

1 Thursday, 28 November 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, today we start another chapter in
4 this phase of our case study hearings, and in this
5 chapter we are going to begin, as I understand it, by
6 hearing evidence in relation to St Mary's Kenmure, is
7 that right, Ms MacLeod, and we begin with a witness in
8 person, yes?

9 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady, yes, that's correct.

10 The first witness is an applicant who will remain
11 anonymous and use the pseudonym 'Simon' during his
12 evidence.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 Good morning, 'Simon'.

15 THE WITNESS: Good morning, my Lady.

16 'Simon' (affirmed)

17 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', do sit down and make yourself
18 comfortable.

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', thank you for coming along this
21 morning so that we can hear your evidence in person.

22 A. Yep, you're welcome.

23 LADY SMITH: In addition to the very helpful written
24 evidence that I already have from you, I'm grateful to
25 you for doing that --

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: -- and I know that that itself has been
3 a matter of time, trouble and effort on your part to
4 provide.

5 A. Yeah, mm.

6 LADY SMITH: What we are going to do today, as you may
7 understand, is focus on some particular parts of your
8 evidence --

9 A. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: -- that we would like to hear a little bit more
11 about, and just hear you talking about your life as
12 a child in care --

13 A. Mm-hm. Okay.

14 LADY SMITH: -- and what happened after that, insofar as you
15 feel able to do so.

16 A. Yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: It is very easy to set out what the process is
18 going to be, 'Simon', but I know for you it is
19 difficult.

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: The whole deal of coming here and speaking in
22 a public forum about yourself, your childhood, things
23 that happened a long time ago in particular, and things
24 that may take you by surprise as to how upsetting it is
25 to think back to them.

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: If you want a break at any time, or just

3 a pause sitting where you are, please don't hesitate to

4 let me know.

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: Or if there is anything else that we can do to

7 help you give the best evidence that you can --

8 A. Okay.

9 LADY SMITH: -- just say.

10 A. Okay.

11 LADY SMITH: That's my objective, for you to be as

12 comfortable as you can, and I don't want you to go away

13 feeling, 'I wasn't able to really explain what I wanted

14 to explain'.

15 A. Yeah.

16 LADY SMITH: So let's do this together.

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: You help us to help you and if you are ready,

19 I will hand over to Ms MacLeod, is that all right?

20 A. Yeah, I'm ready, yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Ms MacLeod.

23 Questions from Ms MacLeod

24 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, 'Simon'.

25 A. Good morning.

1 Q. I don't need your date of birth but to give a timeframe,
2 could you confirm that you were born in [REDACTED] 1954?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You have provided a statement to the Inquiry, and there
5 is a copy of that statement in the red folder --

6 A. Yeah, I see it.

7 Q. -- in front of you.

8 Just to begin, I am going to give a reference for
9 that statement, WIT-1-000000802. Could I ask you to
10 turn, 'Simon', to the final page of the statement and
11 confirm if you have signed the statement?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. In the very last paragraph, do you say:

14 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
15 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
16 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
17 true.'

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay. Now, going back to the beginning of your
20 statement, and I should say, actually, before we get
21 started, that part of 'Simon's' statement has already
22 been read in to proceedings. 'Simon' is also aware of
23 that. That was on Day 388 on 10 November 2023, as part
24 of Chapter 1 of this phase of the Inquiry.

25 You begin in your statement, 'Simon', by giving us

1 some information about your family background.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. I think you tell us there that your parents had quite

4 a difficult relationship?

5 A. Yeah, they did, yeah.

6 Q. You say that your father was a drinker?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And I think you say that the family moved house --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- and that then the relationship deteriorated further?

11 A. Yeah, it did, yeah.

12 Q. You tell us that yourself and your brother spent a lot

13 of time at your grandmother's?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Did your parents then separate when you were around 8 or

16 9?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, about, maybe 8, 9, 10 maybe.

18 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that after that,

19 that you and your brother lived with your father?

20 A. My brother what?

21 Q. Did you and your brother live with your father?

22 A. It was a short period we lived with my father. He got

23 a house. He got a flat in a part of Govan, and, er, we

24 stayed with him then, but that didn't last long. Er, he

25 was -- my father was quite a heavy drinker, so, er, at

1 that time he wasn't very reliable, you know.

2 Q. In terms of your living arrangements, 'Simon', you share

3 in your statement what you say is that by the time you

4 were 11 or 12 you say, 'I was sleeping rough'.

5 A. I was sleeping rough then, yeah. Sometimes, not all the

6 time.

7 Q. You provide some information, 'Simon', about your

8 experiences at school --

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. -- as a child. Did you attend a local primary school?

11 A. Yes, I did, yeah.

12 Q. I think you say that you experienced bullying --

13 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

14 Q. -- at school?

15 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I was bullied practically from 5,

16 which led me to be a very quiet child. Er, very quiet

17 and always at the back of the line. And, er, yeah, it

18 wasn't easy. And even just -- even just going to school

19 I would often get chased, and all sorts of things would

20 happen. But, er, yeah, this went on, I was in two or

21 three different primary schools, moved, we moved about,

22 and yeah, there was a lot of bullying and different

23 things, I don't know if you want me to go on about that,

24 but eventually I was sent to this child guidance clinic,

25 and, you know, they would ask me things like why am

1 I playing truant, and I was -- I just always looked
2 down, I didn't say anything. But that was the root
3 cause of it, it was the bullying.

4 I was bullied all the time, you know. In every way.
5 Even teachers, even teachers was bullying me, you know,
6 giving me a hard time, because I developed a stutter at
7 that point, and there was a teacher who, you know, he
8 would make a fool of me all the time. Er, and that gave
9 everybody else in the class a laugh, you know.

10 So I started, as I say, I was keeping away fae
11 school. Whenever did -- whenever I went, I was never
12 there long. You know, I started off quite a high class
13 in the first year, but because I wasn't attending,
14 I went down to a lower class and they were worse than
15 the people in the first class.

16 So yeah, that's what happened and just eventually
17 they decided to put me up and get me -- send me to
18 approved school, yeah.

19 Q. You tell us that in your statement, 'Simon', you say
20 that eventually a decision was made for you to go to
21 an approved school?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Was there a particular -- I don't need the child's
24 name -- but was there a particular child at that time in
25 your life who had been involved in bullying you?

1 A. In secondary school. In secondary school there was one
2 that gave me a real hard time, his name was
3 [REDACTED], and, er, he gave me a real hard time.
4 He haunted me, because even when I went from there and
5 I ended up in borstal, er, he was in there as well. And
6 yeah, I got a hard time fae him. A little bit of, you
7 know, there was a lot of stuff happened there and, er --
8 Q. This was a boy, 'Simon', that you met at secondary
9 school before you went to approved school?
10 A. Yeah, he was at secondary school and then, as I say,
11 I seen him throughout life, you know, for the next
12 few years. And, er, he just gave me a hard time all the
13 time, you know. Er, always trying to get laughs at my
14 expense, you know. He would -- I remember sitting in
15 the assembly hall in St Mary's, and, er, he was being
16 threatening, and he was making me touch him.
17 Q. We'll come on to look at that shortly, 'Simon'.
18 A. Yeah, yeah, okay.
19 LADY SMITH: I have the picture, 'Simon', that the
20 background was when he first came across you, he
21 targeted you --
22 A. Yeah.
23 LADY SMITH: -- as somebody he could use to get the approval
24 of his peer group, I suppose?
25 A. Yeah, yeah, that's exactly what he was doing, you know

1 --

2 LADY SMITH: And tried to get other people to laugh about
3 you as well?

4 A. Yeah, yeah. And bring them on to give me a hard time,
5 you know. He was the main instigator. But there was,
6 you know, there was other people encouraged to do the
7 same kind of things, you know. And, er, I think at that
8 age when I went in there, I was 14, I was quite
9 malnourished, I was thin, I was -- I wasn't very tall.
10 I mean, I looked at the details, the medical report
11 I got from St Mary's, and I think I was under five-foot
12 at that time, and I was, er, very, very light, you know,
13 I couldn't imagine myself at that height and weight. So
14 I was an easy target, you know, I was an easy target.

15 LADY SMITH: I don't suppose any adult intervened to tell
16 them to lay off?

17 A. No, there was nobody you could turn to, you know, there
18 was nobody at all you could turn to, I didn't even have
19 anybody at home to turn to, you know. For a period
20 I had an aunt who -- you know, she didn't hang about for
21 too long. But yeah, there was people going out at the
22 weekend, on a weekend, and, er -- but I didn't, because
23 I didn't, you know, my life was so screwed up. And, er,
24 you know, that's when I started to run away fae the
25 place. And that's -- a lot of the living rough, and

1 that, was at that time, you know.

2 Yeah, but it was very difficult at that period,

3 especially the first year in St Mary's. That was the

4 worst, you know.

5 LADY SMITH: I think Ms MacLeod is going to explore a bit

6 more of that with you.

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 LADY SMITH: If that's all right.

9 A. Yeah, okay.

10 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

12 So when the decision was made, 'Simon', that you

13 were going to go to an approved school, do you remember

14 who made that decision and how it was explained to you?

15 A. Yes, it was -- I believe it was, I believe I went to the

16 junior ... Juvenile Sheriff Court. If my memory serves

17 me, it was a Sheriff J. Irvine Smith that sent me.

18 LADY SMITH: Can I just interrupt you for a moment, did you

19 say Irvine Smith?

20 A. Irvine Smith, yes. And it was him that sent me.

21 MS MACLEOD: Did you have an understanding at the time as to

22 why you may have been sent to an approved school?

23 A. Just for playing truant, that's what it was. You know,

24 I mean I had never been in trouble at that point. But,

25 er, what happened was -- when you go in there, when you

1 go in there, you know, most of the guys that you meet
2 are -- they're either scoundrels or they're making out
3 they're scoundrels. And, er, they've all, you know, you
4 meet guys and they say, 'I'm in for 14 car thefts', or,
5 'I'm in for 16 house break-ins' and things like that.

6 So with me being a truanter, I was the bottom of the
7 pile. So in the second year I changed it, you know, I
8 sort of -- I started to -- I didn't no longer say I was
9 in for that, you know, because you sort of became -- you
10 were easy to pick on, you know.

11 Q. Do I take from that other boys would be asking you why
12 are you in there?

13 A. Yes, everybody asked each other what they were in for.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Yeah, and that's how it went. And there was
16 a hierarchy, there was all these different ones that you
17 had to please, you know.

18 Q. When --

19 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', I'm sorry, can I just take your mind
20 back to the court for the moment. Because it would have
21 been a court, because this was before the start of
22 Children's Panels.

23 A. Yes, before the Children's Panels, yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: Did anybody speak up for you?

25 A. Not that I remember, not that I remember, no.

1 LADY SMITH: I don't think that normally happened in that
2 system, but nobody was trying to get the court to hear
3 things from your perspective?

4 A. No. No. No, there was nobody. Er, I remember --
5 I just remember showing up at it and my stepfather -- my
6 mother had taken up with this other fella, and he came
7 up to find out what was happening, but that was about
8 it. You know, there was nobody, there was nobody, er,
9 there to say this is ... you know, put up a case for me.
10 No, there was no solicitor or anything like that, you
11 know.

12 Er, I mean looking back at it, back then I just
13 thought that was how it was. But looking back at it
14 now, it was kinda, you know, maybe if I'd had somebody
15 there to support me, it might've been different, you
16 know. But that's how it happened, you know.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you, that's very helpful insight.

18 Ms MacLeod.

19 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

20 Was it explained to you by anybody at the time,
21 'Simon', how long you were going to be at an approved
22 school for?

23 A. Er, no, no. It was just -- I don't remember, I don't
24 remember them saying how long it would be. I remember
25 when I went to borstal, they said it would be two year

1 borstal training. But with the approved school, I was
2 just sent to the approved school and that was it. Er,
3 I didn't know when I was getting out.

4 Q. You didn't know how long you would be there for?

5 A. No, no.

6 Q. Initially, were you taken to Larchgrove Remand Centre
7 for a few weeks?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Was that until a place would be found for you --

10 A. Yeah, that's correct.

11 Q. -- in an approved school?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you were
14 around 13 years old at the time?

15 A. I was, I was just 13, turning into 14.

16 Q. And that you can't remember too much about Larchgrove,
17 but that you were scared and frightened when you were
18 there?

19 A. Yeah, it was much the same in there. It was a kinda
20 place where, well, I was strange to it, or I had never
21 been in anything like that, at that time. And, er, it
22 was quite scary, you know, because a lot of these young
23 guys at that time were ... well, they were out of
24 control. And, er, some of the people that ran the place
25 were out of control as well, you know. You know, so you

1 were kind of terrified of it, you know. I remember
2 that. I remember being so, you know, frightened.
3 I used to get into my bed every night praying, 'Please
4 let me out, I'll go to school', and all the rest of it
5 but it was so, so -- Larchgrove was just the beginning
6 of it, you know.

7 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'Simon', that from
8 Larchgrove, you were taken after a few weeks to Fife in
9 a car --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- to John Bosco's?

12 A. Yeah, what happened was there was a big Glasgow
13 limousine, Glasgow Council limousine that came and
14 picked me up and took me away through to Fife to this
15 John Bosco's, but I was never in the door of the place.
16 I waited outside and somebody that was in the car with
17 me went away in, then they were in for a while and then
18 they came out and says, 'You're too old to get in here'.
19 Er, I think it was a bit of a mix up, or something. So
20 I get taken away back to Glasgow and taken into
21 St Mary's, that's what happened.

22 And then for the next nearly couple of years, I was
23 in St Mary's.

24 Q. We will then move on to that part of your statement,
25 'Simon', where you talk about your time at St Mary's,

1 and your recollections in relation to that. You tell us
2 in your statement that you think you were there just
3 under two years?
4 A. Mm-hm.
5 Q. As I think you are aware, since then, that the Inquiry
6 has recovered some information in relation to admission
7 dates --
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. -- and that it looks from those dates that you were
10 admitted in [REDACTED] 1968?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. Which I think accords with your own memory?
13 A. Yeah, that's exactly right.
14 Q. I think you yourself recall quite clearly the date you
15 left?
16 A. The date I left was [REDACTED] 1970.
17 Q. So if I can ask you, then, 'Simon': what are your first
18 recollections of arriving at St Mary's?
19 A. Oh, the first recollection, I always -- I often talked
20 about this, when -- my very first morning I got up, it
21 was -- you had to get up really early in the morning,
22 and they gave me and another boy a bucket and a scrubber
23 and a cloth and put us in this corridor to scrub this
24 corridor, and I looked down, and I remember looking back
25 down this corridor, and I had watched a programme on the

1 TV one time and it was like boys in a place like that,
2 and it frightened the life out of me. So we had to
3 scrub this corridor, it seemed as if it was never gonna
4 end. And I remember that day. I remember that day.
5 That was my very first day. It was -- well, is this it?
6 Is this what I've got to do for the next years?

7 Yeah, I remember that. I mean, I remember a lot of
8 things at the beginning, you know, it was a kinda bleak
9 place. We were in a -- they put us in a dormitory.
10 I think there was about 20-odd people in the dormitory.
11 And it was wild, it was wild in there, so it was. There
12 was -- I think there was six different dormitories.
13 And, er, it was pretty wild in there. There was
14 things -- guys were doing things that were totally, you
15 know, all sorts of things happened.

16 Q. We will look at the dormitories in a moment or two,
17 'Simon'.

18 What's your recollection of the number of boys that
19 were there, in total, I mean?

20 A. In total? I mean, off the top of my head, I mean, I'm
21 sure there was 28 people in the dormitory. So there was
22 four dormitories like that, there was four; there was
23 St Patrick's, St Andrew's, De La Salle and another one,
24 I can't remember. But I'm sure there was 20 something,
25 but I think 28 is in my mind. And then there was two

1 smaller dormitories, St David's and something else, and
2 I don't -- there was maybe a dozen or something in them.
3 And er, yeah, the dormitories were -- it was quite
4 an intimidating place.

5 Q. Are we talking up to 100 boys perhaps in total?

6 A. There was over 100 I would say, yeah.

7 Q. What was the age range of the boys?

8 A. Probably between 14 and 16, but there was some -- I'm
9 sure there was some older ones there who just stayed
10 there. There were people who actually came back. There
11 was people who came back and they seemed to be much
12 older, but I was 14, so maybe they weren't as old as --

13 Q. Were you one of the younger boys?

14 A. I was one of the younger boys at that time, yeah.

15 Q. Which house or which dormitory were you put into?

16 A. St Patrick's.

17 Q. In your statement, 'Simon', at paragraph 17, you provide
18 the Inquiry with some very helpful information about the
19 layout of the school.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Can I ask you, would you be willing to look at
22 a photograph of the outside of the building if I put it
23 on the screen?

24 A. Sorry?

25 Q. Would you be okay to look at a photograph of the

1 building?

2 A. To look at a photograph?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. WIT-3-000005605, please, at page 6.

6 A. Yeah, yeah, I think that's the front of it, yeah.

7 I think that was the front of it, yeah.

8 Q. Do you recognise that photograph?

9 A. Yeah, I do, yeah, yeah.

10 Q. Is that a photograph --

11 A. It looks a lot nicer than I remember, you know, yeah.

12 But yeah, that was it, yeah.

13 Q. Is that the front of the building?

14 A. I think it's the front, yeah, I'm sure it is, yeah.

15 'Cause the back -- the back had SNR [REDACTED]'s

16 apartment, maybe up at this side, on the other side.

17 Q. Now, 'Simon', there's actually a larger version of that

18 picture behind you on a screen. Could I possibly ask

19 you to stand up, just so I can ask you some questions

20 about the photograph, and the layout, and you can

21 perhaps help by pointing --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- at various things for us.

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. You tell us in your statement that as you walked in the

1 front door, there was a big corridor. The door we see
2 there, is that the main door of the school?

3 A. Yeah, I think if you go in here, I think if you go in
4 here and then, which I believe is the main door, and
5 then there's a corridor that goes right along.
6 I think --

7 Q. To the left of the photograph?

8 A. Yes, I think the headmaster's office -- the headmaster's
9 office and the deputy headmaster and the matron was
10 probably in these three windows.

11 Q. So that's immediately to the left of the door as we look
12 at the photograph?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, to the left, yeah. Yeah, that's what was
14 there. The dining room was on the other side of the
15 building.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. My dormitory would have been on the other side as well,
18 that would have been St Andrew's there.

19 Q. You are pointing to the first floor there, above the --

20 A. Yeah, that would be St Andrew's, the dormitory there,
21 I think.

22 Q. Above the headmaster's rooms that you were showing us?

23 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I think so.

24 Q. Okay. What about the other side of the door, do you
25 recall what those windows would have been?

1 A. Yes, over here there was a --
2 LADY SMITH: That's to the right-hand side of the door?
3 A. There was a chapel there, there was a chapel there, and
4 up here there was a smaller dormitory.
5 MS MACLEOD: That's the first floor to the right-hand side
6 of the door?
7 A. Yeah, that's -- that's ... I am sure that was a chapel.
8 Either that was a chapel or that was a chapel. But
9 I think it was downstairs. Er, and up above it, as
10 I say, there was a smaller dormitory at each side, you
11 know, there was another dormitory up here.
12 Q. What about the large window, it looks like a large
13 window anyway, that we see on top of the door?
14 A. This one?
15 Q. Yes.
16 A. That was -- that would have been in the hallway taking
17 you upstairs.
18 Q. I see.
19 LADY SMITH: On the stairwell?
20 A. Yeah.
21 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Simon', that's very helpful.
22 Was there a yard?
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. Was that behind this photograph?
25 A. That was down at this side.

1 Q. So to the left of the photograph?

2 A. Yeah, yeah. If you could see the other side of that

3 there, there's a yard and then there was a -- different

4 workshops, there was a baker's, there was a woodworker

5 place, there was a farming gardens. That was all in

6 a kind of -- I mean, there was toilets there. Yeah,

7 yeah, I remember that, yeah.

8 Q. That was to the left of that, as we look at the

9 photograph?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. You mentioned a play barn in your statement, where was

12 that?

13 A. That was beyond -- that was beyond the yard. When you

14 went through the yard, there was an opening, there was

15 an opening you went through and there was a play barn.

16 It was built -- it was built just before I arrived

17 there.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. So it was -- it was just a big place where you could

20 play five-a-side football and things like that.

21 Q. What about the school? The classrooms?

22 A. You didn't get much in the way of classrooms. You know,

23 like, when you went in there, really, your education was

24 finished.

25 Q. Were there rooms that were dedicated as classrooms?

1 A. Yeah, there was rooms. There was a period when I went
2 in, and, er -- there was a period when I went in and
3 they took me into a classroom, and it was for art, and
4 it was -- they helped me to draw a greyhound. I was
5 obsessed with greyhounds at that time, and they helped
6 me to draw the greyhound and get everything right, the
7 neck and that right. I mean, there was some of them in
8 there was okay, you know, and the guy that did that, he
9 was okay, there was no problems wi' somebody like him,
10 you know.

11 Q. Can I put one other photograph on the screen, again of
12 the outside of the building.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. That's the same document at page 1, please. Does that
15 give us a different view of the building?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Are you able to help us with where that is?

18 A. I'm just trying to figure it out. Is that --

19 LADY SMITH: Again, it is in a large form behind you if that
20 helps. 'Simon', if you want to look at it on a bigger
21 version, it is behind you again.

22 A. Oh, right, sorry.

23 LADY SMITH: I don't know, the small one might be enough,
24 but --

25 A. If that's the back of it -- I don't remember this bit

1 here, you know. But it could be the dining room was
2 over here and the assembly hall was up here, yeah.

3 MS MACLEOD: That might be the back of what we see in the
4 other photograph?

5 A. Yes, when you go in the front door up there and come
6 along, I think that's what that is. I think that's what
7 it is. It could quite easily be the assembly hall here
8 and the kitchen and dining room.

9 Q. You are pointing there, 'Simon', to the buildings in the
10 centre of that photograph?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I think that's where -- I mean, that
12 particular scene I don't remember. I don't remember it.
13 But I'm assuming -- I'm assuming that's the main
14 building there and the front of it is round here, so if
15 that's the case, if that's the case, this is, er, you
16 know, the assembly hall is in there. There was a dorm
17 upstairs here.

18 But I don't really recognise that scene.

19 MS MACLEOD: Okay. Thank you, that's fine. We can take the
20 photograph down now, thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, I don't think there is a date for
22 that photograph, is there?

23 MS MACLEOD: There isn't unfortunately, my Lady, no. No,
24 there isn't.

25 LADY SMITH: It would be helpful if there was. It did look,

1 though, as though there was some part of the building,
2 the part that 'Simon' was wondering about, that had been
3 added on after the original building was built.

4 MS MACLEOD: Potentially, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS MACLEOD: Can I ask you now, 'Simon', about some of the
7 staff who were at St Mary's when you were there.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. Who was SNR [REDACTED] ?

10 A. SNR [REDACTED] was a man called Mr LNI [REDACTED].

11 Q. What was he like, 'Simon'?

12 A. We didn't really see much of him, but he was okay. He
13 was an older man and he was always smiling, and --
14 whenever I seen him anyway, he was always smiling, but
15 we didn't really see much of him. He lived in the
16 place, you know, there was an apartment [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED], and, er, he lived in
18 there with his family, you know. I think.

