

1 Tuesday, 10 December 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, now we turn to the next section
4 of our evidence in this phase of hearings and we have
5 a witness ready to give evidence.

6 Ms MacLeod, would you like to introduce her?

7 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady, the first witness this
8 morning is an applicant who will use the pseudonym
9 'Marie'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 'Marie' (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', good morning.

13 A. Good morning.

14 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', thank you for coming along this
15 morning to help us with your evidence. I already, of
16 course, have your written statement and it has been
17 really useful to me to be able to study that in advance.
18 What we would like to do this morning is explore some
19 particular aspects of it with you, if that's okay.

20 Don't worry, we are not going to take you through it
21 word for word or line by line, we will do something,
22 hopefully, that you will find easier than that.

23 But, 'Marie', can I just say from the outset that
24 I do appreciate that being taken back to events so long
25 ago has a practical challenge, and some things we don't

1 remember decades back.

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: That's fine. If you can't remember, just say,

4 but also, when you get to parts of your own past that

5 can be quite distressing, you can be taken by surprise,

6 particularly in this sort of environment, at how

7 upsetting it can become. I do understand that --

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: -- and if there is anything I can do to assist,

10 such as having a break or a pause, you must let me know.

11 A. Thank you so much, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Because it is important that we do what we can

13 to enable you to give the best evidence that you can.

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: I will take a break this morning. I think,

16 perhaps, would a break shortly before 11 o'clock help

17 you, a short break then?

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: If we haven't finished your evidence at that

20 point, we will go on for a bit after that and then

21 take --

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: -- a 15-minute break at about 11.30 am, if that

24 would work okay for you.

25 A. That's fine, thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Please don't feel under pressure to try and
2 stand up, or get in and out for my benefit. I will
3 remove myself as and when so that you can take your time
4 moving about because I don't want you to feel
5 uncomfortable about that, is that okay?
6 A. Thank you.
7 LADY SMITH: I will hand over to Ms MacLeod and she will
8 take from there.
9 A. Thank you.
10 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.
11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
12 Questions from Ms MacLeod
13 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, 'Marie'.
14 A. Good morning.
15 Q. Because you are anonymous we don't need your date of
16 birth, but to give a timeframe, can you confirm that you
17 were born in 1944?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. You have provided a statement for the Inquiry and there
20 is a copy of the statement in the red folder in front of
21 you. I am going to give the reference of that for the
22 transcript. It is WIT.001.002.3155.
23 'Marie', could we please begin by you looking at the
24 very last page of the statement in the folder, and
25 that's really to confirm if you have signed it.

1 A. Yes, yes.

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

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 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now we can go back to the beginning of the statement and

9 I will ask you some questions about that.

10 I think first of all, 'Marie', you provide some

11 information about your early life, and family

12 background, and I think you tell the Inquiry that you

13 were born in Glasgow, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You say that your parents moved to London when you were

16 very young, around 1 or so?

17 A. No, I was a year old when I went to London.

18 Q. You were a year old?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think did you then move back up to Glasgow for a time

21 with some family?

22 A. Well, my mother left me with my grandparents, but then

23 my aunt [REDACTED], who couldn't have children, and her

24 husband, he was in the forces, and, erm, she took care

25 of me. And they wanted to adopt, but my mother wouldn't

1 have it.

2 Q. I see.

3 A. And when I was probably 4, they come and brought me back
4 to London and consequently, from thereon, it was
5 a series of in care/out care/in care.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 I think you tell us about that in your statement,
8 'Marie', you said once you were brought back to London,
9 you say from then on that you were in and out of care?

10 A. Yes, all different children's homes.

11 Q. I think you say that when you were at home, that you
12 were often looked after by a lady who lived across the
13 road?

14 A. That's right, erm, my mother had a boyfriend at that
15 time and they lived in the house across the road, and he
16 also owned another two houses, but I wasn't allowed in,
17 'cause he didn't want me there. So this lady, who had
18 six children of her own, but she was really kind to me,
19 erm, for a long while my mum used to give her five
20 shillings a week and eventually she sat me down and said
21 that it wasn't right, she didn't want to give me up,
22 'cause I was welcome there, but she didn't think it was
23 right, and the social services got involved again and
24 then I was into care again. So I was from in care, out
25 care, I was never at home for very long, always

1 something happened that they had to come and take me
2 away.

3 Erm, I hadn't done anything wrong in my life.
4 I hadn't stolen anything. I hadn't destroyed anything.
5 The only thing I didn't do was go to school. But they
6 never did say to me: why didn't you go to school? Well,
7 it was because I had no underwear, I had no good shoes
8 to wear to school, and I used to feel embarrassed that
9 I would go into school, for PE, things like that, and
10 I wouldn't go.

