 'all right'.
10 She then had a period where she was fostered and that
11 appears to have been a good experience for her.

12 I am not going to go through the life after care, at
13 55 to 69, in any detail today, but it is there to read.
14 It is rather, again, a depressing tale. She met someone
15 and was in an abusive relationship for eight years and,
16 indeed, she says this particular partner forced her to
17 work as a prostitute throughout their time together.

18 She had, she tells us, mental health problems but
19 she has, in the years recent to the statement, been
20 receiving what she calls 'proper psychiatric help', paid
21 for by Future Pathways.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR PEOPLES: That is, I think, all that I need to bring out
24 today. Clearly, it is a rather sad picture of someone
25 who, I think, wherever she has been, she has had a bad

1 experience.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR PEOPLES: If I could then now pass to Ms Forbes, who

4 I think is going to deal with some more Newfield

5 read-ins.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady. The first read-in that

8 I have for Newfield this morning is an applicant who is

9 anonymous and known as 'Stephen'.

10 'Stephen' (read)

11 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Stephen's' statement is

12 WIT.001.001.6543.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS FORBES: 'Stephen' was born in 1970 and he talks about

15 his background and life before being placed into care

16 from paragraph 2.

17 He says he was a middle child and has an older

18 sister and younger sister. He originally lived in

19 Paisley in a house with his mum, his dad and his two

20 sisters, but he remembers going to his gran's in

21 Port Glasgow quite a lot. His mum then got a flat in

22 Port Glasgow and he stayed with his mum and his two

23 sisters in that flat.

24 He didn't know at the time why his dad wasn't living

25 with them, but later found out that they had split up.

1 He knows that later in life he found out he had other
2 step siblings from his dad's other relationship.

3 He says, at paragraph 5, that he has a recollection
4 of being in a big office and remembers his mum being
5 there and she was having an argument with someone. The
6 next thing he remembers is he was living with his
7 paternal grandmother and his aunt.

8 He then says his next memory is sitting at his
9 aunt's table and a man was asking whether he would like
10 to go to a new school. He recalls his auntie
11 barricading himself and his sisters in a flat with her.
12 He says he later found out she had done that because the
13 social work had come to take them away.

14 He says that after that, and within what seemed like
15 a relatively quick period, he and his sister were placed
16 into residential care in Largs; that was his older
17 sister. His younger sister wasn't placed with them.
18 She stayed with his auntie.

19 He was then put into this children's home in Largs
20 and we know from his records that he was aged 4 at that
21 time, nearly 5. This was in 1975. He stayed there
22 until [REDACTED] 1982, when he was aged 12 years.

23 He talks about his time there from paragraph 6
24 onwards. This goes down to paragraph 65 in relation to
25 that.

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

11 By that time, his younger sister was also with him
12 in the home. Then the three of them and a couple of
13 other children who were there were transferred to
14 another children's home in Largs.

15 He talks about the second children's home from
16 paragraph 66. We know that he was there, I think, on
17 two occasions from the records. The first time he was
18 there was between [REDACTED] 1982 until [REDACTED] 1982, so
19 just three months. Then the second time was
20 [REDACTED] 1982 until [REDACTED] 1982, so just under
21 two months.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS FORBES: He says, I think, in between that he was in
24 Newfield. Then, also, a week on Mull -- a place in
25 Mull.

1 So he tells us about his time at that second home.

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3

4

5

6

7 He says that he then had this trip to Mull after his
8 first period at Newfield, before he returned back there
9 for his second time at that home.

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 He then tells us about Newfield from paragraph 81.

19 As I have said, the first period there was a few weeks
20 in [REDACTED] 1982, but then he was there again from
21 [REDACTED] 1982 to [REDACTED] 1982, when he was aged
22 12 years.

23 He talks then about Newfield from paragraph 81 and
24 says that he recalls arriving there late at night, after
25 10 o'clock. His first visit, he was only there for

1 a period of weeks. Then he talks about going to Mull
2 again before going to this children's home. He says it
3 didn't work out at the children's home the second time
4 and he was back in Newfield again probably only a few
5 weeks after returning to the children's home. I think
6 that's borne out by the records.

7 He talks about Newfield being used as an assessment
8 facility. He says, at paragraph 82:

9 'It was like a gladiator academy. It wasn't a nice
10 place. There were a lot of fights between the kids.
11 Feuds spilled over from the areas that the kids had come
12 from. The fighting was sometimes encouraged by the
13 staff members in the unit.'

14 He talks about Newfield having a school downstairs
15 and says that's the first time he remembers struggling
16 with his education. There was a lot of stuff he should
17 have been able to do and he couldn't do it and that
18 became more apparent because these classes only had four
19 or five kids in them.

20 He says at paragraph 84:

21 'Newfield had a longer term unit. When I was moved
22 there, I was given a bit more responsibility. I liked
23 bikes and the place had a lot of bikes. A lot of the
24 bikes were damaged and I put them together so that they
25 were usable. I was given money to go to the shops and

1 get the parts for the bikes. I was also given a chitty
2 to allow me to go and use the local swimming pool.'

3 He talks about being given pocket money, but says:

4 'You never physically got to spend the cash. You
5 would sign for things and it would be deducted from your
6 account.'

7 In relation to abuse at Newfield he talks at
8 paragraph 86 about that and he says:

9 'There was one unit that was used for visitors. It
10 had four or five rooms just with mattresses in them.
11 The doors could be locked. I remember on a couple of
12 occasions being physically manhandled by staff and being
13 put in these rooms. The door was locked and I was left
14 overnight. The staff were heavy handed.'

15 Then he talks about going down to Quarriers to use
16 their swimming pool and that a fight broke out in the
17 changing rooms between children. He says four of them
18 ended up fighting naked in the pool and staff members
19 dragged them out and took them back to Newfield.

20 He then talks about going to an adolescent unit. So
21 this would have been after the second time at the second
22 children's home. We know from his records he was
23 admitted there on [REDACTED] 1983.

24 He talks about that adolescent unit from
25 paragraph 88. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

He talks about then leaving the adolescent unit and we know from his records, it was [REDACTED] 1986 that he left for the army. But he says that the end of his time in care was really bad; it was brutal. He went to do a Steps to Independence course in Paisley. It was four weeks long. He did that just in case he didn't cut it in the army. He says in the end, his time in care ended on the Friday and he had nowhere to stay until he joined the army on the following Tuesday and, if it hadn't been for his keyworker and his keyworker's wife taking him in for that period, he didn't know where he would have been

1 able to stay. They then took him to his basic training
2 with the army on the Tuesday and they kept in contact
3 with him to see how he was getting on. Nobody else kept
4 in contact with him.

5 He talks then about the fact that he was never
6 fostered. He says at paragraph 115:

7 'I know now, from being a social worker working in
8 the industry, that placing teenage boys isn't the
9 easiest thing in the world. This is especially so when
10 you have a boy who has been in care for eight or
11 nine years.'

12 He then goes on to talk about the social workers he
13 had. He tells us about that from paragraph 117. I am
14 not going to read that out; we have that there. He
15 talks about three people in particular.

16 Then he talks about life after being in care and
17 going into the army from paragraph 120. He says he
18 spent six years in the military. He was a tank crewman
19 and then got a trade as a mechanic. He says it was
20 easier being in basic training than some of the
21 residential care he had been in and he enjoyed his time
22 in the military. He probably wouldn't have left the
23 military, he says, if he wasn't engaged to someone who
24 didn't want to become a military wife. He says that
25 being in the military made it easier for him. When he

1 ultimately went into civvy life, and if he had gone to
2 into that straight from leaving care, he says he
3 probably would have ended up in jail.

4 He can see why so many people end up on the streets
5 following the army; there is no support, he says, when
6 you leave. He was fortunate because he got married and
7 his wife's family took him in when he left. He did that
8 for six months, so they could save a deposit for
9 a house. He thinks that without that, they would have
10 ended up, like a lot of his friends, on the streets.

11 He tells us, from paragraph 123, that he left the
12 army and set up his own garage. He ended up working
13 with his dad, who had a bus company, and ended up buying
14 half of that off him. He worked with him for about
15 ten years.

16 He then tells us that, due to health problems and
17 arthritis, he had to give up that work and he had a chat
18 with his keyworker, who he had kept in touch with, and
19 he suggested social work employment. He says it was
20 something he had never thought about before.

21 He says at paragraph 124:

22 'Stuart wrote the letter so as I could go back and
23 get my education to get into social work. I didn't
24 enjoy the college and university side of things, but
25 when I did get my first placement I came back buzzing.

1 That's when I knew social work was for me.'

2 He then talks about impact from paragraph 125. He
3 says he is guarded about his past; he doesn't let people
4 know about it. He doesn't trust people, he has
5 struggled to do that in his adult life, and he has
6 already been divorced once. He is careful about his
7 relationships and doesn't have good attachments because
8 of his time in care.

9 He says he knows his deficiencies and he can work
10 around them. A lot of the kids that he works with now
11 don't know how to do that and he thinks we need to do a lot
12 more work there.

13 He talks about his keyworker again at paragraph 130.
14 He says that he sat him down and worked with him to try
15 to piece together his past. He wanted to find out why
16 he had been on this journey. He did that before he
17 became a social worker.

18 He talks, at paragraph 132, about seeing his
19 records; that there was collusion between the Social
20 Work Department and his father to accommodate them. He
21 says they actually used the word 'collusion' in one of
22 the reports.

23 He then talks about social work in care in the 1960s
24 and 1970s from paragraph 134. We have a couple of
25 paragraphs where he says about that there, then about

1 learning lessons in social work. He talks about that
2 from paragraph 136 and says:

3 'I don't think that social work have learnt their
4 lessons. I see practices still happening today that
5 happened to me when I was in care. We seem to
6 regurgitate the same policies. They're policies that
7 were there in the early seventies. The policies don't
8 think about the children. I've tried to challenge these
9 practices but have been accused of whistleblowing.
10 I remember reporting a case where a senior manager was
11 abusive towards a child. It was just a case of,
12 "They've worked here longer than you. They're more
13 senior, so never question them".

14 'I've worked with trying to get foster placements
15 for kids now. It's not a case of the local authorities
16 getting the right placement for kids; it's a case of
17 getting any placement. I think that is wrong. On our
18 side of things, as social workers, we are constantly
19 turning placements down because they are wrong because
20 of "x, y and z" is needed for the child.'

21 He then talks about social work training at
22 paragraph 138 and he says:

23 'I think social work training today is pretty shit.
24 I've seen new social workers come in and they don't know
25 how to analyse information. When they write a report

1 they will plagiarise other people's reports to death.'

2 He then gives an example where another social worker
3 had submitted a report he had written and just changed
4 the date, but not even his name on it.

5 He talks about his experience of care today whilst
6 working as a social worker from paragraph 139, and says:

7 'I have visited places in my role as a social worker
8 and seen practices that were happening 30 or 40 years
9 ago. I remember seeing, at the Good Shepherd, kids
10 picking stuff up out of a big pile of clothes. Kids not
11 getting their own clothes. This was happening in
12 a modern unit today.

13 'I've been in some units and seen some fantastic
14 work getting done. Those units don't get praised at
15 all. I've been to other places, though, usually places
16 run by local authorities, and they are still getting run
17 like it was 30 or 40 years ago. They haven't changed
18 at all. They haven't moved forward. They aren't
19 working with the children to help them understand their
20 situation or discussing with them how to move forward.
21 It seems to be a case of just containing the children
22 and moving them on.'

23 Then he has made the usual declaration and signed
24 his statement. It is dated 29 June 2017.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
2 who has waived his right to anonymity. His name is
3 John Harrison.
4 John Harrison (read)
5 MS FORBES: His statement reference is WIT.001.001.5608.
6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
7 MS FORBES: John tells us he was born in 1972. He tells us
8 about his life before going into care from paragraph 2
9 onwards. He talks about the fact that his father took
10 his own life in 1986 and he had been in the care of
11 a mental hospital at the time. His mother had died in
12 1981 whilst in hospital. [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 He says he was 8 years old when his mother died and
15 he had a hatred towards his father, who got remarried
16 six months after his mother's death. His father didn't
17 get on with his mother's family.
18 He says his father had a motorbike accident and he
19 doesn't know if that had an effect on his mental health.
20 But it was after his mum died that he first came to the
21 notice of the social work. He hadn't been involved
22 before and he thinks that might have been because of his
23 father's mental illness.
24 His grandmother, he says, from his mother's side,
25 wanted custody [REDACTED]. He says that

1 after his mother died, that the family home moved to
2 an address in Glasgow. His father wouldn't let [REDACTED] see
3 his gran, but she would always turn up at school every
4 Friday, at 3.00, [REDACTED]. Eventually, his father
5 relented and [REDACTED] able to go and see [REDACTED] gran
6 every Sunday.

7 The difficulties [REDACTED] were that
8 his father was in and out of hospital with mental health
9 problems and then, after he committed suicide, [REDACTED] went
10 to stay at his gran and grandfather's house.

11 He says that he thinks that because of what
12 happened, his legal guardian was the council, the Social
13 Work Department.

14 He says that it was when he was about 14 or 15, when
15 he started staying out late at night, playing truant
16 from school. He says he was tall and looked older than
17 he was and he was gay and became a rent boy. He says,
18 looking back now, as an adult, he was mistaking people
19 caring for him and thinking this was good news. He
20 knows now that wasn't the case.

21 Paragraph 10, he says:

22 'When I was 15, I ran away to London. This was when
23 the social work became involved big time. I was found
24 in London and flown back to Glasgow. I was met by two
25 social workers and two police officers. I was then

1 taken to Newfield Assessment Centre.'

2 He tells us about Newfield from paragraph 11. He
3 says he went to Newfield straight from the plane and he
4 met HJZ, the unit manager and, he says, 'I think
5 my keyworker'. His social worker was still involved in
6 his care and he says they were both very good.

7 I think that refers to the social work and his
8 keyworker.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would make sense.

10 MS FORBES: He talks about the fact that Newfield was very
11 good. He says it was purpose-built. He says he had to
12 attend a children's hearing straight after he came back
13 from London.

14 LADY SMITH: Do we have precise dates? He says he was 15;
15 that would make it 1987. Do we know a date?

16 MS FORBES: We don't seem to have any records for him,
17 unfortunately, my Lady, no.

18 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, thank you.

19 MS FORBES: He says that he had a sexually transmitted
20 disease on his return from London and he says as
21 a result of that, he was put on a supervision order.

22 He talks about the routine at Newfield and getting
23 up in the morning, but he says it wasn't a tight regime.
24 You were expected to make your bed and keep your room
25 tidy. The food was good and the only chores he

1 remembers is washing the dishes. He says, at
2 paragraph 16:

3 'I had a good education at Newfield. I sat and
4 passed two O Grades in geography and history. There
5 were teachers who came to Newfield to provide lessons.'

6 He talks about there being trips to various places,
7 including the Lake of Menteith. He says visitors were
8 allowed to Newfield on a regular basis and his social
9 worker visited him.

10 He talks about celebrating his 16th birthday in
11 Newfield. He remembers there being a birthday cake and
12 he recalls other residents also getting birthday cakes.
13 He says he had one Christmas at Newfield.

14 He says, at paragraph 23, there was no particular
15 discipline regime. He says:

16 'If you were disciplined, it would be that you were
17 sent to your room or dormitory. This would normally be
18 for using abusive language or similar.

19 'I only seen someone being restrained by staff once.
20 The force, I would say, was necessary and reasonable.
21 Nothing excessive.

22 'I did run away a couple of times from Newfield.
23 Both times I managed to get to London before being taken
24 back.

25 'The first time I ran away to London I was a rent

1 boy and it must have been about four weeks I was there.

2 I got picked up by a doctor and stole his wallet.

3 I tried to use his credit card and was caught by the

4 police. I think that this was dealt with by a fine.

5 'The second time I ran off to London I was away

6 about two weeks before I was taken back.

7 'The staff at Newfield were attentive and cared.

8 I think that they realised I wasn't in the right

9 environment. There were some inmates that were horrible

10 people.

11 'The only bad thing that happened to me there was

12 once when I was on the phone to my gran. One of the

13 inmates put the phone down and cut me off. I reacted

14 and hit him with the phone as I was upset. He then

15 threw a cup at me which hit me on the head. I still

16 have the mark.'

17 After he ran away the second time to London, he was

18 put into a sort of halfway house for leaving care in

19 Barrhead. This was run by an old woman. He says that

20 that woman let out places on a room-only basis and the

21 room was barren. The woman had no interest in the

22 people staying there and he hated living there. There

23 was no contact and no support.

24 He says he was still under supervision order at that

25 time. He thinks he was there for about two months, then

1 he ran away again to London. Because he knew he had the
2 supervision order, he knew he had to go back and get
3 that sorted out. He says he was still in contact with
4 his social worker during this time.

5 He doesn't remember the exact date, but when he came
6 back from London, he says he had to attend another
7 children's hearing and then he was sent to Geilsland --

8 LADY SMITH: Geilsland.

9 MS FORBES: -- by the children's hearing whilst the
10 supervision order was rescinded.

11 He talks about Geilsland from paragraph 35. That
12 evidence was read in on 25 April of this year. It was
13 Day 439. So I won't go over that again, but I think he
14 essentially says that he never saw any violence or the
15 staff being physical towards other residents. He does
16 talk, though, about the fact that a member of staff
17 befriended him and tried to sexually abuse him. But,
18 again, that's already been read in.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MS FORBES: He then left Geilsland, he says, in 1989, aged
21 17. This was after a children's hearing lifted the
22 supervision order and there was no aftercare when he
23 left. He says he doesn't think he had any life skills
24 at that time.

25 Then he talks about life after being in care from

1 paragraph 61. He says he went to Epsom, in Surrey, and
2 then to Bristol. He got a job with a bank. He went on
3 to have various jobs in financial and recruitment roles.
4 He became a minicab driver in London for a time.

5 But, when he turned 40, he says, things started to
6 go wrong. He started to dwell on what had happened to
7 him. He questioned his self-confidence and why he had
8 been put into care, began to use drugs. Then he tells
9 us about that. He says he managed to ask for help and
10 he managed to move on from that chapter. He says he
11 feels it made him stronger.

12 He talks about reporting of abuse at Geilsland, and
13 we have that there. That's been read in.

14 In relation to impact, from paragraph 67, he says he
15 had a lack of respect for authority and developed
16 a mistrust for a lot of things and that there was no
17 structure to his care.

18 He says he understands now why he was put into care;
19 that it was for the good of him [REDACTED]. He
20 says he used to hate his dad, but now wished that he had
21 known him.

22 I think, in relation to other information, he says
23 at paragraph 73:

24 'It should be remembered when people are in care,
25 they are still children. When you come out of care

1 there should be support available. Ongoing support
2 should be provided until you are ready to leave care.'

3 Then he has signed his statement and it is dated
4 1 September 2017.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
7 who is anonymous and is known as 'Nick'.
8 'Nick' (read)

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is
11 WIT-1-000000822.

12 My Lady, 'Nick's' statement has been read in on
13 multiple occasions before.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MS FORBES: So, when I get to those parts, I will point it
16 out.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: 'Nick' says he was born in 1984. He initially
19 lived in Glasgow with his parents and brother. But,
20 from the age of 5, he was sexually abused by a family
21 member. His mum took him and left his dad and he had
22 little contact with his father after that. They lived
23 in homeless accommodation until they got a flat. His
24 mum had a bit of a breakdown and he was put into respite
25 care. He was put into a children's home aged 7. He

1 talks about that experience between paragraphs 10 and
2 33. We know from his records he was admitted there on
3 [REDACTED] 1992, aged 7.

4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]

8 Secondary Institutions - to be published later he was moved to
9 Newfield Assessment Centre. He was transferred there,
10 according to the records we have, on [REDACTED] 1992, so
11 a little bit earlier than he thought from his statement.
12 He was still aged 7, because his birthday wasn't until
13 [REDACTED].

14 He talks about Newfield between paragraphs 34 and
15 46. He was there for about six weeks the first time,
16 but he was there a couple of times for short periods.
17 Again, we know from his records, the first time was
18 between [REDACTED] 1992 and [REDACTED] 1992. Then the
19 second time was [REDACTED] 1994 to [REDACTED] 1995.

20 'Nick' says, from paragraph 34, that he was taken to
21 Newfield Assessment Centre by his social worker. He was
22 just told he was getting moved; he wasn't told where he
23 was going. He recalls being there a couple of times for
24 short periods. He thinks the first time he was there,
25 he went back to his parents and then he was back in

1 Newfield.

2 He says at paragraph 35:

3 'Newfield was more for kids with real problems,
4 older kids. It was a two-storey building and it was
5 a locked unit, they had bars on the windows.'

6 He talks about there being fire escapes, but other
7 than that, it was locked. He tells us a little bit
8 about the layout, which we have heard evidence about,
9 and the fact that the bedrooms upstairs had skylights.
10 But there was a bar across them, so you couldn't open
11 the window too much. He does say, though, that people
12 would break the bars off and go climbing all about all
13 over the roof, and says at paragraph 35:

14 'It was a really problematic school.'

15 He talks about the kids there being aged from 6 or 7
16 right up to 16. He says as an 8-year-old kid he found
17 it terrifying.

18 LADY SMITH: Of course, he was only 7 when he arrived there.

19 MS FORBES: Yes. And he says at paragraph 37:

20 'I was just taken straight in and up to a bedroom
21 and left to deal with it. It was [REDACTED] traumatising [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
23 [REDACTED]

24 He talks then about the routine at Newfield and says
25 the unit managers were in charge. There were four or

1 five units divided by age. He was in Bute. That seemed
2 to be a mixture of younger boys and older girls, but
3 there were some older boys, too. He says:

4 'I didn't suffer any abuse at Newfield. I was
5 younger, so the older kids looked after me.'

6 He says that after he arrived, a member of staff
7 from his unit was called down and he was taken up to his
8 unit but at paragraph 39, he says:

9 'There was no effort made to settle me or introduce
10 me to people.'

11 At paragraph 40, he says:

12 'I had my own room at Newfield. It had a bed,
13 wardrobe, a chest of drawers and a desk. The room was
14 quite good for a young boy then. We were locked in at
15 night. If you needed the toilet during the night, you
16 chapped the door and a member of staff came and let you
17 out. There wasn't always a member of staff available.
18 Sometimes it could be hard to get out but the harder you
19 banged, the more they came.'

20 He then talks about the different shifts at
21 Newfield. He says he can't really remember any of the
22 staff.

23 At paragraph 42, he says:

24 'I can remember going to school again at Newfield.
25 The education there seemed to be more to do with things

1 you wanted to do. We had PE in the morning, then
2 cooking, art, and things like that. The school was all
3 right from what I remember, but I was only there for
4 about six weeks the first time, before they found me
5 a space.