19 Q. Who was SNR [REDACTED] -- was there SNR [REDACTED] ?

20 A. Yeah, there was two, actually. There was
21 KDN [REDACTED], he was SNR [REDACTED], and I am sure there
22 was another one that was SNR [REDACTED], but I can't remember
23 his name.

24 Q. We will come on to speak about Mr KDN [REDACTED] a little
25 later, because I know you provide some evidence about

1 him.

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. Another member of staff that you mention in your
4 statement is LYT ?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. What was his role at the school?

7 A. Well, all the people, the inmates, the pupils, they knew
8 him as 'LYT', nobody called him that, but they called
9 him 'LYT', and a lot of folks says he was like
10 the janitor, but he took a lot to do wi' everything
11 else. You know, he always wore a white boiler suit and
12 he always had two of the older guys wi' him, they were
13 his -- he used them as his henchmen if --

14 Q. Is that two of the older boys?

15 A. Two older boys, yeah. He would always have those two,
16 two nasty pieces of work, and, er, they would do a lot
17 of -- say, for instance, he would come out -- he would
18 come out to the yard and all the boys would be spread
19 about in the yard and he would say, 'Right, let's have
20 you' and we all had to head up and get in line. And,
21 er, if you weren't quick enough, he would get they two
22 to grab you and take you over. And, er, you got
23 a coupla -- he used to carry a big, big massive size of
24 keys. And you got a couple of smashes in the head, you
25 know, and it dazed you. But that was his trademark.

1 And then a couple of the other ones did the same
2 thing, you know, a couple of the other ones used that
3 method to punish people. And you weren't doing
4 anything, you know, it was just maybe you weren't right
5 in line or you weren't quick enough to get into line,
6 you know.

7 Q. When you say 'that method', 'Simon', do you mean hitting
8 boys on the head with a set of keys?

9 A. With a set of keys and they would punch your head, they
10 would punch your head, and then you went away kind of
11 dazed and sometimes there were two or three people. He
12 had a way, he kinda talked through his nose, 'Hey, you,
13 sonny', and, er, then you went up. Whatever it was he
14 was pulling you up for, you would get that on your head.

15 Sometimes he would get these two henchmen to rough
16 you up a bit, you know, er, and that's a fact. I can't
17 remember those two's names, but they were like his
18 assistants. He went about doing little jobs throughout
19 the place. He used to drive -- he used to drive the ...
20 there was an old ramshackle bus that they had and
21 sometimes he would take you places, like the swimming
22 baths or something in Kirkintilloch, and it was really
23 falling apart this bus, you know, and it was him that
24 drove it. One of the things that was wrong wi' it was
25 quite often he'd be driving along and the gearstick

1 would come out, you know, when he was driving along, and
2 he would get you, sometimes it was me, to hold it in
3 while he was driving, and, er, if you didn't do it
4 right, you were sure of getting a punch in the head at
5 the end of it, you know. But yeah, that was -- but he
6 did all sorts of things like that. He was like the
7 go-to guy to sort out problems from the staff, you know.
8 That's what I assumed he was, you know. I mean back
9 then.

10 And I know a lot of people, I mean, my brother was
11 in there after me, and he had the same things to say
12 about him.

13 Q. When you say he was the go-to person to sort people out
14 from the staff, do you mean by that that staff would,
15 your understanding was --

16 A. No, I don't mean the staff would get him -- the staff
17 would sort you out themselves. But, you know, if you
18 had a problem or something like that, he was --
19 sometimes you would think he was a maintenance man or
20 something, but I'm not sure. I don't think he was like
21 the rest of them. He never, ever -- he was never, ever
22 dressed like one of the other staff members. He always
23 had a boiler suit on and most of us didn't know what he
24 was. We called him the janitor, but I don't think
25 that's what he was.

1 Q. You have told us there about him hitting you, or
2 punching you on the head with a set of keys?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. Did you see him do this to other boys?

5 A. Oh, he did it to everybody, he did it to everybody.
6 Maybe there were some favourites he didn't do it to, but
7 he did it to most people. As I say, he would come out
8 into the yard and he would just say, 'Let's have you'
9 and if there was anything at all, or he would watch
10 people and he'd say, 'Hey you, sonny', and you had to go
11 over, and that would be your punishment: a punch in the
12 head wi' a big, big massive handful of keys.

13 He was, he was -- I think he -- somebody told me
14 later on that he lived in a place in the grounds, but
15 I don't know, I don't know if that was the case. But
16 I remember everybody that was in there, everybody that
17 I've met since that was in there, knew him.

18 Q. Was that the main method of punishment that he used?
19 Punching on the head with a set of keys?

20 A. Yeah, it depends what you done, you know. It depends
21 what, er, what happened. I mean, sometimes -- sometimes
22 there would be things going on at nighttime. A lot of
23 people were up to things in the dormitories, and
24 carrying on, and things, and he would just set about
25 you, you know. He would just set about you.

1 Q. Sorry, who would set about you?

2 A. No, whoever was on. There was a few, him, I don't

3 remember him being upstairs many times, but I do

4 remember him setting about people.

5 Q. And when you say 'set about people', what do you mean by

6 that?

7 A. Punching them, maybe in your bed or something like that,

8 and, er, just giving you a few punches and that as

9 a warning, you know, because --

10 Q. Did you see LYT [REDACTED] punching boys in their beds?

11 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I seen him punch people a few times.

12 But his main punishment was the head, it was the head,

13 and he just smacked you so hard it was unbelievable, so

14 it was, you know, you walked away dazed.

15 Q. It was painful?

16 A. Yeah, it was, yeah, yeah. I mean, we were only boys,

17 you know, we were only 14 or something. But yeah, he

18 was -- he was a nasty piece of work. Or he could be,

19 you know.

20 Q. Another staff member you mentioned -- we will go on to

21 look at him shortly -- is KDM [REDACTED]?

22 A. KDM [REDACTED], yes.

23 Q. What was his role in the school?

24 A. Well, he was a housemaster, he was the housemaster for

25 St Andrew's dormitory, the one across fae us. And, er,

1 most of the time he just went about his job, but
2 sometimes, I don't know if he was on at night or what it
3 was, there used to be a watchman who was there at night
4 as well. But I remember sometimes the dormitories used
5 to get out of control. There was a lot of noise and
6 shouting and bawling and people throwing things at each
7 other and things like that. And then all the lights
8 would go on. And, er, he would get us all out, he would
9 get us all out into the corridor, he would line us right
10 up in the middle of the corridor and you had to put your
11 two hands out and he would put books on each side and if
12 your hand dropped, if one of your arms dropped, you'd
13 get the punch in the head, you know, you'd get punched
14 in the head, so you would get them back up again. And
15 we were out there, I don't know how long, it probably
16 felt longer than it was, but we were out there for quite
17 a while.

18 Q. If your arms dropped when you were holding the books,
19 was it ^{KDM} [REDACTED] who hit you on the head?

20 A. Yeah, most of us were sleeping at the time when he would
21 get us out there. But yeah, yeah, he would -- but that
22 wasnae just him, you know, it wasn't just him that did
23 that, you know. That was just a punishment they did if
24 there was a lot of noise upstairs, you know.

25 Q. Okay. You have already mentioned, 'Simon', your

1 recollections of your first day, and being asked to
2 scrub the floors?

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. In relation to jobs like that and chores generally that
5 the boys were asked to do, was that a regular thing,
6 that you were asked to get involved in the cleaning of
7 the school?

8 A. Yeah, yeah, you had that, yeah, you could be doing that
9 or you could be in the assembly hall polishing the
10 floor. There was lots of different jobs. Lots of
11 different jobs. And that was up until about breakfast
12 time. And then after breakfast, youse would all go to
13 wherever you were working, you could be working in the
14 baker's, or the farming gardens, or the joiner's shop.
15 There was a few different places you could be working.
16 Er, and that's what you had, you know. Yeah.

17 Q. Do you know if there were cleaners in the school or if
18 the boys did a lot of the cleaning themselves?

19 A. I think -- I'm sure it was the boys. I don't remember
20 seeing cleaners. I remember there was a matron, and
21 there was -- there was a young nurse-type person was
22 there at one point. But I don't remember seeing
23 cleaners. There was people working in the -- there was
24 people working in the kitchen. I think there was
25 a notorious one in there, in the kitchen, he was always

1 -- he had a liking for the boys, you know.

2 Q. I will ask you about that in a few moments.

3 Now, you provide information about the daily

4 routine, I am not going to take you to the detail of

5 that, but I think what you do say is that you were taken

6 to various activities, and things like, as you have

7 mentioned, the baker --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- or whatever your job happened to be at the time. You

10 mentioned here, and I think you have touched on it

11 already, that there was no schooling?

12 A. I don't remember ever being in a classroom where I did

13 any schoolwork. The only thing I ever did was that time

14 I was drawing, it was painting a greyhound. But yeah,

15 once you went in there, your schooling was finished, you

16 know, in my opinion. I didn't see anybody doing any

17 schooling.

18 Maybe it changed after I left there, but certainly

19 that's how it was when I was there.

20 Q. You speak about the dining hall, 'Simon', and that --

21 what were your own experiences of the dining hall, what

22 are your memories of being in there?

23 A. The dining hall was -- it was just a group of tables, it

24 was four at a table, and when you went in, I don't know

25 whether it was both lunch time and dinner time but there

1 would be a plate on it wi' buns and cakes and stuff, and
2 people who were sitting there would do things to the
3 cakes or buns or whatever, so that you, you know -- say
4 it was a big one, they'd pick their nose.

5 Q. Other boys?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. They would pick their nose, do you say, and put it on
8 the food?

9 A. Put it on a certain thing and then that was theirs, you
10 know. I remember that. Yeah, yeah, I just remember,
11 I remember a time -- as I say, I was dead thin at that
12 time, and I remember at the time saying, 'I'm gonna
13 start trying to build myself up'.

14 Q. Sorry?

15 A. I decided I was gonna start eating more to build myself
16 up, and that's what I did for the next several months,
17 you know. But at first I was -- there wasnae much to
18 me, you know.

19 Q. You tell the Inquiry in your statement that you didn't
20 like going into the dining hall?

21 A. No, no, no, I didn't like it at all. Because it was
22 a noisy place. It was a noisy place, and it could be
23 quite intimidating, you know. It could be quite
24 intimidating. And I just remember that, you know.
25 I remember going in and sometimes folk would take things

1 off your plate and things like that, you know.

2 Q. So was it the behaviour of the other boys you remember

3 making you feel intimidated?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

5 Q. Do you remember any efforts by the staff to try and

6 control the situation, or manage the boys' behaviour?

7 A. I suppose there was, but, you know, there were so many

8 things went on, there were so many things that went on

9 and it just got ignored, you know. You know, I seen

10 things happening. You know, you wondered why the staff

11 weren't doing anything about it, you know. There

12 probably wasn't enough staff in there for all of the

13 boys that was in it, you know, because a lot of the boys

14 were quite unruly, you know.

15 Q. Did you have visitors while you were at St Mary's?

16 A. Me?

17 Q. Did you have visitors?

18 A. No, once or twice, I had an aunt came up and see me.

19 Quite often, quite often, you know, guys would get out

20 for the weekend, but I didn't, you know. And the ones

21 who didn't usually get a visit. But I very, very, very

22 seldom got a visit. In fact, I think I only ever got

23 a visitor once, maybe twice, in all the time I was

24 there. My mother, I know she used to say, 'Oh, you know

25 I don't like going to these places' and she never came

1 near, and my father never came near. So yeah, so once
2 I was there, I was there, you know.

3 Q. Okay.

4 In relation to being there at the weekends, what you
5 tell us in your statement, 'Simon', is you say:

6 'I was usually left in the home at the weekends.
7 I was kind of forgotten about and trapped there.'

8 A. Yeah, most weekends I was there, yeah, until I started
9 running away, you know, until I started running away.
10 And then quite often when I had ran away, I wished
11 I hadn't, because, you know, I'd be living somewhere
12 rough and maybe hungry and different things like that
13 and then I used to say, 'Why am I doing this?', you
14 know? But I did it, you know. I suppose I was ...

15 Q. Do you remember if anybody, like a social worker or
16 anybody like that, ever came to see how you were getting
17 on?

18 A. If there was, I don't remember it, I don't remember it
19 at all. Any social worker -- any social worker I ever
20 came across usually let me down, you know. Er, the only
21 one I can remember is soon after I came out of
22 St Mary's, I'd been put on remand for something in
23 Longriggend, and a social worker came to me and he says,
24 'I'm gonna recommend you for probation in the reports'.
25 And I thought I was getting out and when I got to the

1 court, he hadn't, he had recommended me for borstal
2 training. That's the only social worker I remember.

3 Q. As far as you are aware then, 'Simon', relating to your
4 time at St Mary's, was there anybody checking to see how
5 you were getting on, or if the place was suitable for
6 you, for example?

7 A. No, I don't remember it. If they did, I mean, I was 14,
8 so you could -- but I would probably have remembered it,
9 because I have a pretty good memory, you know.

10 Q. Can I now ask you a little bit about the goings on in
11 the dormitories.

12 A. Mm.

13 Q. You speak about this in your statement at paragraphs 34
14 and 35 and also 21 and 22.

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. At 34, 'Simon', you speak about wetting the bed, and
17 beds becoming wet in the dormitory.

18 First of all, can I ask you: did you sometimes wet
19 the bed when you were in St Mary's?

20 A. I did once or twice, yeah. Er, because I was nervous.
21 Plus the fact if you got up to go to the toilet, if you
22 got up to go the toilet you would likely to get hit with
23 a boot or something. But there was boys, there was boys
24 there, if somebody did get up to go to the toilet, there
25 was boys would get in and come and wet their bed, and

1 then when they come back and they'd have to get in it
2 and then have a hard time of it the next morning.

3 Q. You mentioned there that sometimes if you were to get up
4 and go to the toilet, I think you said you would be hit
5 by a boot or something?

6 A. Yeah, somebody would smack something off your head,
7 yeah.

8 Q. Would that be another boy, or --

9 A. Yeah, from in the dorm, yeah.

10 Q. Did I also understand you correctly, did you say that if
11 you got up another boy might --

12 A. Would pee the bed.

13 Q. -- pee in your bed while you were away?

14 A. Mm-hm, yeah. It was just different things that went on
15 at different times. There was a load of young guys
16 together and usually the ones that was behind that kind
17 of thing were the ones away at the back of the dorm,
18 they were the ones that caused the trouble and made the
19 most noise and got you into trouble, you know.

20 Q. If your bed was found to be wet, either because you had
21 wet the bed or somebody else had peed in your bed, how
22 was that dealt with by staff members?

23 A. You would just get a couple of belts, maybe a couple of
24 slaps in the face, and made to take your sheets down and
25 get 'em changed, you know.

1 Q. When you say 'a couple of belts', what do you mean by
2 that?

3 A. Well, a lot of them, a lot of them -- I mean, I spoke
4 about the fist full of keys, but a lot of them just gave
5 you a right big smack right in the face, you know, and,
6 er, and that was a common thing.

7 Q. With their hand?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 Q. Are you able to help me with are you thinking of any
10 staff member in particular doing that, or was there
11 a number of people involved in that behaviour?

12 A. No, it could be -- I mean, there wasn't many people up
13 there. You know, there was, as I say, there was six
14 dormitories, and it could just be whoever's on. But
15 they didn't all behave like that, you know, they didn't
16 all behave like that, but there was ones that made it
17 hard for you and it made you worse, it made you more
18 nervous, you know.

19 Q. Did staff on occasions humiliate boys who were found to
20 be in beds that were wet?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. Well, the whole dormitory would know.

22 Q. So how would the whole dormitory know?

23 A. Because they would make it known, they would say things
24 like -- call you names, and all sorts of things like
25 that, you know.

1 Q. What kind of names did the staff call you if your bed
2 was wet?

3 A. You 'pishy arsed B', you know, and things like that.
4 You know, and quite often it wasn't you who had done it,
5 it wasn't you that had done it, it was somebody else
6 that had done it, but, you know, it's your bed.

7 Q. How did the other boys respond to this, did they join in
8 with this sort of --

9 A. Yeah, everybody get a laugh, yeah, everybody got
10 a laugh. And you get a name for doing it, you know.
11 You get a name for doing it, somebody -- maybe somebody
12 would pick up on it and call you things, you know.

13 Q. Can you recall any of those sorts of names?

14 A. 'Pishy arse' and all that carry on, you know, just boys
15 together. They just say these things, you know, and it
16 just sounds stupid now, but that's it. But at the time
17 when it happens to you, it's quite horrible and hurtful,
18 you know.

19 Q. Did this happen to other boys --

20 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

21 Q. -- as well as to you?

22 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

23 Q. Was it quite a regular thing in the dormitory?

24 A. In fact I was just talking to my brother about it a few
25 days ago and he was talking about it, about somebody he

1 knew, a friend of his, who somebody had done that to and
2 it ended up in a big fight in the dorm, you know. They
3 all started fighting each other.

4 LADY SMITH: Was that the brother you tell us was also in
5 St Mary's at one point?

6 A. Yeah, St Mary's, yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 A. He was in there, and he was in St Ninian's.

9 MS MACLEOD: Now, leaving the wet beds to one side, in what
10 other ways did boys behave in the dormitory, what could
11 other boys do to you when you were in the dormitory?

12 A. Well, if you got up out your bed, if you got up out your
13 bed, they would throw things at you, or they would do
14 things to -- there was things done to your bed, if you
15 came back and your mattress would be -- just stupid
16 things, you know, or if you had anything which was
17 personal to you, it would go missing, you know, there
18 wasnae many things we had that was personal to us, but
19 if you did, you may have seen the last of it, you know.

20 Q. What sort of things were thrown at you by other boys?

21 A. Shoes, boots, things like that. You know, just people
22 think they were funny. It usually wasn't their shoe, it
23 was maybe the person in the bed next to them that they
24 would pick up and throw at you, you know, and it would
25 be in the dark so you didn't know who it was that had

1 done it.

2 Q. You mentioned earlier in your evidence, 'Simon',
3 a particular boy in your secondary school --

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. -- who bullied you?

6 A. [REDACTED], yeah.

7 Q. When you went into St Mary's did you find that that boy
8 was also in St Mary's?

9 A. Oh yeah, he was in there, I nearly died when I see him.
10 I couldn't believe it when I see him.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', you try to make light of it, but tell
12 me, how did you feel when you realised he was there?

13 A. It was terrifying, it was terrifying. It was -- he was
14 a nasty guy, a nasty person, you know. And er,
15 I couldn't believe it. Because he was in my class and
16 then all of a sudden he was in there. But funnily
17 enough, funnily enough he ended up in borstal with me as
18 well, the same guy. Er, but he wasn't as bad in
19 borstal, you know, because I had grown a bit and maybe
20 he was thinking twice about it. But, er, in St Mary's,
21 he was a nightmare, he was a nightmare.

22 Q. Did he continue to bully you in St Mary's?

23 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

24 Q. What sorts of things did he do to you in St Mary's?

25 A. Well, he would -- he would come up to me and he would

1 have a group of people wi' him and they would all be
2 round me and maybe -- certainly in the assembly hall,
3 you had to be in an assembly hall for ... maybe they
4 would say you have to be in there for some time, and you
5 would go and they would be around me, and I mentioned
6 earlier about, erm, humiliating me by wanting me to
7 touch him and things like, that and he would call me
8 KDO and things like that, and everybody was calling
9 me KDO for a while. Yeah, he was the ringleader
10 behind everything that was going on among the boys, you
11 know, and people like him didn't seem to ever get pulled
12 up by the staff or anything like that, you know, they
13 get away wi' all that, you know.

14 Q. In terms of him asking you to touch him, you look at
15 that in paragraph 48 of your statement, so maybe we will
16 go to that now.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. You mention the boy's name here, you say you had a few
19 situations with him:

20 'He was always trying to humiliate me and call me
21 names. [You say] he wanted me to touch him when we were
22 in the assembly room.'

23 A. In the assembly room, mm.

24 Q. Can you just tell me about that. Who would be in the
25 assembly room when that happened, would there be a group

1 of boys?

2 A. The boys would be starting to gather to get in there,
3 because that's where you all went whenever there was
4 anything to announce or whatever. I think we had to go
5 in there every day. And, er, I would walk in and he'd
6 be there wi' his gang, and he would say, 'Here, here's
7 a seat for you here', and you would go, and you were in,
8 it was always at the back of the -- near the back of the
9 assembly hall, and he was just very intimidating, and
10 doing things, maybe you were sitting watching something,
11 he would just smack you on the back of the head and you
12 would look round and they would be sitting with blank
13 faces.

14 Q. In terms of him wanting you to touch him, 'Simon', where
15 did he want you to touch him?

16 A. On his penis.

17 Q. What did he say?

18 A. He would say, 'Here', he would just say, 'Here', but he
19 didn't have -- he wasn't naked, he had his clothes on,
20 but he would, er -- it was just to humiliate me, you
21 know.

22 Q. What did he say to you, or how did he behave to indicate
23 that he wanted you to touch his penis?

24 A. I mean, I can't remember his exact words, but he would
25 say, 'Here, get into that', you know. And yeah,

1 that's -- I mean, I feel quite embarrassed about talking
2 about that, but that's what he did, you know, he was
3 a nasty piece of work.

4 Q. Did he do that in front of other boys?

5 A. Yeah, there was a crowd of them.

6 LADY SMITH: Did he laugh?

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: Did he think it was funny, 'Simon'?

9 A. Oh, it was his idea, he loved it, he loved humiliating.
10 I mean, going away back to my school days, he was the
11 same in there, because I remember this teacher, Mr [REDACTED]
12 his name was, as I said earlier, I had a bit of
13 a stutter at that time, I had developed a bit of
14 a stutter. And this Mr [REDACTED] would ask a question and
15 I would go to answer and I would maybe stutter a bit,
16 and the teacher would make a fool of me and say, 'Tut,
17 tut, tut, tut, tut', so everybody picked up on this, you
18 know. And that was -- it was mental anguish, you know.

19 But yeah, it was -- so this carried on into approved
20 school as well, you know, the same --

21 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', you just told me that the teacher made
22 fun of the fact that --

23 A. Yes, Mr [REDACTED].

24 LADY SMITH: -- you had a stutter.

25 A. Yeah, oh yeah. He was -- well, that was how he behaved,

1 that was how he was, and he would single you out, you
2 know, he would single me out because he knew that, well,
3 there would be no consequences, you know.

4 LADY SMITH: What was he a teacher of, can you remember?

5 A. English.

6 LADY SMITH: English.

7 A. English, yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: Did he make you read out material from books?

9 A. Yeah, he would do that, but he would also -- one of the
10 things he would do is say, for instance, he would ask
11 a question and I would say -- maybe I would be
12 stuttering, and I would say, 'Tut, tut, tut, tut', and
13 he would say, 'Tut, tut, tut, tut, tut', and make a fool
14 of me, you know, and, of course, that got lots of
15 laughter. And that's how it was, you know, I hated that
16 class, you know, he was a nasty piece of work.

17 LADY SMITH: Then in turn, your nemesis, [REDACTED] --

18 A. Well, that's when he picked up on all that, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: -- was doing what the teacher did?

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Great modelling. Not.

22 A. Yeah. But he was -- I hated going into that class,
23 because I knew I was going to get a hard time, you know.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 A. That's why you go -- that's why I was truant, because of

1 the different things that were happening to me.

2 MS MACLEOD: In paragraph 49 of your statement, 'Simon', you

3 speak about an occasion where you say you recall the

4 boy, [REDACTED], finding you in the play barn.