11 So that was the only thing I did wrong, really.
12 I didn't do anything else wrong.

13 Q. I think you tell us, 'Marie', that eventually social
14 services stepped in when you were maybe 7 or 8, that
15 they stepped in again and that you were then in care
16 completely.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think that's how you describe it?

19 A. Yes, and I was under a fit person order until I was 18,
20 which was a care and protection. So all of that was
21 taken away from my parents anyway.

22 Q. Did there come a time when you went to St Joseph's
23 Convent?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In East Finchley?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How old were you then?

3 A. I was 10.

4 Q. Was that run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd?

5 A. Yes, but it was -- some of the girls there were paying

6 girls, and the social worker that I had at the time,

7 Miss Gordon, was the only one that really took any

8 trouble with me. But again, I used to run away.

9 I couldn't tell you why. It wasn't a bad school. They

10 didn't -- I was well educated to a degree. And could

11 have been more than well educated before I left. But

12 then, because I kept absconding, and I just used to get

13 on the tube at East Finchley and get off at the Oval,

14 'cause my brother lived there, and I wanted to see him,

15 'cause I wasn't allowed visitors or anything like that,

16 because of my family background. But they decided then

17 to send me to St Euphrasia's in Scotland. Which, you

18 know, that was really the finish of it, really.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Can you recall when you were told that you were

21 going to be going to St Euphrasia's? Who told you that,

22 and what did they say about it?

23 A. Well, the nun, the head -- Mother Superior at

24 St Joseph's, she said, 'I'm going to send you somewhere,

25 it won't be in England', she said, 'Because this --

1 where you're going, it will either make you or break
2 you', and she was right, absolutely right. And then the
3 next thing I knew, I was on the train to Scotland.

4 Q. Was it explained to you why you were going to
5 St Euphrasia's?

6 A. Because I kept absconding, that was the only thing they
7 could say.

8 Q. How old were you?

9 A. Pardon?

10 Q. How old were you at this time?

11 A. I was probably 12.

12 Q. Did anybody go with you?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you travel alone to Scotland?

15 A. Travelled alone, yes. I was met at Glasgow by a nun
16 from the St Euphrasia's to take me to the convent, but
17 that was all.

18 Q. At that time, 'Marie', being 11 or 12 years old, what
19 was your own thinking about being sent to Glasgow, to
20 St Euphrasia's, on your own?

21 A. I didn't know anything about St Euphrasia's. I thought
22 it was another school. I didn't think it was what it
23 was. And I think I was -- I wouldn't say I was
24 traumatised, because from when I was young, I was being
25 moved everywhere, nobody ever told you anything anyway,

1 and I just thought that was another occasion where
2 I found out when I got there. But I really didn't know
3 that that was what I was going to.

4 Q. Were you met then at the station in Glasgow by a Sister?

5 A. Yes, from St Euphrasia's.

6 Q. Was St Euphrasia's also run by the Good Shepherd
7 Sisters?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you remember arriving at St Euphrasia's?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you tell me about your memories of arriving there?

12 A. Well, on arrival you had to, erm, give up everything you
13 had with you, 'cause you weren't allowed any personal
14 things like maybe clothes or different things that girls
15 use. We weren't allowed anything like that. And that
16 was all taken away. They gave you a set of clothes to
17 wear after a shower, a cold shower, or bath then, we
18 didn't have showers, and then you were given a dormitory
19 bed and that was it, nothing was explained to you. And
20 then they said you'll be asked to get up at a certain
21 time and you go to work in the laundry.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And I didn't really quite understand what was ahead of
24 me, really.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Laundry, what is a laundry, you know. But that's where
2 we worked, in the laundries.

3 Q. Okay.

4 Can you remember the names of any of the Sisters who
5 were at St Euphrasia's?

6 A. Yes. Yes, there was Sister Aloysius, there was Mother
7 Sacred Heart, Sister Philomena, and
8 Mother St Philip of Mary, who was the Mother Superior,
9 Mother Theresa, I can remember quite a few of them, yes.

10 Q. We will look at this later on, but I think you tell us
11 that you were there, 'Marie', until you were aged 15?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you were there around four years or so; is that
14 right?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Did you develop an understanding of what St Euphrasia's
17 was quite early on?

18 A. Of what, sorry?

19 Q. Of what it was. Did you think it was a school or was it
20 explained?

21 A. No, it definitely wasn't a school, we had no education
22 at all, didn't have teachers come in, social workers
23 never came in. Erm, we just worked in the laundries.

24 Q. Okay. Was it all girls at St Euphrasia's?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you remember the number of girls, approximately?

2 A. Probably about 200 of us.

3 Q. And the age range?

4 A. Well, there were older girls than me, up to about 17,

5 I think, but younger as well. But there were older ones

6 there as well.