6 'I remember there was an activities class on
7 a Thursday afternoon. They had gym and things like
8 that. We played football in the gym, but that's all
9 I can remember from Newfield.'

10 He says, at paragraph 44:

11 'Newfield was called an Assessment Centre, but
12 I don't remember speaking to any professionals for
13 an assessment. I don't remember seeing my social
14 worker. My family didn't come down to see me.

15 'Newfield is a place you go to get assessed for
16 other schools. I was assessed for six weeks and I was
17 assessed for residential care because my mum and dad
18 didn't want me back home. They did have the choice to
19 get me back because I had only been placed [he mentions
20 the children's home] for respite for them, although
21 I didn't realise that until I was older. I think the
22 truth was that they couldn't handle what had happened to
23 me so I went to Balrossie. It was a case of out of
24 sight, out of mind.

25 'I just got told one day by a member of staff at

1 Newfield that I was going to Balrossie. I think my
2 social worker did take me for a day trip to Balrossie to
3 see it. I don't have any memory of packing up my stuff.
4 All I would have had were my clothes. I think it was my
5 social worker who took me to Balrossie.'

6 Then he tells us about his time at Balrossie. This
7 evidence was read in on 9 October 2024, which was day
8 483.

9 What we know, I think, from the records, my Lady, is
10 that he went from the children's home to Newfield, the
11 first time, and then to Balrossie on [REDACTED] 1992, so
12 he is still aged 8.

13 LADY SMITH: Right.

14 MS FORBES: I think he then went home from Balrossie after
15 he made a sexual assault allegation in relation to
16 another boy. His father attended at Balrossie and took
17 him home. This was on [REDACTED] 1994. So he had been
18 at Balrossie for two years and two months, almost, by
19 that point and he was aged 10.

20 Then he is at home for a very short period and he
21 goes to Newfield then, again, on [REDACTED] 1994,
22 before he then goes to a children's home on
23 [REDACTED] 1995.

24 So I think some of the dates he has in his statement
25 are a little bit different from what we have in the

1 records. Slightly mixed up. But --

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS FORBES: -- the information he gives us about Balrossie
4 has already been read in. He says he was one of the
5 youngest there, and we know about that from the
6 records --

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MS FORBES: -- him only being 8.

9 My Lady, he talks about some of the things that
10 happened at Balrossie: in the showers the boys would
11 fight with one another. There was a lot of violence
12 between the boys and bullying was on his mind
13 constantly.

14 He does talk about remembering outings, fishing and
15 ice skating. But he says he was beaten up by the older
16 boys and there was physical abuse by a member of staff,
17 and emotional abuse. There was physical and sexual
18 abuse from boys, as well as the bullying.

19 It is that accusation of sexual assault that he
20 made, which we can see in the records, was the reason
21 that his father attended and took him home. He then was
22 given this period of home leave and the view of staff
23 was that a return to Balrossie was untenable. But we
24 know from the records, his father and his father's
25 partner were unable to cope and an emergency panel then

1 sent him back to Newfield [REDACTED] 1994.

2 He was there then for a period of months before being
3 sent to the children's home in South Annan, which became
4 Seafield.

5 We know that he went there on [REDACTED] 1995, aged
6 10, and he stayed there until the [REDACTED] 1997, aged
7 12.

8 LADY SMITH: Okay.

9 MS FORBES: I think, my Lady, from the records -- checking
10 the records -- he was at South Annan from [REDACTED] 1995
11 until [REDACTED] 1996, when he went to Cardross
12 for a period. Then he was in St Philip's from
13 [REDACTED] 1997, when he was aged 12. Then he went to
14 Kibble on [REDACTED] 1999, aged 15. He was then in Rossie
15 from [REDACTED] 1999, aged 15. Then he was in a young
16 person's unit from [REDACTED] 2000. He was then in Kerelaw
17 from [REDACTED] 2000 and he was aged 16 at that time.

18 He absconded from Kerelaw and was missing for about
19 three months. This was in February 2001, when he was
20 still 16. Thereafter, he spent periods with his aunt
21 before going to Greenock Prison and Polmont.

22 I will just read that out just now, my Lady --

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS FORBES: -- because the chronology in the statement is
25 different from the records and it is quite difficult to

1 navigate back and forward.

2 He does tell us about his time at South Annan. We
3 have that there, between paragraphs 88 and 116. He says
4 that there was abuse there and he talks about that. He
5 says his behaviour started to get worse and he was
6 running away. He was picking on other boys and
7 rebelling.

8 He then talks about St Philip's from paragraphs 117
9 to 140. This was read in on the 15 August 2024, so we
10 know he was aged 12 when he went there. He tells us
11 that whilst he was there, he ran away and was abducted
12 by two men and a woman and was sexually abused and held
13 for a week. He had a nervous breakdown after that and
14 tried to commit suicide. There was physical abuse in
15 St Philip's. He was bullied by other boys and the staff
16 orchestrated square gos.

17 It was because of absconding that he was sent to
18 Rossie. This was on [REDACTED] 1999, aged 15. He
19 tells us about Rossie between paragraphs 143 and 154.
20 He was there for 11 months, he says in his statement,
21 when he was 15. He said Rossie was good, structured,
22 and he got an education. There was no abuse.

23 He talks about Cardross Park between paragraphs 155
24 and 163. That was read in on 12 July 2024, Day 462. He
25 says he was there a couple of times in Cardross for

1 a few weeks. I think there is only one reference to
2 that I could find in his records, so one period, but he
3 says that there was a lot of bullying, I think, from
4 other boys, a lot of violence and mental abuse. He says
5 he ran away and was taken to Kerelaw. We know about the
6 dates of that from the records. He tells us about that
7 between paragraphs 164 and 169. That evidence hasn't
8 previously been read in.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: But he talks about bullying from other boys and
11 restraints by staff being really bad. He absconded and
12 was away for six months and lived with his aunt. He
13 says he tried to stay out -- managed to stay out of
14 trouble for about six months, but became involved with
15 drink and drugs, stealing cars. He then was sentenced
16 to a period in Polmont. I think we know from his
17 records he was actually in Greenock Prison as well at
18 only 16. There is a reference in his records that when
19 he was in Greenock Prison, he was being kept in a cell
20 for 23 hours a day because of lack of staff.

21 He tells us about being in Kibble for about
22 three months when he was 16. He then talks about
23 Polmont, between paragraphs 178 and 187. The parts
24 about Polmont have been read in. That was on
25 6 December 2023, Day 394. He talks about physical abuse

1 from staff, restraint and segregation.

2 Then he talks about his life after Polmont from
3 paragraph 188. He was involved in a serious car crash
4 in 2003, he fractured his skull. After being in
5 hospital, he was released to Polmont and he says that he
6 has been numb to everything since; it has been
7 a revolving door into prison.

8 From paragraph 190, he talks about being in
9 Barlinnie over age 18, his life after care and his
10 impact. He was addicted to heroin by the time he went
11 to Barlinnie and says he has done 17 years in jail since
12 he was 16. He says he has about 250 convictions. He
13 says he has a partner now, a house and a dog waiting for
14 him when he gets out of prison. He is clean and he has
15 been setting up a security company to run when he gets
16 out of prison. He has started to write a book about
17 male abuse in care.

18 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, that has been
19 read in before, so I won't take your Ladyship to that.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MS FORBES: Then, at paragraph 205, he makes the usual
22 declaration and he has signed his statement. It is
23 dated 28 September 2021.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

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

1 who is anonymous and known as 'Patrick'.

2 'Patrick' (read)

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Patrick's' statement is
5 WIT-1-000001212.

6 'Patrick' was born in 1985 and tells us about his
7 life before going in to care from paragraph 2. He was
8 born in Bellshill Maternity Hospital. When he came
9 along there was his two older brothers and an older
10 sister, but he says he also has then, after that, four
11 younger sisters.

12 He says that when he was born, he and his siblings
13 and his parents all lived in the one house in
14 Motherwell. Initially, life was all right and his
15 parents worked. His dad was a bus driver and his mum
16 worked in one of the sewing factories. He went to
17 nursery and then primary school, but was expelled in
18 Primary 6 and then went to a different primary school,
19 which was on the other side of New Stevenston. He says
20 at that time his mum and dad were going through
21 a divorce. He says he was about 11 years old.

22 Then he went to high school and that's when things
23 started really going downhill. His older sister and him
24 had always been quite close. She went into care. She
25 wasn't going to school and running away all the time.

1 She was close to their dad and so when their parents
2 split up, she went to stay with him, but she was back
3 and forward between the two parents and the rest of them
4 stayed with their mum.

5 He said he felt he was getting on okay at high
6 school, but he doesn't know -- sorry, I think this is
7 primary school still. Yes, it is.

8 He said he was getting on okay at primary school at
9 first, but he doesn't know if it was because his
10 brothers and sisters had already been there and the
11 teachers thought he was another troublemaker, because he
12 felt he was picked on quite a lot. But when he went to
13 the second primary school, they were different towards
14 him; he quietened down and got on with his work.

15 He then went on to high school, but he says that was
16 a nightmare because his brothers and sister had been
17 there before him. Again, they had caused mayhem, so
18 there was this family reputation. He was only there for
19 a couple of months or so and then he wouldn't go for a
20 few days or he would go, sign in, and walk right out the
21 door again.

22 He started getting in trouble with the police. He
23 set fire to a block of flats and got charged with arson.
24 He went to the Children's Panel, there was a family
25 social worker and he said he wasn't going to go back to

1 high school.

2 At paragraph 8, 'Patrick' says:

3 'I kind of lost the plot a bit and was out of
4 control. My mum couldn't handle me. I went to a few
5 Children's Panels for getting into trouble and for not
6 attending school.'

7 He says he was placed then on a supervision order
8 and he got his own social worker, who was very good. He
9 also then ended up with a drugs worker because he
10 started smoking cannabis.

11 He used to run away from home a lot. He says he
12 would get up in the morning and his brothers would be
13 fighting. He got on all right with his mum, but there
14 were five kids in the house and his mum was working and
15 his big brothers were babysitting and fighting. He
16 would run away to a friend's house, but he was being
17 reported to the police for running away.

18 He then attended the panel and he had seen his
19 sister go through the system and he thought she was
20 doing better than she had been doing when she was at
21 home, so he wanted to go with her. He says they had
22 always been close. This panel resulted in him being
23 placed in a foster home for respite care.

24 He talks about that time from paragraph 11. He says
25 he was supposed to be there until he rebuilt his

1 relationship with his family, but he was only there for
2 a couple of weeks and it was all right. He doesn't know
3 how that time ended, but he thinks it is just because he
4 didn't want to go home and the social work were looking
5 for something more long term for him. He went directly
6 from a foster home to a children's home and he was there
7 for six to eight months. He says it was a crazy place
8 and he knew it had a bad reputation, so when he was told
9 he was going there, he wasn't happy.

10 He tells us then about that children's home from
11 paragraph 13.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2

3 He then tells us, at paragraph 20, that he found out
4 that he was leaving the children's home at a planned
5 meeting. I think we know from his records, my Lady,
6 'Patrick' was at the children's home from [REDACTED] 1998.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: He doesn't mention it here, but we do know he
9 went to another place for a short period between
10 [REDACTED] 1998 and [REDACTED] 1998, when he went to
11 Newfield. I think he remembers going straight from this
12 first children's home to Newfield, but there was another
13 place in between.

14 He talks, at paragraph 21, about only ever having
15 two social workers. He says it helped having that
16 continuity and 'let me get to know them'.

17 So we know from his records he was transferred to
18 Newfield on [REDACTED] 1998. He tells us about
19 Newfield from paragraph 22. He gives us the layout at
20 that paragraph.

21 At paragraph 23, he says:

22 'While I was at Newfield, I believe they were
23 assessing my behaviour and seeing whether I could go to
24 a children's home and go to mainstream school, or to
25 a unit and attend residential school as a day pupil.

1 Ultimately, it was decided that residential would be
2 better.

3 'When I arrived, I was introduced to all the staff
4 in the unit. I was then shown my room before being
5 introduced to the other kids there. I had a room to
6 myself. I could put posters and pictures up if I wanted
7 to. There were three or four units and they all had
8 names, but I cannot remember what they were. There were
9 six or seven boys in my unit. It was all boys there.
10 I can't remember who was in charge of the place, but
11 I think "Wee Betty" was in charge of my unit. She
12 always seemed to be there. She was also my keyworker.
13 I remember one of the night shift staff was called John.
14 Each unit had different age groups in them. There was
15 one for the younger boys, one for those in the middle
16 age group, and one for the older boys, so you were kept
17 with your own age group. I stayed in the same unit for
18 my entire time there. I was about 12 years old. The
19 oldest was about 15 in my unit. There were younger boys
20 in the unit next door. You didn't really mix with the
21 other units. I had quite a good relationship with the
22 boys in my unit. On speaking with them, we were all in
23 there for similar reasons, like not going to school.'

24 He then talks about the routine. He says:

25 'Newfield was in the middle of nowhere, there wasn't

1 much to do outside ...'

2 And you couldn't just come and go, you weren't

3 allowed to go out.

4 'The windows could only open a little bit and there

5 were bars on them. You weren't allowed out to play. It

6 was like a secure unit.'

7 In relation to food, he says:

8 'If you didn't want to eat you didn't have to, but

9 the food was okay.'

10 And he talks about being given pocket money and

11 taken to the shops to buy whatever they wanted. They

12 got about 7-odd a week. He talks about showering, and

13 he says:

14 'You were told to have a shower when you got up in

15 the morning and you could have one when you wanted to.

16 There were no restrictions ...'

17 In relation to school, at paragraph 29, 'Patrick'

18 says:

19 'The teachers came into the school during the day.

20 They weren't members of staff. There were only five to

21 six people to a classroom. There was a timetable and

22 you were taught different subjects, like art and things

23 like that. The teachers didn't really get time to teach

24 because they would just get started and somebody would

25 kick off.'

1 He says that school was Monday to Friday from
2 9 o'clock until 3.00 in the afternoon. You would break
3 for lunch.

4 'When I was at Newfield, I started to knuckle down
5 at school. They told me if I had stuck in when I was at
6 mainstream school I would have done well. I suppose the
7 education could have been better, but the teachers were
8 dealing with unruly kids. It would be hard to focus on
9 teaching. The class sizes helped, but half the lesson
10 was disrupted all the time. You didn't get the same
11 opportunities as mainstream, because you only did maths
12 and English, whereas there you would get maths, English,
13 sciences, computing, and things like that.'

14 He says then that he was aware that he was being
15 assessed, but it wasn't like someone was standing over
16 the top of him, assessing his work. He says he wasn't
17 updated as to how the assessment was going.

18 He says that he could have gone home at Christmas,
19 but he chose to stay at the unit. It was all right
20 there. There was a Christmas dinner and he got a couple
21 of presents.

22 At paragraph 35, he talks about being taken out
23 a trips once a month to tenpin bowling or the cinema,
24 but that was really the only time they got out and there
25 was no holidays away.

1 At paragraph 36, he says:

2 'My social worker would visit me in Newfield and
3 I could call her any time. On one occasion, one of the
4 other boys and I stole one of the member of staff's car
5 and ran away. I don't know the staff member's name. My
6 social worker came and had a few words with me. It was
7 reported to the police and I was charged with theft.
8 This was near the end of my time there. It happened at
9 nighttime when there was only one member of staff on
10 duty.

11 'I never visited my family home when I was in
12 Newfield, and I didn't get any visitors. We got day
13 leave sometimes. I'd maybe get out on a Saturday and
14 visit my sister.'

15 He talks about the fact that she was in homeless
16 accommodation at that point. This allowance to visit
17 her started after he had been there a couple of months
18 and they would give him money for his travel warrant to
19 buy a train ticket.

20 He says then the only time he ran away was the
21 occasion he stole the staff member's car and he says he
22 thinks that was the reason he was moved away to another
23 place.

24 He says at paragraph 39:

25 'There was nothing that happened at Newfield that

1 I would say was abusive, even when they restrained you
2 it was done properly.'

3

4

5

6 'You weren't being hurt from the restraints they
7 used. They weren't banging our heads off the walls or
8 the floor. Your arms weren't twisted up your back.
9 They used better techniques there. I think it was
10 a positive experience for me at Newfield. I think they
11 made the right decision putting me there.'

12 Then he said he thinks he left there because he
13 stole the member of staff's car. There was a meeting
14 and it was decided he was going to St Philip's. He says
15 that he thought it would be more secure with more rules
16 and regulations.

17 There is a letter, my Lady, in 'Patrick's' records
18 where he wrote to social work when he was at Newfield;
19 a very eloquent letter, typed, asking to stay at
20 Newfield or to go into foster care and not be sent
21 somewhere else. He was citing the United Nations
22 Convention on the Rights of a Child.

23 My Lady, we know from his records he was moved to
24 St Philip's on [REDACTED] 1999. That evidence was read
25 in on 15 August 2024, Day 469. He says then that he

1 stayed at St Philip's for almost 18 months.

2 In relation to abuse there, he says there was
3 inappropriate conduct by staff, strip searches, and
4 a supply of heroin by a member of staff --

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MS FORBES: -- that continued for a period during his time
7 there, which I think he then goes on later to talk about
8 causing problems for the rest of his life.

9 He ended up leaving St Philip's because of the fact
10 that it became known that he was on heroin and he had
11 been withdrawing. I think this was -- he is not sure
12 whether or not this was reported to the police. His
13 mother and sister got involved and he ended up having to
14 see a doctor.

15 He says he didn't know that what he had been taking
16 at that time was heroin; he thought it was some sort of
17 cannabis oil, because that's what he had been told. He
18 found that out when he went to the doctors.

19 He says, at paragraph 56, when they left the
20 doctors, his mum and him:

21 '... went back to the unit to pick up some clothes
22 because she said that was it. I was going home.'

23 But then he says his mum couldn't handle him. He
24 was withdrawing from drugs, he was stealing and he was
25 put into a children's home in Coatbridge. He was on

1 a full prescription from the doctor at that point;
2 dihydrocodeine to help with the withdrawals and diazepam
3 to help him relax.

4 We know he left St Philip's in [REDACTED] 2000.
5 What's on the records, it says:

6 'Due to major issues at St Philip's.'

7 Then he was home for a period before going to this
8 children's home in [REDACTED] 2000.

9 He talks about his time at the children's home from
10 paragraph 58. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13 He
14 talks a little bit then about what he knows about what
15 might or might not have happened to the member of staff
16 from St Philip's.

17 He says that a while after he left care they put him
18 into a scatter flat, but by this time he had moved on to
19 a methadone programme and he says he was in the chemist
20 one day when he saw that member of staff from
21 St Philip's coming in.

22 He talks about the fact that his day to day life,
23 really, was about getting a fix. When he went to the
24 children's home, his social worker thought he could go
25 to college. He started, but couldn't continue because
he was withdrawing and he was having, every day, to go

1 and get medication, so college went out the window. He
2 says he was at the children's home for about eight
3 months or so.

4 A decision was then made for him to move to another
5 children's home in Cumbernauld. He tells us about that
6 from paragraph 66. He says he was only there a short
7 time, about two months.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8
9
10
11
12
13

14 He then went to a children's home in Motherwell. He
15 tells us about that from paragraph 69. He says he was
16 only there for a couple of days, then he moved from
17 there to his mum's for a short period.

18 Then he went back again to the children's home in
19 Coatbridge, but that didn't last very long; it was two
20 or three months. But he was almost 16 and a place was
21 found for him at a homeless unit. He says he wasn't
22 prepared for the move. It was quite close to the
23 children's home, just round the corner, but he says he
24 went there after a meeting at the children's home on his
25 16th birthday. Whilst there, he says he could come and

1 go as he pleased. He had been taken off the supervision
2 order, so he was no longer the responsibility of the
3 social work.

4 He made a claim -- he was to make a claim to Job
5 Seeker's Allowance, but his doctor said he shouldn't be
6 claiming because he wasn't fit to work, so he was put on
7 sickness benefit.

8 He then talks about life after care from
9 paragraph 76. He says when he left the care system, he
10 was homeless for years. Then he went to Throughcare,
11 who were good with him and got him a small flat. But he
12 didn't know how to look after a flat or himself. His
13 first thought in his head, though, at that time was to
14 go and score heroin. He was constantly trying to get
15 a fix. He says he is still addicted and still looking
16 for that fix.

17 Over the years he has had two of his own tenancies
18 on a furnished flat, but he has struggled, he says,
19 being able to budget. He stayed with his sister on and
20 off and he talks about some serious assaults that were
21 perpetrated on him with very serious injuries. He tells
22 us about that at paragraph 79. That's left him with
23 long term scars and he says that after one, he had to
24 learn to walk and talk again. He began forgetting a lot
25 and isn't as sharp as he used to be.

1 He says he was in a long-term relationship on and
2 off for about 20 years, but his partner passed away.
3 They had a house together. He says he was waiting to
4 get back into it, but he doesn't know if he will be able
5 to do it.

6 He says he is in Glasgow most of the time now. He
7 has had scatter flats there. He went down to [REDACTED] for
8 a period of about three years and ran a pub and
9 an hotel. He ended up getting involved in drugs and was
10 in jail there for three and a half years. He's been in
11 jail, he says, two or three times in his life and every
12 time it has been because of drugs.

13 He says he is still in touch with his sister that he
14 was close to, but he has no contact with the rest of his
15 siblings and that's through drugs and everything else.

16 In relation to impact, he talks about the impact,
17 really, of the supply of heroin to him by this member of
18 staff in St Philip's and the impact that that has had on
19 his life since then. He said he has never injected
20 heroin in his life but this has impacted relationships
21 and friends. He says all his friends are drug addicts.

22 He talks about his health problems that he has and
23 the medications he still has to take. He talks about
24 being interested in getting on a pilot scheme where you
25 get a jab once a month and it takes you off drugs. So

1 he was saying that he had seen people who had benefited
2 from that and that's something he wanted to do. He
3 talks about having to go every day to get medication.

4 He talks about having tried to take his own life
5 a couple of times. He has only really had two jobs in
6 his life and he has not been able to keep hold of them
7 down to drugs.

8 He then talks about reporting abuse and, in
9 particular, that staff member from St Philip's in the
10 following paragraphs.

11 In relation to lessons to be learned, at
12 paragraph 93, he says:

13 'I had a lot of hopes and dreams, but they were all
14 dashed a long time ago. I just hope that they can do
15 things right and look after children properly, the way
16 they are meant to be. As I was getting older, the
17 restraints that were used got better and better, so
18 hopefully things like that will help.'