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. Are you able to tell me about that occasion? Who was in

7 the play barn at that time?

8 A. Er, I don't think it was [REDACTED], it was -- I

9 don't think it was [REDACTED]. It was one of the

10 staff. It was one of the staff who -- I mean, there may

11 have been an instance with [REDACTED], but one of the

12 staff, there was a young, er -- there was a young --

13 I don't know what he was, he was a young person that

14 came to work there, he was in his 20s, and sometimes he

15 would take us out on the bus and things like that, and

16 he got -- he wanted me to come and give him a hand and

17 we went to the play barn and he tried it on wi' me, you

18 know. But, er, I ran out of the place and I think --

19 I don't know who he was, he was English, and he was

20 there for a wee while and then he was gone.

21 Q. And I think you tell us about that in paragraph 43 of

22 your statement, 'Simon', you say:

23 'An English guy started working there. I don't know

24 if he was maybe a student.'

25 A. He may have been a student, I don't know what it was.

1 But he wasnae like the rest of them, he wasn't like the
2 rest of them, he was a much younger guy than them, you
3 know.

4 Q. How old was he?

5 A. I would say -- I would say he was probably only about
6 22/23 or something.

7 Q. On that occasion that you are recalling there in the
8 play barn, when you say he tried it on with you, what
9 did he do?

10 A. He started to -- it was as if he was wrestling,
11 wrestling, I wasnae one for that kind of stuff, but it
12 was as if he was wrestling and the next thing he had his
13 hand in the back of my trousers, and I managed to get
14 away, and I just ran out and I kept well away fae him
15 after that, you know. But yeah, he was into all that
16 stuff, you know.

17 Q. You do tell us about that in your statement, 'Simon',
18 you say:

19 'The next thing I knew he grabbed me and put me down
20 on the ground. He was holding me in a grip and he put
21 his hand down the back of my trousers.'

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Something else you mention about that staff member, you
24 say:

25 'He would try and get me to go places with him.'

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. Can you tell me about that?

3 A. Who, him?

4 Q. Him.

5 A. Aye. Well, that's what it was. I mean, the play barn,
6 when you were over at the play barn, most of the time
7 there wasnae anybody in there, you know, you would just
8 walk in. And that's what he was up to, he was -- and
9 then eventually I knew that that's what he was after,
10 because, I mean, I was very naive at that time, you
11 know, I was very naive at that time. But --

12 Q. I think you do tell us, 'Simon', you say:

13 'I thought at first he wanted to be my friend.'

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You say:

16 'When you are in there and you don't have a friend,
17 you appreciate someone showing you a bit of kindness.'

18 A. Yeah, yeah, there was very few, there was very few
19 staff, I mean I don't have any of the staff that I can
20 think back and say, you know, I felt comfortable around
21 them, you know, because there was none, you know, there
22 was none. You know, I've said that to people, where,
23 you know, you didn't have anybody you could turn to to
24 tell them anything that was happening. There was
25 nobody, you know.

1 Q. The person who may have been a student who you describe
2 as an English guy who started working there, did you see
3 him behave in the sort of way you have described? Did
4 you see him behave in that way to other boys?

5 A. Well, you would see him -- you would see him, see that
6 was his job, so he would be in little groups of people.
7 You know, and you didn't know what was going on, you
8 know, you didn't know what was going on. But I know he
9 disappeared kinda abruptly, you know, he was gone and
10 that was it.

11 There was quite a lot of people that worked in there
12 I don't remember, so, er, it's mainly the ones that
13 stick in my mind that gave me a hard time that I can
14 remember.

15 Q. In paragraph 47 of your statement, you say:
16 'There was a lot of suggestive behaviour.'

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What do you mean by that?

19 A. Well, a lot of people talking about things about, you
20 know, there would be things like -- people would suggest
21 that you'd been messing about with this one or that one,
22 or whatever.

23 Q. Who would suggest these things?

24 A. It could be staff. It could be staff, it could be boys,
25 you know. I mean I wasn't, but there was people would

1 say things and they would create a rumour and the rumour
2 would get worse, you know.

3 Q. Did people say these sorts of things to you?

4 A. Mm, yeah.

5 Q. Can you help me with who said these sorts of things to
6 you, the things that you are thinking of?

7 A. Well, there was one or two, one or two of the staff, was
8 -- they put it across as like a joke, as if it was
9 a joke. But you didn't feel it was a joke, you know.

10 Q. Which staff members are you thinking of there?

11 A. We're going back to, who do you call him? KDN, no
12 KDN, no, KDM. KDM would say things,
13 and --

14 Q. What did he say?

15 A. Maybe he was -- maybe he was joking. See, he came fae
16 a background, he came fae a background where he played
17 for Celtic Football Club and there was a lot of banter,
18 and there was a lot of banter and maybe in his way --
19 maybe in his way he was treating all this stuff as
20 banter but you were taking it seriously, you know.

21 Q. What did he say to you, what sort of thing did he say?

22 A. He would maybe just suggest that you were messing about
23 with somebody, and doing things in the toilets and that
24 kind of thing.

25 Q. When you say 'messing about', what do you mean?

1 A. Sexually messing about wi' other boys. And that wasn't
2 the case, you know. But when you start a rumour in
3 a place like that, everybody gives you it, everybody
4 gives you a hard time.

5 Q. Did KDM say this sort of thing to you in front
6 of other boys?

7 A. Yeah, yeah, it was a bit -- like I say, now I can look
8 back on it and say probably it was banter, but at that
9 time I didn't take it as banter, you know. And maybe it
10 wasn't banter, but -- see, a lot of people did start
11 rumours about people and it was usually the weaker
12 people, the people that didn't have anybody that could
13 stand up for them, you know.

14 And you did tend to just keep back fae certain
15 people, you would try and avoid them and you could,
16 because it was quite a big place, you know.

17 Q. Would that be trying to avoid other boys or some of the
18 staff?

19 A. Staff.

20 Q. Staff. Were there any particular staff members that you
21 tried to avoid?

22 A. Er, well, I didn't like being around LYT,
23 LYT, I didn't like being around him.
24 KDN, who was SNR, I didn't
25 like being around him. There was a few, you know, there

1 was ... KDM , well, as I mentioned KDM , KDM
2 could quite easily just fly off the handle and you would
3 get a skelp or whatever, you know. I'm just trying to
4 remember, there was an old guy called -- he worked in
5 the farming gardens, he could be -- at times he could be
6 a wee bit slappy, different things like that, you know.
7 But a lot of it, a lot of what I got at that time,
8 after time had passed, it was mental stuff, you know,
9 they just made life so hard for you, you know.
10 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about Mr KDN , who
11 you have mentioned a couple of times?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. What was it about him that made you not want to be
14 around him?
15 A. Well, he was SNR , and whenever --
16 whenever -- when I started running away and I would get
17 brought back and it was him I had to face, and a couple
18 of times, you know, he would humiliate you. I had the
19 belt off him with my trousers down. And, er, it was
20 just a horrible feeling, you know, how he was behaving.
21 And he did a few things to me. I mean, one time, one
22 time he dressed me up in a pair of big, big shorts that
23 were too big for me, and a big pair of size 12 boots,
24 and everywhere I went, I had to walk about with this on,
25 to keep me there, you know.

1 Q. I think you talk about this, 'Simon', in paragraph 54 of
2 your statement --
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. -- if we can perhaps have a look at that.
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. On occasions when you would run away and you were
7 brought back, would you be taken to Mr KDN for
8 punishment?
9 A. Yeah, yeah, he would be the one that would do the
10 punishment.
11 Q. What did that involve, the punishment?
12 A. Well, usually, sometimes it would just be the belt on
13 the hands and that. But it was often on the backside,
14 you know.
15 Q. Where in the school were you taken for the belt to be
16 administered?
17 A. Into his office.
18 Q. Who was present on the occasions that --
19 A. Nobody, just me and him.
20 Q. You've held your hands out in front of you, and I think
21 indicated that sometimes the belt would be administered
22 on the hand?
23 A. Yeah, maybe up here and that, yeah.
24 Q. You are pointing to your wrist?
25 A. Yeah, what would happen was sometimes he would miss and

1 it would be way up here. And when he hit you, say for
2 instance you pulled your hand out of the way, he would
3 come running after you and it was -- he was in a rage at
4 times, if that happened, you know.

5 Q. How many times would he hit you with the belt, how many
6 strokes of the belt?

7 A. Well, he was given to -- the time when he did it on my
8 backside, I was to get six. But he didn't get as far as
9 six, because I kinda pulled away and I sorta managed to
10 get him to stop it. But yeah, it was -- that was what
11 he did, you know. That was -- it was to try and stop me
12 fae running away.

13 Q. Was it one occasion that he hit on you the backside?

14 A. Oh no, it was more than one. See, what was happening is
15 I'd run away and I'd end up up my granny's house and
16 then the police would come up at about 4.00 in the
17 morning and take me back. So every time I got taken
18 back, it was KDN that I had to see, you know. And
19 he would give you all sorts of warnings and different
20 things like that, but most of the time, at the
21 beginning, it was just the belt on the hands. And as
22 I say, if he missed, hit you somewhere else, he didnae
23 -- he didn't like that, you know.

24 LADY SMITH: When you were hit on the backside, was that
25 over your trousers or with your trousers down?

1 A. No, it was everything down, yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: You had to have your trousers down?

3 A. Yeah, yeah, it was everything down.

4 LADY SMITH: Everything down?

5 A. It was agony, I had to -- and as I say, he got so far

6 and I ran out, you know. I pulled my trousers up and

7 I ran out, and he was raging. But that's just how it

8 was, I wasn't the only one that get that.

9 MS MACLEOD: On that occasion, 'Simon', I think you say in

10 your statement:

11 'I tried to run out of the door squealing and he

12 finished it off with his hand.'

13 A. What was that, sorry?

14 Q. Did he hit you with his hand?

15 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, he did it wi' his hand as well, yeah.

16 But he also did it with the belt.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You go on here to talk about that he got a big pair of

20 boots that were a size 14 with no laces?

21 A. Yeah, big, big boots, yes.

22 Q. 'A pair of shorts and an old t-shirt and made me wear

23 them', and that you had to go and stand in the yard

24 wearing that?

25 A. Yeah, when I went out to stand in the yard, I had to

1 stand in a stream so that they could see me all the
2 time, and I couldn't move fae there. You know, I mean,
3 the boys went out there, they would be there for
4 20 minutes or something, and that's when I had to go, so
5 I got fed up with that.

6 And, as I say, they'd taken my clothes off, so
7 I just laid on my bed one night until 3.00 or 4.00 in
8 the morning and took the guy next to me's clothes, went
9 out the window, down past the headmaster's, went down
10 and away.

11 Q. Is that the occasion, 'Simon', where you tell us that
12 you were actually on the run for up to nine months?

13 A. Up to nine months, yeah.

14 Q. I think you tell us that when you got back to St Mary's,
15 after being caught, after those months, that you decided
16 you were going to be a different person?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. What happened was -- what happened was they
18 said to me, they said to me, 'Look, if you stay, if you
19 don't run away and stay until sports day', which was
20 [REDACTED], 'And you can get a job', I was 15 or something,
21 just going into 16, 'If you get a job, we'll let you out
22 on sports day'. So they let me out on the Tuesday, it
23 was, let me out on the Tuesday and I managed to get
24 a job in a shop in Govan. And went back on the Saturday
25 for the sports day, and I got -- they let me out. They

1 weren't going to at the time, but I got hold of KDN
2 and he said okay, plus the fact I'd won quite a lot of
3 the things in the sports day, I won a lot of prizes,
4 and, er, I got out that day, that was the day,
5 1970.

6 LADY SMITH: That wasn't long before you were 16?

7 A. Yeah, yeah, just before I was 16. Yeah, that's when
8 I got out, yeah. And then quickly I was in borstal. I
9 was in borstal -- my granny died that year, my granny
10 died in and I was in borstal in , I
11 think it was .

12 MS MACLEOD: Before we go on to look at your time in borstal
13 in a little bit of detail, I just want to ask you a few
14 more things about your time at St Mary's, just before
15 you left. You mentioned a staff member by the name of
16 Mr Franks.

17 A. Mr Franks, that was the cook.

18 Q. Yes. Was he there in St Mary's while you were there?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, he was there.

20 Q. What are your recollections of him?

21 A. Well, I didn't really have much to do with him.
22 Because, I mean, I didn't work in there, but I know some
23 of the guys that worked in there had a hard time, you
24 know. He was notorious.

25 But, no, I didn't work in there. I worked in -- for

1 a wee while I worked in the baker's shop until I burnt
2 mysel' and then I went to the farming gardens.

3 Q. When you say in relation to Bill Franks that he was
4 notorious, is that something that you were told about by
5 the boys while you were in St Mary's?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. What did the boys tell you about Bill Franks while you
8 were in St Mary's?

9 A. Well, he was known for years in there as somebody who
10 was -- who would mess about with boys and different
11 things. So you didn't really want a job in there, you
12 know, helping him, you know, because -- I mean,
13 personally, I'm only talking about what other boys have
14 told me, you know, but I know he was an abuser, you
15 know. And it wasnae just one or two people that told me
16 that. And then my brother told me all about him as
17 well.

18 Q. Did a number of boys, 'Simon', tell you while you were
19 in St Mary's that they had been abused by Bill Franks?

20 A. Yeah, yeah. Oh yeah. It was a known fact. It was
21 a known fact, you know. And it was a known fact long
22 after I was away fae there as well. I used to hear
23 people talking about him.

24 Q. Did you say that your brother had told you?

25 A. My brother told me, yeah.

1 Q. Was that at the time when you were young boys?

2 A. No, my brother was younger than me, my brother was
3 younger than me, so he was in there after me. And er --
4 but now, now he talks about it, you know, he's also
5 given a statement here. And, er, he talks about it.
6 I mean, I don't know, he didn't give me much detail
7 about him, but he did mention him. So I don't know if
8 he was directly involved, you know, or what, but he
9 certainly told me all about him.

10 Q. When you were in St Mary's, 'Simon', and boys were
11 telling you about Bill Franks and you have mentioned the
12 word 'abused', did they say what sort of things he was
13 doing?

14 A. They just says, 'You need to watch out for that, because
15 he's a sexual abuser', you know.

16 Q. Moving on then, 'Simon', you've told us about leaving
17 St Mary's and the date on which you left.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us in paragraph 59 that you ended up in court,
20 I think you say, I think you described, you say you did
21 something stupid a few months later --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and ended up in court. Did you end up on remand in
24 Longriggend for a few weeks?

25 A. Three weeks, yeah.

1 Q. I think you say you were then recommended for two years'
2 borstal training?

3 A. Well, the guy that came to see me, I don't know whether
4 it was a social worker or a probation officer or
5 something, I remember him saying, you know, he knew all
6 the details, I lived with my granny and she'd just died,
7 and things like that. He says, 'Well, I'm going to
8 recommend you for probation'. But the day before I was
9 to go to court to get the -- I get the report and it
10 didn't say that in that at all, he recommended me for
11 borstal training. And funnily enough it was the same
12 sheriff that sent me to approved school that sent me
13 there as well.

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I see it is 11.30 am, I probably have
15 about 15 minutes to go with this witness.

16 LADY SMITH: A little bit to go.

17 'Simon', I normally take a short break at this point
18 in the morning --

19 A. Yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: -- and everyone can get a breather, would that
21 work for you if we took that now?

22 A. Yeah, fine, yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, thank you very much.

24 (11.33 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.51 am)
2 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', welcome back.
3 A. Hi.
4 LADY SMITH: Are you ready for to us carry on, is that all
5 right?
6 A. Yeah, yeah, let's do it.
7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
8 Ms MacLeod.
9 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
10 Hello, 'Simon'.
11 A. Hi.
12 Q. Before the break, we had just started to speak about
13 your time in borstal training.
14 A. Mm-hm.
15 Q. In your statement, you tell us that before you were
16 actually sent to Polmont Young Offenders, that you spent
17 some time in a holding cell in Barlinnie Prison?
18 A. Yeah, yeah, I was in there for a week.
19 Q. How old were you?
20 A. 16.
21 Q. Can you tell me about that, what were the conditions
22 like in there?
23 A. Well, it was kinda unexpected. I get sent up to
24 Barlinnie, and a lot of people are just there overnight.
25 But at that time the bus would take them to Polmont once

1 a week, and I had arrived on the day that the bus had
2 just went, so it was a week I was in there. And it was
3 like, it was a kind of old, dilapidated place. It was,
4 er, it was all old alcoholics and that ... there was ...
5 young people who told me they had done a life sentence
6 but all on 30-day and 60-day sentences, you know, that
7 kind of thing. The cell was -- it was up on the top
8 flat and it was a bit of a dive, you know, it was
9 filthy. The bed was just a kind of thing that came down
10 wi' a mattress on top of it. I remember looking under
11 it, and it was full of rubbish, you know, and all sorts
12 of things. That's what it was, I was in there for
13 a week before they took me up to Polmont, you know.

14 Q. You say in your statement:

15 'They put me in a cell with all the old guys...'

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. '... that was an absolute pigsty.'

18 A. Yeah, yeah, I wasn't in the cell with them, they were
19 round about, they were all just old men who had been in
20 prison for most of their life. And -- yeah, it was
21 an experience.

22 Q. From there you tell us that you were taken to Polmont
23 Young Offenders Institute?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. That initially you were put into what you describe as

1 an allocation centre?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. Did you spend around eight weeks or so --

4 A. Eight weeks, yeah.

5 Q. -- in there?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. What was the purpose of that period?

8 A. What they did was it was a short, sharp shock. They

9 gave you all -- it was all exercise and marching about,

10 all sorts of things like that, you know. And you were

11 in there for eight weeks, and then they decided whether

12 you were going to go to a home(?) borstal or you were

13 going to go through into one of the wings, either east

14 or west wing, and I went to west wing, yeah.

15 Q. While you were in the allocation centre, how were you

16 treated by the other boys that were in there, the

17 inmates?

18 A. Er, well, I had a situation where somebody attacked me

19 wi' a handful of teapots, and, er, what happened was

20 both him and me got carted away and locked up for

21 a couple of nights.

22 Q. You say you were in solitary confinement for a couple of

23 days?

24 A. Yeah, into the 'Digger', yeah.

25 Q. What about the staff during that first period, what were

1 your experiences of the staff?

2 A. Well, you had to be on your toes, it was quite a strict
3 regime, you know. Yeah, the staff weren't wonderful,
4 yeah.

5 Q. In the statement you tell us:

6 'The staff used to beat me for anything at all.'

7 A. Yeah, you didn't have to do much. You know, you got
8 a beating just for -- in there, when you got into the
9 allocation centre, it was an army-type thing. There was
10 a lot of like the army type of thing, and you had to,
11 your bed block had to be perfect, and they would come in
12 and your floor had to be highly polished, and if they
13 came in and it wasn't -- or the bed block wasn't right
14 or something, you could get a beating.

15 Q. What did the beating involve?

16 A. Well, it depends who it was, you know. There was
17 different ones who were nasty pieces of work, you know.
18 You could get a beating, you could get a -- they would
19 do things to your room as well, that was another thing
20 they would do. But yeah, you would get a beating for
21 anything, you know, something --

22 Q. When you say a beating, 'Simon', what did the staff
23 actually do to you, what did they do?

24 A. Well, I remember -- whenever it became really physical,
25 I would just roll myself into a ball and let them do

1 what they wanted, you know. And -- but yeah --

2 Q. In what way did it become physical? What did staff do

3 to you physically?

4 A. They punched you and kicked you, but a lot of times it

5 was just a slap, or one belt, you know, in the stomach

6 or something like that. But yeah, it depends, it

7 depends what they was pulling you up on and it depends

8 who it was, you know. Some of them weren't very nice

9 people.

10 Q. You say:

11 'The staff got away with all sorts in there'.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I think you have mentioned that you were allocated to

14 a particular wing?

15 A. Yeah, I went through to west wing, yeah.

16 Q. I think you tell us in your statement, 'Simon', that

17 when you walked in there, who did you see?

18 A. Er, oh, [REDACTED], he was in there. He was

19 in there. But we didn't really engage as much in there,

20 because I had changed, I had changed from -- I had

21 become a bit more bigger and tougher.

22 LADY SMITH: A bit more streetwise?

23 A. Yeah, yeah. And so -- but we still didn't -- we just

24 ignored each other, we just didn't -- I don't remember

25 taking too much to do with him in there at all.

1 MS MACLEOD: I think you tell us, 'Simon', that you spent
2 around 11 months in Polmont --
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. -- all together?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. Once you were allocated to the wing that you were to
7 spend the majority of your time, how was your experience
8 in Polmont, how were you treated by the staff once you
9 were allocated to the wing?
10 A. The staff, the staff were -- a lot of times they just
11 left you to your own thing. Some of the staff were
12 okay, you know. You know, there was ... once what
13 happened was I got -- they started doing a thing where,
14 they were doing a thing called the borstal minstrels,
15 and they were -- we were going to perform at the
16 Stirling Albert Hall, and we did, we did. They were
17 having a production of Hair in there, there was school
18 kids or something, and we were at the back singing, and
19 at that time, I was out in an outside working party,
20 I was sent to -- they were building the women's prison
21 at that time through there.
22 LADY SMITH: Cornton Vale?
23 A. Cornton Vale, yeah, and I was sent there to work there.
24 MS MACLEOD: You were working on the building of that, of
25 Cornton Vale?

1 A. Building that, yeah, yeah. But after we did that night,
2 after we did that night at the Stirling Albert Hall
3 I decided I was going to run away, and I did. The next
4 day me and another guy, we decided to run away, but we
5 didn't know where we were going, you know. So we soon
6 get picked up and taken back. But the first thing that
7 happened -- the first thing that happened was we got
8 taken in to the reception area, and the first person
9 I seen was a Mr GIH he was a instructor, and he
10 just set right about me. All sorts. Punched me. I hit
11 the floor. And he was jumping on me and all sorts. And
12 he was really, really angry. And anyway, so I went up
13 before the governor the next day and they sent me to the
14 Digger, the solitary confinement, for two weeks. I was
15 fourteen days remand and then two weeks in there.

16 And that was a kinda situation where you put all
17 your stuff out, all your bed and everything out, and you
18 just used to be in the bare room, no chair or anything,
19 every day. And the only time you get out fae that was
20 they let us out in the hallway and they put a table and
21 chair out and they'd -- the dialers, the telephones, you
22 know, the old type of telephones, we had to sit there,
23 my pal(?), and there was a bit of platinum and we had
24 to -- that was our job, but I was in there for two weeks
25 and then I went back into the wing and I decided just to

1 get on with it. So I would probably have been out in
2 nine month, but I got out in 11, because of that, I got
3 two months extra.

4 Q. I think you tell us you were still 17 when you were
5 released?

6 A. Yeah, I was 17 when I got out.

7 Q. You provide us, 'Simon', with some information about
8 your life after care.

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. I will just look at that with you briefly. You tell us
11 that at that time your life spiralled out of control.

12 A. Yeah, yeah, I was -- I started drinking a lot, and yeah,
13 my life was kinda, it wasn't good, you know. But, er,
14 you know, I just -- that's what it was, I took a liking
15 for the drink and I didn't stop drinking until I was 25.
16 And I was about 23 before I started getting my life
17 together, and --

18 Q. You tell us that you have managed to overcome a lot of
19 things --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- in your life?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And that you spent a number of years working in
24 a hospital?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. That following that, you have spent the majority of your
2 life as self-employed?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Now, in terms of reporting what happened to you when you
5 were in the places you have been telling us about, and
6 particularly about your experiences in St Mary's, have
7 you ever reported any of that to the police?