19 And then he has made the usual declaration and he
20 has signed his statement, dated 2 March 2023.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: Do you want to do one now?

23 MR PEOPLES: Okay.

24 MS FORBES: Okay, my Lady, Mr Peoples has a read-in.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Does that complete our Newfield?

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think it does.

2 LADY SMITH: I think it does, doesn't it?

3 MR PEOPLES: I think we can move on to some read-ins in

4 relation to Beechwood. And the first read-in this

5 morning for Beechwood is from an applicant who is known

6 by the pseudonym 'Rizzo'.

7 'Rizzo' (read)

8 MR PEOPLES: 'Rizzo' gave live evidence on 23 February 2024,

9 Day 423. The transcript reference is TRN-12-000000055.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR PEOPLES: She really spoke largely about one place,

12 Balgay, that she attended.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: Or she was a resident in. I don't think she

15 gave very much evidence about other places. I think she

16 said a little bit about Beechwood, but that's obviously

17 something I am going to deal with this morning.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: Before I do that, I will just say that she

20 seems to have been in Beechwood a number of times, from

21 dates we have from records. I will just give the dates,

22 perhaps, at the moment rather than just keep referring

23 to them.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR PEOPLES: Her first, I think, admission, based on

1 records, was on [REDACTED] 1974 until [REDACTED] 1974,
2 which was a relatively short period. I think she was
3 then released home, according to her records. She was
4 readmitted to Beechwood on [REDACTED] 1974 and she stayed
5 there, I think, until [REDACTED] 1975, when she then
6 moved on to Balgay.

7 She then was readmitted to Beechwood -- this will be
8 the third time, I suppose -- on [REDACTED] 1975 and she
9 stayed a relatively short time, until [REDACTED] 1975. She
10 then went on to a place called Aycliffe --

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: -- which she tells us about in her statement.

13 Then she appears to have been readmitted on
14 [REDACTED] 1976, before being transferred to another place
15 called Robertson. Then she had a period of extended home
16 leave.

17 LADY SMITH: How long was she in in 1976? Do we know?

18 MR PEOPLES: I'm not sure I have it.

19 LADY SMITH: Don't worry. And then she was off to Robertson.

20 MR PEOPLES: I don't think it was very long, from how it
21 seems to play out.

22 Basically, we are dealing with someone who, on and
23 off, was in Beechwood between 1974 and 1976 on various
24 occasions.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

1 MR PEOPLES: It gives us an idea of the time period.

2 LADY SMITH: It is between the ages of about 12 and 14?

3 MR PEOPLES: Yes, yes. Broadly speaking, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR PEOPLES: I will just deal very briefly with life before

6 care. She is perhaps maybe one of the more unusual

7 applicants [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

10 MR PEOPLES: We have had cases of that kind, but they tend

11 to be --

12 LADY SMITH: It is not as common.

13 MR PEOPLES: -- fairly uncommon. She tells us that she has

14 three sisters; two older, one younger. She was born in

15 Glasgow. [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] So that would be in the mid-1960s,

17 1966/1967. One of the older sisters [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] ended up living with her granny.

19 'Rizzo' and the two other sisters lived in a tenement

20 with their father. She puts it very starkly.

21 LADY SMITH: Sorry to interrupt you, Mr Peoples. I know we

22 have the transcript reference previously. I don't think

23 we have the statement.

24 MR PEOPLES: I don't think I did give you it, actually. It

25 is WIT.001.002.4197.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes, sorry.

3 LADY SMITH: That's all right.

4 MR PEOPLES: Sometimes it is very difficult to remember all

5 the references.

6 LADY SMITH: There are so many details to give.

7 MR PEOPLES: Yes, that's the reference I am reading from.

8 Going back to life before care, she tells us at

9 paragraphs 2 to 6 -- she puts it:

10 'We were in extreme poverty.'

11 And she says her dad didn't work because he was

12 [REDACTED] on benefits. There were clearly financial

13 problems as a result. There was a fairly crowded

14 accommodation, with three sisters sleeping in the same

15 bed and her father sleeping on the couch. She tells us

16 she enjoyed her time at primary school, but by the age

17 of 10 or 11, she was being bullied by a particular girl.

18 She has some awareness that the RSSPCC was involved with

19 the family. She is not actually aware of any social

20 worker coming to the house.

21 It then appears she got into some trouble, as she

22 mentions stealing coal several times from a nearby

23 railway yard to heat the house. She remembers going to

24 some panels. I think the first, when she was about aged

25 10. She appeared before a panel, she recalls, for

1 shoplifting a packet of sausages.

2 It was decided eventually, by the panel, that
3 'Rizzo' was beyond parental control and unruly. It was
4 decided to put her into residential care. She tells us
5 that she was upset by that decision, was screaming and
6 shouting. Her father was upset and crying, but she was
7 taken in a van to Beechwood Assessment Centre. She said
8 she wasn't even given a chance to go home to collect
9 anything. So we actually know the dates -- she is a bit
10 out on dates.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: But that's her recollection of how matters
13 unfolded.

14 She tells us about Beechwood Assessment Centre from
15 paragraphs 7 to 39. She, at that time, says it was [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] three women; SNR [REDACTED], Mrs MSK [REDACTED];
17 SNR [REDACTED], Mrs MSL [REDACTED]; and she mentions
18 an Elizabeth Jack. I think she is not sure whether she
19 was actually staff or perhaps a manager who had some
20 responsibility for the home, because she does say she
21 visited now and then, which would suggest that she might
22 be the latter rather than the former. It doesn't
23 perhaps matter a great deal because, ultimately, she
24 focuses more on the other two women who did run the
25 home.

1 She recalls there were about ten girls when she was
2 there and that she slept in a dorm with three other
3 girls, that's at paragraph 8.

4 She tells us about routine. I am not going to go
5 through it in detail, but she says on the first day she
6 met Mrs MSL [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED], and she was told to take
7 her own clothes off because she was required to wear the
8 centre's clothes. She says at that point she did refuse
9 to do so and she was told that if she didn't take her
10 clothes off, they would be taken off her. She said she
11 went to a cupboard, removed her clothes, and was given
12 other clothing to put on, and she was also given, at
13 that time, pyjamas and washing items.

14 LADY SMITH: Just in passing, I have just checked, the
15 information we have been given about 'Ms E Jack' --

16 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: -- is that certainly by 1975, she was being
18 recorded as head of the establishment.

19 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: We don't know what role she was fulfilling
21 before then, if anything.

22 MR PEOPLES: If that's from the report that Glasgow
23 provided, I am not sure that --

24 LADY SMITH: No, their records, they keep telling us, 'Our
25 records aren't very good'.

1 MR PEOPLES: I am not sure that some of the information
2 is -- necessarily coincides with some of the other
3 information we have seen from other records; not
4 applicants, but other Scottish Government records.
5 But we can note that certainly there was
6 a suggestion that she might certainly become the head at
7 some point.
8 LADY SMITH: Yes.
9 MR PEOPLES: So she tells us about routine. She also says
10 that she was rather offended by the fact that
11 Mrs MSL said that her knickers were dirty and that
12 she should clean herself better, because she felt she
13 was wearing nice clothes, but was being told they were
14 filthy. She said her dad had taken the trouble to get
15 her secondhand clothes before she went before the panel,
16 before going to Beechwood.
17 LADY SMITH: Yes.
18 MR PEOPLES: So it is not a very happy start. I think she
19 in fact, to some extent, attributes her subsequent
20 experiences to that first encounter with SNR
21 SNR.
22 She says, between paragraphs 9 and 10, that she
23 started swearing at Mrs MSL, telling her she wasn't
24 filthy, as she put it:
25 'We didn't get off on a good footing.'

1 She also says:
2 'No one tried to tell me why I was there or make me
3 welcome in any way.'
4 Again, that's a familiar theme we hear about.
5 She was then taken to the dormitory, she remembers
6 going for an evening meal, but says she was upset and
7 crying at that time. She says she was telling people
8 she just wanted to see her dad. She tells us about the
9 routine. I am not going to read all that.
10 She does say that by the time that the girls went
11 for breakfast, the managers were about. There were
12 trainee staff, she says, but they were more or less
13 directing the children. Well, they were directing the
14 children, telling them what to do, but I think she was
15 clearly feeling: it's the managers who were running the
16 show.
17 She said initially she felt the food was nice, but
18 then she tells us, at paragraph 13 -- and I think this
19 is one of her themes -- that she ate the food at
20 Beechwood without any problem until she realised it was
21 laced with medication. She does tell us a bit more
22 about that, which is perhaps troubling.
23 LADY SMITH: Yes.
24 MR PEOPLES: She has an occasion where girls kept her head
25 underwater, at paragraph 14, and feels that SNR

1 SNR perhaps misinterpreted the situation,
2 thinking she was in fact trying to self-harm.

3 She describes there were books, toys and games, at
4 17. There were day trips. She says she didn't go on
5 them because of her behaviour, but she did occasionally
6 go swimming, at paragraph 18. There was no school at
7 Beechwood, she says, and while there, 'Rizzo' didn't go
8 to a school at all.

9 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

10 MR PEOPLES: She refers to art lessons, but says that they
11 were nothing special, at paragraph 19.

12 She then goes on to say she did refuse to eat or
13 sleep and was sent for a period to a psychiatric
14 hospital. She tells us that her recollection is that
15 there were things that happened there. I am not going
16 to read it all out, but one of the things she refers to
17 is that she recalls being threatened with electric shock
18 treatment.

19 She also says -- and this is perhaps more relevant
20 to a theme that we have heard -- that Mrs MSK --
21 this is at 20 to 22 -- SNR , arranged for 'Rizzo'
22 to have a brain scan, she tells us. 'Rizzo' says
23 Mrs MSK told social workers, and indeed everyone,
24 that 'Rizzo' was brain damaged. 'Rizzo' says she had
25 the scan and everything was normal and was told that

1 nothing was wrong with her.

2 Again, that's something that seems to be instilled
3 in people at times, that they are retarded, brain
4 damaged or otherwise, and that's something that she
5 recalls in her case.

6 She said girls did have chores to do and when she
7 refused to do her chores, she would end up having a row,
8 and being put in isolation. She is not suggesting the
9 chores themselves were necessarily terribly onerous, but
10 that she certainly was, to some extent, being
11 difficult --

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: -- as an individual.

14 She saw her father occasionally -- this is at
15 paragraph 26 -- and sometimes neighbours visited. When
16 visitors came, they sat in the dining room, she recalls,
17 and staff were always there.

18 This is again going back to what she has just said.
19 Mrs **MSK** would speak to her father in front of
20 'Rizzo' and says that Mrs **MSK** was telling her
21 father that 'Rizzo' was problematic and that a car
22 accident that she'd had when she was younger had caused
23 some form of brain damage. She tells us, I think, in
24 the statement, she did have an accident, but she doesn't
25 think it caused any form of brain damage to her. But

1 feels that that's something that Mrs MSK picked up
2 on and was saying the things that she said to her father
3 and others.

4 She says that -- and this is perhaps -- she says
5 children were allowed to smoke. Indeed, she says, staff
6 told 'Rizzo' that she would be better off smoking.

7 Mrs MSK she says at paragraph 27:

8 '... wanted me to smoke and she told me it would
9 calm me down and I would feel better. I ended up
10 smoking.'

11 So it would appear that apart from isolation, loss
12 of home leave, that smoking was used as, arguably,
13 a form of control and, if one accepts 'Rizzo's' account,
14 medication, too, or the threat of medication. So there
15 were a number of variants that we have heard about in
16 the evidence that we have heard so far.

17 She said she ran away at every opportunity, at
18 paragraph 28.

19 I see it is 11.30, I wonder if would you like
20 a short break?

21 LADY SMITH: Should we break just now?

22 MR PEOPLES: I am not quite finished, but it is a convenient
23 point. I think I am reading the point about abuse.

24 I am not going to be much longer, but I think it is
25 a natural break.

1 LADY SMITH: Let's have the morning break just now then.
2 Thank you.
3 (11.32 am)
4 (A short break)
5 (11.45 am)
6 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, when you are ready.
7 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, if I could resume the statement given
8 by 'Rizzo'. I had reached a point in her signed
9 statement where she has a section headed, 'Abuse at
10 Beechwood', which starts at paragraph 29 and I think
11 runs through to about paragraph 38.
12 She does go back to the first day she arrived at
13 Beechwood. She says she was given medication. She says
14 that Mrs MSL told her to take it. She told her she
15 wasn't -- well, 'Rizzo' said she wasn't sick and
16 Mrs MSL told her that she was homesick and every
17 child who was homesick had to take the medication. She
18 says:
19 'I think I believed her and I took it.'
20 That's at paragraph 29. She says she was compliant
21 for a while, but after a while realised that this
22 medication had a sedentary effect on her; it was
23 knocking her out. She said it was later on that she
24 found out it was Largactil.
25 LADY SMITH: I think it is Largactil.

1 MR PEOPLES: Largactil and Mogadon. I think we know the
2 former is a -- by then would have been an established
3 anti-psychotic drug, which had, I think, surfaced,
4 having done my research, in the early 1950s and was,
5 I think, quite established, certainly for that purpose,
6 by the time we are looking at here.

7 That's her recollection of what she was being given.

8 She says, also, that Mrs MSL and Mrs MSK
9 forcibly removed her clothes and 'gave me the
10 medication'. It does appear from what she says, the
11 medication was given by way of an injection, I think --
12 from what she says later in her statement.

13 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

14 MR PEOPLES: She said:

15 "When I was in Beechwood [this is paragraph 29]
16 I was controlled mostly through this medication.'

17 I suppose it might be contrasted with the previous
18 evidence about the boy who was on heroin, who had
19 a doctor's prescription and for that reason was in
20 care -- was being given something on prescription.

21 The way 'Rizzo' puts the matter, it doesn't appear
22 as if she had any form of prescription that would
23 justify the medication. It was being administered, she
24 says, by someone in a care setting, not in a hospital,
25 or medical centre, or for reasons which she couldn't

1 understand.

2 LADY SMITH: She has tried to get records unsuccessfully.

3 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: And I take it, we have no records?

5 MR PEOPLES: We don't have records to tell us one way or the

6 other. Although she is not the only person who mentions

7 this at this particular place, the idea of medication or

8 threat of medication.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MR PEOPLES: She goes on to say that this medication was

11 given every night around 5.00 pm. This is at

12 paragraph 30. She saw other children being given it,

13 she says she would refuse to take it. She says:

14 'This caused me a lot of trouble and there were lots

15 of battles. Mrs MSL and Mrs MSK used to hold

16 me down, pin me to the floor and force it into ...'

17 Well, she says, 'into my mouth', but she does later,

18 I think, talk about injections, as well. I will stand

19 corrected. She says:

20 'They were also putting it in my drink and in my

21 food.'

22 She has this recollection of certainly having things

23 put in her mouth, in her food, which she was unwilling

24 to take voluntarily. She says it got to the point where

25 she would stop eating her food. She says the medication

1 was being given after breakfast. She was still refusing
2 it, and:
3 'They would force me to take it.'
4 She says:
5 'When I realised it was in my food, I went for three
6 days without eating anything at meal times.'
7 Indeed, she recalls a woman on the night shift
8 feeling sorry for her and taking her downstairs and
9 giving her something to eat. She says she was someone
10 she liked and trusted.
11 She says, moving on, at 31, that she was often put
12 in the isolation room. Staff would take her clothes off
13 and give her pyjamas to wear. She says it was always an
14 empty room, but at some point they put in a tiny straw
15 mattress with a plastic cover. She describes it as
16 'like a prison cell' and she said she was regularly put
17 there when she 'kicked off'. And I think that is fairly
18 consistent with other accounts, that there was such
19 a room that people would be put in when they 'kicked
20 off'. She says she saw other girls being put in there
21 as well.
22 Then, going on, at 32, she says when staff were
23 putting medication in her food, she said she was getting
24 'dopier and dopier'. She said she would refuse to sleep
25 for a while because she didn't know what was going to

1 happen. She says she had nightmares and, looking back,
2 she believes she was hallucinating at times, possibly as
3 a result of the medication, lack of sleep and her
4 general emotional state at the time. She says she was
5 seeing things and she was screaming and shouting.
6 Indeed, at one point, she says was put in a separate
7 room so she would sleep and wasn't let out during the
8 day until she had had a sleep.

9 Because I think she says she was in a dorm at
10 Beechwood.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: She then goes back, I think, to the time that
13 it was organised for her to go to a psychiatric
14 hospital, at paragraph 32. She says when she got back
15 from there, nothing had changed. Mrs MSL and --
16 I think it is Mrs MSK and Mrs MSL, continued
17 to be horrible to her.

18 She does say that Mrs MSK's manner was that she
19 came across as really nice, she said:

20 'She spoke gently and was friendly and presented as
21 such a lovely person. It was only when I matured
22 emotionally and developed intelligence that I realised
23 it was sheer manipulation.'

24 She said she told 'Rizzo' she had problems and was
25 the worst child she had come across and that there was

1 something wrong with her. So this is, again, a clear
2 recollection that she was being told that there was
3 something damaged or wrong about her.

4 Then she says all the time she was in Beechwood, she
5 felt she was battling.

6 She said:

7 'I just seemed to kick off [this is at 34] and be
8 involved in battles all the time. I was kicking doors
9 and throwing things through windows. I just felt
10 constantly angry from the moment I woke up to the minute
11 I went to bed. Upon reflection, I think it stems back
12 to that very first day when I refused to take my clothes
13 off and I swore at them. They obviously thought from
14 that first minute that I was trouble.'

15 She says, at this point, that -- she tells us a bit
16 about the car accident, I think, at paragraph 33. When
17 she was 8, she was run over by a car, she said, and
18 ended up in hospital with a fractured pelvis and broken
19 leg. She says that Mrs MSK knew about the accident
20 and told 'Rizzo' that her brain had been damaged in it
21 and that was the reason she was behaving as she was:

22 'She said I was backward. She told me this in
23 a nice friendly way and it made me believe she was
24 telling the truth.'

25 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking -- I get this from my

1 reading of her statement -- she doesn't really separate
2 in her evidence the distinct periods she was at
3 Beechwood?

4 MR PEOPLES: No.

5 LADY SMITH: It's all a general memory of what life at
6 Beechwood was like, although some things she relates to
7 when she went there right at the beginning, which would
8 have been that initial three-week stage.

9 MR PEOPLES: Yes, the first stage, then it could be. But
10 I think we have to take it that this is a memory of --

11 LADY SMITH: Everything, yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: -- Beechwood, because when we see the
13 paragraphs that deal with different visits, they tend
14 not to be as expansive as the first section. Indeed,
15 I think the third section says very little about it.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR PEOPLES: But, yes, I think that's the way it falls to be
18 read. It's perhaps a natural thing. I don't think that
19 given the passage of time that you would necessarily,
20 other than, say, the first day, you might well say,
21 'That was the first day I ever went there', but beyond
22 that, you are probably having to rely on saying: 'Well,
23 I was there and these things happened'.

24 And I think that's --

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. Although she refers to being sent to

1 Gartloch Hospital, I wonder if it is Gartcosh.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I didn't mention the name, but yes, I

3 suspect it is Gartcosh. It would make some sense,

4 I think.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MR PEOPLES: So that was about the car accident.

7 Sorry, and if I go back to -- she said she was

8 battling all the time and feeling angry. She feels she

9 was treated differently because of her behaviour. This

10 is 35. And indeed she says her behaviour deteriorated

11 during the period she was in Beechwood.

12 She says, at 36, for some reason she was there

13 longer than any other girl. Now, that might be

14 a reflection of someone who has been there more than

15 once and has to some extent conflated all periods into

16 one. If did you that, you certainly would feel you were

17 there for quite a long time.

18 LADY SMITH: One of them was a period of about six months

19 although the others were very short.

20 MR PEOPLES: There was a lengthy period. But, yes, if you

21 said, 'The start was one year and by the time I ceased

22 to be there ...' it could seem to a person to be long.

23 Certainly, there would be other girls at that time

24 coming and going --

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR PEOPLES: -- and not necessarily there again.

2 So she says -- she did say -- although having said
3 that she was there longer, she did say she left to go to
4 another place for a while, but came back for spells.
5 She says:

6 'I know the staff in there didn't like me. I got on
7 okay with the other girls, although there was the
8 occasional fight.'

9 She says when she ran away -- this is at 37 -- the
10 police never asked why. She says her dad knew why. He
11 knew she wanted to be at home and not in Beechwood, but
12 she didn't tell him what was going on at Beechwood. She
13 tells us that at 38.

14 She thought she was in Beechwood for a long time,
15 but she does say, according to her records, it's not so
16 clear, because she did go back there at other times.
17 So, with the benefit of records, she realised it is not
18 just one continuous period.

19 Then she talks about leaving Beechwood to go for
20 a time to Balgay. I am not, obviously, going to go
21 through that today. That's at 40 to 61 of her
22 statement.

23 There is a section headed 'Beechwood second visit',
24 62 to 66, but she doesn't say a great deal more than she
25 said in the first section.

1 She says generally the staff were the same as
2 before, some day staff had changed, the routine was much
3 the same as before. She says:
4 'In the end, I suppose, I became resilient to the
5 fact that this was my life.'
6 She continued to run away. She says staff gave her
7 medication again, which she never chose to take, but
8 says that they somehow managed to get the medication
9 into her.
10 Now, I think I said injection. I think I have got
11 the wrong witness here.
12 LADY SMITH: Right.
13 MR PEOPLES: I am starting to --
14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
15 MR PEOPLES: I have a memory that someone had said something
16 along those lines.
17 LADY SMITH: Yes, well, she did start off referring to
18 a bottle on a shelf, which sounds like something --
19 MR PEOPLES: I will correct that now. It does appear from
20 what we have that that isn't how -- it was administered
21 orally, it would appear, this medication, so I'll
22 perhaps stand corrected there, having looked at what she
23 has said about Beechwood, as far as her experience was
24 concerned.
25 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

1 MR PEOPLES: Then she goes on. I am not going to, again, go
2 through this, but she has a section on Langlands Park
3 from 67 to 79.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR PEOPLES: She tells us there was abuse there, between
6 paragraphs 74 to 78. She mentions being assaulted by
7 SNR and she describes some of the occasions
8 when these things happened.

9 She then goes on to deal with Beechwood the third
10 time, but in a very short section, which I don't think
11 adds anything to what she has said previously.