8 A. Well, the thing about it is, is back then you were just
9 a stupid boy, you know, and you didn't really -- you had
10 nobody to talk to anyway, you know. Probably, if you
11 spoke to somebody, they wouldn't believe you. And most
12 of the police I knew down in Govan, Orkney Street, they
13 would have just chased me, they just, they wouldn't have
14 taken me seriously, you know. So it never even occurred
15 to me to report it, because I thought it was just a part
16 of things, you know, it was something that happened.

17 Q. You then provide information towards the end of your
18 statement, 'Simon', about the impact that you consider
19 that your experiences in your early life has had on you.

20 A. Mm-hm. Yeah.

21 Q. At paragraph 79 you say:

22 'My time in care screwed up a lot of my life.'

23 A. Oh it did, without a doubt. I mean, at that time
24 I didn't really have family to support me at all.

25 The only person I had was -- as I say, my granny had

1 died by that time, it was my granny and my auntie that
2 stayed in the house. And my auntie wasn't somebody you
3 could sit down and talk to about anything like that, so
4 yeah, there wasn't anybody. My mother didn't want to
5 know. And my father was -- he was an alcoholic, so he
6 wasn't right, you know, you couldn't -- I didn't have
7 anybody I could speak to at all at that time. You know.

8 Q. You've said that you've always had a feeling that
9 something bad is going to happen?

10 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, you just had that feeling. Because
11 things always happened. Things always happened. So you
12 just were waiting for something to happen, you know.
13 But as I say, gradually, gradually I got better, you
14 know. Like, I mean, I remember going into somebody's
15 house one time, and I was doing a job in somebody's
16 house, and they were all acting like a family, you know,
17 they were being nice to each other, and they were doing
18 things, and I thought they were putting it on.
19 I couldn't -- I didn't think it was sincere. Because
20 I had never seen this. You know, and yeah, that's --
21 I remember that. I remember going into that house, in
22 the Gorbals it was, and they were all dead friendly to
23 each other. I always knew animosity, you know,
24 especially around my mother and all them, you know,
25 I always knew animosity.

1 So yeah, I suppose it was -- you know, I didn't
2 really know where I was going, I didn't know where I was
3 heading, in what direction. I went to London for a wee
4 while. I went away down there and all I had was £1.50
5 in my pocket. And yeah, and then I worked in Butlins,
6 you know, back at that time. And it took me a long time
7 really to get my act together, you know. As I say,
8 I was starting jobs and I was in them two weeks and --
9 and I thought I was smart, but I wasn't smart at all.
10 Yeah, it was -- it was -- there was no guidance, you
11 know, there was nothing to say to me, 'This is what you
12 should be doing', 'That's what you should be doing', or,
13 'Why don't you try this?', you know, it was I just had
14 to find out for myself, you know.

15 Q. You say that St Mary's haunted you for years after you
16 left?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, it did, yeah. There was lots of things that
18 happened in St Mary's that I haven't mentioned in here
19 at all, because I'm too embarrassed. But yeah,
20 St Mary's did haunt me for quite a while. I
21 certainly had dreams, I still occasionally get dreams
22 about it, yeah, but --

23 Q. You say in your statement that you have started, or
24 sometimes see faces?

25 A. Mm, yes.

1 Q. But you can't put a name to the faces?

2 A. Yeah, yeah. You know, it was people that worked in
3 there who, you know, different ones that worked in
4 there, and I just can't remember their names, you know.

5 Q. You say:

6 'The faces give me the shivers.'

7 A. Yeah, yeah. Oh, there was folk in there that certainly
8 gave me the shivers, yeah. But, as I say, you have to
9 get over it, and fortunately, fortunately, things
10 started to get better, you know. When I was 25, when
11 I was 25, I think, 20 July 1980, I stopped drinking, and
12 I started going to AA, and then my life started to get
13 better, you know. My life started to get better, but
14 that was the only time in my life, or just before that
15 I suppose, that I started to be a bit more responsible,
16 you know.

17 Q. In the final part of your statement, 'Simon', from
18 paragraph 84 onwards, you speak about lessons that you
19 think might be learned for the future.

20 The first thing you say is:

21 'I think that there should be someone for each child
22 to speak to.'

23 A. Mm, yeah.

24 Q. 'If the child doesn't speak up they have to find a way
25 of getting to the bottom of the problem.'

1 A. Yeah, yeah, and that's true. I mean, that's what
2 happened with me in the child guidance clinic. When
3 I went to the child guidance clinic when I was about 13
4 or something, and they would ask me why I wasn't -- why
5 I was playing truant all the time. And I wouldn't
6 answer. I would just put my head down and I wouldn't
7 answer, I was just a stupid wee boy, you know. You
8 know, they must have -- say, 'There must be a reason why
9 this guy is doing this, why he's playing truant all the
10 time', but instead of that, they just sent me up to
11 court and sent me away. See, I'd been threatened with
12 that before when I was just at the end of primary
13 school, there was a deputy headmaster and he says to me,
14 'Look, you are going to ... this is your last chance,
15 you are going to go to an approved school'.

16 So after he spoke to me, I started going again, and
17 then that's when I went to secondary and then things
18 deteriorated fae there.

19 Q. Staying with that, what you say in your statement is:

20 'It must have been obvious to the people at the
21 child guidance ...'

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. '... that there was a reason why I wasn't going to
24 school.'

25 A. Yeah. Well, I would have thought so. I mean if they

1 had looked at my family life, they would have seen that
2 there wasn't much of a family life there, but I think
3 maybe approved school in the situation that I was put in
4 wasn't the right place to be, you know.

5 Q. You go on to say:

6 'In my case, they would have seen that an approved
7 school was not the right place to send me.'

8 A. What, sorry?

9 Q. You say:

10 'In my case they would have seen ...'

11 So if people had looked into your background, they
12 would have seen that 'an approved school was not the
13 right place to send me'.

14 A. It wasn't, but at that time, but when I look back on it,
15 I don't know what was, you know. I don't know what
16 there should have been, because there wasnae really
17 a good home life there. I mean, and certainly, well, my
18 granny had done her best, but they were poor, you know,
19 they didn't have any money. And so it was, as I say,
20 I was going out, out until 12 o'clock/1 o'clock in the
21 morning, and all that. So there probably was something
22 needing done, but I don't think the approved school was
23 the answer.

24 Q. You say that your life was in turmoil and that putting
25 you into the approved school made it worse, ten times

1 worse?

2 A. Oh yeah, definitely, definitely.

3 Q. Once you were in there, moving on to paragraph 85, what

4 you say is that there wasn't an opportunity to move on

5 from the approved school?

6 A. No, no, once I was out -- the day I get out, that was

7 it. I was just out the door and that was it, you know.

8 There was no follow up to it. There was nothing like

9 that, you know. I just went and headed home.

10 Q. So you weren't given any preparation for leaving?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. And nobody checked up on you after you'd left?

13 A. No, nothing at all, no.

14 LADY SMITH: And you weren't even actually 16 --

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: -- when you left, you were about to be 16 --

17 A. No, no, I wasn't, I was 15, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: -- when you left St Mary's?

19 A. Yes. And at the time when I get out, nobody had even

20 been in touch with my family, any family that I had, you

21 know. Nobody had been in touch with them at all, you

22 know.

23 MS MACLEOD: Then paragraph 86, 'Simon', you say:

24 'If you weren't involved in any criminal behaviour

25 before going in there then you would be by the time you

1 [got out].'

2 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, because what there was in there was
3 when you went in -- when you went in, everybody asked
4 each other what they're in for, and if you're in for
5 playing truant from school, you're at the bottom of the
6 pecking order, you know, you're at the bottom. Because
7 all these guys are all, you know, 'I'm in for 14 car
8 thefts', 'I'm in for this, I'm in for that'. So, you
9 know, you feel as if you're the odd man out, you know.
10 And there was only a couple of us in for playing truant
11 fae school.

12 So when I ran away, and I was away for a while, and
13 when I came back, it was a different story. I was in
14 for all these car thefts, although I wasn't, but you
15 just wanted to be like the rest of them, you know. And
16 to try to fit in. And that's just how it was, you know.
17 But most of the guys, most of the guys, I mean, they
18 could learn you anything that you wanted to know about
19 going out and stealing things, and different things like
20 that. And that's how it was, you know, that's how it
21 was. I mean, I don't think that -- I don't think there
22 was enough people in, enough staff in there to sort of
23 supervise us, you know. I don't think so, er ...

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, you mentioned that earlier --

25 A. Yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: -- in relation to, for example, the
2 dormitories.

3 A. Yeah, yeah. There was -- I don't remember a single
4 member of staff you could have sat down and have a chat
5 with. I mean there might have been, but maybe I didnae,
6 maybe I just didn't talk because I was just shy at that
7 time, you know.

8 MS MACLEOD: That's the point you go on to make in this
9 paragraph we are looking at 'Simon', you say:

10 'There should be someone there for children to go to
11 without bullies finding out. If you haven't got
12 a mother or father to speak to then [there has to be]
13 someone to be able to speak to and trust.'

14 A. Yeah, yeah. I think the only person that they had that
15 was maybe, that that may have been, is the matron. But
16 the matron was quite an old woman, and you couldn't sit
17 down and talk to her, you know. You couldn't sit down,
18 no just because she was old, she was of a completely
19 different generation, you couldn't -- she wasn't the
20 type of person that you could sit -- that's the only
21 person you probably could have spoke to. We called her
22 'Beatrice', and the boys all made different innuendoes
23 about her, you know, so nobody wanted to go and see her
24 even if they had a bad cut or anything like that, you
25 know.

1 But, yeah, but I think that is as near to who you
2 could speak to.

3 Q. You say that you contacted the Inquiry, 'Simon', to make
4 people aware of what happened in the past --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- and that you hope that the things that happened to
7 you don't happen again?

8 A. Mm-hm. Yeah, I would hope so. But I mean I know it
9 still -- these things are still going on, but, you know,
10 maybe if enough people came out and say what happened,
11 it might make it -- it might make it less, you know,
12 there might be less people doing that. But I don't
13 think so. I think there's always going to be people
14 like that, you know.

15 MS MACLEOD: 'Simon', I don't have any further questions to
16 ask you today, but I just want to give you the
17 opportunity before we complete your evidence just to
18 check whether there is anything that you would like to
19 add before we finish?

20 A. Well, as I say, I've went over quite a lot of stuff and,
21 as I says to you, there is things -- there is things
22 that you don't want to talk -- I mean, there's things
23 like the [REDACTED] situation I didn't want to talk
24 about before, you know, and ... so there's things that
25 went on, things that went on that's very embarrassing

1 for a man to say, you know. And, er, so I've held back
2 and things like that, you know. But yeah, it is a long
3 time ago. You know, I mean, I left St Mary's, I think,
4 55 years ago, so that's what I would say. You know, if
5 you can think the guy in the play barn, there's a wee
6 bit more to that story, and different ones, there was
7 another story that goes on in borstal, which wasn't too
8 pleasant, but for a guy to talk about it is quite
9 embarrassing, you know.

10 LADY SMITH: So that was the guy in the play barn that you
11 told us a little bit about?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', I am not going to press you on that.

14 A. No.

15 LADY SMITH: I respect your privacy and I am not going to
16 push you to say anything that you are not comfortable
17 with, but I do want to say this: try not to be
18 embarrassed. There is nothing to be embarrassed about.
19 I have heard from so many men of your generation,
20 younger and older, who are feeling exactly the same way
21 and have very similar experiences in a whole range of
22 institutions.

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: I do understand that. You are not alone. You
25 may feel you are alone, but actually you are not.

1 A. Yeah. Well, there's certain things you look back on and
2 you shiver, you know, you get a shivery feeling about
3 it, you know.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 A. You know, for many, many years I just tried to -- I just
6 shut up everything and I worked, and I worked and worked
7 and worked and worked. And then it was when I started
8 to look towards retirement, all these things started
9 coming back, you know. And that's -- I had managed to
10 hide a lot of it away. Although, having said that,
11 I did have issues in situations, you know, things like
12 that, you know, and mood swings and different things
13 like that. But I think I've calmed down a little bit
14 now. Yeah, I think I've calmed down a bit now. It's
15 took me a while, but I think I am just about there, you
16 know.

17 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Simon'.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Simon', let me add my thanks. I see that at
19 the time you gave us your written statement, you were
20 able to access psychological help --

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: -- treatment, and I hope that if you are still
23 in need of it now, or in the future, you are still able
24 to do that.

25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I can. There's somebody contacts me

1 every six months.

2 LADY SMITH: Good.

3 In the meantime, please go away knowing that you

4 have added enormous value to my learning --

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: -- and I am really grateful to you for having

7 come here today.

8 A. You are very welcome. Thanks, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Please feel free to go.

11 A. That's it?

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 A. Is this -- shall I take this?

14 LADY SMITH: If you leave the red folder there we will tidy

15 up. Thanks.

16 (The witness withdrew)

17 LADY SMITH: I will rise for a few minutes before the next

18 witness is introduced, but before I do, my

19 General Restriction Order protects a number of people

20 whose identities were disclosed this morning, as we do

21 in the course of oral evidence. I will give you a list.

22 There is [REDACTED], LNI [REDACTED], KDN [REDACTED],

23 LYT [REDACTED], KDM [REDACTED], also referred to as KDM [REDACTED],

24 Mr [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and GIH [REDACTED], also referred to

25 as Mr GIH [REDACTED]. These people must not be identified as

1 having been referred to in our evidence outside of this
2 room, so please remember that.

3 I will rise shortly, for a brief period, and then we
4 will resume.

5 (12.20 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (12.27 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, and I am going to ask Mr MacAulay
9 to produce the next witness.

10 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady. The next witness is
11 an applicant, he wants to remain anonymous and to use
12 the name 'Gearoid' when giving his evidence, I will
13 spell that.

14 LADY SMITH: Could you, and could you just give me
15 a pronunciation again to help me?

16 MR MACAULAY: It's 'Gearoid'.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Gearoid', thank you.

18 MR MACAULAY: That's spelt G-E-A-R-O-I-D.

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon, 'Gearoid'.

20 'Gearoid' (affirmed)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Gearoid', please sit down and make yourself
22 comfortable.

23 First of all an apology, we had hoped to be able to
24 start your evidence earlier today, and it has proved
25 impossible to do so. I am so sorry about that.

1 A. No problem at all.

2 LADY SMITH: That doesn't mean we are going to rush you.

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: Your evidence is just as important as it was
5 going to be if we had been able to start on time, so let
6 me assure you of that.

7 A. Thank you.

8 LADY SMITH: Can I thank you for coming here at all to help
9 me hear what you have to say in person, and that's in
10 addition to the work that you have already put in in
11 providing a written statement to us, and it has been
12 really good to be able to read that in advance. We
13 won't, of course, go through it word for word, we will
14 look at some particular aspects that we are interested
15 in.

16 A. Okay.

17 LADY SMITH: I know that coming here to be in public, to
18 talk about yourself and your own life, may, on the
19 surface, seem something that you can do straightforward,
20 it's all about me, isn't it, but equally I know that it
21 is not easy --

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: -- at all and people can readily be caught
24 unawares by their own emotions when they are taken back,
25 particularly to childhood, and particularly to times

1 that things were not good, and that's an understatement,
2 I appreciate that. So if you need a break, that's not
3 a problem, you just let me know. If at any time you
4 just want to pause, or if you want us to explain
5 something better, that's our fault, not yours, you just
6 tell us. Because my key is to try and do anything I can
7 to help you give the best evidence you can.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: We will do this together, and I will hand over
10 to Mr MacAulay and he will take it from there, is that
11 all right?

12 A. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

14 Questions from Mr MacAulay

15 MR MACAULAY: Hello again, 'Gearoid'.

16 The first thing I want you to do is turn to the last
17 page of your statement which is in the red folder, and
18 while you are doing that, I will give the reference for
19 the transcript, that's WIT-1-000001092. Can I ask you,
20 'Gearoid', to confirm that you have signed the
21 statement.

22 A. I did, yes.

23 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph on the page:

24 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
25 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
2 true.'

3 Is that the position?

4 A. That's my position, yeah.

5 Q. You can turn to the beginning of the statement. The
6 statement, as you know, is in the red folder in hard
7 copy. It will also come up on the screen, and if at any
8 time you want to look at the statement, whether in the
9 folder, or on the screen, just feel happy to do so. On
10 occasion, I might direct you to a particular paragraph.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. Just to remind you what you have told us already, do you
13 understand?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. I don't want your date of birth, 'Gearoid', but
16 in order to put some context into your evidence, can you
17 confirm to me that you were born in 1962?

18 A. I can, yes.

19 Q. At the very beginning of your statement, you tell us
20 about your life before you went into care. It's the
21 care aspect of your life that we are going to focus
22 upon, but we also want to know the background.

23 A. Sure.

24 Q. You tell us that you lived at home with your mother, and
25 with three older siblings, is that correct?

1 A. Yeah, and can I just say, sorry, I have slight hearing
2 problems.

3 Q. Okay, are you hearing me?

4 A. I can now, yeah, sorry.

5 Q. You never knew your father?

6 A. I didn't, no.

7 Q. Indeed, you have no real memories of being at home --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- with your mother and your siblings, because you were
10 into care at a very early age?

11 A. Yes, yeah.

12 Q. Do you know why you were taken into care so early?

13 A. Yeah, so it was, er, because my mother was neglecting
14 us. She was basically drinking money that should have
15 been spent on feeding us and stuff, so, yeah, neglect.

16 Q. When you say 'us', were your older siblings taken into
17 care as well?

18 A. Yes, all of us. My sister would have been 9 at the time
19 and my brothers would have been 4 and 5, maybe, 3 and 4,
20 something like that.

21 Q. So far as you're concerned you were what, just over 1?

22 A. Yes, sorry.

23 Q. It's okay. Can you tell me what age you were when you
24 were -- not that you can remember?

25 A. Yeah, 18 months.

1 Q. But looking back, what age were you?

2 A. 18 months, yeah, sorry.

3 Q. What you tell us in your statement is that initially you

4 know now that you were taken to Nazareth House in

5 Cardonald with your siblings, is that correct?

6 A. Yes, that's right.

7 Q. But you are then moved to Nazareth House in Lasswade?

8 A. Yeah, correct.

9 Q. You tell us in the first part of your statement what

10 life was like for you in Nazareth House, Lasswade and

11 clearly as the years went on, because you were there for

12 quite a number of years --

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. -- you will have memories of your time there?

15 A. Yes, yes. They're mixed by the civilian staff being

16 quite protective and kind in contrast to the nuns, who,

17 in my experience with them, was they were abusive and

18 vindictive behaviour on their part.

19 Q. Okay. I think what you are telling us is there was

20 a mixture of civilian staff --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and Sisters?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You would have had direct dealings in particular with

25 the Sisters, is that correct?

1 A. Correct, yes.

2 Q. When you first went there, did you go to a part of the
3 home where younger children were being looked after?

4 A. Yes, the -- Nazareth House in Lasswade is -- it's split
5 into what would be called a 'nursery' and then what we
6 referred to as 'the big boys' side', you know, that was
7 what it was called.

8 I think there you could be in the nursery up to
9 about 6 years, and then, if you were going to be there
10 long-term, there was a certain age you would get to and
11 you would be put into the big side.

12 Q. When you went there with your siblings, were you
13 essentially split up from your siblings?

14 A. Yes. Well, yeah, my two brothers had been sent out to
15 -- they were, I think, a bit too much to handle, and
16 because of their age, they were a lot more streetwise,
17 if you like, when they went in there. And they, you
18 know, their idea of fun was pulling up the tiles of the
19 lobby and stuff, so they got moved to a different place.

20 I was there with -- my sister stayed there, and
21 I had a very, very close relationship with her. So when
22 they sent me over to the boys' side, that was really
23 traumatic, because it was again being taken away from
24 family.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, and as you tell us at the beginning of

1 your statement, of course, your sister was a good bit
2 older than you, about eight years older than you?
3 A. Yes, yes.
4 LADY SMITH: Do you remember her giving you at least some
5 sense of safety --
6 A. Yes.
7 LADY SMITH: -- when you were with her?
8 A. Absolutely, yes, and there was a safety identity.
9 LADY SMITH: Of course.
10 A. Because, you know, I was someone, not just another lost
11 child in there, you know, I had family, you know, and
12 then suddenly I didn't again, you know.
13 LADY SMITH: Yes, somebody you could lean on and look to for
14 support?
15 A. Yeah, yes. I think the fact though is that, I mean,
16 sure, okay, that's -- you're that age, this is now part
17 of the process, you go over there, but as I recall, it
18 was like they insisted it was, you know, you couldn't go
19 over and see her. No, you couldn't, you know, so there
20 was that also contributing to a lot of the anger I have.
21 LADY SMITH: Rigid rules.
22 A. Yes, yes, yes.
23 MR MACAULAY: I think you do tell us in your statement, and
24 you can correct me if I am wrong, that for quite
25 a number of your years at Nazareth House you never saw

1 your mother.

2 A. No, no, I didn't. It's not I didn't see her, I didn't

3 even know I had one, I wasn't told.

4 Q. There came a point in time, I think, where you were

5 told?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And your mother did visit?

8 A. Yes, I was told that a woman was coming to see me.

9 Q. I will come on and look at that.

10 A. Sure, yes.

11 Q. You go on, 'Gearoid', in your statement over a number of

12 paragraphs telling us about what the routine was like --

13 A. Mm.

14 Q. -- at Nazareth House. I think you are aware that parts

15 of your statement have already been read into the

16 evidence in this case --

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. -- when we were looking at the Sisters of Nazareth case

19 study. I don't propose to dwell too much --

20 A. Sure.

21 Q. -- on these aspects of your statement, but I do want to

22 ask you about what you say in paragraph 21. That is

23 that you don't remember having any celebration on your

24 birthday?

25 A. Never.

1 Q. Your birthday wasn't celebrated?

2 A. No, not that I recall.

3 Q. You talk about bedwetting. Can you just tell me

4 a little bit about that. Did you wet the bed?

5 A. I mean, yeah, I mean as children do. But that was, if

6 you wet the bed, it was a reason for punishment. Then,

7 of course, you might wet the bed even more because you

8 had been hit for it, you know.

9 Q. What sort of punishment were you given?

10 A. Cane. Erm, yeah, usually a cane. Their choice of

11 weapon was the clothes rod, the rod in the drying

12 cupboard, you know, the rods, they could come out and

13 you would put your clothes on and you would put it back.

14 Those rods. I would say thicker than this.

15 Q. Thicker than the microphone?

16 A. Oh yeah. I would say this thick. It's difficult for me

17 to say, but they were thick enough.

18 Q. If you imagine a bamboo cane that you could have in

19 a garden, is that the sort of thickness?

20 A. Yeah, something like that. But again, it depends on the

21 bamboo cane.

22 LADY SMITH: You are absolutely right, 'Gearoid', because

23 there are different thicknesses depending on what you

24 need them for.

25 A. Yes, but thick enough to cause a lot of pain.

1 Q. Who inflicted this pain?

2 A. Oh, the nuns.

3 Q. Where would you be hit?

4 A. Oh, it could be back of the legs, the bum or the back.

5 Q. What's the youngest age, do you recollect, that this

6 happened to you?

7 A. 3.

8 Q. Did you wet the bed regularly?

9 A. Yes. Yeah.

10 Q. Was this a regular form of punishment?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Did it leave marks?

13 A. Yeah, on occasions.

14 Q. Looking on, then, a bit more to punishment and

15 discipline, you tell us at paragraph 26:

16 'We were physically punished for just about

17 anything.'

18 Can you just elaborate upon that for me, 'Gearoid'?

19 A. Yeah, it seemed that, looking back, it would seem that

20 depending on the mood that person would be in, if

21 someone had peed them off, you can find anything, you

22 know, 'Did you look at me like that way?' Or ... or you

23 sneeze too loud, it could be anything. You know, and

24 sometimes you did do something, maybe you dropped a cup,

25 you know, that would be a reason for it. You know,

1 sometimes nothing would happen. So there was no rhyme
2 or reason, there wasn't like a set of rules and you have
3 broken one of those rules, sometimes they just made the
4 rules up.

5 Q. Would nuns shout at you?

6 A. Oh Christ, aye. Sorry. Yes, they would.

7 Q. For what reasons?

8 A. I mean, as an adult I would venture to say for their own
9 internal problems. But, er, as I say, no reasons. It
10 could be for anything. You didn't do something quick
11 enough. You did it too quick. You didn't eat your veg.
12 As I say, there wasn't -- a lot of it was just made up,
13 you know, reasons, made up excuses, sorry.

14 Q. If you didn't eat your food, did anything happen to you
15 then?

16 A. Yeah, you were made to eat it. Force fed -- force fed.
17 You know. Had it shoved in your face, your mouth, and
18 your mouth covered until you ate it.

19 Q. You tell us about an incident where you, and I think
20 some other boys, I think you say you were 5 or 6 years
21 old, this is in paragraph 32, you are walking to the
22 sweet shop --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- and you are allowed to do that unsupervised?

25 A. Yeah, at a certain age, as long as you are -- if you're

1 in a, you know, you are accompanying each other.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. You know, so one of the boys might have been seen to be

4 two months older or something, but you were responsible,

5 right. That kind of thing. And yeah, so we were

6 allowed to walk down the brae to the sweet shop. It was

7 a question of 400 yards down the brae and back up. So

8 we would be allowed to do that, yeah. And on one

9 occasion, I went down to the sweet shop with two other

10 kids from the nursery, and we'd been at the shop and we

11 were on our way back and this car stopped and this man,

12 he said, 'Oh, youse are from Nazareth House, come on,

13 I will give youse a lift back up'. Because although

14 there was a brae to walk up, you could also take the

15 road round to it, to the top of it. And we did,

16 you know, 'Oh yeah, of course, thank you', and we got in

17 and he drove past Nazareth House, saying that he had to,

18 'Oh, I've got to do something first', you know. And

19 like innocent kids' mind, 'Oh, of course, yeah'. But

20 then he stopped at a sort of parking area that was in

21 woods and we alighted from the car and as we were there,

22 we were like, 'Oh, you know, what are we doing', sort of

23 thing. And he took one of us, I can't remember which

24 kid, by the hand and said, 'I'll be back in a minute',

25 and he started walking into the woods with him and then,

1 of course, something in us knew something was not right
2 here, and so we started shouting out the other kid's
3 name, and we were doing it loud, and he came after, you
4 know, 30 seconds, he came running out, 'What happened?'
5 He said, 'Oh, he's let me go, he's gone that way'.

6 So we got back onto the sort of the dual carriageway
7 and as we did, we saw a police car coming to pick us up.
8 Now, of course, what had happened there was abduction,
9 you know, we'd been abducted without, you know,
10 understanding at the time what had happened.

11 The police had said, 'Oh, we've been looking for
12 you, we've been, you know, we heard you get in a car',
13 and so they drove us back to Nazareth House, and handed
14 us back over to the nuns.

15 Q. Did they ask you anything about what happened?

16 A. Yeah, we said this man did that, and it was like, 'We're
17 taking you back', you know. I guess we were relieved,
18 I guess, at that moment we were relieved, with the
19 police you felt some kind of safety.

20 Q. Do you know if the police followed through anything in
21 connection with the man who you say abducted you?

22 A. Well, all I can tell you is that because I'm going
23 through all of this now, kind of I did then start --
24 because I started giving this evidence, I have done my
25 own research, I wanted to find out if there had been

1 a report made about that incident, and I was speaking to
2 the Bonnyrigg Police or Dalkeith Police and they say
3 they can find no -- there's no report of an incident,
4 such an incident. Of course I wasn't helpful, because
5 I was saying it would be between 1966 or 1968,
6 I couldn't be precise. So they couldn't find an actual
7 report that was made about it. So they just handed us
8 back over to the nuns.

9 Q. What happened then when you were handed back?

10 A. Yeah, I got the beating of my life. I mean, in
11 industrial terms, I got battered the fuck out of, you
12 know. Erm, yeah. I mean, it was rods, it was rods, but
13 it was like, you know, in spectacular fashion. It went
14 on for a long time. Told us we weren't getting fed,
15 that we had brought shame on Nazareth House by our
16 behaviour. Er, and the thing is I believed them,
17 I believed them because part of their -- as part of
18 their system is that, it's constantly reinforced that
19 you are bad, you are a bad kid, you know, just by being
20 born, I guess, you know, you are unlovable, you are
21 this, you are untrustworthy, so I believed them,
22 I deserved this, you know, 'cause I got in a stranger's
23 car. So yeah, I should have been battered and they're
24 only doing it 'cause God loves me, you know. I've hurt
25 Jesus as well, all that shite, they were coming out

1 with.

2 So basically, yeah, I got battered because I had

3 been abducted by a sexual predator, erm, I brought shame

4 on them, and so I should be battered for it.

5 Q. I think you told us you were perhaps 5 or 6 at this

6 time?

7 A. Aye, 5 or 6.

8 Q. The battering; what parts of your body were being

9 targeted?

10 A. Everywhere, everywhere. There was -- I mean, 'cause

11 obviously I don't know if, as I say, those two other

12 kids who were with me, I've no idea whether they've been

13 in contact with you, if you know about this story

14 already, but if they have, you will know. I mean, that

15 was -- that day was, they did -- we were being looked

16 after by people who were basically mentally not well.

17 Probably -- there's probably a name for the condition

18 that they could be -- I can't think, sorry, am I losing

19 it a bit?

20 Q. No, just take your time.

21 LADY SMITH: Please don't apologise. As I said to you at

22 the beginning --

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: -- I know this is difficult.

25 A. Yeah. I mean, I knew it would be difficult, that's

1 okay, we'll carry on through.

2 LADY SMITH: Are you all right to carry on until about

3 1 o'clock and then we will stop for the lunch break

4 then?

5 A. Yes, of course.

6 LADY SMITH: If you want to stop sooner.

7 A. No, no, I want this to be done.

8 LADY SMITH: No, it is important. It is important you feel

9 that it is quite all right to be upset. Don't hide it

10 if you are.

11 A. No, it's just a bit overwhelming when I'm actually --

12 I've read this, I was the one who gave the statement,

13 but now here saying it, it's a bit overwhelming.

14 MR MACAULAY: Just in relation to what happened to you, was

15 it one nun or more than one nun?

16 A. There was more than -- there is one for me, my nemesis,

17 we're not allowed to say names, is that correct?

18 LADY SMITH: It's fine if you use the names here. As

19 I regularly remind people, if it is somebody to whom we

20 give anonymity we will use it here, but it mustn't

21 repeat it outside this room, so don't feel constrained

22 if you want to use the proper name.

23 A. I am happy to use nun A, B, or C if you want.

24 LADY SMITH: No, just use the name, that's fine.

25 A. My nemesis, if you like, was Sister GQP . She was

1 not well, she was not a well woman, and unfortunately
2 that manifested itself in a very -- what's the word
3 I want to use? Sadistic manner.

4 LADY SMITH: What made you think she wasn't, or what makes
5 you think now she wasn't a well woman?

6 A. Well, as an adult, I mean, I'm looking as an adult, and
7 I think about her behaviour.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 A. I recognise traits. The one trait that I will never
10 forget was her, she used to -- you could see her coming,
11 from the nursery you could see the start of the path
12 where she would be coming from the priest's place, and
13 from 100 yards off, she would be walking, having this
14 argument with herself, you know. Basically arguing with
15 herself, but in a loud voice and saying, 'Father,
16 I would never ...' You know, so it's loud and that is
17 not the behaviour of someone who is at peace with
18 themselves. So that's what I mean when I say somebody
19 who is disturbed.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you, it is helpful to get that picture.

21 MR MACAULAY: Do you know where she was in the pecking order
22 then?

23 A. I think she would have been -- I think she was not
24 Mother Superior, I'm not sure of that, but I think she
25 was sort of the one that was giving -- she was the one

1 that would be going to the, what we call the big side,
2 and the meetings with the priest, to be told, you know,
3 as I understand it she was a spokeswoman, I don't know
4 if that's the correct term.

5 Q. In any event, she was somebody that you have described
6 as your nemesis, who you had regular contact with?

7 A. Oh, she was my main torturer, yeah.

8 Q. On the occasions you have been telling us about, she was
9 involved, I think you are telling us, and was there
10 another nun or nuns involved?

11 A. There was, there -- and because Sister GQP was the
12 one -- I mean, I can see her now, right now, but there
13 were others who were, you know, quite as vindictive as
14 well. I'm probably more loath to use those names simply
15 because I couldn't tell you which was which, so rather
16 than be, you know, not -- I'm happy to just talk about
17 GQP, because she's the one for me.

18 Q. Of course, would I be right in saying that at that time
19 someone of that order would be wearing the habit?

20 A. Yes, I've never seen them out of their habits.

21 Q. You have told us what happened to you, and just to be
22 clear, did you suffer injuries because of this beating
23 that you told us about?

24 A. Yes, yes, yes, but what was, you know, what was I going
25 to do? The police had given me back to them. You know,

1 what am I going to do, say to who? To say what to whom?

2 Q. What sort of injuries did you suffer?

3 A. It would have been welts, you know, red welts. Maybe

4 some -- not cuts, but bleeding can come from welts, you

5 know. Yeah, I was marked, I know that, that's why I'm

6 telling this, describing it as the beating of my life,

7 you know.

8 LADY SMITH: Which part of your body were the welts on?

9 A. Er, I would say mostly my behind and back, and the back

10 of the legs as well, yes.

11 MR MACAULAY: Would you be wearing short trousers?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. And the other --

14 A. Oh no, no, sorry, on that occasion they stripped me,

15 they stripped me to beat me. There was no clothes.

16 This was -- I mean, we were isolated during the day time

17 in the child's dormitory, if you like. Isolated. And

18 stripped. Told to get to bed. And then about ten

19 minutes later they came in, two of them came in, but it

20 was Sister GQP that did the beating, and they came

21 in and systematically beat me with no clothes on, I was

22 naked.

23 Q. What about the other two boys?

24 A. That, again, I think we were isolated. That's my

25 memory. Yeah, I mean obviously I don't know, I couldn't

1 tell you, we were so young I couldn't tell you their
2 names. I'm not sure. I don't want to guess.

3 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, 'Gearoid', and
4 this is at paragraph 37, is that the physical abuse
5 happened so often that it became normalised. Can you
6 just explain that to me?

7 A. Yeah, it was the regime. That's what the regime was.
8 Kids were scared of making a mistake. Especially around
9 these nuns that we are talking about, you know. The
10 atmosphere would change if they are not there, you know.
11 There was also -- there was always refuge to be had if
12 the nuns aren't there and the civilian workers, who were
13 invariably the younger females, teenage females, who had
14 a lot more sympathy for the children. So I think it was
15 almost like part of their job was to console us after
16 the head cases had finished with us, you know.

17 Q. You go on in your statement, 'Gearoid', to talk about
18 an incident of what you describe as sexual abuse.

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. This, as you tell us, involved a man who lived in
21 a cottage in the grounds, and he lived there with his
22 wife, is that the correct background?

23 A. That's the correct background. I think, I'm not sure
24 whether he was a gardener, or a janitor of some sort,
25 but yeah, [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 Q. Did children go to his cottage?
3 A. Oh yeah. He did, he would encourage that. He had a --
4 I think he had a couple of dogs. He was always inviting
5 the children to come and see the dogs, stuff like that,
6 yeah.
7 Q. Was there an occasion when you went to his cottage?
8 A. I did, and again, what would I have been, 3? Something
9 like that. Maybe even -- yeah, 3, 3 and a half.
10 I can't remember, sometimes with timelines, I struggle
11 with timelines.
12 Q. You were a very young boy?
13 A. Yes, very, very young. And yeah, I remember going there
14 and on one occasion he picked me up and something felt
15 uncomfortable, you know, I just felt uncomfortable, and
16 his hands seemed to be everywhere.
17 Q. Were you sitting on his lap?
18 A. He sat me on his lap at one point, and then he picked me
19 up, yeah, and, er, then I felt his hands on me, I wasn't
20 sure what was going on, I just felt sore, and it wasn't
21 until later I realised -- well, I didn't realise, I was
22 still confused about why there was blood coming out of
23 my anus and stuff like that.
24 Q. Looking back, as an adult, do you realise what had
25 happened?

1 A. Yeah, and again, he obviously had his finger, or
2 something, he had hurt me with his finger, you know.
3 But it was brief, you know, it wasn't -- it was pain and
4 I was confused, I didn't know what the pain was. And
5 I must have said something, or something, but he let me
6 down and then said, 'Now we'll take the dogs to the
7 shore'. I never went back. I don't think -- children
8 shouldn't have been allowed near him.

9 Q. I think looking back, what you are telling us is that he
10 inserted a finger up your anus?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. Causing bleeding?

13 A. Causing bleeding, yeah.

14 Q. Did you ever tell anyone about the things that were
15 happening to you in Nazareth House?

16 A. No, it would have been my fault. And I probably
17 believed, I would have believed it was my fault for, you
18 know, going there or whatever. That's how it always
19 gets turned. You're inherently bad, so whatever -- you
20 caused it.

21 Q. Can I then take you to when you come to leave
22 Nazareth House. Now, I think you told us earlier that
23 some time into your time at Nazareth House, a person
24 that you were told was your mother --

25 A. Mm.

1 Q. -- came to visit?

2 A. Correct, yeah.

3 Q. How long had you been there until this happened?

4 A. I'm going to say I would have been about -- the first

5 time that would have happened, again, my whole timeline

6 things are mixed up. But I'm going to say 8. 8, it

7 could be between 7 and 9. I can't -- sorry, I can't be

8 that -- and I'd rather say that than give you a false --

9 try to be exact.

10 Q. Okay. In any event, it was some years into your time in

11 Nazareth House?

12 A. Oh aye, aye.

13 Q. Did you recognise this woman who came?

14 A. No, before she came I didn't even know I had a mother.

15 I mean, the idea of families, I didn't know what

16 they were. That sounds strange, but I didn't know what

17 a family was. I understood my sister, she was my

18 sister, so had some way we were connected, but, you

19 know, you would say if you see films or cartoons that

20 have parents in them, it didn't register with me, you

21 know. So there was a woman coming to visit.

22 Okey-dokey. And then on the day, 'Oh, your mum's

23 coming'. I have a mum? You know, of course, as a child

24 I was like running around bragging, 'I've got a mum',

25 you know, 'I've got a mum, my mum's coming to see me',

1 it was the best feeling in the world, I had a mum, I was
2 someone. You know, I don't know if that makes sense,
3 but that's -- yeah.

4 Q. After that first visit, were there some further visits
5 by your mother by Nazareth House?

6 A. What the arrangement they had made was that my sister
7 would take me through to Glasgow. In reality, what they
8 would have been was what you call now supervised visits,
9 but my sister was doing the supervising. And of course,
10 you know, I was so overjoyed that I had this identity,
11 that I've got a family, this is me and these are my
12 people. It was all, you know, in my childish mind, it
13 was all wonderful.

14 Q. On these visits to your mother in Glasgow, how did she
15 behave towards you?

16 A. Oh, she was on her best behaviour. You know, that's --
17 she was presenting a -- she was telling a story, she was
18 telling the social services a story about how much
19 better she is and how she would be able to look after
20 us. It's kind of shocking, given that when we were
21 taken from her, she was able bodied. Then she had
22 mental problems, she had drinking problems, and the
23 child neglect problems. And seven, eight years later,
24 the same woman, who's saying, you know, she's worked on
25 those problems, now has not got the use of an arm or

1 a leg, after having had a stroke from a cerebral
2 haemorrhage from a fight she got in, right, so they're
3 now saying, you know -- but the difference between my
4 childish mind and being told that I've got a family and
5 the excitement of that, yeah, I'll believe any stories
6 that I'm being told, this is what I want, I want to
7 be -- I want to have an identity, so this is what
8 I want.

9 [REDACTED], she sold them the story, that she was
10 a reformed character and all that, and so they decided
11 to give me back to her.

12 Q. That's the next part of your evidence that I want to
13 look at in a little detail.

14 A. Yes.

15 MR MACAULAY: 'Gearoid', we are up to 1 o'clock, so perhaps
16 that will stay until after lunch.

17 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, we will stop now for the
18 lunch break and sit again at 2 o'clock, is that okay?

19 A. Yes, that's fine, thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, then.

21 (1.02 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon, 'Gearoid', are you ready for us
25 to carry on?

1 A. I am, yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3 Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

4 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

5 Before the lunch break, 'Gearoid', we had started to

6 look at the time when you came to leave Nazareth House,

7 and you start talking about that at paragraph 45 of your

8 statement. You have explained how the lead up involved

9 you having contact after many years with your mother.

10 When you came to leave, I think you tell us that you

11 were around 11 years of age. Does that take us to about

12 1973 or 1974?

13 A. Yes, sorry, I'm confused as to what's going on on the

14 screen.

15 LADY SMITH: Paragraph 45, I think, Mr MacAulay was at.

16 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Which is just there.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Under 'Leaving Nazareth House'.

20 A. I have it now.

21 LADY SMITH: I think it was still moving on the screen,

22 wasn't it. Thank you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: You tell us there, 'Gearoid', that you left

25 when you were around 11 and, having regard to the year

1 of your birth, that's either 1973 or 1974?

2 A. Right, yes.

3 Q. Around that time. Dates are difficult, I wouldn't worry

4 too much about precise dates.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. You had begun telling us, I think, how it came to be

7 that you were being sent out of Nazareth House, and all

8 the troubles you were having there, to go back to

9 a mother who in the past had abused you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you just elaborate upon your concerns about that?

12 A. Well, as I said, what -- the biggest change was that she

13 had -- she was by now, I think it is called hemiplegic,

14 where she had only use of one arm, and had great

15 difficulty walking, even if it was with a stick, there's

16 still a very pronounced gait. So, yeah, so I mean she

17 was physically not the same as well.

18 When I first -- the official move from

19 Nazareth House, to basically an east end of Glasgow

20 housing scheme, it was chalk and cheese, I mean, I was

21 just totally unprepared, it was a shock to me, you know,

22 having been sheltered in many ways, despite -- you know,

23 it was still a sheltered sort of existence to this very,

24 very real street culture of an east end Glasgow housing

25 scheme. It was a shock to my system. But that apart,

1 apart from that, I'm going to refer to my mum as [REDACTED],
2 just that's what I call her.

3 Q. That's what you do in your statement, you refer to her
4 as '[REDACTED]'.

5 A. All right, fine.

6 So when they decided to put me back with [REDACTED], it
7 was to a complete -- a culture that I had no idea of.
8 As I said, as I had alluded to earlier, [REDACTED] was quite
9 good at playing the social care people, playing the, 'Oh
10 I'm very' ...

11 I had maybe a honeymoon of about two weeks before
12 the first time she hit me on the head with a saucepan,
13 and screaming at me, and stuff like that. And yeah,
14 that was, that was basically how it was.

15 Q. Was she back drinking?

16 A. Oh yeah, within weeks. I was given a packet of crisps
17 for dinner and being told she would be back later. And
18 because of her physical condition, you know, she
19 wouldn't be able to run and catch me, so her way of
20 punishment was throwing things, or with instruments, you
21 know. She hospitalised me, I would say, on three or
22 four occasions, on each occasion I would lie to the
23 nursing staff, say, you know, a big boy did it, or, you
24 know, one of the other gangs did it. Erm, yeah, I mean,
25 on two occasions she stabbed me.

1 Q. When you went back initially, I think you tell us in
2 your statement --

3 A. Sorry, just hearing myself saying that. It's a bit
4 crazy.

5 LADY SMITH: That was your mum.

6 A. Aye. It was [REDACTED], that's why I don't want to call her
7 my mum, erm -- aye.

8 LADY SMITH: That was the person who should have been
9 behaving as a proper mother.

10 A. Yeah, but do you know, I mean, as an adult, I don't want
11 to talk about forgiveness, but at least understand.
12 That this woman had, you know, problems of her own.
13 I've since learned that she had been sectioned in
14 psychiatric hospitals, with her own problems, you know,
15 and I'm sure her problems came from her bringing up, her
16 brought up -- and who brought her up, and how they were
17 brought up. I understand that. So I can't talk about
18 forgiveness, but I can talk about understanding.
19 I know, as an adult, but as a child ...

20 LADY SMITH: Can I just assure you that we fully understand
21 what you are talking about in relation to the sharp
22 contrast between where you were living in Lasswade, the
23 Sisters of Nazareth, and moving to the east end of
24 Glasgow.

25 A. I was a sheep to the slaughter, a lamb to the slaughter.

1 LADY SMITH: We saw photographs of the buildings at
2 Lasswade, for instance, when we were looking into
3 evidence about Sisters of Nazareth --
4 A. Yes.
5 LADY SMITH: -- and had clear descriptions of the layout of
6 buildings, in space with land around them.
7 A. Right.
8 LADY SMITH: Your physical environment would have changed
9 quite dramatically.
10 A. Very dramatically, yeah.
11 LADY SMITH: As you say, you were at least -- so far as
12 physical environment concerned -- more sheltered in
13 Lasswade than in Glasgow.
14 A. Yes, I was completely unprepared for it, I had to learn
15 very, very quickly in order just to survive, and that's
16 not just on the streets, that was in my own house, as
17 well, you know.
18 So, yeah, I had to get streetwise very quickly.
19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
20 Mr MacAulay.
21 MR MACAULAY: When you went back first of all to your mother
22 to stay with her, you tell us in your statement that
23 your brothers were there also, your older brothers.
24 A. Yes, I mean again, I didn't know this at the time. That
25 there was this two-pronged thing going on, whereas both

1 my older brothers had already moved into this -- into
2 the east end of Glasgow, with her. I didn't know that
3 and I only found that out once I was there. But by the
4 time I moved, both brothers had already stopped living
5 with her. Because back then, 15 was the age you could
6 be working and an adult, or leave school, and as soon as
7 they did, they got a local job and just left [REDACTED], you
8 know. So when I got there, it was just me and her, you
9 know.

10 Q. You didn't have them to offer some sort of protection?

11 A. Well, they helped me with the street stuff, you know,
12 because I had -- basically I would have had an Edinburgh
13 accent, in a Glasgow housing scheme, that's a target on
14 your back. But so, you know, I had my brothers there
15 for the street stuff, they were helping -- you know,
16 they helped me survive that. But at home, you know,
17 I was on my own.

18 Q. The bullying you talk about in your statement, is that
19 the street stuff or does it go beyond that to school,
20 for example?