12 Then she --

13 LADY SMITH: The third visit was actually only two weeks, on
14 the dates you gave me earlier.

15 MR PEOPLES: That's right, yes. Well, forgive me, I think
16 there are probably four visits now, in all.

17 LADY SMITH: There were four in total.

18 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: But the third one -- and this is the third
20 time --

21 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I am not sure she breaks it into four
22 visits in the statement, maybe she sees it as three.
23 But, again, we are satisfied she was there.

24 LADY SMITH: There is a heading there, on paragraph 80,
25 'Beechwood, third visit'.

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: That was the two weeks at the beginning
3 of [REDACTED] 1975.

4 MR PEOPLES: If that's --

5 LADY SMITH: If that's right, yes.

6 MR PEOPLES: I'd probably take that, perhaps, with a bit of
7 caution about just breaking it --

8 LADY SMITH: Of course.

9 MR PEOPLES: -- into periods because of various factors.

10 But she does say that certainly after the time that
11 she talks about, at paragraph 80, she then moves to the
12 Aycliffe School in County Durham, where she seems to
13 have stayed for about a year. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 Sorry, I am doing her a disservice. I think, if we

1 go to 105, she says shortly after leaving Aycliffe, she
2 went back to:

3 '... what felt like my home, Beechwood.'

4 At 105. So she mentions it in passing. Then she
5 goes to Robertson House, in Glasgow. She tells us
6 a little bit about that at 106 to 109.

7 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
8
9
10
11
12
13

14 Then she goes on to deal with life after Robertson at
15 110/111, because she went back to live with her mother
16 for a time, went back to school. She hated living with
17 her mum, because her then partner was an alcoholic. She
18 didn't stay very long. She seems to have gone to live
19 with her dad. She says she got in with a bad crowd when
20 she was around 15 years of age and there was an occasion
21 when she was in a stolen car with others and it would
22 appear that she was subject of a serious charge arising
23 out of that. But the serious -- more serious charge was
24 dropped, but she still was sentenced to a period in
25 Cornton Vale for three months. She tells us about that

1 at 112.

2 She doesn't appear to have had any difficulties
3 there, other than the fact that she was locked up. It
4 perhaps reminded her of her days at some of the other
5 places, which she obviously didn't like.

6 She talks about life after care. I am not going to
7 go through all of that today. It is at 113 to 118. She
8 did try to get qualifications, she went to
9 a polytechnic. She did work as a care assistant in the
10 home for the elderly. She did a Certificate in Social
11 Care at college. She worked in an adolescent unit in
12 England. Although she didn't, I think, really --
13 I think she realised, at 114, that wasn't work for her,
14 because she says it was just like being back in care and
15 it was at that point she realised that. But she seems
16 to have moved on and trained as a psycho-dynamic
17 counsellor. She also trained as a social worker and
18 worked in adult social care for a time. Then
19 specialised in forensic mental health and moved back to
20 Scotland in 2017 and worked in adult social care after
21 her return.

22 She talks about impact between 119 and 131. It is
23 often the usual consequences of lack of trust.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: She has lost any closeness with her siblings.

1 She constantly feels on guard and, perhaps most
2 importantly, she says she still feels anger. She says:
3 'From the time I went into care, I was told there
4 was something wrong with me, that I wasn't
5 intelligent.'.

6 At meetings the term 'educationally subnormal' was
7 used. Mrs [MSL] and Mrs [MSK] gave 'Rizzo' the
8 impression that she needed to be in a special school and
9 that she was backward. So this is, again, something
10 that clearly has left a lasting impression on her and
11 has affected her whole life and left her with no
12 confidence, she says at 127. The lack of education had
13 hugely hindered her, although, having said that, it
14 would appear that she has done very well --

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: -- in terms of what she achieved after leaving
17 care.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, she has.

19 MR PEOPLES: She seems to be positive in many ways because
20 she says:
21 'I don't sit and cry about it [every day] but I live
22 with this impact.'

23 I think she still wants to get on with her life, but
24 it does have its effects.

25 LADY SMITH: When she gave evidence during the Balgay

1 section, she said:

2 'I sometimes wonder who I might have been. I would

3 like to have met the person that I might have been.'

4 MR PEOPLES: Well, maybe it is an interesting way of putting

5 it.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR PEOPLES: I think we have others who say that they could

8 have achieved or had different lives, but for their

9 experiences in care.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes. Whether they are right about that or not,

11 their experiences in care have left them with that

12 feeling of something approaching grief.

13 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: What they feel was there, but they were

15 deprived of.

16 MR PEOPLES: Yes. But maybe, unlike some grief that you can

17 come to terms with, it just seems to endure and is

18 a constant in your life.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: She talks about treatment and support. This is

21 more to things -- she had this admission to the

22 psychiatric hospital at Beechwood. She says she hasn't

23 received any treatment or therapy in relation to her

24 time in care.

25 She has a section on reporting of abuse, at 135 to

1 137, and records 138 to 141. She has an account there.

2 Can I just say this -- and I don't want to read this --

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR PEOPLES: -- Glasgow City Council take no issue with the
5 rest of her statement, but feel that the way she puts
6 matters about how she was dealt with when they met is
7 not their recollection of events.

8 I don't want to get into a difference of opinion.
9 Clearly, the major part of the statement, there is no
10 exception or challenge to that. But I think they feel
11 the way that it's put, that perhaps they didn't deal
12 with the matter in an appropriate and sympathetic way,
13 is not in accordance with their records and information,
14 and that they were willing to provide her with records
15 and so forth, and to meet with her along those lines.

16 I just record that. I don't want to dwell on it
17 today.

18 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

19 MR PEOPLES: Lessons, she says at 142:

20 'Even in the 1970s, people were trained, they were
21 aware and they knew the difference between right and
22 wrong and what poor practice was. They knew what abuse
23 was. There was no excuse ...'

24 And this is for Secondary Institutions - to be published later
25 the person at Langlands Park for their behaviour or for

1 staff, I think, sitting on her. I think that may have
2 been Beechwood:

3 'There is no excuse for the regimes or the processes
4 or the policies. No level of ignorance would make that
5 excusable.'

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, she was also sat on at Balgay, if
7 I remember rightly, by a large cook that they used to
8 get to sit on her.

9 MR PEOPLES: Yes, looking at the name, it may actually be
10 the Balgay experience she is referring to there.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: She says:

13 'The people that did these things knew that they
14 were doing wrong.'

15 And that it wasn't in line with good practice.

16 She said that at the time she was in care there was
17 all sorts of training and knowledge on childcare. She
18 says there was no lack of training or knowledge back
19 then. That may not in fact be in accordance with the
20 general thrust of the evidence we have heard. There may
21 have been availability of training, but whether it was
22 given is another matter, in all places. She is
23 certainly right that knowledge was being developed
24 around good practice and good childcare, but I think the
25 issue is whether that really percolated down to the

1 establishment level and to the care staff in the
2 settings we have been hearing evidence about.

3 That's all I propose to take today from the
4 statement of 'Rizzo'. She obviously has signed the
5 statement in 2019 and has given evidence --

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR PEOPLES: -- to this Inquiry.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: Can I move on, then, to another read-in?
10 Again, relating to Beechwood. This is an applicant who
11 will be known as 'Yvonne'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR PEOPLES: Her statement is WIT.001.001.1980 and was
14 signed in 2017.

15 'Yvonne' (read)

16 MR PEOPLES: 'Yvonne' was born in 1962. Can I say this: she
17 was an oral witness in the Sisters of Nazareth case
18 study on Day 55. It's quite a while ago. 8 May 2018.
19 I am told the transcript reference is TRN.001.003.1369.
20 Can I also say that some of her evidence was read in
21 during the Foster Care case study on 5 October 2022, on
22 Day 332. The reference for that -- the transcript
23 reference is TRN-10-000000073.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR PEOPLES: As far as dates are concerned, we have to go

1 with her dates. We don't, I think, have any records
2 that would give us any cross-check on exact dates.

3 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

4 MR PEOPLES: I don't know why, I have given a wrong
5 reference. Sorry. It is WIT.001.001.4244, my
6 apologies.

7 LADY SMITH: I know why, because the index doesn't have the
8 right number in. If you look at the number on the
9 statement itself it is different.

10 MR PEOPLES: Oops.

11 LADY SMITH: It's all right.

12 MR PEOPLES: At least we have it right before we start.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes. So a line through 1980 and 4244 should be
14 there instead.

15 MR PEOPLES: Thank you for pointing that out.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR PEOPLES: If I could go to the statement now, I will just
18 briefly, again, deal with life before care.

19 'Yvonne' lived with her family in Glasgow. She was
20 part of a large family. She had eight brothers and
21 sisters. Tragically, one of her older sisters, she
22 tells us, was raped and murdered [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] She tells us her father was a bit of a drinker and
24 was in and out of prison, and her mum was left to look
25 after the children. Indeed, she couldn't cope following

1 her daughter's murder and committed suicide. It is
2 a tragic situation.

3 The family were split up. Some stayed with members
4 of the family, I think the eldest siblings stayed with
5 their gran. Two were fostered by, I think, relatives,
6 and four sisters, including 'Yvonne', were sent to
7 Nazareth House, in Cardonald, I think it would be.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, must have been.

9 MR PEOPLES: She tells us about that from paragraph 7
10 onwards. I am not planning to go through that today.
11 I think it is familiar reading for those that heard the
12 evidence in the case study.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: Basically, there is evidence of beatings and
15 being battered by nuns, practices such as having to
16 sleep with arms crossed over their chests.

17 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

18 MR PEOPLES: Punishments such as children having to kneel
19 with arms stretched out. Bedwetters having sheets
20 wrapped around them and made to go for a cold shower.
21 Force feeding of children and made to eat, if they
22 vomited, made to eat the contents. As she puts it, also
23 in that section:

24 'There was no love and no affection.'

25 At paragraph 25.

1 Other than she mentions a couple of people as
2 exceptions, but in general terms that was her
3 recollection.

4 She went there very young. Part of her time, she is
5 describing things that she recalls happening when she
6 was in the nursery group. She seems at some point to
7 have gone to something, when she was about five years
8 old, referred to as the 'Green Group'. She says that
9 she was told at that point that she would see her
10 sisters by the nuns, but they had, to their knowledge,
11 been fostered out. She says:

12 'I thought they were cruel, lying to me.'

13 And she was very upset. This is at 32.

14 She mentions physical abuse when she was in the
15 Green Group, being kicked by the sister in charge, force
16 feeding. She was called 'the devil's child' because she
17 was left-handed. She had her arm put up her back and
18 says she was beaten all the time.

19 I don't think any of that is in any way different
20 from the tenor of evidence that was heard during the
21 case study itself.

22 LADY SMITH: It's not. It also reflects the findings of
23 fact that were made in my published ruling.

24 MR PEOPLES: Yes. The other thing I might just say is --
25 because we do sometimes look at how girls approaching

1 puberty were dealt with -- and she says, at
2 paragraph 47, that she wasn't told about periods and she
3 was put in the bath, stood naked in front of a sister.
4 She felt humiliated. The sister filled the bath with
5 disinfectant and scrubbed 'Yvonne' with a scrubbing
6 brush, which was used to scrub floors, and told her that
7 she had to clean her sins away, so yes.
8 LADY SMITH: Sadly, that was quite typical.
9 MR PEOPLES: Yes. She did have -- her experience was that
10 on a holiday, also, she was sexually abused by a couple
11 who took her on holiday. That's at 51.
12 She said she told the nuns, but was not believed,
13 called a 'liar and a troublemaker' and, as she puts it
14 at 54:
15 'I learned to keep my mouth shut from then on.'
16 Then she spent a short period after that at
17 a children's home in Glasgow. At 55 she tells us about
18 that.
19 She attended a panel because she was constantly
20 running away. She tells us that she was placed in
21 Beechwood Assessment Centre. So it is a very short bit
22 about Beechwood --
23 LADY SMITH: Yes.
24 MR PEOPLES: -- at 58 to 59. This would have been,
25 according to her recollection, around 1974 or 1975, when

1 she would be --

2 LADY SMITH: 12 or 13, she says.

3 MR PEOPLES: -- aged 12 or 13. She reckoned she was there

4 six months in all. So this is the mid-1970s, is the

5 period she had.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR PEOPLES: On a positive note, and perhaps unsurprisingly

8 from what her experience of Nazareth House was, she

9 does, though, say:

10 'I had a brilliant time there. Teachers made us

11 feel good. Staff and girls sang together. I was never

12 hurt in there. The staff had time for me. The staff

13 were brilliant.'

14 So that's a positive experience for her.

15 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

16 MR PEOPLES: Then she tells us, having spent time there, she

17 goes, I think, then to foster care and that's from --

18 she tells us about that from 60 to 76. There was abuse

19 there.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MR PEOPLES: I am not going to read it all out, but she did

22 suffer abuse again and serious abuse.

23 By the age of 15, she was glue sniffing, getting

24 into trouble, drinking, smoking 'wacky baccy', she says.

25 She tries to commit suicide. And says again, like many,

1 she had no preparation for leaving care, at 81.

2 As for life after care, it is at paragraph 82 to 89.

3 She said she met her husband and he was a soldier. They

4 were married for 12 years. They had children. He was a

5 'bit of a bully'.

6 She did various jobs after divorcing her husband.

7 She met, she said, her final, her last partner, who has

8 since died, and that she attends a support group called

9 [REDACTED] which she was a co-founder of.

10 Again, in relation to impact, at 90 to 91, it is the

11 sort of usual impact: trust issues.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: But she is close to her children and

14 grandchildren, which is clearly a positive side to life

15 now.

16 So that's really all I would propose to take today

17 from the statement of 'Yvonne'. I think I said she

18 signed it in 2017.

19 LADY SMITH: 2017, yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: So if I can move --

21 LADY SMITH: That would fit with her being able to give

22 evidence in the Sisters of Nazareth.

23 MR PEOPLES: Yes, absolutely.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: If I could turn finally to my last read-in for

1 today, I think.

2 LADY SMITH: Please do.

3 MR PEOPLES: The next read-in is from an applicant who will

4 be known today as 'Pat'.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Pat' (read)

7 MR PEOPLES: Her signed statement is -- I hope I have it

8 right this time -- WIT.001.002 -- I had better check --

9 2281. Do I have that right? Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 MR PEOPLES: Some of the statement was read in during the

12 foster care study on Day 302, on 1 July 2022. The

13 transcript reference for that is TRN-10-000000036.

14 There are no dates that I can give beyond those that are

15 in the statement. I should say that 'Pat' is now

16 deceased.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR PEOPLES: She was born in 1962.

19 As far as life before care is concerned, in her

20 statement she deals with that between paragraphs 2 and

21 6. She had seven siblings, five brothers and two

22 sisters, born in Glasgow. Her mother suffered mental

23 health problems. When 'Pat' was 2 years old, she was

24 removed from her parents' care, so that would be about

25 1964.

1 She tells us that she was in several foster
2 placements after that removal. Firstly, a placement,
3 she tells us -- the first placement, at paragraphs 7 to
4 8. She says that she has no memory of any abuse on that
5 occasion. She would be quite young, but she doesn't
6 have any memory -- any unpleasant memory of that time.

7 She went to a second foster placement, which she
8 tells us about between 9 and 11. She has good memories
9 of that time. No memory of any abuse. She explains
10 that she left that placement because the foster mum was
11 pregnant and was going to have a baby.

12 So, unfortunately, the third foster placement wasn't
13 quite so successful. She has a long section about that,
14 at 12 to 58 of her statement. It was in Tیره, between
15 about 1967 and 1975, between the ages of 5 and 13. She
16 went there with one of her sisters. She tells us that
17 the foster parents had four children of their own and
18 they also had five boarded out children, including 'Pat'
19 and her sister.

20 LADY SMITH: It was a very busy household, if I remember
21 rightly.

22 MR PEOPLES: Yes. Well, to put it shortly, I think we get,
23 at paragraph 16, in a nutshell:

24 'We were treated like slaves. We were made to do
25 heavy farm duties when the biological children [of the

1 foster parents] were not.'

2 I think she gives various illustrations of the
3 difference of treatment between the boarded out children
4 and the children of the foster parents.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MR PEOPLES: She also describes not just being made to do
7 heavy farm duties, but a regime of what is called
8 'starvation and deprivation' while she was there.
9 Indeed, so hungry she ate raw potatoes from a field, at
10 23. And, indeed, she says she was drinking out of
11 puddles at some point as well, at 24.

12 Indeed, she puts it that going to school in her case
13 was a release, at 30 to 31.

14 A bed wetter -- it wasn't 'Pat' -- had to do the
15 walk of shame, she says, at 36.

16 Again, to go back to the point about someone who is
17 approaching puberty. She says there was no explanation
18 given about periods and the sanitary towels were torn up
19 sheets that had to be reused, at paragraph 39.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MR PEOPLES: Although she does say that when social workers
22 visited -- and I don't suppose that would be very
23 frequently -- she wore good clothes and the beds were
24 made to look nice. She didn't have any opportunity to
25 speak to the social worker alone. That's at 42 to 44.

1 She talks about abuse, at 49 to 53. The foster
2 father would beat the boarders with a belt, although she
3 never saw him hitting his own children. This was
4 a frequent occurrence, these beatings.

5 She has an unfortunate occasion when she was in
6 an empty house elsewhere on the island and an old man
7 showed 'Pat' his penis and told her to touch and kiss it
8 and said if she didn't do so, he would tell her foster
9 parents that she was in some place where she shouldn't
10 be. She said she reckons she was about 7 when that
11 happened.

12 She also tells us, at 53, that while she was on the
13 island, she was raped by the brother of a friend when
14 she was in S1 or S2.

15 It appears that her sister reported abuse in the
16 foster home to a teacher, and 'Pat' was removed, 'Pat'
17 and her sister, I assume, and taken to Glasgow. They
18 had, I think, a short-term emergency placement, foster
19 placement, in Glasgow, at paragraph 59. She has no
20 memory of any abuse there.

21 Then she went to a foster placement in Kilsyth,
22 which she tells us about between 60 and 68. This was
23 a single foster parent who was female. 'Pat's' sister
24 was also there.

25 As far as abuse is concerned, it is another

1 situation where she seems to have had a bad experience
2 in the community, because she says when she was going
3 home from school there was an incident with three older
4 boys from her school. She was raped, a 'gang bang' as
5 she puts it, but she hadn't told anyone.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR PEOPLES: From that placement, she tells us that she
8 moved to a children's home in Glasgow. She thinks that
9 was again an emergency placement and the other girls
10 were older.

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21 She goes on to say that then she recalls being in
22 a Salvation Army hostel for girls in the Glasgow area,
23 probably around 1976/1977. She tells us about that, at

24 73 to 84. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21

Then

22

she went, I think, to a further foster placement in

23

Bearsden. This is at paragraph 85. This would be about

24

1977, I think. She says it was a great placement.

25

Unfortunately, she stole some money for her sister to

1 buy food and that caused her to be put into Beechwood.

2 As regards Beechwood, she deals with her time there
3 at paragraphs 86 to 96. This would be, I think, about
4 1977. She reckons she was there about eight months,
5 although she says, at 86, that she was meant to be there
6 for a 21-day assessment, but she was there for much
7 longer.

8 She speaks of a manager called MYM [REDACTED] at
9 87. She does say that she received education at
10 Beechwood. As part of assessment, staff were checking
11 her reading ability, but told her that she had a reading
12 age of a 7 or 8-year old. So she at least has some
13 awareness that some form of assessment was happening.

14 LADY SMITH: Something happened.

15 MR PEOPLES: Then she said that there was activities, many
16 activities, at the weekend, one of which was watching
17 films with the manager.

18 She then deals with abuse, at paragraphs 92 to 95,
19 and she says as time went by, the manager, the person
20 that she named:

21 '... became very affectionate towards me and cuddled
22 me.'

23 'Pat' says that she would be watching horror movies
24 with him and other girls. The girls would get scared
25 and she would cuddle into him. This is 92 to 93. She

1 then says, at 94, one night she woke up with a nosebleed
2 and went to the manager's room, which was next to her
3 room, she said:
4 'We didn't have sex, but we kissed and fondled each
5 other. He didn't try to discourage me from doing this.'
6 She says, at 95, the reason the manager did not have
7 sex with her, in her estimation, was that he knew she
8 had contracted a sexually transmitted infection. But
9 she says the relationship brought benefits and
10 privileges that the other girls didn't have and she was
11 allowed to stay out later than the other residents and
12 received a larger cigarette allowance, and she wasn't
13 penalised and punished by the staff for her behaviour.
14 The difference in treatment -- she paid a heavy price
15 for it, but it showed a certain approach --
16 LADY SMITH: Yes.
17 MR PEOPLES: -- by the [REDACTED] on this occasion.
18 The situation with the man --
19 LADY SMITH: We used to talk about people taking advantages
20 of somebody.
21 MR PEOPLES: Yes.
22 LADY SMITH: It is undoubtedly a breach of trust.
23 MR PEOPLES: Oh, absolutely, yes. She says, at 95, the
24 situation with the manager continued throughout her
25 stay, but she does say that his behaviour never took

1 place in front of other staff. I mean, clearly the
2 cuddling appears to have happened in the TV room and,
3 clearly, the occasion in his room would have been, it
4 appears, one can infer, just a one on one situation.

5 She then says -- and I will just deal with this
6 relatively shortly -- that she was told just one day,
7 I think, that she was leaving and was being sent to
8 a convent due to her 'immoral behaviour'. She says that
9 in the weeks prior to being moved to this convent, the
10 manager became more distant from her, but she also adds
11 that he began to favour another young girl. This is at
12 96.

13 Then she tells us about the convent placement in
14 Glasgow between 97 and 115 of her statement.

15 There is an interesting take on this here because
16 she says she was actually treated differently because
17 she had been brought up a Protestant and, as she said:

18 'The nuns were harder on the Catholic children,
19 because they were trying to save [them]. They weren't
20 trying to save me.'

21 Slightly ironic, but, yes. She tells us a bit about
22 that. She says she remained in the convent and there
23 was no access to outside schooling. It was a bit like
24 her experience in Tiree. She said she felt they were
25 treated like slaves and that she was packing pins for

1 most of the day, and she was doing other chores, which
2 were perhaps slightly heavier than the ones she had done
3 previously; waxing and buffing floors. She slept in
4 a dorm initially, but was later put into a single room.

5 At 101, she does say -- and this is, again,
6 a familiar perception -- at night the girls were locked
7 in dorms: 'I felt like a prisoner'.

8 And she does seem to say, though, at 104, that she
9 did eventually get access to some form of mainstream
10 schooling.

11 She has a section headed, 'Abuse', at 113 to 114.
12 She said there was no sexual abuse. There was no
13 beatings for her. She says:

14 'Other children were beaten [and it really] depended
15 on whether or not the nuns thought they could save your
16 soul.'