21 A. Well, my mother never put -- registered me for school.
22 I was basically, you would say feral. Yeah, she just
23 didn't bother registering me.

24 Q. You weren't going to school at this time?

25 A. I think at some point, maybe for -- I think very, very

1 initially I was -- I remember being in a school,
2 a primary school, for a short time, and then just didn't
3 go again. I don't know. She just -- she knew the
4 system, you know.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement that after a period of
6 time, you say it's about two years, you ended up before
7 the Children's Panel?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. What was the background to that, can you tell me?

10 A. Well, yeah, I mean obviously given the home situation,
11 it was inevitable that I, you know, I am going to come
12 to the attention of some authority, probably for
13 negative reasons, you know. I think when they found out
14 I wasn't going to school, that was one of the things.
15 Also, I had been, I had started solvent abuse, you know,
16 it was sniffing glue, basically, and it doesn't take
17 a wizard to understand why I would be trying to escape
18 what was my reality. And then gangs, getting into
19 fights through, you know, this gang wants to fight that
20 gang sort of thing. So I was coming to that. I was
21 getting bad attention through that and I eventually
22 ended up in front of a Children's Panel.

23 Q. Can you tell us what happened before the panel?

24 A. You mean before that or before --

25 Q. When you were in front of the panel.

1 A. When I was in front of them. Well, yeah, they wanted
2 to, they thought -- they threatened, they were saying if
3 I don't get myself sorted out, 'You'll find yourself in
4 a List D school', and I said to them, 'Please could you
5 put me in one'.
6 Q. And that's what happened?
7 A. Yeah, I mean for me it was like -- I wanted to --
8 I needed to get away from [REDACTED] and I asked to go back
9 -- basically I was asking to be put back into care,
10 because I couldn't take it much more.
11 Q. Was that then the background of you going to St Mary's
12 Kenmure?
13 A. That's correct, yeah.
14 Q. We have recovered some admission records for St Mary's
15 Kenmure, the Inquiry has recovered some admission
16 records, and these records suggest that you were
17 admitted to St Mary's on [REDACTED] 1975.
18 A. I'm going to take that at face value, yeah.
19 Q. You would be aged 13. Does that fit in with your own
20 recollection?
21 A. It does, yeah, something around then.
22 Q. Can you just tell me, when you arrived at St Mary's,
23 what your first impressions were of the place?
24 A. Er, again, part scary, the very first day I went there
25 I remember I was met by one of the staff, and some kid

1 who had been mucking around, he was hiding behind one of
2 the chairs in the room as I was discussing personal
3 stuff. I was quite shocked 'cause the staff had a big
4 set of keys, a big bunch of keys, you know, and he threw
5 them at the chair, he was like that, and he was throwing
6 them at the kid that was hiding behind the chair, the
7 kid came out sheepishly and left. So that was my first
8 experience of St Mary's.

9 But in general, I was happy to be there, I was happy
10 to be there and in fact they had this rule that you had
11 to be there four or six weeks before they would even
12 consider you for weekend leave, you know, and when my
13 weekend leave came up, I didn't want it. I wanted to be
14 there. Initially it was -- it was a refuge for me, you
15 know.

16 Q. Are you quite happy looking at a photograph?

17 A. Yes, not a problem.

18 Q. We will put it up on the screen. It is at
19 WIT-3-000005605, page 6. Do you recognise that as
20 St Mary's?

21 A. Yes, it's slightly different as I remember in my head,
22 but it's the front door here, that you are looking at
23 here.

24 Q. Can I say to you --

25 A. There's also another part at the back.

1 Q. If you look behind you, you will see a bigger
2 photograph.
3 A. Okay.
4 Q. If you might perhaps stand up and you can point it --
5 A. No, I can see it here on the screen.
6 Q. It would be helpful for us to see what you are pointing
7 to.
8 LADY SMITH: If you just go to the big photograph.
9 A. Absolutely, I understand. So the door here, that's the
10 main door.
11 Q. That's the front door, yes.
12 A. This side, okay, let me think, so at the top there,
13 that's the stairwell and that's the chapel.
14 Q. The chapel is to the right-hand side of the door?
15 A. At the top, on the first floor. At the bottom here,
16 I think there's going to be some kind of utility room
17 and then there's toilets at the end. These are all
18 offices, you had the headmaster's office.
19 Q. You are pointing to the rooms to the left of the door.
20 A. Sorry, yes, these are going to be, I think this is the
21 dining room, and these would be the dormitories
22 upstairs. Which was the other side.
23 Q. On the other side. In relation to the dormitories,
24 then, were you placed in one of the dormitories?
25 A. Yes, De La Salle.

1 Q. How many boys were in the dormitory?

2 A. Well, it wasn't -- 'cause it wasn't -- the rooms, they
3 were like partitioned, so you would have -- you can
4 imagine a partition here, there would be a bed there, so
5 it wasn't just an open plan room.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. You know. How many? I'd be guessing, but if I said 15,
8 I think it would be close enough.

9 Q. Okay. All together, did you form any sense as to how
10 many boys were being accommodated there when you were
11 there?

12 A. I would say 30 something.

13 Q. In the whole building?

14 A. Well, we had the -- if I think about the morning,
15 I cannot remember what they called it -- assembly, erm,
16 yeah, probably 30 to 40 boys, what I'm going to say.
17 All boys.

18 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement at paragraph 52
19 is that you do remember there was loads of bullying
20 going on?

21 A. Yeah, lots of it.

22 Q. Amongst the boys?

23 A. Yeah, there was a hard man pecking order, really, you
24 know, just -- but that's -- it happens in schools as
25 well, so ...

1 Q. What sort of bullying took place? Are you able to
2 elaborate upon that?

3 A. Yeah, people having -- people would have square gos with
4 each other to see who was going to be in the pecking
5 order. Those who didn't want square gos, or weren't
6 fighters, just got a beating, you know.

7 Q. What you tell us in your statement, 'Gearoid', at the
8 very end of paragraph 52, is:

9 'All in all, I think it was a good place. I felt
10 like I was being looked after there.'

11 A. Yeah. I mean, for me, as I say, for me it was a refuge
12 from what I was running from, you know, from my mum.

13 Q. But there was one thing that happened to you --

14 A. Yeah, there is.

15 Q. -- that wasn't particularly pleasant?

16 A. No, no.

17 Q. Can I just ask you about that now?

18 A. Sure, sure.

19 Q. You talk about it from paragraph 55 onwards. Can you
20 just tell me what the position was?

21 A. From paragraph what, sorry?

22 Q. Just tell me, it's --

23 A. I can tell you just without looking at it.

24 Q. It is on the screen, if you want to use the screens
25 behind you.

1 A. Yeah, well, the thing you are referring to was some of
2 my duties, you know, each kid could be responsible for
3 certain chores, and mine was -- for a while, mine was
4 part -- kitchen duties; peeling the potatoes, cleaning
5 up after dinners, and stuff. And the -- I'm going to
6 say the chef, the cook, there was a man I now know is
7 definitely called Bill Franks, I wasn't sure if it was
8 Bill Franklyn, but I have now been told it's
9 Bill Franks. And basically he was a child molester, and
10 in my -- the experience I had with him was he was
11 always -- I was always wary of him, you know, because he
12 was always doing gestures, and can I show you this thing
13 that he would always look at you, and he would do this,
14 he would do this with his hands --

15 Q. Sorry, you are standing up --

16 A. I can remember him doing that --

17 LADY SMITH: I can't see you, because of the screen.

18 A. Do that.

19 LADY SMITH: Oh, I have got you, thank you.

20 MR MACAULAY: Waving your hand.

21 LADY SMITH: You are holding your arm straight down and
22 wagging your hand --

23 A. Yes, I would say as if he was tickling.

24 LADY SMITH: -- sideways, or just partly behind you.

25 A. Yeah, and when you get the context of what he's doing,

1 I now understand it as, you know, fondle your testicles,
2 or something like that, that's how I would now interpret
3 it. At the time I thought he was just weird. So yeah,
4 so one day I happened to be alone there, and he said,
5 'Oh, could you get something out of the food cupboard'.
6 And yeah, went in to get it, and as I've gone in, he's
7 come in behind me, shut the door and immediately placed
8 his hands down the front of my trousers, and grabbed my
9 testicles, and I've gone like that, you know, 'What are
10 you doing?', you know? Then he made this gesture as if
11 -- basically he started kneeling down so his face was
12 level -- parallel with my crotch area, and that was my
13 cue to just push the door and run out, you know. So
14 that's -- that was what happened with him.

15 MR MACAULAY: What were your feelings at the time about what
16 had happened?

17 A. Er, it's that thing, isn't it, of being well conditioned
18 to -- instead of be angry at him, to ask myself, 'What
19 did I do? That must have been my fault'. You
20 understand? I've been conditioned all my life to always
21 do that. So, you know, so yeah, I mean, I would have
22 said nothing, I would have been ashamed of it, I would
23 have assumed that somehow I have done something that's
24 -- for that man to act like that, you know. So yeah,
25 I blamed myself. I don't think I said anything. But

1 then I'd had, then I think maybe I confided in a mate
2 who said something like, 'Yeah, it's dodgy bastard', you
3 know, 'Be careful of him'. So that's basically. But it
4 was sexual assault, you know, he put his hands down my
5 trousers, grabbed my testicles, you know.

6 I'm now 14, 13/14, so I'm a bit, you know, more ...
7 that, yeah, I don't -- it happened, and I've since,
8 obviously, heard now, I didn't know ... when I mentioned
9 this, I had no idea that there was a lot more to it than
10 that, I've since found out that there is.

11 Q. Did you tell other boys what had happened to you?

12 A. I think I might have confided in someone, yeah. Yeah,
13 I think the general consensus was, you know, be careful
14 of him, you know.

15 Q. What you certainly say at paragraph 57 is that you:

16 '... told some of the boys what he did to me.
17 I remember some of the other boys told me he had
18 assaulted them too.'

19 A. Yeah. Yeah.

20 Q. You have a recollection of that?

21 A. Yeah, and now you say it, and I know the name that's
22 blanked out there is. I won't say it, obviously.

23 Q. We don't need the name.

24 A. No, no, I wouldn't. But I'm saying now, yes, this kid
25 I told, that's who I told. And, er, that's what I'm

1 saying, they said, 'Yeah, he is, be careful with him'.
2 Q. I think you are aware now that as to William Franks --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- was convicted --
5 A. Good.
6 Q. -- in connection with the sexual abuse of boys at
7 St Mary's over the period 1979 to 1982, so that's
8 shortly after your period there. You are aware of that?
9 A. Shortly after?
10 Q. I think you left --
11 A. Yeah, no, it was shortly after I left that they caught
12 him.
13 Q. Yes, that the convictions relate to.
14 A. Very good, I'm glad.
15 Q. That really takes me to when you did leave St Mary's,
16 because you tell us at paragraph 59 that you left
17 St Mary's when you were 15, and that would be about
18 1977, or thereabouts?
19 A. Yeah, something like that. Just in time for the punk
20 era.
21 Q. So what did you do when you left?
22 A. I, er -- well, nominally, I would have been going back
23 to -- with [REDACTED], saying that's what I am going to do
24 but the moment I -- the second I -- in order to leave,
25 they wouldn't let me leave without some kind of

1 stability, you know, and I think I probably conned my
2 way out of there, if you like, I'm going to put my hand
3 up in the sense that I went, 'Okay, yeah, no, we've made
4 amends, things are okay at home', but that was to be
5 able to leave. And I was 15, so again I could work at
6 that age, I was officially, you know, an adult in that
7 sense, so the minute I did leave, I got out of Glasgow
8 as soon as I could. I first moved for a while to
9 Newcastle, and then, as I was saying, it was around the
10 time there was the sort of punk music era, and it was
11 perfect for me and basically I started working as
12 a roadie for a group from England that had come up to
13 play in the Apollo, and they gave me the job as
14 a roadie, so I made my way down to London, down, and
15 I've been there on and off, I've been based in London
16 ever since.

17 Q. What you tell us at paragraph 61 is that you did go to
18 Spain --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and I think you were there for 18 months or so?

21 A. That's correct, yeah, yeah, great move on my part.

22 Q. When you came back to the UK, you went to film school
23 and got a degree in cinematography?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. Is that a line of work you pursued?

1 A. Yes, yes, it's what I have just retired as. Yeah, I was
2 in the audio and visual industry, worked for the Beeb,
3 and places like that, yeah.

4 Q. I know you want to talk about the impact having been in
5 care has had on your mental health. Would you like to
6 tell me about that?

7 A. I've struggled with my mental health all my life.

8 Yeah, well, that's, I mean, you know, it would be
9 more strange if I hadn't had mental health issues than
10 if I have. Yeah, so I mean I was having -- I think it
11 really started manifesting around about 16/17, and sort
12 of I was having disassociative episodes where I didn't
13 know what was real, I didn't know if ... it was a very
14 strange thing, and they tried several -- you know, I was
15 on different medicines, and I was given different
16 diagnoses, but then they would change. You know, and
17 I think they've just put it all under the umbrella of
18 bipolar disorder, which I still take medicine to this
19 day for.

20 But I've also -- I've also voluntarily got involved
21 in, you know, the talking treatment, as they call it,
22 group therapy. I've been seeing psychiatrists,
23 psychologists and therapists for decades. You know,
24 I've got my life to thank them for that 'cause it also
25 included two or three serious, erm, serious suicide

1 attempts. One very nearly successful. But, yeah, no,
2 I'm still here.

3 Q. Just to be clear, I mean clearly, I think, what you are
4 telling us, your time in care is relevant to that, but
5 what about the time in the care of your mother? Do you
6 see that as relevant to your state of mental health as
7 well?

8 A. Yeah, of course. I mean, that's going to be part of it.
9 But when I look at this, when I look at -- we're telling
10 different stories here, but in many ways for me it's one
11 story with a continual -- I'm going to say betrayal,
12 that's the word that would come to mind, betrayal. From
13 the start by [REDACTED], then by the home, then back to
14 [REDACTED], to be betrayed again.

15 Then, as I say, I've got -- with Kenmure St Mary's,
16 I've got a lot to thank them for, they had some good
17 people there and they've made sure, they focused me on
18 not going into a completely autodestructive, which would
19 have been so easy to do, so easy to do. Which is why
20 I'm using news and film and stuff like that to tell
21 stories. I was encouraged with writing, I was
22 encouraged with storyboarding, and stuff. I went into
23 music, then music videos and then film school and I had
24 people who saw the creativity that I could do and were
25 very, very encouraging, and yeah, so I mean, I've had my

1 life saved 100 times by different people, just as much
2 as I have had it really nearly ruined by quite a few, as
3 well.

4 But for me it's one story. I know there are three
5 different episodes, but for me it's an epic tale of
6 betrayal, to get a wee bit poetic about it.

7 Q. When you left St Mary's at the age of 15, did you have
8 any further input or assistance from the care, social
9 work for example?

10 A. Initially, yeah. And it would have carried, but I ran
11 off. I mean, I ran away to London. But there was one,
12 I know we are not allowed to name names, which is
13 a shame because there is one particular fellow in
14 St Mary's that deserves all of the accolades he should
15 get, because he is the one person I'm talking about who
16 made sure I made the right choices at the right time.
17 I'm going to say it, zHXC, top man, if it
18 wasn't for him, I'd be nothing.

19 Q. One thing you tell us at paragraph 64 is that because of
20 the impact of what you have been telling us has had on
21 you, you have found it difficult to keep jobs where you
22 are working for other people?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Essentially you have been freelancing all your life?

25 A. Yeah, I mean it's the only way I could work. I mean, if

1 we are talking about the fallout from all of this is
2 yeah, definitely, relationships, I mean, I didn't have
3 a serious relationship until I was 26. And that was
4 like falling in love, if you like. The relationships
5 I've had, I'm bringing all this emotional mess that I am
6 in, you know, into that relationship, and it's unfair on
7 anyone. Even if someone loves you to pieces, eventually
8 it gets too much for them, and I don't blame them.

9 But I've done a lot of work on myself, you know, and
10 on that aspect of it. I can only work for myself,
11 because I have absolutely no respect for authority, as
12 you'll not be surprised to hear, and, yeah, I can have
13 a client tell me what they need done and I go and do it,
14 you know, under my terms, but I can't work for people,
15 saying, 'You do that, you do that', yeah, that's ... so
16 there's so many different aspects of my life that have
17 been messed up. I am a big bag of mess, and I try my
18 best to get through life with it, and I've done okay.
19 Thanks to other people as well, not just me.

20 But, I mean, I'm actually accompanied here by my
21 son, erm, and he's hearing a lot of this for the first
22 time, and that's why, he doesn't know about all the
23 suicide attempts, that's him hearing it for the first
24 time, but I'm really glad he's here, because he's the
25 one thing that -- he's the reason I'm alive right now,

1 and he deserves to know the truth of all this as well.
2 And he's -- we also -- we both pointed out that he has
3 got, he obviously had an interest in this, because if
4 they managed to get me to kill myself -- they got my
5 brother to kill himself, they succeeded in that.
6 Q. You have had, you tell us, you have had five or six
7 serious suicide attempts, but you have survived.
8 (Pause)
9 A. Sorry.
10 LADY SMITH: Please don't apologise, 'Gearoid'.
11 A. Yeah, so no, because my brother killed himself --
12 LADY SMITH: Take your time.
13 A. -- and that was from abuse as well, you know, he got
14 terribly abused. And he -- eventually he ran out of
15 strength to keep going. [REDACTED].
16 But, sorry, as my son points out, we both pointed out,
17 he has a dog in this fight, because if they had
18 succeeded in having me top myself, he wouldn't be
19 around. So it's as much his fight as it is mine.
20 MR MACAULAY: Well, I think what you tell us about your son
21 is:
22 'I have a ... son [he's grown up] ... my son is some
23 boy, and I was ... determined not to let what happened
24 to me affect him.'
25 A. Absolutely.

1 Q. So that keeps you going.

2 A. Absolutely, that's -- that was my -- yeah, that's what
3 my fight was. You know, we know there's a pattern
4 sometimes of ... I have said about my mum, she probably
5 had a terrible childhood, but then, you know, the cycle
6 goes on. And she provided a terrible childhood for her
7 children.

8 And, you know, if that's to play out, and it's real,
9 then it was down to me to make a terrible childhood for
10 my children, but I was so determined that wasn't going
11 to happen, and I think I got there. I mean, I talk
12 about one incident when [REDACTED] gave me -- sorry, my boy
13 gave me the fright of my life when he was holding my
14 hand and he saw the sleeping policeman in the street and
15 we used to play bumps with it, we would go, 'Oh bump',
16 he was about 3 years old and he let go of my hand to
17 jump on the bump, cross the road on his own and gave me
18 the fright of my life and instantly, I gave him a wee
19 smack on the bum, on his trousers, '[REDACTED]', don't do
20 that', and that paralysed me for about three months,
21 because I'd done that to him, I couldn't see him for
22 three months, because I was convinced I was a monster,
23 that this is it, this is how it happened, just for that,
24 but he will tell you ...

25 Just that sickened me, I thought, 'Here comes the

1 monster they've made', you know, that I'm going to hurt
2 my boy, I am going to do it, but I haven't, but that's
3 what it does to you, it makes you think there's no
4 choice, you know, you're a terrible person, you'll be
5 a terrible parent.

6 Somehow, I don't know how, but I've done it, I mean,
7 he's 27 years old now, and he's sitting for his business
8 Masters and doing really well, so I did something right.
9 And his mother, sorry, his mother had a lot to do with
10 that as well.

11 Q. You do tell us, 'Gearoid', in your statement that you do
12 get flashbacks to your time in care.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you just describe what these are?

15 A. This whole day has been -- that's exactly what I mean.
16 Christ. That's why, honestly, when I first came in here
17 this morning, I thought, 'Yeah, I'm going to sit here,
18 I'll tell you my story', and then, pwah, it was like
19 being put straight back in there, you know, straight
20 back, when I'm telling you things, I'm seeing them, you
21 know, it's almost tangible, you know. So yeah, of
22 course I do. I mean, the flashbacks, well, the
23 flashbacks have been coming since I've agreed to come.
24 You know, I've been going through -- yes, I want to say
25 something about this, I want my story on record, if you

1 are doing an Inquiry, listen to this. Yeah, so that's
2 how it started.

3 And from my time doing it to getting here, I'm -- in
4 some ways it's good, because I am getting new insights,
5 and maybe I am using you as well to lay some of my
6 ghosts to rest, as much as I am helping you, you know.
7 It's actually really powerful and scary, but at the same
8 time, I'm doing it for my own reasons too, hoping I can
9 have a -- find some kind of inner peace from it.

10 This, with my boy sitting here, it's, it's changed
11 our relationship for much better, you know, maybe I'm --
12 I wanted him to understand if I had shortcomings as
13 a father, it wasn't 'cause I was -- you know, it wasn't
14 'cause I was a waster of a person or anything, it was
15 because I was carrying all this shite around, you know.
16 I suppose there's that as well. So, you know, there's
17 good things come from it.

18 Q. Well, what you tell us in a positive note is that you
19 have reached a point now where you accept yourself and
20 you forgive yourself.

21 A. I'm getting there. Or at least I'm blaming the right
22 people. Perhaps that's a way of saying it.

23 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 68 that you have now
24 been to the police to report abuse; is that correct?

25 A. Sorry?

1 Q. You tell us in paragraph 68 that you have been to the
2 police, and you have now reported --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- the abuse that you suffered at Nazareth House and
5 indeed at St Mary's, you have done that?

6 A. Yes, official filmed interview with the police.

7 Q. Your second-last paragraph is one that you tell us about
8 lessons to be learned, and that's paragraph 71.

9 A. Sure.

10 Q. I will just read bits of that to you and ask for your
11 comments.

12 A. Yes, of course.

13 Q. 'I think that every individual who has the
14 responsibility of caring for children should have
15 background checks carried out and just because they
16 might be from some holy order, they don't get a pass on
17 that.'

18 A. They certainly shouldn't, no way.

19 Q. 'There also has to be someone to oversee the kids in
20 care in each institution.'

21 That's something else you want to make sure is in
22 place?

23 A. Yeah, it is more about, you know, the term 'watching the
24 detectives', the idea of, you know, people being in
25 charge of care, but there should be some form of

1 secondary, you know, caring for the carers, if you like,
2 making sure, does that make sense?

3 Q. Supervision?

4 A. Yes, yes, I guess I'm saying, yes.

5 Q. You say in that last sentence:

6 'As a kid, the one thing I wished for was someone to
7 speak to and confide in. I just wanted someone to
8 listen and say to the people who were supposed to be
9 caring for me, "What is wrong with you?".'

10 A. Yes, I think I would put it a bit stronger than 'what is
11 wrong with you', but yeah, someone should be asking.

12 Q. But that's what you didn't have in the places you were
13 in?

14 A. True, well, yeah, it's about -- because I think we
15 always talk about -- the channels are bypassed in the
16 hierarchy of the institution, as much as certain laws
17 have changed now for whistleblowers in industry or even
18 in the judiciary, the same should exist in there, so
19 that nobody -- yeah, so if I knew as a kid you can tell
20 this person, and these other people won't know that you
21 have told them what your problem is, then I'd have been
22 more inclined to do it. But I thought everybody was in
23 on it, you know, the police were in on it, and they were
24 in my case. Do you know what I am saying?