17 She says there were rooms in the loft. She is not
18 sure what happened there. But she says that some girls
19 who went in came out, in her words, very scared. She
20 could see that there was something wrong and that they
21 would be in these rooms, I take it, for days and days on
22 end, at 114.

23 She then said that she ran away after she finished
24 school in 1978 and didn't go back. And I think she had
25 just turned 16 by then. Again, she says, no preparation

1 for leaving care. That's at 115 to 116.

2 Life after care starts at 118. She ends up homeless

3 to begin with, which, again, is not unusual.

4 LADY SMITH: No.

5 MR PEOPLES: She says, indeed, she was homeless from about

6 1978 to 1982. She says she went to the red light

7 district and sold her body to get pregnant, but she had

8 a stillborn baby and then went on to have three more

9 children.

10 She married a man who abused one of their daughters.

11 She left him and moved to the north-east. She also

12 tells -- and I am not going to deal with this in detail,

13 but just to say, at 126 to 129, it would appear that

14 when she was in the Aberdeen area, she had a social

15 worker and she said that he abused her. She says there

16 was a sexual relationship. She appeared to agree to

17 this, in part so that her family didn't appear on social

18 work records, because I think she was concerned that she

19 would lose her children. That seems to be that. But,

20 nonetheless, the social worker is abusing a position of

21 trust.

22 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

23 MR PEOPLES: Whatever the --

24 LADY SMITH: Well, this had been normalised for her.

25 MR PEOPLES: Yes, she has had this experience. It is not

1 going to be something she is going to find totally
2 shocking and surprising.

3 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

4 MR PEOPLES: She also says one of her daughters was abused
5 by a local shop owner. She said she did report the
6 social worker to the council. She says she became
7 mentally unwell and attended, and I think she may have
8 been an inpatient at Cornhill Hospital for a time.
9 After a time, her health improved. She seems to have
10 worked for a long period in the care sector, looking
11 after the elderly, for a period of about 20 years. So
12 she seems to have got her life together a bit more then.

13 She has a section, 'Reporting of abuse'. She said
14 she tried to report the abuse, having a time when she
15 was going to the National Confidential Forum. The
16 police saw her, but she was unable to give the detail,
17 she said, that they needed.

18 At 'Impact', at 141, she says she suffered abuse
19 while in care as a child and continued to suffer abuse
20 throughout her life after leaving care. She says:

21 'It has made me feel shame, guilt, worthlessness,
22 and a sense of disconnection from others.'

23 At 143.

24 She says she never knew why she was placed in care
25 and has, she says, made many wrong choices.

1 At 152 -- if I can just complete this:

2 'The system is unable to quantify the extent of the

3 life-changing destruction that occurs through the misuse

4 of power by people placed in authority over the

5 vulnerable.'

6 That's her reflection.

7 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

8 MR PEOPLES: So that's all from me, I think, at this stage.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Thank you.

10 MR PEOPLES: I think Ms Forbes can deal with at least some

11 of the read-ins.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes. Just while you are getting organised

13 there, Ms Forbes, we have a name, MYM

14 whose identity is protected by my General Restriction

15 Order, and he is not to be referred to as identified in

16 our evidence outside of this room.

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

18 an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Shirley'.

19 'Shirley' (read).

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: The reference for her statement is

22 WIT-1-000000507.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS FORBES: 'Shirley' tells us she was born in 1963 and

25 talks about her life before going into care from

1 paragraph 2. She lived in Drumchapel in Glasgow with
2 her mum, her dad and her six siblings. She tells us
3 that her mum walked out on them when she was 3 years old
4 and her dad had to bring them up. Her dad was working
5 nights at a shipyard. Her uncle cooked and generally
6 looked after them, and she says she was happy at home
7 and life was perfect until she was placed into care.

8 Apologies, my Lady, I think something's happened to
9 my computer for a second. I am just going to reopen.

10 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

11 (Pause)

12 MS FORBES: Yes, that's it. Okay, apologies my Lady. It
13 should be working now.

14 Yes, my Lady, she says then that at the age of 4 she
15 was placed into care at Smyllum Orphanage and she talks
16 about that between paragraphs 5 and 52. That was along
17 with her two brothers.

18 She later learned that her dad had suffered a heart
19 attack and couldn't cope with them all being at home,
20 but she says that also her dad was having an affair with
21 a neighbour, she says, who was married and she believes
22 that this lady was involved in influencing her dad to
23 move them into care.

24 She talks about Smyllum between paragraphs 5 and 52
25 of her statement. In relation to that she tells us

1 there was physical abuse, emotional abuse and she talks
2 about segregation whilst she was there.

3 There was an incident where her dad visited her at
4 Smyllum with the woman he was seeing. There was
5 an incident whereby 'Shirley' said that they started to
6 get undressed and have sex in front of her and her
7 siblings. She reported that to one of the Sisters, but
8 she was assaulted as a result of that, so emotional
9 abuse.

10 Then she goes on to tell us, at paragraph 46, within
11 a week after that incident, she was informed that she
12 was going to her dad's house. She was about 8 at this
13 time. She then says she was glad to be back at home,
14 but her two brothers had been left behind and for
15 a short period of time, I think she said, she attended
16 school, but she says she was only -- this was secondary
17 school, so she must have stayed for a period of time.
18 But she says that was only for a few weeks she went to
19 school.

20 She says she discovered that she was branded a liar
21 for making things up about her dad. She says that she
22 was only there for a couple of weeks when she was told
23 that they were moving to live with her mum and she was
24 shocked. When she arrived at this new house, she was
25 expecting to see her mum, but realised that it wasn't

1 her mum they were living with, but this other woman, and
2 she was told to call her 'mother'. She remembers the
3 woman telling her that if she had her way, they would be
4 back in care within the year.

5 She says she wasn't back long until she ran away
6 with her sister, and she says that her dad and his
7 partner were subjecting them to physical, mental and
8 sexual abuse. The police and social work were involved
9 with them and the police were regularly picking them up
10 and returning them home. They pleaded with them not to
11 take them back. She says they used to sleep in coal
12 bunkers and at one point they were away for six weeks.
13 Whilst they were running away from home, they would
14 regularly tell the police and social workers they were
15 being abused at home, but were ignored.

16 She says at the age of 9 she was taken to a home
17 from the police station by a social worker because they
18 kept running away. She tells us about that from
19 paragraph 53. This was a home with just girls. She
20 thinks it was an assessment centre. She was there, she
21 thinks, for about two months.

22 She then left after that and went back home. She
23 was only there for about a month before she started to
24 run away. Things at home weren't good. She and her
25 sister ran away to live with their granny, but when they

1 got there, the granny phoned the dad and he came and got
2 them and they went to their auntie's, but then she also
3 phoned their father and he took them back. They were
4 still being abused at home by their dad and they told
5 the police about the abuse, but she said they still
6 ignored them, didn't believe them, and continually
7 returned them home.

8 She says on one particular occasion the police had
9 caught them and they told the police that:

10 '... if they took us home we would run away again.'

11 Again, they ignored them and took them home, but she
12 says they immediately escaped out the back, but they
13 hadn't realised that the police were actually just
14 taking them back to pick up some possessions and the
15 plan was to put them into Beechwood.

16 She then says that even though they ran away, they
17 were immediately apprehended by the police and driven to
18 Beechwood. She does recall at some point attending
19 a Children's Panel while she was at the assessment
20 centre, to decide whether she was going to be sent home,
21 and a second one to decide whether she was going to
22 Beechwood.

23 She then tells us about Beechwood from paragraph 63.

24 She describes Beechwood at paragraph 63. She says:

25 'On arriving at the centre, we entered through

1 a main door and there was a sitting room on the left,
2 with a television in it, and on the right-hand side was
3 a room where you had your meals. There were stairs
4 immediately in front of you, which led up to the
5 bedrooms. Also on the ground floor were two cells and
6 a kitchen. There were two square cells which contained
7 nothing but a grated window.

8 'There were six beds to a room and there were just
9 girls at the Centre. I think that there were quite
10 a few bedrooms.'

11 She says she her sister were in separate
12 accommodation. She realised very quickly that she
13 wasn't meant to be there because she was too young. She
14 says she was only 10 years old:

15 'The whole building was secure and we weren't
16 allowed out.'

17 She then talks about routine, at paragraph 65, and
18 says:

19 'The woman in charge was a big woman with short
20 blonde hair and she had very long nails and was aged
21 between 30 and 40. This woman used to unlock the
22 bedrooms in the morning and we used to get up, wash and
23 get dressed and we would go down to breakfast. The food
24 was okay. We went to bed at a time dependent on your
25 age and the girls at Beechwood were [sister's] age and

1 older.'

2 There was day staff and night staff who ran the

3 house. She says most of her leisure time was spent in

4 the TV room.

5 Paragraph 67, she says:

6 'I recall that on one occasion I was being picked on

7 by a girl, [she names her]. I told my sister and she

8 dealt with [her]. The woman in charge smacked me across

9 the legs with her open hand and I was sent to my bedroom

10 and locked in.'

11 She says her sister was placed in the cell for

12 a couple of days. She says she was only at Beechwood

13 for about a month and she was told by either a member of

14 staff or a social worker that she shouldn't be there

15 because of her age. She recalls attending a Children's

16 Panel to decide where she was going after Beechwood.

17 LADY SMITH: Now, if she is right about her dates, she would

18 have been about 10.

19 MS FORBES: Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MS FORBES: She says she then left Beechwood and returned

22 home to her dad and his partner. Her sister remained in

23 Beechwood and she continued to run away and was only

24 home for a week.

25 She then says that it wasn't long before the

1 boyfriend of her mother took her on a train to live in
2 Birmingham with him and her mum. She was 11 years old.
3 She says she hated being in Birmingham, cried to return
4 to Glasgow, was only there a week before running away.
5 She was eventually put on a train back to her dad's in
6 Glasgow, but continued to run away and the police were
7 always involved, continuing to return her to her dad's.
8 She kept telling them that she didn't want to be there,
9 but they just kept ignoring her.

10 Then she was sent to a girls' school in Stirling.

11 She talks about that from paragraph 74

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20

She was at that place

21 until she was 15. She says she recalls attending a

22 Children's Panel to decide where she was going to live

23 when she left. The decision was made for her to go to

24 Birmingham with her mum, but she wanted to go and live

25 with her older sister and her sister's partner, but her

mum put a stop to that. Her mum took her on a train to

1 Birmingham. She didn't want to go, but there was no
2 further involvement from the social services.

3 She then talks about life after care from
4 paragraph 82. She says life in Birmingham was horrible.
5 She didn't know her mother. Her boyfriend was nice, but
6 she ended up staying with her mum until she was 16 and
7 then she moved in with her boyfriend's sister, having
8 fallen pregnant. 'Shirley' says the only way she could
9 get away was by getting pregnant. She was married at
10 17, and she says worked as a full-time mother and
11 a factory worker and eventually got a council house.

12 She tells us that she has had a number of broken
13 relationships and has three children as a result of
14 these relationships; two girls and a boy. She has been
15 separated from her second husband, sorry, for about
16 18 years, and was recently divorced from him at the time
17 of giving this statement. She talks about the fact that
18 her father was convicted a number of years ago of
19 abusing her daughter and other children and received
20 a prison sentence.

21 She then talks about impact from paragraph 85 and
22 says that she has suffered from depression since she
23 first fell pregnant. She says depression got worse when
24 it was discovered her father had abused her daughter.
25 She talks about attempting suicide after her father's

1 abuse. She said that she talked to counsellors twice
2 a week about 15 years ago.

3 She says, at paragraph 91, she has never had a real
4 education and if she had received an education, things
5 might have been different.

6 She says at 92:

7 'I couldn't show my kids love because we never got
8 love as a child. I hate being consoled about anything
9 and I feel uncomfortable with any closeness.'

10 She talks about reporting of abuse from paragraph 93
11 and says that she spoke to police about Smyllum, a bit
12 about Beechwood, and a bit about the girls' school.

13 At paragraph 98, she says.

14 'I hope by making a statement to the Scottish Child
15 Abuse Inquiry that it will stop people from hurting
16 kids. I think that adults should listen to kids and not
17 ignore them or else it will happen again.

18 'I blame the authorities for ignoring children.'

19 She has signed her statement and it is dated
20 10 November 2020.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, I have another statement, I think
23 I could do.

24 LADY SMITH: Fit that in before lunchtime?

25 MS FORBES: Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Let's do it.

2 'Katie' (read)

3 MS FORBES: The next statement is from an applicant who is

4 anonymous and is known as 'Katie'. The reference for

5 her statement is WIT.001.002.8856.

6 I say that now and --

7 LADY SMITH: It is, it is.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Katie' tells us she was born in 1960.

9 She was in the Gorbals, in Glasgow, with her mother.

10 She said that her mother worked hard to keep them. She

11 had four or five cleaning jobs. Her grandmother lived

12 downstairs.

13 She moved to Bridgeton when she was 3 and her

14 brother and sister were born a couple of years later.

15 She says they then moved to Carntyne. She was about 7

16 then. She went to primary school, then secondary, and

17 enjoyed school and home life was good. She had never

18 met her dad and had been told by her mother that her dad

19 was dead, but she found out later that wasn't the case.

20 She then talks about the fact that she went into

21 foster care from paragraph 6. She says that she

22 discovered from her mother's records she went into

23 foster care in 1968, when she was 8 years old. That was

24 because her mother went into hospital to have her

25 sister. She doesn't know where her brother went at that

1 time. This was her first time away from home. This was
2 with a couple, for a couple of weeks. She remembers,
3 when she was there, watching television and going to
4 school, but she was told by the foster mother not to
5 worry about going to school -- because she was
6 coloured -- as one of the teachers was coloured, too.
7 She talks then about being bathed by the foster father
8 and also there being a boy there who bathed her
9 separately. That happened on more than one occasion and
10 she think that there was touching in her private area.
11 She says that she returned home soon after her sister
12 was born.

13 She talks about moving then to Carntyne. That was
14 when they had a house with bath in it. She says she
15 used to steal a lot of food and take it home, so she
16 could share it with her brother and sister. She thinks
17 then she was caught shoplifting when she was a young
18 teenager and this is why she went into care. There
19 wasn't any social work involvement before she went into
20 care, albeit I think we know about the foster placement.
21 But I think that was to do with the crisis of her mother
22 going into hospital.

23 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

24 MS FORBES: She then talks about Beechwood. She says that
25 she remembers going with her mum to a Children's Panel

1 and all of a sudden she was in Beechwood. This is from
2 paragraph 17.

3 We know from our records, my Lady, that 'Katie' was
4 committed for two years, under section 58A, on
5 [REDACTED] 1975. It seems there are no records from
6 Beechwood, but it seems that this is when she was
7 probably placed there. She was only there, then, until
8 [REDACTED] 1975, so really a couple of weeks. She was
9 14 years old.

10 LADY SMITH: So that's a shorter period than her
11 recollection.

12 MS FORBES: Yes, I think so, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: She thought it was about six weeks, didn't she?

14 MS FORBES: Yes. And she says that she was taken away after
15 the Children's Panel. Her mum broke her heart. She
16 then describes Beechwood, at paragraph 19, as being
17 a 'big sandstone house'. She can't remember much about
18 it, but she can remember the living room, a small garden
19 and the bedrooms being upstairs and sleeping in a shared
20 bedroom, there being ten or 12 children there in total
21 and all girls, aged between 14 and 16. She talks about
22 a childhood friend being there too, at the same time.

23 At paragraph 22, she says:

24 'I remember going swimming and three other girls
25 held me down and tried to drown me. They were older

1 than me. My friend [who she names] saw this happen.

2 This was at Shettleston swimming baths.'

3 It is not clear whether this relates to girls from
4 Beechwood or other girls.

5 Then she says:

6 'I remember we all stood in a line and we were given
7 medication at bedtime by the lady in charge. I don't
8 know what that was for.'

9 And then she talks about Langlands Park.

10 We know, my Lady, from the records that she was
11 admitted there on [REDACTED] 1975. The evidence about
12 Langlands Park was read in on 2 May of this year. That
13 was Day 443. She talks about that between paragraphs 24
14 and 73. So she was still 14 years old at that time.

15 She tells us about there being physical abuse from
16 a staff member, inappropriate punishments, and racial
17 abuse from a staff member, also, whilst she was there.

18 At paragraph 74, she says she left Langlands Park
19 because she spent her allotted time there and she was
20 told she would be leaving and she left later on that
21 week. She says she was jumping with joy and crying
22 because she couldn't believe she was getting out of
23 there.

24 Then she tells us about life after being in care
25 from paragraph 75. She says she was glad to be home.

1 She had left school by the time she went home, but she
2 can't remember if she got a job.

3 She says that after she left there, she met her
4 daughter's father. She was only 16 years old. This was
5 her first relationship and she was looking for someone,
6 she thinks, to be kind to her and show her attention and
7 everything was all right until she told him about what
8 had happened to her at Langlands Park, then he changed.

9 In the following paragraphs, then, my Lady, she goes
10 on to describe very serious and disturbing sexual abuse
11 and domestic violence that she suffered at the hands of
12 her husband.

13 At paragraph 82, she tells us that she left him
14 about two months after her daughter was born. Later she
15 tells us she thinks she reported him to the police and
16 got an interdict, at paragraph 85.

17 At paragraph 87, she says she has worked most of her
18 life, until recently. She has worked as a cleaner,
19 a kitchen assistant, amusements, support worker, carer.
20 She has loved working and helping people. One year she
21 worked six months without a day off.

22 But she tells us, at paragraph 88, she suffers from
23 fibromyalgia and that's caused her to stop working, and
24 not working has affected her both mentally and
25 financially. But she does voluntary work and befriends.

1 In relation to impact, she tells us about that from
2 paragraph 90. She says that she had a son from another
3 relationship that she 'messed up' herself. She started
4 drinking heavily after that partner left her, when her
5 son was 6 years old. She says she became abusive to her
6 second husband and her third husband and she was bad to
7 people who were good to her. She says her third husband
8 has stuck with her for nearly 30 years and she doesn't
9 know why. He's the kindest man she has ever met and
10 says she has calmed down in the last ten years.

11 She thinks that the abuse has affected her
12 relationship with her children. This is at
13 paragraph 93. They witnessed her constantly drinking
14 and arguing with her partner. She talks about smoking
15 and says she has COPD. I think in her statement,
16 telling us about Langlands Park, she tells us that that
17 is where she started to smoke and says that none of her
18 family smoked, so she probably wouldn't have started if
19 she hadn't gone there.

20 She comments that her children deserved a better
21 childhood than what she has given them.

22 At paragraph 98, she says:

23 'The abuse has affected my whole life. I don't know
24 how my husband has stayed with me. He's my main source
25 of support.'

1 She talks about being on medication for depression.

2 Thereafter, I think, part of what she says has been

3 read in already --

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MS FORBES: -- my Lady. She then makes the usual

6 declaration and she has signed her statement, dated

7 27 September 2019.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Well, we will stop now

9 for the lunch break and sit again at 2 o'clock, when the

10 witness should be ready to give evidence, I think.

11 MS FORBES: Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 (1.00 pm)

14 (The luncheon adjournment)

15 (2.00 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

17 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next oral witness is

18 Susanne Millar, from Glasgow City Council.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 Susanne Millar (sworn)

21 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable,

22 Susanne.

23 Susanne, welcome back again. I am very grateful to

24 you for coming along this afternoon to help us with

25 another aspect of residential care for children within

1 your geographical area. I hope we won't need to keep
2 you too long, it being Friday afternoon, quite apart
3 from anything else.

4 You know how we work.

5 A. Yes, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: You know what's in the red folder.

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: You know that you are more than welcome to ask
9 for a break if you need it. I will break anyway if we
10 are still taking evidence from you at 3 o'clock. But,
11 otherwise, if you are ready, I will hand over to
12 Mr Peoples and he will take it from there; all right?

13 A. Yes. Thank you, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Mr Peoples.

16 Questions by Mr Peoples

17 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Susanne. Can I begin by
18 just -- you have been here before and we have taken your
19 qualifications and your professional career from you.
20 But, just to be clear, you are currently Chief Executive
21 of Glasgow City Council and you have held that position
22 since May 2024.

23 A. (Nods).

24 Q. Taking this very short, you were in a Chief Social Work
25 Officer role from 2015 to 2019?

1 A. (Nods).

2 Q. I think before that, for three years, from 2012 to 2015
3 you were a Deputy Chief Social Work Officer?

4 A. (Nods).

5 Q. Prior to that you had -- within Glasgow City Council,
6 you were at one point, at one time, Head of Children and
7 Families, between 2006 and 2012?

8 A. (Nods).

9 Q. Going further back in time, you qualified -- you
10 obtained social work qualifications in June 1992 from
11 Glasgow University?

12 A. (Nods).

13 Q. You obtained a Certificate in Social Work Management in
14 2001 from Strathclyde?

15 A. (Nods).

16 Q. And I think you worked for Strathclyde Regional Council
17 as a social worker from 1992 to 1996 and as a social
18 worker for Glasgow City Council following reorganisation
19 between 1996 and 2001?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So I will maybe keep it as short as that. It doesn't
22 tell the whole story, but I think that's sufficient for
23 our purposes today.

24 I think, as you know, you are here today to help us
25 with a particular institution, Beechwood, which was

1 opened, on 29 January 1960, by Glasgow Corporation as
2 a remand home for girls?

3 A. (Nods).

4 Q. Just to take it short before we look at the report
5 that's been provided, Glasgow Corporation ran Beechwood
6 as a remand home. It was a remand home until, I think,
7 15 April 1971, when part 3 of the Social Work (Scotland)
8 Act 1968 came into force and the
9 Children's Hearings System was up and running. At that
10 point, it changed from being a remand home, because
11 there were no longer such things, and was then used, at
12 least in part -- I will put it that way -- as
13 an assessment centre from 1971 onwards?

14 A. (Nods).

15 Q. When local government reorganisation, in the mid
16 seventies, occurred, Beechwood transferred to
17 Strathclyde Regional Council. It closed around 1983,
18 during the Strathclyde Regional Council era?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We have already heard that when 1971 came around and
21 remand homes were no longer a category of establishment
22 subject to their own rules, a large number were used
23 as -- at least were termed 'assessment centres'. That
24 was something, I think, that was envisaged by the
25 Scottish Education Department and the Social Work

1 Services Group. I think that was seen as the likely
2 replacement use; is that your understanding?

3 A. Yes, that's my understanding, yeah.

4 Q. Unlike the two assessment centres we have heard about
5 this week and last; Brimmond and Newfield, which were
6 new purpose-built establishments, Beechwood had a long
7 career as a remand home prior to 1971?