25 So if there was something that was sacrosanct, this

1 person is like, if you like, how, Catholic confession is
2 supposed to be sacrosanct. No one can be told what's
3 said in the confession box. Similar. I'm not saying
4 like the Catholics do, what I'm saying is that someone
5 could have that position where they can be told anything
6 by any child in an institution, or elsewhere, and be
7 listened to, and then have it, you know, forwarded to
8 maybe a relevant body, you know.

9 And I was a child, and I know we can probably use
10 some kids who would just be nuisances with it, but it
11 would put a stop to a lot of, not all of it, I'm not
12 stupid, I'm not a romanticist that thinks everything
13 will be bright and wonderful again, but that's what
14 I would have felt -- if I knew that existed, that this
15 person can be told and they are not allowed to tell
16 anyone that you told him that. Yeah, something like
17 that, an ombudsman.

18 MR MACAULAY: Yes, no, I understand that.

19 'Gearoid', thank you very much for answering my
20 questions. Is there anything else you yourself would
21 like to say?

22 A. I did have some things I wanted to say, but I think my
23 mind has been -- this was a much -- a lot more than
24 I expected it to be. Not really, no, but what I would
25 like to do is first thank the Inquiry, for me this is

1 actually an opportunity for me to tell what you a great
2 group you have with [REDACTED], you should be proud
3 of them. I'll thank my son later.

4 Yeah, I mean, people like my brother [REDACTED], who
5 didn't make it, I mean we talk about the voices of
6 survivors, but there's also the voiceless who didn't
7 make it.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 A. So it's important. I want to be -- I would like my
10 voice to be part of theirs, you know.

11 LADY SMITH: Of course.

12 A. The ones that couldn't make it to get here to tell their
13 story. And yeah, and I put myself, if there is, if my
14 experience, if my story can help in any other way,
15 whether it's with teaching, you know, if new social
16 workers, or whatever, you can use anything that I've
17 said publicly, I have no problem with it at all.

18 I thank you very much.

19 MR MACAULAY: 'Gearoid', thank you very much indeed for
20 coming to the Inquiry and for answering my questions.

21 I didn't put to you that you tell us in your
22 statement that you speak seven languages.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And one of these is Gaelic. Well, can I say to you,
25 [Gaelic spoken] and I will translate that for the

1 stenographers: good afternoon to you.

2 A. [Gaelic spoken]. Thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: Can I add my thanks, please, before I let you
4 go, I am really grateful to you for putting yourself
5 through what you have done today. I told you I knew it
6 would be difficult --

7 A. Yeah, you weren't wrong.

8 LADY SMITH: -- and I can see it has been. I have huge
9 admiration for you managing to give us what you gave us
10 today, in addition to the written statement I already
11 have, and I note what you tell me about your brother's
12 voice as well.

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Who didn't make it, I won't forget that.

15 A. His name was [REDACTED].

16 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED], yes.

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much. Please feel free to go and
19 safe journey home. I won't offer it in Gaelic.

20 A. It's okay.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: Just before we move on to the next stage of
23 evidence today, there were a couple of names used. One
24 was a nun called Sister GQP [REDACTED]. All I can say about
25 her is we know that over the piece of our female

1 religious orders we came across certainly more than one,
2 if not more than two, Sister [REDACTED], but please just
3 regard any Sister [REDACTED] as protected by my
4 General Restriction Order, and also a Mr LNK [REDACTED].
5 They are not to be identified as referred to in our
6 evidence outside this room.

7 Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I wonder if we could take the
9 afternoon break now and come back and do some read-ins.

10 LADY SMITH: Do some read-ins, that would be very helpful,
11 thank you.

12 (2.46 pm)

13 (A short break)

14 (3.02 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: Just before I turn to read-ins, a couple of
16 other names that I should have mentioned as being
17 protected persons within my General Restriction Order
18 and they are not to be identified outside this room.

19 One was the brother of the last witness, who was
20 referred to as [REDACTED], and the other his son, [REDACTED], he
21 gave us his name too. They are both covered and they
22 are anonymous other than within this room, if anybody's
23 referring to our evidence.

24 Yes, Mr MacAulay.

25 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we now have one or two read-ins this

1 afternoon, depending on how we go.

2 The first read-in is from an applicant who is using
3 the pseudonym 'Peter'.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 'Peter' (read)

6 MR MACAULAY: His statement is at WIT.001.002.1638.

7 'Peter' was born in 1954. He begins his statement
8 at paragraph 2 by telling us about his life before going
9 into care, and in particular that his mother died when
10 he was aged 7 and that he had two siblings. He goes on
11 to say:

12 'We lived right in the heart of Gorbals when I was
13 small and growing up. We lived in a tenement with
14 an outside toilet. I never actually noticed the poverty
15 there until later in life. Not until I had been away
16 from there and came back when I was 15. This was after
17 I'd left St Mary's approved school.

18 'I remember when I was about 13, there had been
19 a fight between one of my pals and this guy and the
20 guy's watch was stolen in the scuffle. We ended up
21 getting arrested and I got done with assault and
22 robbery. I had a real beef about that. I went to court
23 and they got reports from my school and from my
24 probation officer.

25 'I must have been in trouble before then if I was on

1 probation, but I can't remember being in any other
2 trouble with the police. I remember having a probation
3 officer ... but I only went to see him the once, then
4 I didn't go back.'

5 He tells us about the school that he attended, and
6 that the probation officer had prepared a report and
7 that he went to the Central Court in St Andrew's Street,
8 Glasgow, to get sentenced, his co-accused are mentioned
9 there:

10 'I tried to tell the judge that it had nothing to do
11 with me. The judge said I was on probation and that
12 I had only been to see my probation officer once and
13 hadn't gone back.

14 'I don't remember pleading guilty and I don't
15 remember having any kind of legal representation. I got
16 sentenced to five years at St Mary's approved boys'
17 school in Bishopbriggs. I was nearly 14 ...'

18 From the records that we have recovered it appears
19 that he was admitted to St Mary's on [REDACTED] 1968,
20 which would mean he was 14, having regard to his date of
21 birth.

22 At paragraph 10, he says:

23 'The ages of the boys at St Mary's were from about
24 13 to 15 or 16. That was the age they tried to get you
25 a job and get you out. There would have been about 100

1 boys living there, all staying in dormitories.'

2 He goes on to provide a description of the building.
3 We have seen photographs of that.

4 At 13:

5 'There was SNR , we called him LNI and SNR
6 SNR was KDN or maybe KDN . I can't remember
7 their second names. There weren't many staff
8 considering the number of boys that were there. Only
9 six or maybe eight at the most. There must have been
10 kitchen staff as well, I remember the baker, the joiners
11 and a laundry guy, but I don't remember much about that.
12 I don't even remember much about the meals or dinner,
13 I think the baker did that. I think the baker was
14 called HPP , he was a good guy.

15 'Overall it was a pretty strict regime, I don't
16 remember much. Later in life I was working out on the
17 oil rigs and there would ... be laughing and joking and
18 all that, but it never seemed that way at St Mary's.'

19 He tells us he had no real memory of his first day.

20 At 16:

21 'We called the officers "screws". I don't know if
22 they were civilians or what. I can't remember what their
23 official title was. We were told to undress completely
24 by LYT , the main screw. Me and two or three
25 other guys, who I had never met in my life before, were

1 just standing there naked. I wasn't comfortable with
2 that, I wasn't used to that kind of thing. In those
3 days we didn't go naked in front of anyone. I felt the
4 screw guy was looking at me, looking at us.'

5 He then, at 17 and 18, gives some information about
6 the daily routine, and the names of the dorms.

7 At 19, he says:

8 'LYT [REDACTED] was the main screw, I don't know if he
9 was the senior man but he always stood up on the steps
10 there and told us anything we needed to know or that he
11 wanted to tell us. Then we went to our departments for
12 the day. We stopped for lunch and then went back to the
13 departments until about 4 o'clock.'

14 He then goes on to describe what happened after
15 work, and at the end of paragraph 20:

16 'When we went up the stairs at nighttime there
17 wasn't any noise, it was just up the stairs and into
18 your bed. I remember lights out was pretty quick.

19 'On a Saturday we didn't go to our departments and
20 work, you just spent all day in the rec hall. There was
21 also a big gymnasium where some of the boys would go to
22 play football. There was a television and we would
23 watch the wrestling with Giant Haystack. We played
24 table tennis and there may have been a snooker table.
25 The room had seats and an easy chair and there was books

1 and magazines.

2 'I would say the food was okay, I don't remember
3 anyone not liking anything or anything happening if you
4 didn't like anything. I actually just learned to eat
5 whatever was put in front of me. I've been like that
6 throughout my life.'

7 Then at 24 he says:

8 'There wasn't much education, my education was done
9 from when I left my school and went into St Mary's.
10 I don't even remember seeing a classroom, it was just
11 the workshop areas.

12 'We just went to our departments, that's where we
13 worked all day. Mine was joinery and the teacher was
14 a guy called HQL . He taught the joinery and was great
15 to me. I think that was beneficial to me. There was
16 also farming, gardening, a baker's and a laundry, you
17 could go to any of those different departments to
18 learn.'

19 Moving on to paragraph 30, he says that he sometimes
20 went to the Springburn baths:

21 '... on a Thursday night I think it was ... I don't
22 remember anyone having a birthday party and I don't
23 remember celebrating Christmas in there either.

24 'You got home for a weekend a few weeks before you
25 were getting released. Some guys may have got out more

1 before that, I don't know. I got home for a weekend
2 about three or four weeks before my release. That's
3 when I noticed the poverty in the Gorbals.

4 'I only got the one visit during my time there. It
5 was my dad with my brother and sister. I do remember
6 him saying I got myself into trouble so he wasn't coming
7 every weekend. I didn't send out any passes to my
8 family, I didn't want to bother my dad or my sister.
9 I didn't want them coming all that way to see me.'

10 At 34:

11 'I don't remember any official visits or ever being
12 spoken to about my performance. If any boys were in any
13 difficulty there were people that you could go to.
14 I could have spoken to my joiner, HQL, but there was
15 no one official.'

16 Then there is a heading headed 'Abuse at St Mary's':

17 'Discipline was the belt at St Mary's, it was more
18 severe than when I was at school. It could be for
19 anything, for being cheeky, for fighting, or something
20 like that, but I only got it the once. It was more
21 severe, more painful, and you usually got three at
22 a time.

23 'I remember once I'd been on weekend leave and when
24 I came back someone had taken my mattress. I looked
25 around and saw it was on [another boy's] bed. He was

1 a bully ... We ended up fighting over it and some
2 screws came in, split us up and dragged us away.

3 'It was strange the way it happened as it wasn't
4 until about two weeks later that I was taken into the
5 offices late at night to be published. I was in my
6 jammies. LNI [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED], was there and SNR [REDACTED]
7 SNR [REDACTED] KDN [REDACTED] was in charge. LNI [REDACTED] was just sitting.
8 It all seemed so odd, I was getting belted after lights
9 out, in the office, two weeks later, that was unheard
10 of.

11 KDN [REDACTED] was behind me and he put his arms around me
12 from behind to put my hands out to get the belt. I said
13 to him that I didn't need him to do that. I could feel
14 KDN [REDACTED] was aroused behind me. I think something was going
15 to get done to me, but because I said he didn't need to
16 do that, nothing more happened. I don't know why they
17 picked on me, perhaps it was because I had no visitors
18 and wouldn't have anyone I could tell.

19 'When I went to St Mary's approved school I had
20 never been out the house before so I wet the bed. My
21 main beef at St Mary's was wetting the bed.

22 'The procedure was that in the mornings, when we all
23 lined up in our dorms, out in the yard and anyone who
24 had wet the bed had to bring down their bedding and take
25 it to the laundry. Everyone was there, all the kids and

1 all the staff.

2 [LYT] stood up on the steps at the double
3 doors and made you walk past everyone. Most of the boys
4 would shout at you, things like "damp down", "pissy
5 bastard" or whatever. That was, to my way of thinking,
6 to either punish you or deter you from doing it again.
7 It was always [LYT] who made you do that, but
8 other staff were present. Everyone who wet their bed
9 had to do it, no matter who was there.

10 'I was a bed wetter and after we were paraded in
11 front of the other boys. I wouldn't let them shout at
12 me. I made a point of going and seeing anyone who
13 shouted out at me. That got me into all manner of
14 fighting.

15 'Once someone changed my dry sheets for wet ones and
16 I got the blame and the abuse. Some boys couldn't take
17 it and they would break down and cry. I did it three or
18 four times and then I would pick my time before having
19 any fights with anyone who shouted abuse at me.

20 'There wasn't really a great amount of bullying,
21 I was quite able and I was fighting all the time. If
22 anyone that was nasty or shouting at me then I would be
23 fighting with them.

24 'I could tell there was sexual abuse at St Mary's,
25 but it was well hidden. I could just tell albeit

1 I couldn't say. The showers were in a row of about 25
2 to 30 of them, with no curtains, and only the one main
3 control. LYT [REDACTED] controlled it, he made himself out
4 to be a big toughie sergeant major type guy.

5 'You stripped off and left your clothes on the floor
6 and lined up in front of the showers. LYT [REDACTED] would
7 turn on the water and shout "soap on". Then he walked
8 down the line inspecting the boys washing. Then he
9 would turn off the water and inspect us again before
10 putting the water back on and shouting "soap off". Then
11 he walked down the line again checking all the boys.
12 There was definitely something gay going on, he was at
13 it. He was getting sexually aroused by all that.

14 'There was also a nighttime rule that you had to
15 take your underwear off and put your pyjamas on.
16 I don't know what that was about, perhaps something to
17 do with the bedwetting. There just seemed to be so much
18 nakedness with so many young boys.

19 'I went to the toilet one night, lights were out and
20 it was dark. LYT [REDACTED] was standing there like a big
21 mountain and said I had my underwear on. He told me to
22 get it off there and then. I had no previous sexual
23 experience and just took off my vest top. He told me to
24 get my underpants off as well. I remember, because
25 I was a wee toughie, and I told him that I was going to

1 tell my dad that he had told me to take my clothes off,
2 and that my dad would come and sort him out. He
3 panicked and sent me to my dormitory. He was definitely
4 up to something, but bottled it. I wasn't sexually
5 abused in St Mary's, I stood up for myself and would
6 just go fighting.

7 'There was [one] ... guy who was from up north.
8 I heard he was in there because he'd sexually [abused]
9 his sister and I suspected he was being sexually abused.
10 That's only my suspicions but he'd have been too scared
11 to say anything.

12 'If anything had happened to me I could probably
13 have gone to HQL, but then he also once tried to spy
14 me in the showers.

15 'I caught him looking into the showers when I was
16 about to have a shower, but I wasn't actually in the
17 shower. I was a wee bit disappointed about him doing
18 that, but I pretended that I never saw him. HQL was
19 in his mid 40s back then, he was average build with dark
20 hair and he wore glasses. He did look after me, and
21 I saw him as a good guy.

22 'I didn't report anything that happened to me or
23 anything that I saw happen while I was at St Mary's. No
24 other boys ever said anything to me about being abused.

25 'I would say that overall I thought St Mary's was

1 a decent enough place and it suited my dad for me to be
2 there. I was being fed, educated and looked after.

3 'I always knew I was getting out when I was 15, that
4 was common knowledge really. HQL, my joinery
5 instructor, got me a job ... but that ended up being too
6 far ... to travel.'

7 He says he doesn't actually remember leaving.
8 According to the records he left on 1970, when
9 he would have been 15.

10 LADY SMITH: Would have been 15, yes.

11 MR MACAULAY: Then he goes on to say:

12 'At first I went to live with my dad in Castlemilk,
13 but didn't do my joinery for long as it was too far to
14 travel. Then I got a job as an apprentice plumber in
15 Govanhill which I didn't stick and I ended up as
16 a scaffolder. I also used to go to the snooker hall
17 a lot with my pals. You could win yourself money doing
18 that, it wasn't a bad earner at times.'

19 He goes on to talk about that at paragraph 57, and
20 that a number of them went to London to get jobs. He
21 goes on to say:

22 'I don't remember much from around then but I know
23 I ended up in a detention centre down there as well.
24 That was for a car theft and I got about three months.
25 I wasn't really a thief, that was a set up by the

1 police, it was out of order. The police said I'd
2 approached and tried to steal cars but it was a complete
3 fabrication. I couldn't even drive. I'd only ... been
4 in the motor I was in when they took me to St Mary's.
5 The police stopped me, saw I had previous convictions
6 and that went against me, that was so wrong.'

7 He talks about the location of the detention centre,
8 and it was a very strict place with a hard regime.

9 At 59:

10 'I also went to Polmont borstal for a breach of the
11 peace, which was unheard of. I was about 19 when I got
12 that and I was sentenced to thirteen months again. It
13 was just for being a drunk teenager but I had been fined
14 twice and not paid, so I was sent to borstal. I got out
15 of Polmont when I was 21 and since then I've had no
16 convictions ...

17 'I do remember this prison officer in the borstal
18 who pulled me aside and told me not to meet up with some
19 of the guys that were in my gang. He said a lot would
20 end up back in custody, but next time it would be
21 prison. He told me not to meet up and to go get a job,
22 get married and forget all about that place. I was in
23 with the wrong boys so I did as he said and got out of
24 all that.'

25 Plainly that was good advice.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR MACAULAY: 'I then got myself a scaffolding job through
3 my uncle and started working. Then I met my wife, got
4 married and started a family.'

5 He goes on to tell us about that.

6 At paragraph 62:

7 'I never got any schooling at St Mary's and I was
8 never taught to read and write. Even now I don't write,
9 it's my wife that does all my writing. I can't work
10 a computer. I do regret not having some kind of
11 academic education.

12 'All my mates that I grew up with have moved into
13 management and supervisory positions, inspectors, but
14 I couldn't do any of that. I was on the job right to
15 the end when all my mates had moved up and through. My
16 best mate ended up being the manager of a company and
17 I couldn't write. It's affected me all my life.

18 'In the approved school I learnt not to go fighting
19 at the drop of a hat, because there were too many times
20 I wouldn't win. There were some guys in there that
21 I learned a lesson from, not to go fighting. I carried
22 that through all my life and I don't remember fighting
23 with anybody as an adult because of this.

24 'I have also been lucky, my wife brought up the kids
25 well and I kept a better eye on my kids.'

1 He goes on to describe their achievements:
2 'I made sure my kids didn't go off the rails in any
3 way and my wife wouldn't have allowed it.'
4 He describes some aspects of the family home.
5 He has never tried to access his records.
6 Then at lessons to be learned, 69:
7 'It was a bit naughty me getting sent to that
8 approved school at Kenmure in the first place. The
9 school I was in was bursting at the seams so that should
10 never have been done.
11 'I have followed the Inquiry a wee bit on the news
12 and I'd say if you find anything needing fixed then you
13 should fix it. See that stuff about carrying the wet
14 bed sheets, surely that can't be happening anywhere
15 else.
16 'I did think that it might help the Inquiry if
17 **LYT** name came up from anyone else you were
18 speaking to. That's the main reason I am speaking to
19 you today.
20 'I returned to St Mary's about 15 years ago, when
21 I was in the area and just drove up to see if it was
22 still there. The main building was still there and it
23 brought back memories. I think, on the whole, I feel
24 that I was a wee bit lucky to come through it all
25 unscathed. It wasn't good and there was just too much

1 nakedness in the place.'

2 He ends up by saying:

3 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

4 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

5 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

6 true.

7 'Peter' has signed his statement on 8 October 2018.

8 I think we have time for --

9 LADY SMITH: Let's move on to the next one, then. Thank you

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 Ms MacLeod.

12 'Michael' (read)

13 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is

14 that of an applicant who will remain anonymous and use

15 the pseudonym 'Michael'.

16 'Michael's' statement can be found at

17 WIT-1-000000830.

18 'Michael's' statement has also been read in to

19 proceedings during this phase of the Inquiry. First of

20 all during Chapter 1, on Day 394, on 6 December 2023,

21 during Chapter 2 on Day 410, on 22 January 2024, and

22 during Chapter 7 on Day 458 on 4 April 2024:

23 'My ... name is 'Michael'. [I was born] in 1962.

24 My contact details are known to the Inquiry.'

25 Between paragraphs 2 and 12 'Michael' speaks about

1 his life before he went into care and the majority of
2 that has already been covered when his statement has
3 been read in already, my Lady.

4 I will point out what he says at paragraph 10, he
5 says that he appeared before a Children's Panel of three
6 people when he was aged eight, and that Mr GJL, his
7 social worker, was there and that it was recommended
8 that he would be sent away, because he wasn't going to
9 school.

10 It was against that background that 'Michael' was
11 sent first of all to Cardross Park Assessment Centre.

12 Between paragraphs 13 and 56 of the statement,
13 'Michael' speaks about his experiences at Cardross Park.

14 Between paragraph 57 and paragraph 151 of the
15 statement, 'Michael' speaks about his time at
16 St Ninian's in Gartmore, when he was aged between 8 and
17 12.

18 Between paragraphs 152 and 161 'Michael' speaks
19 about being back at home for a period of time when he
20 was aged 12.

21 From paragraph 162 to 207 he speaks about spending
22 time in Bellfield Remand Home in Dumbarton, when he was
23 aged 13.

24 From paragraph 208 onwards, he speaks about his time
25 at St Mary's in Bishopbriggs, and I will focus on that

1 part of the statement.

2 The Inquiry has recovered records which suggest that
3 'Michael' was admitted to St Mary's in [REDACTED] 1977, when he
4 was aged 14.

5 From paragraph 208:

6 'I was 13 or 14 years old when I was taken to
7 St Mary's Children's Home on Kenmure Avenue in
8 Bishopbriggs. Mr GJL [REDACTED] drove me there. I was taken
9 to SNR [REDACTED], Mr LNI [REDACTED]'s office, when I arrived.

10 'I was shown around the place by another member of
11 staff, but I can't remember who. I was given their own
12 clothes, which were denims and a shirt. I got two sets.
13 Then I was shown to where my bed was. It was a long
14 dormitory with about 30 beds and quite high partitions
15 between the beds so there was some privacy. There was
16 a locker beside my bed and I put my things in my locker
17 as well as one set of the uniform and I put the other
18 on. I was then taken down to where the classes were and
19 [I] met the boys.

20 'There were about 30 boys in St Mary's and we were
21 all in one dorm. The age range was 12 to 16.

22 'Mr LNI [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] when I started. He was
23 an ex-boxer and was SNR [REDACTED] for about a year,
24 then a man called Mr KDN [REDACTED]. The ... other
25 staff member that I remember is Bill Franks, who was the

1 cook, but he also took recreation as well.

2 'It was a big, long, red stone building in its own
3 grounds with a fence around it. It wasn't a secure
4 place though. You could climb over the fence or even
5 just walk out the gate if you wanted to. There was
6 a big statue of Our Lady in the grounds.

7 'Inside the main building, the headmaster's room and
8 the classrooms were on the ground floor with the dining
9 room right at the end. The dormitory and the TV room
10 were on the first floor. The recreation room was across
11 the yard.

12 'There were some greenhouses in the grounds with
13 a secure unit behind them, which was a building with
14 bars on the windows. There were workshops in the secure
15 unit.

16 'There was a wee house in the right-hand corner of
17 the grounds, which was called the Training for Freedom
18 House. That was where some of the older boys stayed
19 before they were getting out.

20 'We got up at 7.00 or 7.30 am, washed, got dressed
21 and went to the dining room for breakfast.

22 'Then we would go to a work party, which were
23 practical classes in the workshops in the secure unit
24 building. Then we would have lunch. The food was
25 excellent in there. There was a male cook who was good.

1 'We had a break for lunch. We would go out into the
2 yard for a cigarette and to play football for a bit. We
3 would see the boys from the secure unit there and they'd
4 play football with us. Then we had classes in the
5 afternoon.

6 'In the evening, we had our tea, I remember helping
7 out in the kitchen sometimes. Boys volunteered for that
8 because they got bored. After tea, we went into the
9 recreation room for a couple of hours. There was table
10 tennis, a small snooker table and a television in there.
11 I was the champion at table tennis there too. Nobody
12 could beat me. There were board games in the cupboard
13 but nobody ever played them. Films would be put on the
14 telly for everyone to watch if anybody wanted to watch
15 them. There was a library too, but I never saw anybody
16 reading.

17 'The TV was put off by 9.00 pm and everybody had to
18 go to bed. The staff came and checked that everyone was
19 in [their] bed and put the lights off. There was always
20 mucking about after [the] staff left. We would just
21 turn lights on and have a carry on. The door was locked
22 from the outside and I don't remember any staff ever
23 coming back to check on us. There was access to
24 a toilet if we needed to go. I don't remember anybody
25 ever having an issue with bedwetting in there.

1 'Some boys would help out in the kitchen but that
2 was on a [voluntary] basis. I did that a few times as
3 well. We never had any chores other than that.

4 'We never got taken on holidays. I started getting
5 home at weekends but if I [didn't go] home then we'd be
6 taken out swimming or something. I think they did try
7 their best.

8 'I was in the Training for Freedom House in my last
9 year there. There were six to eight boys in there. We
10 made our own food and had some independence before
11 leaving. Someone would come in to show us how to cook.
12 It was good in there. I also got an outside job in
13 a homeless shelter during that time.

14 'I don't remember seeing a doctor or dentist while
15 I was there.

16 'The classes were more practical than educational
17 and were called work parties. I don't remember English
18 classes or any proper schooling.

19 'We had workshops where we learned to work with
20 resin and fibreglass. There was woodwork, canoe making
21 and metalwork. Two teachers came in from outside to
22 take these classes. We also had a class where we
23 learned about money and how to budget for the week and
24 [the] month. This class was taken by a member of staff.

25 'Some older boys went out to college for the day and

1 other folk went out to work. A year before leaving the
2 home, I got a job helping out at a homeless shelter in
3 Glasgow for three nights a week. I would go to meetings
4 up at the BBC studios and get food from there and take
5 it to the shelter.

6 'At the hostel I worked with some of the other boys
7 and we admitted people into the place. I was supposed
8 to refuse them entry if they were drunk, but I would
9 usually let them in. We also searched people and
10 confiscated any alcohol from them. I would also help
11 out in the soup kitchen and dish out food.

12 'I started Cumbernauld College when I was about
13 15 years old before I left St Mary's, I was doing
14 welding and engineering. I was working towards
15 a City & Guilds qualification. I left the home before
16 I finished the course.

17 'I don't remember anybody coming to visit me in
18 there or asking how I was. I didn't see a social worker
19 again once I went into St Mary's.

20 'I never got any family visits because I started
21 getting home leave soon after being in there.

22 'I started getting home leave after about three or
23 four weeks of being in the home. I would leave on
24 a Friday and come back on a Sunday. I didn't always go
25 home. Sometimes I would hang out with the other boys

1 who were also on home leave.

2 'One boy who was in the home with me was Italian and
3 his dad had a chip shop in Glasgow. Another pal's dad
4 was [REDACTED] in the picture hall in Glasgow.
5 We would go to one boy's dad's chip shop and get chips
6 for free and then go to the other boy's dad's work and
7 get into the cinema for free. We did that quite often.

8 'After that I would go ... and stay with my pal and
9 we would get ourselves into trouble with shoplifting,
10 breaking into places and getting into fights. I would
11 get caught by the police and get charged as well.
12 I would go home to my own house at some point over the
13 weekend, but usually not the whole weekend.

14 'If you were thought to be misbehaving in St Mary's,
15 the punishment was to not let you have recreation and
16 you were made to stay in your bed area or staff would
17 take away your home leave.

18 'There was a female member of staff there who used
19 come in at night and tuck us in. The boys would try and
20 feel her up as she was doing it. I can't remember her
21 name, but she was a big woman. She got caught by
22 another member of staff in the toilets doing sexual
23 things with one of the boys. I don't remember which
24 staff member caught them or the name of the boy, but he
25 was a pal of mine. The woman got the sack after that.

1 'Bill Franks looked after the boys in the telly room
2 in the evenings. There were rows of chairs set out like
3 a cinema. Some boys would sit in the back row and
4 Bill Franks would sit next to them and touch their legs
5 up. He tried it with me but I got up and walked away
6 and never sat next to him again. That happened to me
7 quite soon after I was in there. He did it to other
8 boys too and he would be laughing about it. He didn't
9 try to hide it. I never heard from any of the boys that
10 he took it further.

11 'Bill Franks was also the cook, and boys would help
12 out in the kitchen sometimes. There would be about
13 three of us. All the boys warned you not to walk into
14 the walk-in fridge because Bill Franks would come in
15 after you.

16 'When you were working in there, Bill Franks would
17 tell you to go and get something from the walk-in
18 fridge, and then he'd follow you in and try to grope
19 you. He did that to me. He would come at me and
20 I would run about to dodge him and he'd chase me and try
21 into get me into a corner. He would be acting like it
22 was comedy and he was joking, but if I gave him a chance
23 he definitely would have touched me up. I just told him
24 to "fuck off" and managed to run about, dodge him and
25 get out without letting him touch me. He just laughed,

1 pretending it was funny. He did this to me a few times.

2 'I saw him follow other boys into the fridge too and
3 I would hear other boys swearing at him too.

4 I definitely think he was a paedophile. Other than
5 that, he was all right. He would show you how to cook
6 and give you extra food in the kitchen.

7 'Once, while I was on home leave, I went to a Celtic
8 and Rangers football match at Parkhead Stadium with my
9 brothers. My brother jumped up when Celtic scored. The
10 police arrested and charged us both, even though I
11 hadn't done anything wrong. They were just arresting
12 everybody. You couldn't move in the cells for all the
13 football supporters. I ended up getting charged with
14 breach of the peace.

15 'I was taken back to St Mary's in a police traffic
16 car. It was on [REDACTED] Day, so there were hundreds of
17 people at the home, standing around the statue in the
18 grounds to do mass. The police car couldn't get
19 through, so they had to put the siren on to get through
20 the crowd.

21 'The police wanted to talk to SNR [REDACTED]
22 Mr LNI [REDACTED], who had to leave all the people and what he was
23 doing to speak to the police about me. They spoke in
24 the office in front of me and the police told him that
25 I had been charged with a breach of the peace. After

1 they left, Mr LNI gave me a kick-in for it. He was
2 punching me everywhere on my head and body. I was
3 covered in bruises and had black eyes. I didn't get
4 taken to hospital, I just had to lie in my bed for
5 a week until I got better. That was the only beating
6 I got in St Mary's.

7 'I ended up in court after that and all my other
8 charges caught up with me too. The court sent me to
9 Longriggend Remand Home for three weeks. This was when
10 I was about 14 years old. I went back to court after
11 the three weeks and there was a member of staff from
12 St Mary's there who spoke up for me. They told the
13 court that I was doing well at St Mary's and I should be
14 allowed to go back there, so the court agreed and I was
15 sent back.

16 'I was getting home three days a week from Friday to
17 Sunday [from St Mary's]. The other three nights, I was
18 working in the homeless shelter.

19 'I was spending less and less time at St Mary's and
20 it had got to the point where I was just going to
21 St Mary's Monday to Friday during the day for the
22 classes.'

23 The records recovered by the Inquiry don't give
24 a date on which 'Michael' was released from St Mary's,
25 but they do record him as having been removed from the

1 roll in [REDACTED] 1978, when he would have been aged 16:

2 'I wanted to go to college and got a placement at
3 Cumbernauld College, the home decided they couldn't do
4 any more with me so I was discharged. I left St Mary's
5 when I was 15 years old. I hadn't minded being in
6 there. It was a well-run place.'

7 Between paragraphs 248 and 257, the witness speaks
8 of his time in Longriggend Remand Home.

9 Between paragraphs 258 and 261, he speaks about
10 being back at home for a period of three weeks.

11 Between paragraphs 262 and 285, he speaks about his
12 time in Polmont borstal, Polmont Young Offenders
13 Institute, when he was aged 16.

14 Between paragraphs 286 and 293, he speaks about his
15 time at HMP Castle Huntly, when he was still aged 16.

16 From paragraph 294 to 299, he speaks about his life
17 after care.

18 From paragraph 300 onwards, he describes the impact
19 that he considers his time in care has had on his life,
20 and most of that has again, my Lady, been dealt with
21 previously.

22 Between paragraphs 307 and 309, he speaks about
23 health issues and treatment that he was receiving at the
24 time he signed his statement.

25 Between paragraphs 310 and 316, he provides evidence

1 in relation to reporting his abuse, which has already
2 been dealt with before the Inquiry.

3 Between paragraphs 317 and 320, he provides evidence
4 in relation to the recovery of records. Again, that's
5 already been dealt with.

6 I will turn to the final part of the statement,
7 where the witness sets out some paragraphs about lessons
8 that he considers could be learned, and that's from 321:

9 'I think there needs to be more female staff members
10 in care institutions. Staff should always be made to
11 work in pairs so there will always be a witness around.

12 'I am hoping that the same mistakes won't be made
13 again and that other children will be saved from going
14 through what I went through in care.

15 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
16 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
17 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
18 true.'

19 'Michael' signed the statement on 12 October 2021.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 Can we fit another one in?

22 MR MACAULAY: I think so.

23 LADY SMITH: Let's do it.

24 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is an applicant who wants to
25 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Jamie'.

1 'Iain' (read)

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: 'Jamie' was born in 1962, and perhaps I should
4 just give the reference for the statement, it is
5 WIT.001.001.7207.

6 He was born in 1962 and he provides, at the
7 beginning of his statement some background in relation
8 to his family. He was the second youngest of five
9 brothers, and his parents split up when he was aged 6.
10 He then provides some information about life before
11 care:

12 'My mum worked full time as a cleaner and my auntie
13 would look after us. Because my mum worked I could do
14 as I wanted. I basically got away with murder. When
15 I was about 13 I started playing truant a lot from
16 school. Before this I had done well at primary school
17 and first year at secondary school. I had been getting
18 [pretty] good reports.

19 'Around this time some of my friends and me broke
20 into a shop. We were caught by the police and taken to
21 Glasgow Sheriff Court. I was initially remanded for
22 three weeks at Larchgrove ... to allow for social work
23 reports.'

24 It has been pointed out to me, my Lady, that the
25 pseudonym is not 'Jamie', it's 'Iain'.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR MACAULAY: I-A-I-N.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Can I just check the statement
4 reference, then. Is it actually 7207?

5 MR MACAULAY: 7208.

6 LADY SMITH: 720 --

7 MR MACAULAY: I am sorry, 7207, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think you said 0207, but it is actually
9 7207 and this is 'Iain'.

10 MR MACAULAY: It is 'Iain'.

11 Thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you, that's very helpful.

13 MR MACAULAY: At paragraph 5, he talks about the time he
14 spent at Larchgrove.

15 At 9, he says:

16 'I was taken from Larchgrove to court. I was
17 sentenced to 18 months' detention. Larchgrove decided
18 that I would go to St Mary's List D school at
19 Bishopbriggs. At this time I would have been about
20 14 years old.'

21 We don't have records in relation to admission and
22 discharge for this applicant, but if he was 14, then
23 that would place it at about 1976.

24 At 11 he says:

25 'Mr LNI, SNR met us at the door. I was

1 taken upstairs and given sand shoes, denims, a red
2 jumper and a blue shirt. I was told to change into
3 these clothes.'

4 At 14 he says:

5 'A guy aged about 40 came in with a sandwich.
6 I later found out that this was the cook, Bill Franks.
7 He sat next to me and put his hand on my leg and told me
8 that I would be fine. He then started moving his hand
9 further up my leg and kept saying that I would be fine.
10 As he was doing this, two boys aged about 14 came in.
11 They went into the kitchen with the guy.

12 'I got up and saw that the main door was open.
13 I ran outside and into the trees. That was all within
14 30 minutes of me arriving in the school. The first
15 night I slept in a field.

16 'I went back to Possilpark and stayed for a bit with
17 a friend ... [The friend] gave me a change of clothes.
18 After this I stayed in derelict buildings. There were
19 two alcoholics in one of the buildings and they sort of
20 looked after me. They became like family to me.

21 'I absconded and stayed away from St Mary's for
22 about a year. During this time I never went back to the
23 family home. Eventually my brother ... talked me into
24 giving myself up. [He] was seven years older than me
25 and by that time he was married. [He] had been trying

1 to find me when I had absconded.

2 'During the year I had absconded I never spoke to my
3 mum. I know that the police had been looking for me but
4 I don't think that the social work had been involved.

5 '[My brother] took me back to his house in Maryhill
6 and then ... [back] to St Mary's.

7 'When I was taken back to St Mary's, HHG who
8 worked there, asked me who I was. When I told him, he
9 said that I held the record for the quickest stay and
10 the longest away ... When I returned there was no
11 police involvement. I was taken to the same dormitory
12 as before and given the same type of clothes.

13 'It was a mixture of care and remand boys. I would
14 say there was a higher population of boys on remand than
15 in care.'

16 In relation to staff, at paragraph 23 he says:

17 'The staff at the school worked shifts. It would be
18 different people on duty day and night. There was more
19 staff on during the day and less at night. I would say
20 that the majority of them were generally okay. Mr LNI
21 was SNR of the home. I think that one of the
22 other staff, zHXC, had a social work background. The
23 staff that I had most dealings with was Bill Franks and
24 LYT.'

25 He goes on to talk about routine at paragraph 26, he

1 says:

2 'The quality of the food was good. It was probably
3 better than I was used to. If you didn't eat the meals
4 there were no punishments.'

5 Then at work:

6 'I was put in a daily work detail. This could be in
7 the kitchen with the joiner or with Mr LYT ,
8 LYT , LYT was a sort of handyman farmer
9 type person, he stayed at the school in a bungalow up
10 the hill with his mother.

11 'You didn't get to choose what work detail that you
12 were in. Looking back now it was like child labour.
13 You worked five days a week from about 9.15 am until
14 3.00 pm every day. You stopped between 12.00 and 1.00
15 for lunch. I was with Mr LYT for about three months.
16 After that I was in the kitchen for about four months.
17 I also went to work in a farm. I think it was a friend
18 of Mr LYT 's who had the farm.'

19 Then under the heading 'Discipline':

20 'I don't think that there was a strict discipline
21 regime. You would get your privileges taken away. This
22 could be your cigarettes if you smoked. You might not
23 get to go to the TV room. The biggest thing to lose
24 would be your weekend leave, the staff knew how
25 important your home leave was to you.

1 'I never went to school at St Mary's. I was never
2 offered the opportunity go to school.'

3 Then at paragraph 39 he says:

4 'After about five months I was allowed to go home at
5 weekends. The reason it was five months was because
6 I had previously run away. If you were going home at
7 the weekend, they would give you [your] bus fare. You
8 left on a Friday and you had to be back by 6 pm on the
9 Sunday. This would be every weekend, unless someone
10 gave you a bad report. All it took was for one of the
11 staff to put a report in against you. This would be
12 whether it was justified or not.'

13 Under the heading 'Birthdays and Christmas':

14 'My birthday wasn't celebrated in school. It was
15 just another day.'

16 But:

17 'I was allowed home for Christmas.'

18 At 46:

19 'I know that visits were allowed at the school.
20 I was going home regularly so I didn't need any
21 visitors.'

22 Under the heading 'Abuse' at 49, he says:

23 'The first work detail I was on was with
24 LYT [REDACTED]. He was referred to as "Mr LYT [REDACTED]".
25 LYT [REDACTED] was a bully. I don't know if LYT [REDACTED] was his

1 right name. He was maybe aged about 50 ...'

2 LADY SMITH: It sounds like the person other people have

3 called 'LYT [REDACTED]'.

4 MR MACAULAY: It is the same person. They said that:

5 'He was ... aged about 50 at the time. You had to

6 do things his way or you got a slap. He was

7 the handyman and also handy with his hands.

8 'I remember one time we were building a fence.

9 I had to hold the wire while it was being tightened.

10 I told Mr LYT [REDACTED] I couldn't hold it as it was hurting my

11 fingers. He slapped me [twice] on the face and told me

12 that there was nothing wrong with my hands.

13 'Mr LYT [REDACTED] would slap you on the head most days if he

14 thought you were doing something wrong. He would also

15 kick you if he was standing beside you. A lot of the

16 times he would be shouting at you. When he was shouting

17 at me it made me feel scared.

18 'It was an everyday thing with Mr LYT [REDACTED]. He would

19 shout at all the boys and slap them as well. It wasn't

20 just me.

21 'When it was my turn to work in the kitchen,

22 Bill Franks, the cook, was there. He wasn't very tall,

23 and was aged about 40. He had a goaty beard and long

24 black hair and looked like a person from an Italian

25 background.

1 'There was never any violence but he was touching on
2 you constantly. On one occasion, me and him were alone
3 in the kitchen. I will never forget it, it was
4 a Wednesday. He took hold of my hand and put it on his
5 leg and then put it further up. He wouldn't let go of
6 my hand until it was on his penis. He then started
7 moving it up and down. Then it was over.

8 'After this happened I got a bad report put in
9 against me. I missed my home leave that weekend. I was
10 called into Mr LNI's office and he told me my leave was
11 cancelled because of the report. He didn't say who had
12 put the report in. The following Monday I was back in
13 the kitchen. Mr Franks said to me, "See, that's what
14 I can do to you. I can stop your leave any time
15 I want". I took from this that he had put the bad
16 report in about me and if he wanted to, he could stop my
17 home leave.

18 'I was on the kitchen work detail for about another
19 two weeks then I was moved. Nothing like what happened
20 that Wednesday happened again. He did still keep
21 touching me constantly. I done everything I could to
22 try and stay away from him. Although there was a party
23 of five boys working in the kitchen, he was very
24 "sleekit". If there were three of you in the kitchen he
25 would send two of the boys away to do something else.

1 This meant I would be left alone with him. I know he
2 would have done things with the other boys ... [and] not
3 just me.

4 'I have never spoken to the police or anyone else in
5 authority about what Mr Franks or Mr LYT did to me.

6 'I would moan to the staff about Mr LYT and what he
7 was like. The staff would just say that he was grumpy
8 and that was the way he was.

9 'You weren't able to report what happened to you in
10 that era. If you were hit you just got on with it. The
11 attitude was that you must have done something wrong.

12 'I never had an opportunity for a one to one with
13 a staff member where I could discuss things.'

14 Going on to when he left St Mary's, he tells us that
15 his brother managed to get him a job as a binman in
16 Glasgow, and that from St Mary's he would be given his
17 bus fare and go to work and then back to the home. He
18 did this for about four or five months before he was
19 released:

20 'When I started working, I was given a packed lunch.
21 You had to go to the kitchen to get this. It was
22 normally lying on the table for you. If it wasn't there
23 it would mean that Bill Franks was on duty. I would
24 have to go in the kitchen where he was. The first
25 couple of times this happened I went into the kitchen

1 and Bill Franks was there. He would touch me on the leg
2 and the bum. He would say I was his favourite boy.
3 'After this, if my lunch wasn't there I wouldn't go
4 into the kitchen as I knew he would be there. What
5 Bill Franks did to me made me angry and frustrated.
6 I didn't think this would ever happen to me as I was
7 streetwise.'
8 He then goes on to talk about when he was finally
9 released, and that's likely to have been in 1978,
10 although we don't have the actual dates.
11 LADY SMITH: Yes.
12 MR MACAULAY: Then, after that, he talks about life after
13 being in care:
14 'After leaving St Mary's, I stayed with my dad as
15 I didn't get on with my mum's boyfriend. I hadn't been
16 in contact with my dad before then. I stayed with my
17 dad for about six years. When I came out of St Mary's
18 I was lost for about two years. I was getting into
19 trouble and drinking a lot.
20 'I worked as a binman for two years. After this
21 I became a butcher and did this job for about 21 years.
22 I then went back to being a binman.'
23 He then goes on to talk about impact at
24 paragraph 69:
25 'I wouldn't say my time in St Mary's had any real

1 impact on me other than I started drinking a lot. I did
2 start to get into a bit of trouble. When I was 19,
3 I was arrested for attempted murder:

4 'The attempted murder charge was eventually dropped
5 to assault. I was given a fine and probation. About
6 this time I met my wife and since then life has been
7 good. I settled down and have never been in trouble
8 since.

9 'I have never forgot what Bill Franks and
10 LYT did to me. I have, though, managed to put
11 it to the back of my mind. I think I have dealt with it
12 quite well.

13 'What happened to me with Mr LYT and Mr Franks
14 definitely had an affect on me. I would say what
15 Bill Franks done to me made me homophobic when I was
16 younger. I'm not homophobic now. Before I wouldn't be
17 friends with people who were homosexual. Now I have
18 friends who are gay. I also get very angry if I see
19 someone hitting another person. I don't see the need to
20 hit kids. This is probably all to do with what happened
21 to me.

22 'When I was in St Mary's, no one listened to you.
23 I think that now people do listen. People have a voice
24 now. At St Mary's people made you do things and if you
25 didn't you got hit.

1 'I don't smoke, but when I was in St Mary's children
2 of 13 were allowed to smoke 20 cigarettes a day. At
3 Larchgrove you were allowed four cigarettes a day.
4 I can't believe that this was allowed to happen. I have
5 two friends who were 13 and didn't smoke when they went
6 into St Mary's. They started smoking there and to this
7 day still smoke.'

8 The heading 'Other information', he would say:

9 'I would hope that the Inquiry will stop abuse in
10 care.

11 'At St Mary's I didn't feel that I had a voice. If
12 you asked someone a question they never gave you
13 an answer. There was always an excuse, they would say
14 they were too busy.

15 'One of my big regrets was that at St Mary's I was
16 never given the opportunity to have an education between
17 the age of 14 and 16. Even to have got an E in
18 an O-Level would have shown I had done something.

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

23 'Iain' signed the statement on 6 March 2018.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

25 We will stop there for today. Before I rise, some

1 other names in addition to the ones I have already
2 mentioned of people who are not to be identified as
3 referred to in our evidence outside this room.

4 Someone referred to as HQL, that might be
5 HQL, referred to as KDN, or it might be
6 KDN, and somebody, HHG -- I think it was
7 HHG or HHG -- all staff at St Mary's,
8 their identities are protected by my General Restriction
9 Order.

10 Tomorrow morning, the plan, Mr MacAulay?

11 MR MACAULAY: The plan tomorrow morning, it is Friday, of
12 course, we have three oral witnesses and we will see
13 when we can do with read-ins.

14 LADY SMITH: See what space we have for read-ins. Thank you
15 very much.

16 (4.01 pm)

17 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday, 29 November
18 2024)

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INDEX

1	'Simon' (affirmed)	1
2	Questions from Ms MacLeod	3
3	'Gearoid' (affirmed)	82
4	Questions from Mr MacAulay	84
5	'Peter' (read)	139
6	'Michael' (read)	153
7	'Iain' (read)	166
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		