8 A. Yes. That's my understanding, yes.

9 Q. I mean, I think it goes back to, probably, the early
10 part of the 20th century?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And it became a remand home around 1932, as
13 I understand.

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. We don't need to worry too much about that. But it had
16 a long history?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Indeed, I think we have heard that perhaps places like
19 Beechwood and Larchgrove might, after 1971, have been
20 considered as remand homes and maybe were referred to as
21 such, albeit they changed their designation; is that
22 something that you would be aware of?

23 A. Yes, it certainly seems like that, looking at some of
24 the documentation that's around. That change in title
25 and function took a while to be embedded.

1 Q. Yes, I suppose old names die hard.

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Particularly if it's a building that's been around for

4 a long time with a particular use.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: And indeed, we have looked at the evidence of

7 one witness this morning who referred to it as

8 a detention centre.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: And that's not the only witness who has used

11 that language.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Somewhere to go and be punished?

14 A. Yes. Certainly, my Lady, in my working experience, some

15 of the older institutions are still referred to as

16 remand homes. So in the nineties and into the early

17 2000s.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: Now, for the purposes of this chapter of our

20 case study, Glasgow City Council was asked for and

21 provided a report in relation to Beechwood.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. Maybe we could just start with that report. It is

24 GLA-000003403, so it should come up on your screen in

25 front, if you wish to make reference to it.

1 I am not going to take this at length, but I will
2 pick out some things briefly. We see on page 6 that you
3 tell us in the report, at the outset, that despite,
4 I think, exhaustive searches -- including by Dr O'Brien,
5 who is a figure well-known to us -- that it was
6 difficult to find any institutional records for the
7 establishment. Although I think you were able to
8 provide some information collated from, perhaps, some
9 other variety of sources. But you couldn't find records
10 as such for the institution; is that correct?

11 A. Yeah, that's right. The institutional records for the
12 establishment itself we couldn't find. But, as you say,
13 Dr O'Brien, a member of staff at The Mitchell Library,
14 did trawl a range of other options for us and found some
15 reference to Beechwood, but not the records of it,
16 itself.

17 Q. Okay. Now, we have already covered the date of opening.
18 I think the report helpfully gives us some background to
19 why a remand home for girls was opened in early 1960.
20 It appears that the children's department, as it then
21 was, in an annual report in 1959/1960 had referred to an
22 acquisition of two adjoining villas, which would be
23 adapted to accommodate, it was said, 14 girls, although
24 I think in the event it became 12 girls.

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. But we can look at that. As a remand home for girls.
2 That that matter -- the need for such a home had -- you
3 tell us on page 6 of the report, was first raised by the
4 Children's Committee in November 1958; that's the
5 committee that would be the committee for the
6 Corporation of Glasgow?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It seems, at that time, the children's officer was
9 highlighting an increase in juvenile delinquency and
10 that had created serious problems about provision of
11 accommodation in remand homes, particularly, I think,
12 Larchgrove. I think from then on, in the 1950s and
13 1960s, as we already know, Larchgrove suffered from
14 problems of significant overcrowding?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Indeed, for a variety of reasons, not just because
17 people were being held on remand, but in some cases
18 because they were waiting for a placement in an approved
19 school, for example?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now, you tell us that Beechwood closed in 1983, on
22 page 7. You tell us in the report -- and I am going to
23 come back to this, but you tell us about there being, in
24 the 1970s and 1980s, at least within Strathclyde, but
25 perhaps more generally, a trend away from assessment

1 centres. You can take it that with another witness, we
2 have already seen a document from 1981 from the then
3 Director of Social Work, Fred Edwards, who, I think,
4 expressed certain views about when assessment centres
5 should be used and that his preference, I think, was
6 that assessments should take place at the normal place
7 of residence, whether it be the home or some other
8 setting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That was his approach, I think. But he recognised that
11 there might be cases where you would need to do
12 an assessment in, perhaps, what might be termed a 'more
13 specialised place' --

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. -- such as an assessment centre as such.

16 Now, I am going to leave the report for a moment.
17 Because there are no records to tell us too much about
18 Beechwood in its early days, fortunately you do say in
19 the report that there were certain inspection records --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- held at NRS. I think we have managed to do quite
22 well and get hold of some of these. So I was going to
23 take you now to those records to see what the situation
24 was, so far as we could tell from these records from the
25 1960s. I think there is one from the early seventies.

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. So if I could ask you now to, perhaps briefly, look at
3 SGV-001032019, which contains several reports from that
4 era. I am not going to take them all at length. There
5 is one that I want to particularly focus on. It is not
6 this one, but we will see this is the first one shortly
7 after Beechwood opened. It is a visit on 19 April 1960
8 by JB Gillespie, who is -- well, I was going to say he
9 was an HMI, but I am not so sure that's right. He may
10 have been from the Scottish Home Department.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. But it doesn't really matter. It is a visit by someone
13 on behalf of central government.

14 You can see from page 1 of this document that the
15 visit was for two purposes: one was to determine whether
16 the Secretary of State should be advised to consent, in
17 terms of the section 51.3 of the Criminal Justice
18 (Scotland) Act 1949, to the appointment as matron of
19 a Ms McCubbin; the second purpose was to inspect the
20 remand home itself just after it opened.

21 I think your report refers to Ms McCubbin?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think what we know that before she got the requisite
24 approval, she was already in post?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. So they were giving her an assessment at that point.
2 And had been, I think, in post since the place opened?
3 A. Mm-hm.
4 Q. And we see there, just in this report --
5 LADY SMITH: And was maybe even appointed prior to the
6 actual opening?
7 MR PEOPLES: Oh yes, yes. I think in 1959.
8 LADY SMITH: You give us the date 1959 --
9 A. Yes.
10 LADY SMITH: -- the actual opening wasn't until the
11 following year.
12 A. Yes.
13 LADY SMITH: That would make sense.
14 A. Yes, my Lady, it would.
15 MR PEOPLES: If we go on to numbers, we see that at that
16 stage it says accommodation for 12 girls. I think that
17 means that's the permitted capacity at that time, so it
18 wasn't the 14 as envisaged; it was 12 in the event.
19 But we see, on the date of this particular visit or
20 inspection, there were eight girls in residence, seven
21 on remand and one girl, aged 13, in detention for
22 a period of 28 days.
23 Now, just pausing there, remand would be people who
24 would be awaiting either trial or sentence, and
25 detention would be a sentence that was available at that

1 time to the courts, where a person could be detained in
2 a remand home for a period of up to 28 days; it was
3 a sentence?
4 A. Mm-hm.
5 Q. So there was a mixture of girls that could end up in
6 a remand home, like Beechwood?
7 A. Mm-hm.
8 Q. It just tells us, by way of information, under the same
9 section 3, that there had been 41 admissions since the
10 home opened on 21 January 1960. So, yes, it was maybe
11 an 11 or 12 week period. There had been a lot of
12 admissions in that time.
13 A. Mm-hm.
14 Q. It's probable, I suppose, that a lot of these would be
15 remand --
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. -- because they might well be there for a shortish
18 period before they went to court or elsewhere.
19 A. Mm-hm.
20 Q. Then it tells us a bit about the Children's Committee,
21 and says the committee for the remand home is
22 a Children's Committee and it meets every second Monday.
23 Two of the members of the committee are women. It says
24 visits to the home are made by the individual members of
25 the committee each month, as well as by the children's

1 officer and his depute, and the visits are recorded in
2 the logbook.

3 I am not sure whether the Children's Committee is
4 meeting every second Monday at Beechwood, but it could
5 be. It is difficult to say, because, I think, in local
6 government, committees often meet -- they don't meet
7 necessarily at the establishments they have
8 responsibility for; that would be -- it is hard to say
9 from the entry?

10 A. Yes, I would make an assumption that the
11 Children's Committee would have responsibility for more
12 than Beechwood. It's not a method -- it's not
13 a government structure that you would recognise just
14 now, in modern day.

15 Q. No, it wouldn't. Also, it would be unusual if a
16 committee had responsibility for just one remand home --

17 A. Yes, it would be.

18 Q. -- rather than remand homes in general, in the area?

19 A. Yes, I would make that assumption.

20 Q. It is certainly envisaged that visits would be made by
21 members of the committee on a monthly basis?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And unlike modern reports, when it comes to information,
24 we get quite a lot of information about individuals who
25 are the staff within these homes.

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. This was a time when this sort of report would not be
3 made public?

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. It would just go back to Edinburgh and be considered
6 within the four walls of the Scottish Office or
7 whichever branch was dealing with it.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. But you see there that it gives you some information
10 about Ms McCubbin; her age, 44, a description, and says
11 that she has a lot of experience of caring for
12 adolescent girls. So we get some idea of her background
13 and there's an assessment of her abilities; calm and
14 capable and so forth. It is suggested that she has
15 control of girls without being oppressive and, in the
16 opinion of the writer of the report, is suited to her
17 post.

18 At appendix A -- which we have as well -- is more
19 detail of her background before Beechwood.

20 I am not going to go through it all but, if we stay
21 on page 1, just under the heading, 'Orderlies', we see
22 that there is a reference to an assistant matron,
23 Ms McDonald, who is appointed at the same time as
24 Ms McCubbin. It is recorded:
25 '... was found unsuitable for this type of work.

1 She lacked confidence and could not control the girls.'

2 And the children's officer had informed the
3 inspector that her appointment -- that there has been
4 an appointment of another individual, Ms McKenzie, from
5 1 June, who was at that point a member of the
6 houseparents' training course at Langside College; do
7 you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. On page 2, just going on, it does say that there has
10 been a degree of pressure on the matron because of the
11 loss of an assistant and there seems to have been other
12 absences as well.

13 LADY SMITH: Well, the three of them have all got the flu,
14 according to what was on the previous page.

15 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: The three orderlies.

17 MR PEOPLES: It's not an unfamiliar problem to have sickness
18 absences. Maybe in those days getting temporary cover
19 wasn't quite so straightforward.

20 I am not going to go through all of this report.

21 I think, in broad terms, if we look at perhaps
22 page 2, section 9, 'Detention', it says:

23 'Girls ordered to undergo a period of detention are
24 not segregated. This would be impossible in a home of
25 this size and with the existing staff complement.'

1 So girls who are there on a sentence are mixing with
2 girls who are there for other reasons?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. Then it is clear that there were records which were
5 inspected. It is said, pretty shortly, that they are
6 neat and up to date. But I think, when we look on to
7 later reports, I think there is criticism of the state
8 of record keeping.

9 So, at paragraph 10, I think we see, if -- I think
10 I have the wrong ...

11 I think there is an indication that on the upper
12 floor there are bedrooms at that stage for girls, two
13 bedrooms for six girls, and -- well, one for six and one
14 for three. There is a further bedroom for three girls
15 on the ground floor. I am not going to try to find it,
16 but it is there, you can take it from me.

17 Basically, if we go to paragraph 20, which is the
18 conclusion, it says:

19 'The remand home has made a good start. The matron
20 is well in control and, in my opinion, is well fitted
21 for her duties there.'

22 So it is not an unfavourable report?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. Indeed, there is a recommendation that her appointment
25 be approved by the Secretary of State, on page 4.

1 So that's there.

2 If we go on, appendix A, at page 5, has more
3 information about the background to Ms McCubbin and the
4 various positions she had held before coming to
5 Beechwood. She had been working in children's
6 departments in Scotland and England for seven years
7 prior to her appointment. I am not going to read it
8 all. We can read it for ourselves. But it seems to be
9 used to support the recommendation of approval of her
10 appointment.

11 Then, if we see on page 6, moving on, there is
12 an appendix C, which shows the daily routine at that
13 stage from 7.00 am through to lights out, at 9.30 pm.
14 So we get some idea of what they do.

15 What might be picked up is that it appears, from
16 that routine, that there is limited schooling, because
17 if you see they go to school at 9.00; they have
18 recreation from 9.45 to 10.00; they continue until 12
19 noon and then they go for dinner, there's washing up and
20 then there's recreation and baths and walks in the
21 afternoon and so forth. So they are only getting
22 a morning's education, which would be different to
23 a mainstream school --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- I would assume, at that time? So it is quite

1 limited.

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. There seems to be an emphasis on practical training at

4 that time, if I can put it that way. I am not

5 denigrating that, but I am just saying that there is not

6 an emphasis on traditional curriculum, it would appear?

7 A. I don't imagine it would be unusual at that time for the

8 provision to be gendered.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 A. And for assumptions to be made about --

11 MR PEOPLES: Well, indeed.

12 A. -- what young women are doing.

13 LADY SMITH: They are doing raffia and craft work and

14 sewing.

15 A. Yes, learning how to run a house.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR PEOPLES: Yes. I maybe should have gone back to page 5,

18 to something on Ms McCubbin that I meant to maybe draw

19 attention to is that, having described her in

20 appearance, just towards the second last paragraph on

21 page 5, it seems to be complimentary, but about six

22 lines down in that paragraph, it says:

23 'Her conception of the aims of remand home service

24 is humane, but not sentimental.'

25 And it says:

1 'She will command the respect of staff and girls.'

2 So it is difficult to know what that sentence is
3 meant to convey, but it is not uncomplimentary, but it
4 is maybe saying she is maybe not going to be -- her
5 relationship to the staff and the girls maybe, perhaps,
6 a more formal and distant one than we might see today?

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Would you agree?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Then, if we move on in this document, where we see that
11 there is another visit by the same -- I think it is
12 Mr Gillespie and another inspector. This is page 7, on
13 1 September 1960. Again, with notice. These
14 inspections were always with notice. You see there
15 that, at that stage, there were seven girls in
16 residence, all on remand. Six charged with an offence,
17 but one also who was in need of care and protection.

18 So you could be on remand not because you had done
19 anything wrong; it is just that you were considered to
20 be in need of care and protection. We see the ages of
21 the girls, between 13 and 16. By then, maybe seven
22 months into its life, 119 girls had passed through its
23 doors, as we see there, under section 2, 'Numbers'; do
24 you see that?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. Although some have been, do you see it there, on more
2 than one occasion? Oh, no, sorry, it is number of days.
3 Sorry.

4 It says that the level of use in the period ranged
5 generally from four to eight girls in residence, so it
6 is never full to capacity, it would appear.

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Which might contrast a bit with places like
9 Larchgrove --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- which I think were often more than full to capacity.
12 You can see there under 'Numbers', just before the
13 sub-paragraph D, that it would appear that the
14 children's officer was trying to arrange for all girls
15 remanded from or detained in his region, which covered
16 quite a number of areas, to be received by Beechwood.
17 This presumably reflected the fact that they had spare
18 capacity and that they were quite willing to take girls
19 from other areas; do we see that?

20 A. Yes. I do, yes.

21 Q. Length of stay is dealt with under section 3. We see
22 that there is quite a number of short stays, of less
23 than three weeks or four weeks, but there are some who
24 seem to have been there for more than 28 days. It
25 doesn't say how long, but do we see that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Nine girls.

3 Some were obviously awaiting a placement in approved
4 schools, as it tells us there. But some would also have
5 absconded from other places and were being held at
6 Beechwood. Indeed, some were detained overnight, having
7 run away from home. So it was a variety of --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- ways in which they would find themselves in
10 Beechwood.

11 What it does say about age of girls received, if we
12 look at page 7, going on to page 8, is that at that
13 stage, only two girls under the age of 11 have been in
14 care at Beechwood. By now, for staff, we see that
15 Ms McKenzie has taken up post. Again, there is nothing
16 really there when we look at it. It says, 'Conclusion'
17 at 8:

18 'This remand home is being well used, but could
19 serve a greater area.'

20 That's all that's said, really. So, again, it seems
21 to be everything, at least as far as the inspectors are
22 concerned, is going along nicely?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. Then, if we go on to page 9, we see that there is
25 another visit, on 16 March 1962, by JM Anderson. At

1 that stage, there were only three girls in the home.
2 Two were care and protection cases and one was on
3 remand. They were aged 14 and 15. From the start of
4 that year, 34 girls had been in the home.

5 We discover that by this time, Ms McCubbin has
6 disappeared and Ms Martin is in charge of the home and
7 lives on the premises, as it were. We can see that one
8 of the resident assistants, who is in her 20s, has
9 applied for training as a houseparent and had previously
10 been at Balnacraig Approved School. She feels that more
11 can be done for the girls in a remand home. She is
12 assessed as being bright, intelligent and enjoying the
13 work.

14 Again, there is a description of other members of
15 staff who were there at that time and the times of work
16 that they were engaged. More about the routine.

17 It does appear that, again, it was an emphasis on
18 a certain type of education, at that stage.

19 What is interesting under 'Routine' though, you will
20 perhaps observe, is it says Ms Martin, the new matron,
21 has 'relaxed the rules on talking'. So I think we can
22 probably work out that maybe Ms McCubbin had a different
23 attitude to whether children should remain silent or
24 have the ability to express themselves, whether at the
25 dining table or elsewhere. I think we can pick up

1 something from that; can we not?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That there has been at least a form of relaxation there.

4 Indeed, if we go to the end of this report, it is,
5 again, quite favourable in terms of conclusions, at
6 section 9, on page 10:

7 'Ms Martin is running the remand home on enlightened
8 lines. She is confident and has made changes for the
9 benefit of the girls.'

10 You could say that the reference to 'running it on
11 enlightened lines' is a contrast to how it was run in
12 the McCubbin era.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. But whether that is reading too much into it, I don't
15 know. But it certainly seems to be pleasing the
16 inspector in 1962.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. If we move on, things take a change, because we now have
19 a Mr McLean, a new person, who, if we go to page 11,
20 there is a report of a visit over two days. So it is
21 a quite a substantial visit, 23 and 24 February?

22 LADY SMITH: Mr McLean is the person who is inspecting.

23 MR PEOPLES: Yes, the inspector.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: He carries out a two-day inspection.

1 As we can see from section 1, the matron is still
2 Ms Martin, who was matron at the time of the 1962
3 report.

4 Do we see there that, as far as numbers are
5 concerned under section 2, there are 14 girls being
6 accommodated, 11 from Glasgow and three from Dundee? It
7 would appear that the specified number of accommodation
8 is 16.

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. So it seems to have risen, at least. It was 12,
11 I think, at one point.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. It says -- and we don't have this report, it says:

14 'Our last visit to the remand home, in June 1965,
15 when the question of lack of accommodation was
16 investigated, accommodation was then found to be
17 adequate and likely to be more than adequate in the
18 future. So far this has proved correct and Ms Martin
19 says she has not had to refuse admission to any
20 authority since June 1965.'

21 And then it goes on:

22 'Ms Martin still considers the remand home should
23 not be extended to increase accommodation as this will
24 lose the personal touch desirable for good childcare in
25 a girls' remand home.'

1 So she doesn't seem to favour big remand homes, does
2 she?

3 A. Mm-hm, no.

4 Q. I suppose, though, if she had been given the task of
5 looking after Larchgrove, she would have discovered that
6 it probably had lost the personal touch?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Because it was catering for an approved amount of
9 something like 80 boys and sometimes it had very many
10 more in residence?

11 A. Yes, mm-hm.

12 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking, Mr Peoples, that this
13 is the first time, at least in the records we have
14 available, that there is a reference to girls from other
15 areas, in this case three of them from Dundee, being in
16 the home?

17 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think in those days, there would have
18 been -- it wouldn't be seen as unusual to remand a girl
19 to a place well away from her local area.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MR PEOPLES: The reasons why -- it might be difficult,
22 almost, to work out. But there doesn't seem to have
23 been anything exceptional and, indeed, if they had the
24 space, I think one can infer, 'Well, if you have got the
25 space and we need a place, well, we will take you from

1 Dundee to Glasgow'.

2 LADY SMITH: Of course, the question was raised in the

3 earlier record whether Beechwood couldn't take more

4 girls --

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: -- than it already had, because it had the

7 capacity, so go outside of the immediate geographical

8 area to do that if necessary.

9 MR PEOPLES: So far so good. But, as we will see, this is

10 a much more critical report and, I think, highlights

11 a number of unsatisfactory features.

12 We are told, if we look at page 1, the staff -- this

13 matron is now 63 years of age. It tells us she was

14 formerly at Dr Guthrie's Approved School and had been in

15 charge of Beechwood since 12 November 1961.

16 LADY SMITH: Sorry, which page are we on now, Mr Peoples?

17 MR PEOPLES: Page 11.

18 LADY SMITH: Page 11?

19 MR PEOPLES: Section 4, under 'Staff', yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR PEOPLES: Just at the foot of page 11. She has been in

22 charge since November 1961. She had been off for

23 a period of weeks, but had fully recovered by the date

24 of this report.

25 It says, on page 11:

1 'She relates to the girls in a quiet, restrained,
2 and dignified manner. Her feelings range from
3 compassion for the girls because of their home
4 backgrounds to intolerance of their offences and way of
5 life. She lacks warmth of relationship, but knows
6 a great deal of the type of girl she is dealing with and
7 is capable of giving sound, homely advice to girls
8 individually, and she does most of the office work and
9 she is resident.'

10 I don't know what you make of that. You could say
11 it is a bit of a curate's egg type of assessment.
12 I don't think the inspector is entirely happy with some
13 aspects, particularly the lack of warmth of
14 relationship. He wouldn't have said that, presumably,
15 unless he felt it was something to bring out, would he
16 not?

17 A. Yes. It would look to me like it would be something
18 that would be quite obvious. The previous inspector
19 characterised it as 'humane, but not sentimental'.

20 Q. Yes. Now, if we go on to page 12 -- oh, no, sorry, if
21 I could just go back to page 11 briefly. Can I go back
22 to page 11, under section 3, just to pick up on
23 something there? It is headed, 'Admissions and
24 reception', but under (b), 'Reception', what's said
25 there -- and this is something that's picked up later,

1 as well, I think. In line 4, under, 'Reception', it
2 says:
3 'No social histories are received about the girls.
4 Some probation officers and childcare officers do give
5 a limited verbal account about a girl, but only the
6 police usually give a useful background report which
7 helps Ms Martin.'
8 It says the RSSPCC are also helpful:
9 'In the interests of good childcare, Ms Martin
10 should be supplied with social history reports on all
11 girls as soon as possible after admission.'
12 So she is not getting much information.
13 A. Mm-hm.
14 Q. Which is not ideal, I would have thought.
15 A. It's certainly a feature, when you look at the records
16 from other institutions about that, in particular
17 emergency placements, and there not being sufficient
18 background information for the staff who are then
19 looking after young people.
20 Q. But it looks as if this isn't just emergency placements,
21 this looks as if, generally speaking, she is not getting
22 much information about the people being received into
23 Beechwood?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. If we go on to page 12 -- I will go back to that now --

1 we see that there's a comment about -- I think this is
2 SNR who's been in post since May 1963, having
3 had a short period in an approved school in between
4 times, which he didn't like. I think -- well, I will
5 give her name. It is Ms KWE, I think. It says:
6 'Ms Martin says Ms KWE is untrained and was quite
7 adaptable originally, but now tends to bully the girls
8 and shout at them.'
9 That's SNR assessment. She's not very
10 happy with SNR.
11 A. Mm-hm.
12 Q. I think she might have gone on to become SNR, did
13 she, according to your report? I might be wrong.
14 A. I'm not sure. Certainly Ms KWE was mentioned in the
15 previous inspection report, and that's not the same
16 SNR, so that's a different ...
17 Q. Yes, in fact, I think you say, on page 13 of the report,
18 GLA-000003403, that Ms KWE was appointed to the post
19 of SNR in 1966. So the person that was seen as
20 somewhat with a tendency to bully the girls finds
21 herself SNR of the institution in 1966. So
22 presumably --
23 LADY SMITH: And the date of the inspection that mentioned
24 that, again?
25 MR PEOPLES: This is 1966.

1 LADY SMITH: 1966?

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes. And she has been in post since [REDACTED] 1963.

3 So if those appointing were having a look at reports --

4 they wouldn't necessarily have seen this report because

5 there wasn't the practice to show these reports to the

6 institution or, indeed, to the corporation.

7 A. The authority, yes.

8 Q. They might just have a discussion generally about

9 matters, as they did, I think, after this report.

10 So we see that. Then we see another member of

11 staff, Ms Butler, who is described as an assistant, who

12 started in August 1965, when Ms Martin was in hospital.

13 She is untrained, it says. And Ms Martin says she

14 doesn't consider Ms Butler as suitable in handling the

15 girls:

16 'She has to be told in detail what to do and lacks

17 initiative.'

18 It then says Ms Butler has subsequently resigned.

19 Ms Martin has certain strong views about her staff.

20 But it doesn't bode well. If you were a resident at

21 that time and got access to that report, you wouldn't be

22 feeling filled with confidence, would you?

23 A. No, and it looks like it was quite fluid, as well, in

24 terms of the staffing. There is not a huge amount of

25 stability.

1 Q. No.

2 A. It doesn't look like -- although that's not specifically
3 called out, but it doesn't look like it.

4 Q. If we go to the foot of that section, 4, on staff, which
5 is about halfway down page 12, just above 'Premises',
6 the heading 'Premises', the final sentence reads:
7 'Ms Martin regrets the lack of training of her staff
8 for the important work she considers remand homes have
9 to do.'

10 So it is there in black and white, in 1966, the
11 importance of training and the recognition that her
12 staff don't have the training that's required for
13 important work. So this isn't even an inspector saying
14 this.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. This is a matron.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. On page 12, it says, under 'Premises', the final
19 paragraph:
20 'All outside doors of the premises are kept
21 permanently locked and each member of staff has a key.'
22 That's something we have heard evidence about.
23 I think the problem is it is not just the outside doors
24 that were locked at that stage, because it would appear
25 that it was, for example, the bedrooms were locked, at

1 least at some points, at night, for example, when girls
2 were in residence and sleeping there?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. Although it was a remand home --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- so we have to remember, I suppose, that that may have
7 been seen as a necessary security measure.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But it is not -- on the face of it, if it's secure -- if
10 the building's secure within the building perhaps there
11 is a lesser need to have every door locked?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. Well, certainly in modern times it would be seen as
14 a rather draconian approach; not to allow people to come
15 and go without having to get someone to open every door
16 with a key?

17 A. Yes, maybe same as yourself, I've made an assumption
18 that's connected to the function around remand. It may
19 even have been a requirement.

20 Q. Well, I'm not sure --

21 A. I'm not sure.

22 Q. -- because I may be able to pick up a passage which,
23 I think, suggests the inspector thought that maybe they
24 could relax that bit of it. But I might be wrong.
25 I may be reading it wrongly. But, yes, it certainly was

1 different. It wasn't an assessment centre then, I take
2 your point.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Then if we go to 13, there a description of upstairs,
5 where it says there are bedrooms; one bedroom for six
6 girls upstairs, one for four girls, one for two girls
7 and, downstairs, one bedroom for four girls. So that's
8 the accommodation that is there.

9 Actually, it says -- and perhaps I should read this,
10 because I think it is something that came out of
11 a statement that an applicant gave -- it says, in
12 brackets:

13 'The bedroom for two girls also contains
14 an examination couch and is used by the doctor.'

15 So the doctor uses it as a room for examination, so
16 it's dual purpose.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. So I think there is applicant evidence that says that at
19 least one particular resident had difficulty with the
20 idea of standing in her underpants, and only her
21 underpants, outside a doctor's room, awaiting
22 an examination?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. And said this was rather humiliating and degrading?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. And said, well, if you were in a doctor's surgery you
2 wouldn't normally undress in a corridor or in a waiting
3 room?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do we see that there? It's not very satisfactory.

6 A. It wouldn't offer privacy, it doesn't look like.

7 Q. Yes. And of course we have the other thing, what's also
8 called an 'isolation room' --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- for two girls. I am not quite sure what that's
11 meant to convey, but it seems a little ominous. Because
12 you were allowed in those days, under the rules, to
13 segregate young people, but only for a limited period
14 under the Remand Home (Scotland) Rules?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. It does raise, under that heading, 'Upstairs', the
17 question of enlarging the premises, although it says it
18 is not likely arise until after there has been
19 a proposed meeting from a number of interested
20 authorities about having what was described as
21 a regional remand home.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. So there seems to have been some talk of something that
24 would operate as a regional facility. This is before
25 the region came into being. But something that was

1 wider than simply the Glasgow area.

2 But it certainly says that the premises would
3 benefit from extending by at least one more classroom to
4 offer better facilities for the present number of 16
5 girls. It says:

6 '... this would albeit having to use the dining room
7 as a classroom when Ms Martin divides the girls into two
8 age groups for separate classes.'

9 So this is another dual purpose room; you eat there
10 and you get educated there.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The other comment that's made at this stage by the
13 inspector, under this section, is that:

14 'The siting of this remand home in a busy urban area
15 of the city presents difficulties for the girls having
16 outdoor activities. A girls' remand home would be
17 better sited in rural surroundings, away from public
18 houses, busy bus routes and local youths.'

19 Now, I've no doubt opinions vary about isolated
20 establishments for children in remote locations of the
21 country, but you can see that he is making a point,
22 because I think at that stage they are not getting much
23 exercise or outdoor activity and he is saying: if you
24 want to do that, you should maybe choose at least a more
25 suitable location than where Beechwood is located.

1 At least that's being said, as a -- so it's kind of
2 a marker to say: well, maybe this isn't the best place
3 to have your remand home.

4 Now, page 13, we see that paragraph 7 has 'Routine'.

5 If we can move on to page 14, where it has
6 a section 8 on education and training; do we see
7 there -- and I will just read it out for you:

8 'Appropriate primary or secondary education for each
9 child of school age as required by Rule 8 is not given.
10 Ms Martin says this is because they have no qualified
11 educational staff and she considers it inappropriate for
12 unqualified people to be so employed. She regrets this
13 absence of educational training and feels qualified
14 teachers could be obtained, at least part-time. The
15 local education authority should be able to produce
16 part-time teachers and this should be explored, possibly
17 in conjunction with Larchgrove Remand Home. Ms Martin
18 herself takes one or two girls in painting and drawing
19 and their pictures adorn the walls of the dining room.
20 She also takes them in discussion groups occasionally,
21 but I felt this could be more of a homely lecture on
22 behaviour than the girls having a good discussion.'

23 It's not very reassuring, is it?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Certainly, the rather more favourable early reports are

1 being perhaps reassessed by this very much more,
2 I think, comprehensive inspection and review of the
3 place.

4 If we go to 'Recreation', yet again if we just read
5 the first sentence it is probably enough to tell us:

6 'The girls have at least two hours' recreation and
7 exercise daily, but do not have the one hour exercise in
8 the open air as recognised by Rule 10 of the rules.'

9 So she is breaking the rules again. She seems to
10 be -- I think the view is taken that she is rather
11 protective, because I think it goes on to say that
12 Ms Martin -- this is at the foot of page 14:

13 '... is obsessed with the idea that girls will
14 abscond and get into sexual trouble and prefers they are
15 continually under lock and key rather than risk this.'

16 So they are not getting exercise because she doesn't
17 want to take the risk that something might happen or
18 they might abscond. That's not to say these risks don't
19 arise, but it does appear that even the inspector has
20 got a problem with that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If we go to 10, under 'Medical and hygiene'; do we see
23 there that the medical officer is a Dr Gemmell, and
24 I think that's from the -- is that the Medical Officer
25 of Health Department of the corporation?

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. And carries out duties required by Rule 14 of the Remand
3 Home Rules and there are also others concerned with
4 various aspects of girls' hygiene and dental treatment.
5 Then it says:
6 'Each girl is supplied with a comb, toothbrush,
7 toothpaste and beaker. Ms Martin stopped the
8 objectionable habit of sterilizing used toothbrushes to
9 reuse for other girls and she agreed the girls could
10 take the brush and the toothpaste with them on discharge
11 in the future.'

12 Well, you're getting to use someone else's
13 sterilized toothbrush. Not great?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. Are you quite surprised when you read all of this or are
16 you just saying that it is of its time, because this is
17 the sixties?

18 A. Yes. So I think some of it was of its time. I think
19 I have discussed in evidence before, trying to locate
20 some of this within the wider views of children and then
21 children and young people who are seen by the wider
22 society to have done something wrong and be remanded.
23 It's quite difficult to contextualise it, because
24 I think that contextualisation is not just what's
25 happening to children and young people in their own

1 families and their own communities; it's then that
2 expectation of what happens to young people, young
3 girls, who then potentially break the law or get into
4 trouble.

5 Q. Well, they might not be breaking the law. They might be
6 getting care and protection. So I mean and hopefully,
7 like any other child of a school age, they are entitled
8 to an education, for example, and no doubt to be treated
9 no differently to a child in the community. I mean,
10 that seems to be what the inspectors would be thinking?

11 A. Yes, but I think the contextualisation of what was
12 happening in the community is something that's
13 important, but also quite difficult to calibrate. And
14 then I think there is an additional expectation. So
15 it's not to defend it at all, but it's just to
16 contextualise it. I think there's an additional context
17 about not just how the people that run -- that would run
18 Beechwood or other places like it would behave, but what
19 that wider expectation is.

20 But you are right in terms of the inspectors picking
21 out things, so that's your clue that there is something
22 not right, but within that there are other --

23 Q. It's not just the inspector. I pointed out that the
24 matron is talking about the importance of training.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And for many years after that, indeed until into the
2 2000s, we find that residential care staff in large
3 numbers were untrained and not suitably qualified?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And this is someone pointing this out in the mid
6 sixties?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. It's a depressing story, if you see it in those terms;
9 that in the mid sixties this is being said and it's
10 still a problem --
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. -- when we turn this -- to a new century?
13 A. Yes. No, absolutely. I don't disagree. But it doesn't
14 feel like it's specific to Beechwood.
15 Q. No, no. I think I am just illustrating --
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. -- what I suspect was no different.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. And it maybe does give us a clue, because this inspector
20 would presumably be going round other places and seeing
21 other places as well?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Just before we go on to discipline and punishment, at
24 section 14, it says:
25 'Ms Martin doesn't believe in punishment but, if

1 needed, would deprive a girl of watching television.'

2 And so forth. She says:

3 'One girl has proved difficult and involved
4 separation under Rule 26.'

5 That is permitted, segregation. It gives details of
6 a particular girl who was admitted because of theft
7 whilst on licence from an approved school and it says:

8 'Shortly after admission, she started shouting and
9 screaming and had to be locked up in the separation
10 room, which she had already been put into for sleeping.
11 She cursed and screamed, cut up her bedding, tore up the
12 linoleum the whole day and night and at 9.30 am
13 Ms Martin had to call the police and the girl was taken
14 to Greenock Prison.'

15 So this is a 14-year-old girl, but perhaps --
16 although it is concerning that a 14-year-old girl ends
17 up in Greenock Prison. But also, if we read on:

18 'This incident was not recorded in the logbook, but
19 Ms Martin agreed to record such incidents in the
20 future.'

21 So it doesn't say much for the state of recording at
22 that time, does it?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Then, of course, we do see that she is locked in
25 a separate room, so it does appear to be used as some

1 sort of locked punishment-type cell?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then she is taken to Greenock Prison. Then if we go on

4 to page 16 --

5 LADY SMITH: Paragraph 16 or page?

6 MR PEOPLES: I am on page 16. I am just trying to find what

7 I probably want to pick up.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: Yes, 'Records', section 19, on page 16. It

10 says:

11 'Ms Martin maintains a register, maintains

12 a logbook, daily entries are limited to numbers

13 accommodated, staff on duty and routine of the home.

14 Visits and inspections are recorded in a separate

15 visitors' book. She will enter other details in the

16 logbook as required under Rule 29 in future. She

17 maintains a menu book.'

18 I think there is something here that says that --

19 well, it goes on to reports to courts -- to say that,

20 again, there is a problem here that if you don't have

21 full background reports and information, the reports

22 that are prepared by the matron for court are not

23 necessarily of great value and might give a misleading

24 picture. So that point's being picked up as well.

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. Just going back, on page 16, to section 16 on visitors,
2 they are certainly permitted to come, and it says:
3 'Where visits are suspended for one reason or
4 another [it looks like as a form of sanction] they are
5 not recorded in the logbook, but Ms Martin will do so in
6 the future.'

7 So it does appear as if she is not really
8 understanding the importance of recording --

9 A. Recording, mm-hm.

10 Q. -- important information at that stage.

11 Then, if we go to page 17, 'Supervision', it says,
12 section 21:
13 'Councillors visit the home very infrequently and
14 Rule 30 is not adhered to, nor do they inspect the
15 records, except the logbook.'

16 So it's not a very -- they are not getting a very
17 good report here, are they?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Then indeed, to put the matter finally on the Remand
20 Home Rules, at section 22, the inspector records:
21 'Ms Martin was not aware of these rules and we will
22 ask Mr McLeish, the children's officer, for a copy.'

23 LADY SMITH: And we are now at 1966, two years after the
24 rules were promulgated.

25 MR PEOPLES: So we have got all this.

1 I am just conscious of the time. Should we have
2 a short break?

3 LADY SMITH: Should we take the five-minute break now?

4 MR PEOPLES: I think so. It's probably as good a point as
5 any. This is the main report I wanted to have a look at
6 of this group.

7 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. If that's okay for you
8 Susanne --

9 A. Of course.

10 LADY SMITH: -- we will take the mid-afternoon break just
11 now. Just a short one and then get back after that.

12 (3.04 pm)

13 (A short break)

14 (3.12 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

16 MR PEOPLES: Susanne, I got to the part in the report where
17 there is a section 24 headed, 'Interview with children's
18 officer'. Really, what this says is that, having
19 carried out this visit, and highlighted these various
20 matters, Mr McLean, and I think another officer,
21 discussed this situation with the children's officer,
22 Mr McLeish, and indeed sent him a letter, on
23 16 June 1966, to record, I think, what the discussion
24 amounted to and what was agreed.

25 I am not going to go through that in detail. What

1 I am going to do -- the letter itself, of 16 June, is at
2 pages 21 to 22 of this particular document that we are
3 looking at. We can read it for ourselves. Indeed,
4 there is a summary of the sort of things that were said
5 in the interview with the children's officer. I am just
6 going to summarise it for you, so that we can at least
7 have it in the record.

8 They had this discussion on 25 May 1966. The
9 children's officer agreed that staffing levels were low.
10 According to, it is said, the Ellis Report, and said he
11 would look into this.

12 Now, the Ellis Report was one that was on remand
13 homes in the early sixties and I think it pointed out
14 the need for higher staff/resident ratios, sometimes in
15 the order of 50 per cent. Well, 2 to 1, for example.

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. I am not going to go into the detail of that, but that's
18 the reference for that.

19 The children's officer agreed staff were untrained,
20 but it would not be possible to spare staff to attend
21 courses, was his response. He agreed that the matron
22 was perhaps too security minded for present day concepts
23 of remand homes. Indeed, there was a discussion between
24 them about unlocking doors within the remand home.
25 I think that's what I was trying to pick up. Indeed, it

1 did appear that Mr McLeish, for his part, favoured that
2 course of action, but couldn't commit because presumably
3 it wasn't just entirely down to him at that stage. He
4 agreed to ensure that the matron fully understood Rule
5 26, the segregation rule, in future, particularly the
6 length of time a girl is separated.

7 The official suggestion that the matron required
8 guidance on keeping records, which the children's
9 officer said he would see to, and the children's officer
10 readily agreed about the undesirability of anyone making
11 a report on a child without a social history of that
12 child. He said he would follow that one up as well. He
13 said he would also explain to councillors their function
14 when visiting a remand home. And said that Ms Martin
15 had, by the date of this discussion, at least been
16 supplied with a copy of the 1964 Rules. But he would
17 provide a further copy and, indeed, explain the rules to
18 her.

19 So he had quite a lot do -- on his plate after that.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. So that's where we are.

22 If we look at page 19 of this document, finally, in
23 'Conclusion', it says that an inspector records that:

24 'Untrained and limited staff inhibit any positive
25 contribution to a girl's rehabilitation through skilled

1 observation, assessment and training. The absence of
2 social histories of the girls must limit and could
3 distort the value of the matron's reports to courts and
4 the training of girls sent for punitive detention.'

5 So not a good report.

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. Now, I will take you briefly to another document, which
8 is SGV-001032020, just briefly I will take you to that.
9 It is a short report in 1967, on 29 November. Also,
10 I think within this document there is a reference to
11 a visit in 1967, earlier than that. It does appear as
12 if the inspectors are saying that there has been
13 a marked improvement in the situation following this
14 somewhat damning report and that things are getting
15 better. Indeed, it does appear by that stage that at
16 least there is a part-time qualified teacher that has
17 been appointed and --

18 LADY SMITH: A part-time teacher. One.

19 MR PEOPLES: I know. It's progress. It's one. And also
20 a qualified games mistress. I don't know whether it's
21 one and the same, but it says:

22 'These appointments [it must be two] have made
23 a tremendous impact and girls are also allowed to go to
24 visit places of interest.'

25 So it's progress. Certainly compared with before,

1 it's better than it was. So there is a movement to
2 suggest it's getting a bit better and that some things
3 have been done.

4 But if I just pass on to page 3. Page 2 is actually
5 a record of the visit in March 1967, which goes into
6 a bit more detail about why this conclusion has been
7 reached. All we can observe there, just in passing, is
8 that Ms Martin is going to retire as soon as a successor
9 can be found, although I think that took time. It looks
10 like, at the end of the day, Ms KWE, the person who
11 she didn't seem to be too happy with, the
12 one that she thought was somewhat bullying towards the
13 children.

14 But it was being said, at least, under 'Education',
15 at section 6, that it was at least assessed that Rule 8
16 was now being met with the employment of a qualified
17 teacher and:

18 'A handycraft teacher, when appointed, will be a
19 further improvement.'

20 It's not great progress, but I suppose it's, at
21 least to some extent, an attempt to comply with the
22 relevant regulations. It does appear that there is
23 a bit more improvement, if we go to page 3, under
24 section 7, at 'Recreation', at least there is a bit more
25 for them do in terms of activities. So that sort of

1 thing is at least moving in the right direction. And it
2 seems that the committee members are visiting more
3 regularly.

4 But, worryingly, at 13, on page 3, Ms Martin's still
5 unsure of the type of entries required in the logbook
6 and these were explained to her again. So limited
7 progress, it would appear.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. So it says much has been done by the children's officer.
10 I suppose if you don't have enforcement powers, you are
11 trying to at least express it in a language that gives
12 encouragement to keep up the good work.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. But one can still see it is far from perfect.

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. Then, if we go on to page 4, this is a visit in 1971, so
17 we have moved on a few years. This is the last one
18 I propose to look at. It is the last one I think we
19 have available where it is -- I think it is a social
20 work adviser now has gone out and is reporting that he
21 went to Beechwood Remand Home on 6 May 1971. He did so
22 at the request of Mrs Marsh of the Social Work
23 Department, who had told him in a telephone conversation
24 that Ms KWE -- who is now SNR it would seem --
25 and [REDACTED] were in some degree of upset 'as

1 a result of having to cope with several very disturbed
2 girls in recent days'. And he noted that numbers were
3 down. There were only half a dozen girls at that time.

4 But he raises two major points. The first is:

5 'There is still the most appalling lack of
6 information received by the persons in charge about the
7 girls who come into their care.'

8 So that matter hasn't been adequately rectified in
9 the years since it was first raised.

10 He also says -- he makes the point, also, that there
11 is a lack of knowledge on the part of staff at Beechwood
12 of the final disposal. I think he is making the point
13 that -- well, he puts it quite graphically:

14 'It's like seeing children disappear over the edge
15 of a precipice. [He says] it must be a demoralising
16 state of affairs for staff that these children are in
17 their charge and then they just disappear and there's no
18 information provided at all as to what happened to
19 them.'

20 It's a fair point; is it not?

21 A. Mm-hm, yes.

22 Q. Then, of course, he says that the other state of affairs
23 that he thinks is deplorable is that staff have been
24 left up in the air about the future of Beechwood.
25 Because I think we are now in the era of -- it's shortly

1 after part 3 came into -- of the Social Work (Scotland)
2 Act came into operation, the Children's Hearings System
3 has just started up and running. What we have is
4 a period of complete uncertainty about what's going to
5 happen with Beechwood.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. It doesn't look as if they have prepared very well
8 for --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- the transition from remand home to assessment centre
11 and the introduction of the Children's Hearings System,
12 at least as regards to Beechwood.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, that's all I plan to do with the documents.

15 If I go back to your report briefly, at
16 GLA-000003403, it means no disrespect, but I think there
17 is something else I want to get to. But you tell us,
18 really, why -- or what happened, in terms of the general
19 trend away from assessment centres in the 1970s and
20 1980s. I think we can read that for ourselves at
21 leisure. It is clear that Strathclyde, when they came
22 to be the local authority, or the regional authority,
23 developed a number of strategies and, broadly speaking,
24 didn't favour the use of assessment centres for
25 a variety of reasons. It felt that assessment should

1 really take place, as I say, at the normal place of
2 residence. I think that was what was reflected --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- in Fred Edwards' note in January 1981, which we have
5 already seen with, I think, Mr Trainer. We looked at
6 that yesterday.

7 Indeed, as your report shows, at page 7, the reports
8 that were being prepared by Strathclyde for their
9 childcare strategy for the 1980s, home and away, was
10 highlighting or questioning the effectiveness and
11 usefulness of assessment centres as such, not the
12 concept of assessment.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think the point was every place needs to be
15 assessing --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- so don't focus on one place, or one type of facility,
18 to do that.

19 LADY SMITH: And do you have to assess a child away from
20 their own home circumstances?

21 A. Yes, my Lady, I remember that quite distinctly coming
22 into social work, that there was a real sense about --
23 also the difficulty of removing children from their home
24 and then expecting to be able, from a professional
25 perspective, to complete an assessment when, by

1 definition, they are already in distress by us removing
2 them. So I remember those professional discussions
3 quite distinctly.

4 MR PEOPLES: I suppose you are not seeing them in their
5 natural environment.

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. Whether it's their home setting at that stage or even
8 a residential setting, you are putting them into
9 a completely new setting where they have to meet
10 strangers --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and perhaps get used to different ways of doing
13 things.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So it's maybe not ideal to say: 'Well, let's just look
16 at how they are and work out why they are like that and
17 what's the best future option'; was that part of maybe
18 the thinking?

19 A. Yes, I do remember it really clearly. And it was one of
20 those points in social work where you take a step back
21 from how things have been done for years and that sort
22 of realisation that actually it's hugely
23 counter-intuitive to attempt an assessment in those
24 circumstances.

25 Q. I think eventually what happened -- well, not

1 eventually, it was quite quickly afterwards -- on
2 page 8 --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- that, having looked at the whole issue of assessment
5 centres in Strathclyde, a general review took place. As
6 you tell us in the report, there was a report submitted
7 in December 1982, 24 December, by the Director of Social
8 Work relating to this review and deliberations.

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. First of all, it did say that there were more places in
11 these centres than were required.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. But the upshot of that, just to take it short, is that
14 what was proposed was to close Beechwood Assessment
15 Centre for Girls and to reduce the capacity of
16 Larchgrove Assessment Centre from its existing capacity
17 of 70 to 34 places, and to relabel assessment centres as
18 a more, perhaps, a broadly based description of 'child
19 development units'?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. To reflect the fact --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- that you are not doing purely assessment.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think the general idea, at that stage, was that

1 assessment centres, like Larchgrove and Beechwood, were
2 single sex. I think what they were seeking to do was to
3 have places that would -- such as Larchgrove -- that
4 would have a mixed population?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. As we know, I think, Beechwood closed in 1983.

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. So presumably that did reflect --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and implement the recommendations. And whilst
11 Larchgrove survived, it didn't survive that long.

12 A. No.

13 Q. As I recall it, it closed around 1987.

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. So it didn't really last much longer either.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So the era of the assessment centre, or even now the
18 child development unit --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- was beginning to -- it had seen -- its day was
21 coming to an end -- days were coming to an end.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Indeed, we heard from Renfrewshire, that when they took
24 over from Strathclyde later on in the 1990s, that they
25 recognised some of the limitations and deficiencies or

1 weaknesses of the old system --

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. -- of places that were too big; dormitory accommodation,

4 untrained staff. Certainly within Renfrewshire, they

5 say they sought to address it by action plans, by

6 closing Gryffe, which was a big home --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and refurbishing Newfield and so forth.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And increasing the number of training staff. They told

11 us about the Best Value Review in 2001, which set out

12 the history between 1996 and 2001 about these steps

13 towards addressing what they thought were deficiencies

14 and matters that needed to be addressed?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What I was going to ask you today on that matter

17 was: was anything similar done within Glasgow after

18 Glasgow City Council became the successor to

19 Strathclyde, at least for the Glasgow area -- was there

20 anything that said: well, we will look at it

21 comprehensively as well, whether as a Best Value

22 exercise or otherwise?

23 Can you recall if there was anything similar to what

24 Renfrewshire did?

25 A. My recollection -- well, my recollection is that it was

1 the development of the residential strategy and so it
2 was similar, a similar approach. Not the Best Value
3 framework, but you will recall as well -- so it was the
4 implementation of the residential strategy and then we
5 were starting to unearth Kerelaw and what was happening
6 at Kerelaw, and that was significant.

7 So the residential strategy, we were starting -- we
8 were implementing it, and that included closing some
9 units, refurbishing some. There was certainly training
10 and safeguarding. And then we had the emergence of the
11 issues relating to Kerelaw, which resulted, as we have
12 presented in evidence, in a range of actions in terms of
13 the action plan, and then our residential strategy to
14 close all of the units and build purpose-built units.

15 Q. But did you move within Glasgow -- maybe not at the same
16 pace, because you were a bigger authority -- but did you
17 move towards the same approach as Renfrewshire, to
18 create smaller children's units --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and remove dormitory accommodation as far as possible
21 to create a single room?

22 A. (Nods).

23 Q. They were able to give some figures for improvement in
24 training of staff. They said it improved from
25 19 per cent of staff with qualifications in 1996 to

1 47 per cent in 2001. Did you have that degree of
2 success in Glasgow or were you still, in 2001, with
3 a significant proportion of untrained staff in care
4 homes, in residential children's establishments?

5 You maybe don't have that figure, but can you --

6 A. My recollection is that we have attempted to get those
7 figures for the Inquiry before, specifically in relation
8 to the questions on Kerelaw. But we have a particular
9 issue in terms of the staffing and the recording of
10 staffing qualifications, but that's my recollection.
11 I'm happy to go back and check that.

12 Q. Well, if you can -- if you can give us something
13 equivalent, I'm sure it would help us in due course.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I'm not asking you on the spot.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Clearly, Renfrewshire did the exercise. And the other
18 thing they did in that review, I have to say, is that as
19 part of their overall review of their resources in 2001,
20 they did a survey, which included consultation with
21 young people, and they found a significant number of
22 young people at that time had a concern about safety in
23 their situation in residential care, in the sense that
24 only 54 per cent of the children who were consulted said
25 their unit was always safe to live in. So there were

1 quite a lot of people that felt that at least some of
2 the time they weren't safe environments.

3 I don't know whether you have tried to do a similar
4 exercise then or subsequently? Again, if you have, you
5 can maybe let us know.

6 A. Yes, we have, on a number of occasions. But it's -- and
7 now it looks quite different because that's routine now.
8 So there's an expectation -- there's an expectation
9 which then has to be evidenced that all of our units
10 have a weekly young persons' meeting. We have the
11 Children's Rights resource, which is in-house and also
12 externally commissioned from Who Cares?, and we have our
13 Young Champions Board.

14 Going further back might be a bit patchy. But
15 certainly what we do now, in terms of the young people
16 and their voice, and their voice being heard and what
17 they say about their experience in residential care, is
18 something we have --

19 Q. Because I think it is important, I would have thought,
20 for you to continually ask young people --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- whether they feel safe.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And, if not, for what reason and whether you could
25 improve things to make them feel better or safer.

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. So that is something that you do on a continuing basis?

3 A. Yes, it's a critical part of what we do.

4 Q. Okay. Now, can I just lastly ask you today -- we have

5 your report and I am not going to go further into it.

6 There is a lot of material that I haven't covered, but

7 I think we can read it and see the development for

8 ourselves.

9 But, lastly, this: I would like you to -- there are

10 certain -- you are aware of the evidence that's been

11 given by some applicants who were at Beechwood during

12 the period of operation between 1960 and 1983. There

13 are things that have been picked out. For example,

14 I mentioned the unacceptable practice that one applicant

15 who was there in the mid-1960s about waiting outside the

16 doctor's room in only underpants and being embarrassed

17 and felt it was just wrong to wait for the examination,

18 perhaps, in a line with others.

19 That was one thing.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. There was also the idea of being made to feel either bad

22 or being privileged to be taken in. The attitude that

23 you were somehow backwards, some said, and it left you

24 with a continuing impact throughout your whole life.

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. There's also things such as the concern that the
2 controls used, such as deprivation of home leave --
3 A. Mm-hm.
4 Q. -- the use of isolation --
5 A. Mm-hm.
6 Q. -- the use of cigarettes and smoking --
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. -- and also, it would appear from some of the evidence,
9 they had the use of medication to control young people.
10 That's certainly a feature of some of the evidence about
11 Beechwood.
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. So these are things -- control measures; bedrooms being
14 locked, feeling like a prison, the environment, being
15 locked inside at night in the rooms were things that
16 were being picked up by them. And also at times,
17 perhaps, a physicality in terms of being handled that
18 was excessive or inappropriate.
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. So, having said all of that, I do accept that some of
21 them say they had a good time or a brilliant time, so
22 it's not all in one direction, but there are obviously
23 a lot of things that are coming out, and we have seen
24 from the 1960s, that I think, perhaps, support some of
25 the things that the applicants are telling us.

1 Do you have any comment to make about that evidence
2 at this stage?

3 A. I mean, again, the evidence is really difficult to read,
4 because it's not what -- it's not the expectation, even
5 within the context that we talked about, even
6 contextualising it, it's not the standard of care that
7 you would expect, that I would expect, or that young
8 people should have expected and had the right to.

9 I suppose for me the other issue, that it's clear
10 that it has a greater impact on adult life, is quite
11 often there are difficult family circumstances and the
12 system has almost -- the system is supposed to, you
13 know, take young people in and look after them and
14 improve that. In some circumstances and with some
15 experiences, that's further exacerbated. So those young
16 people then do have genuine struggles in their adult
17 life, because as a system, we were supposed to look
18 after them and look after them better and we failed to
19 do that.

20 MR PEOPLES: Well, these are all my questions today, and
21 just to thank you for coming to see us again and
22 assisting us with our work. So thank you very much.

23 A. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: Let me add my thanks again, Susanne. I am
25 really grateful to you. This is, of course, a smaller

1 provision -- if I can put it that way -- than some of
2 the ones we have been talking about, but I do recognise
3 that, just as we are doing, you regard that as just as
4 important --
5 A. Yes.
6 LADY SMITH: -- as the more extensive provision because
7 every child matters.
8 A. Yes, absolutely, my Lady.
9 LADY SMITH: I am grateful to you for that. I am grateful
10 to you for the work that you are carrying on with at
11 Glasgow. Thank you. Please, feel free to go now.
12 A. Thank you, my Lady.
13 MR PEOPLES: I am told that Ms Forbes could possibly do our
14 final read-in. I am conscious that there is a time
15 constraint here.
16 LADY SMITH: Yes.
17 MR PEOPLES: I don't know how -- less than ten minutes I am
18 told.
19 LADY SMITH: Let's start it now.
20 MR PEOPLES: Is that okay?
21 LADY SMITH: Yes.
22 MS FORBES: My Lady, the last statement is from an applicant
23 who is anonymous and known as 'Mandy'. The reference
24 for 'Mandy's' statement is WIT-1-000001235.
25

1 'Mandy' (read)

2 MS FORBES: 'Mandy' was born in 1966. She tells us about
3 her life before going into care from paragraph 2. She
4 talks about the fact that she has four sisters and she
5 was born in Glasgow. Her mother initially brought them
6 up on her own, but at some point her stepfather came on
7 the scene. Her mum was always drunk and life was quite
8 hard at home. She tells us that she was born with
9 a visible birthmark on her face, which has had a massive
10 impact on her life.

11 She went to primary school, but doesn't remember
12 much about her time there. However, she does remember
13 an incident whereby a teacher told the class that if she
14 had been born in a different period of history, because
15 of the mark on her face she would have been classed as
16 a witch and burned at the stake. After that other
17 children were calling her a witch and were horrible to
18 her.

19 She then tells us, according to records she got from
20 Quarriers, she was put in there because of her
21 stepfather being regularly drunk and because of violence
22 towards her and her siblings.

23 She then tells us about Quarriers at paragraph 5.
24 She has no recollection of going there, but she was told
25 by her sisters that she went there and she was there for

1 a month. All of her sisters came with her to Quarriers.

2 When they left, her oldest sister stayed there. She
3 then went back home to stay with her mum. She tells us
4 about that from paragraph 6. She was with her mum and
5 her other sisters. Her stepdad was still around, but
6 wasn't actually living there, but would still come and
7 stay and get drunk.

8 She started at secondary school in Pollok, which was
9 a horrible time for her. She says she couldn't read or
10 write, and nobody picked up on why she wasn't learning.
11 She would just sit staring blankly looking at the paper.

12 She was sent to remedial classes, but the other
13 children there were very disruptive and noisy and would
14 be throwing stuff about and lifting chairs and other
15 stuff. So she didn't really retain the information.
16 She would forget what she had been told from one day to
17 the next and she couldn't cope with school, so she
18 started refusing to go.

19 She says the school board came to her house and told
20 her mum she wasn't going to school and that she had to
21 go. Her mum couldn't make her go, so she didn't. There
22 was a Children's Panel then and she was told that she
23 was going to Beechwood for six weeks and would then come
24 back to the Children's Panel.

25 She then tells us about Beechwood from paragraph 9

1 and we know from her records, my Lady, that she had
2 a pre-admission visit with a social worker to Beechwood
3 on [REDACTED] 1981 and she was admitted formally on
4 [REDACTED], so she was still aged 14 at that time.

5 She then tells us about Beechwood in the following
6 paragraph, being an assessment centre at the top of
7 Glasgow beside a park, only for girls, and this was
8 a big house which they never left. The front main door
9 was locked and the staff held the keys. She doesn't
10 remember anything about staff, but she remembers they
11 were quite strict and she doesn't remember anyone's
12 name. She says they were being watched all the time,
13 but that was probably them just being assessed.

14 She says there were around 20 or 25 girls there, and
15 the age range was about 13 to 15, and as we know from
16 our records, she was 14. She explains that a lot of the
17 girls were in there because of truancy, but some for
18 other reasons, and she tells us at paragraph 10 that
19 they weren't allowed to talk to the other girls about
20 why they had been placed there. The staff all told the
21 girls this, and she says:

22 'I shared a room with five other girls and I am not
23 sure why they were there.'

24 She tells us that when she arrived, this is at
25 paragraph 11, her own clothes were taken from her and

1 she was given pyjamas, a house coat and slippers and she
2 says:

3 'We wore that all the time. Every morning we just
4 got up and went for breakfast.'

5 She tells us about the food at paragraph 12. All
6 the meals would be in the dining room. She says:

7 'There was no choice and you had to eat it. I quite
8 liked most of the food and I didn't go hungry. If you
9 didn't like the food, you were told that you still had
10 to eat it. I remember one girl threw her plate onto the
11 floor at lunchtime. She didn't get anything else for
12 lunch and didn't get any dinner either.

13 'I hated the porridge and one time I just didn't
14 want to eat it. I was made to sit there for ages until
15 I had finished it. Everyone else had gone by then so
16 I was sitting there on my own eating cold, horrible
17 porridge. Leaving food wasn't an option. I had to eat
18 it. This happened quite a few times.'

19 She talks about showering every night and a member
20 of staff watching to make sure they weren't mucking
21 about or fighting, and talks again about being given
22 pyjamas and a house coat which she wore all the time.
23 She says at paragraph 17 when she was at Beechwood, she
24 never went to school, there was no teachers there at any
25 time, they were just there to be assessed and she is not

1 sure what they actually did all day. She says:

2 'Sometimes we were given books but they were no good
3 to me because I couldn't read so I just threw them
4 across the room.'

5 This is at paragraph 17. She talks about seeing
6 an educational psychologist about four times when she
7 was at Beechwood, and describes her time with him there
8 at paragraph 18. And she says that he was the only
9 person in all of her time in care she thought actually
10 listened to her and she tells us that she learned from
11 her mum years later that she had been told after she had
12 left Beechwood she was dyslexic and had a very high IQ
13 and she was never told this, she says, at any time while
14 she was in care.

15 We do have a reference, my Lady --

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MS FORBES: -- in 'Mandy's' records to her having a 'florid
18 perceptual problem' which resulted in some of her work
19 being written down as a mirror image. They commented
20 that her level of attainment was remarkable given her
21 absences from school, and that she had a very high IQ.

22 She goes on, my Lady, at paragraph 22, to say that
23 they weren't allowed any visitors, and didn't have any
24 outside contact with anyone in the time that she was
25 there. There was no trips, and they never left the

1 building. She says that staff would shout if there was
2 any bad behaviour or girls would get separated if they
3 were fighting. And the girl who started it would be
4 sent to her room. She never saw any of the staff
5 getting physical or hitting any of the girls, the only
6 thing would be the staff pulling the girls apart.

7 In relation to abuse, she talks about that from
8 paragraph 24, and again she talks about being in pyjamas
9 and a house coat all the time, and she says that was
10 probably to stop them from running away. At
11 paragraph 25, she says:

12 'One time I had just come out the showers and two
13 girls grabbed me and they said I hadn't washed my face
14 properly. They used a sponge and tried to scrub the
15 birthmark off my face. It was sore. The staff would
16 have been standing at shower room door and might not
17 have seen this. This only happened once. These girls,
18 at other times, often made comments about my birthmark.
19 They always said how ugly I was and other things like
20 that.'

21 She said she never saw any abuse by staff at
22 Beechwood but it wasn't a nice time for her, the staff
23 were strict and it felt like a prison because she
24 couldn't get out of the locked front door.

25 She then says about leaving Beechwood, that her mum

1 came to Beechwood and I think we know, actually, from
2 her records, I think she thinks that she went from
3 a children's hearing to Langlands List D School, but we
4 know from our records that she was sent home from
5 Beechwood on [REDACTED] 1981, because they were awaiting
6 placement of her in Langlands Park, so she was in
7 Beechwood for six weeks, but she was home for a short
8 period of time, and then admitted to Langlands Park on
9 [REDACTED] 1981, and by this time she was aged 15.

10 She talks about Langlands Park between paragraphs 29
11 and 66, and this was read in on 2 May 2024, Day 443.
12 And in relation to Langlands Park, she talks about
13 bullying from other girls, mostly about the birthmark.
14 She heard about a teacher assaulting a girl, but she
15 didn't see it.

16 She was home for a trial period then
17 in [REDACTED] 1982, and we know that from her records.
18 She was 16 and a half by then. So she spent one year
19 and three months at Langlands Park and then it was
20 recommended in [REDACTED] 1982 that her supervision
21 requirement be ended.

22 So I think, it's paragraph 64, she doesn't really
23 remember exactly when she left Langlands Park, but she
24 tells us a little bit about that.

25 She then was involved in CSV volunteering work, she

1 was allocated a placement with the
2 Social Work Department, involving being a play leader
3 and working with children. And she tells us that that
4 went on for about two years.

5 She then talks about life after being in care from
6 paragraph 67. She still didn't read and write properly,
7 so she had to have help to fill out application forms
8 for jobs. The jobs she was getting were short and
9 temporary.

10 She went home to stay with her mum and stepdad for
11 a while, but they were still drinking. She got a flat
12 eventually, after staying with a friend, through the
13 council and she tells us that she did some jobs like
14 cleaning and catering jobs at hospitals and schools.

15 She met her husband, had a child, and that's when
16 things changed for her. She became far stronger, and
17 when her child started -- her daughter started school,
18 Primary 1, she went into the classroom with her as
19 a classroom assistant, and then she, herself, started to
20 learn to count and to read. She said that when she was
21 doing one of her cleaning jobs, she saw information
22 about college courses and grants, and it was suggested
23 that she go for that. She was reluctant because of her
24 reading issues, but she did it and loved it, and the
25 tutors were brilliant with her.

1 She tells us a little bit about her struggles then
2 in applying for college courses and how she felt about
3 herself, and I think this is when she spoke to her mum
4 and learned about dyslexia, and I think she tells us she
5 was given support by the college to complete these
6 courses.

7 She had to get another qualification later, an HNC,
8 and she got support with that, and then she went on to
9 do a SVQ level 4 in management.

10 And then in relation to impact, my Lady, she talks
11 really about the birthmark and how this comment started
12 the difficulties in her life when she was at primary
13 school, had a dramatic effect on her and it was made
14 worse, both at Beechwood and Langlands Park, because of
15 the abuse from the girls.

16 She goes on to tell us some very interesting things
17 about what she has learned about camouflage make up. We
18 have that in the paragraphs there from paragraph 75
19 onwards. And it talks about how she was overprotective
20 of her first child because of her experiences in care.

21 She says she doesn't blame anybody for her not
22 getting a proper education in care but she thinks she
23 would have been able to achieve much more in life if she
24 had left with qualifications.

25 She talks about the fact that she has a good

1 relationship now with her sisters, even though she
2 didn't grow up with all of them, and she again talks
3 about starting to smoke at Langlands Park and that this
4 is something that she struggles with even today.

5 She tells us about getting laser treatment for her
6 birthmark as well, and that she has been diagnosed
7 officially with dyslexia and trauma.

8 In 'Lessons to be learned', she again talks about
9 the smoking, and says that at Langlands Park they used
10 cigarettes as a way to control them, and again talks
11 about the camouflage, and covering up her birthmark, and
12 that would have been something that would have been
13 useful to learn a lot earlier. She does comment that
14 her dyslexia was identified at Beechwood but nothing was
15 done with that information. It might have been passed
16 to her mum but it didn't go with her to Langlands.

17 She then tells us about hopes for the Inquiry from
18 paragraph 98, and says that she hopes that by coming
19 forward, it makes a difference, and children are
20 supported to reach their full potential, and again,
21 talks about what could change in relation to things like
22 birthmarks and camouflage.

23 We have that there, my Lady, and we can read it,
24 what she says, which is very interesting.

25 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

1 MS FORBES: And my Lady, she then has signed it and made the
2 usual declaration, she has signed her statement and it
3 is dated 13 April 2023.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, and that completes the
5 outstanding read-ins, doesn't it?

6 MS FORBES: It does my Lady, yes.

7 LADY SMITH: It takes us to which day next week?

8 MS FORBES: Friday, the 15th.

9 MR PEOPLES: Closing statements.

10 LADY SMITH: Closings are on Friday, is that right?

11 MS FORBES: Friday, the 15th.

12 LADY SMITH: A week today, of course.

13 Very well, I will stop now until a week's time.

14 Thank you very much.

15 (3.51 pm)

16 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday,
17 15 November 2024)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1	INDEX	
2		PAGE
3	'Christina' (read)	2
4	'Stephen' (read)	8
5	John Harrison (read)	20
6	'Nick' (read)	27
7	'Patrick' (read)	38
8	'Rizzo' (read)	54
9	'Yvonne' (read)	83
10	'Pat' (read)	90
11	'Shirley' (read).	102
12	'Katie' (read)	112
13	Susanne Millar (sworn)	118
14	Questions by Mr Peoples	119
15	'Mandy' (read)	181
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