7 Q. Were you assigned to a particular dormitory?

8 A. Well, we were -- at first, the young -- us younger ones

9 had four to a dormitory. And there was, like, four beds

10 in there. And then when you got to in your teens, you

11 were given a cubicle. There weren't actually bedrooms,

12 they were just cordoned off, like boards in between, and

13 you didn't get that 'til you were older, though.

14 Q. Okay. You have mentioned the Sisters, and you have

15 named quite a number of them there, 'Marie'. Were they

16 the Sisters who were in charge of the girls?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were there also older Sisters living in a different part

19 of the building?

20 A. There were older Sisters, but we only ever saw them at

21 mass.

22 Q. The Sisters who were in charge of the girls, the six or

23 so that you mentioned, what was their role, or their

24 job, as far as you could see?

25 A. Well, their role, really, was to keep us in line, you

1 know, to do as we were told, and make sure we were doing
2 our jobs. But apart from that, there wasn't much else
3 they did.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. You know, we didn't have times when we could sit and
6 talk, or discuss things, that wasn't a thing to do.

7 Q. You provide some information in your statement about the
8 building and other buildings on the grounds, and you say
9 that on the other side, there was a reformatory school?

10 A. Yes, but we didn't have any contact with them at all.

11 Q. Was that a separate building?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. In paragraph 16, you provide some information about the
14 building that you were in --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- and some of the rooms that were in there. Can you
17 just help me, 'Marie', with a description of what was
18 the building like that you were in, and what rooms were
19 inside it?

20 A. Well, as you went in, it was all marble, marble steps,
21 marble corridors, and then you had the big long dining
22 room downstairs on the ground. Then there was one big
23 room where we all used to sit and do our darning, or
24 mending, or whatever, in the big hall. And then there
25 was a dining room where we used to eat. And a nun used

1 to sit there on a plinth and watch us while we ate. And
2 we weren't allowed to talk unless she rung the bell.
3 When she rang the bell, you could talk. But, erm, there
4 was nothing else there, except -- and the laundry.
5 Q. Would you be okay if I put some photographs on the
6 screen of some buildings?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Just the outside of buildings, would that be okay?
9 A. Yes, I remember that, yes.
10 Q. Could we please have GSH-000000086, page 2.
11 It is really to see, 'Marie', if you can help me
12 with any of these photographs. On this page could we
13 scroll down to the second photograph. Do you recognise
14 that at all, 'Marie'?
15 A. Not this one, not that one.
16 Q. Do you recognise the top one on that page, if we can
17 have a look at it?
18 A. This one I do. This one.
19 Q. What's that?
20 A. The senior training home.
21 Q. Do you recognise the building from your time in
22 Bishopton?
23 A. Only the out -- we weren't allowed on that side, I only
24 saw it going in.
25 Q. Okay. The next photograph is the same document at

1 page 1, please. Can you help me with that, 'Marie'?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. That's fine, we can take the photographs down,

4 thank you.

5 In terms of the routine, the daily routine that you

6 had, you provide us with some detail about that. Did

7 the Sisters wake you up in the morning?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And take you for breakfast?

10 A. Yes, and then on to the laundry.

11 Q. And on to the laundry?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were the Sisters also involved in putting the girls to

14 bed and making sure you were in your bed at night?

15 A. Oh yes, and the lights would go out at a certain time

16 and that was it.

17 Q. Okay. You have mentioned already about the dining hall

18 and the arrangements in the dining hall. What you say

19 at paragraph 20 is that you never saw a nun eat

20 a meal --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- with the children?

23 A. No, never.

24 Q. Is that right?

25 A. Never.

1 Q. In the dining hall was it just the girls --
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. -- who were having their meals?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Would there be a Sister on duty?
6 A. Yes, yes. Everywhere we were for any length of time
7 there was always a Sister there, on a dais, watching us.
8 Q. I think you say at paragraph 21 that they would make
9 sure that you ate your food?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. Can you can just explain that to me, how would they do
12 that?
13 A. Well, they didn't believe in waste of any kind, so they
14 would check that everything on your plate had gone, no
15 matter what it was. And obviously it wasn't always nice
16 to eat some of it, the fat, or gristle, or whatever, but
17 you had to eat it, whether you liked it or not, so ...
18 Q. What would happen if a child didn't eat, or didn't
19 finish their meal?
20 A. Well, you would either have no free time or no sweet,
21 depending.
22 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry there that the Sister would
23 stand over --
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. -- the children until the food was eaten?

1 A. Oh yes, yes.

2 LADY SMITH: This would be the mid 1950s, 'Marie' --

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: -- would it?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Not that long after post-War rationing had

7 stopped.

8 A. I know.

9 LADY SMITH: I suppose a lot of people were still very

10 anxious about ensuring you didn't waste food.

11 A. I'm sure, I'm sure, I'm sure. But that wasn't the worst

12 part, it was the work and the mental effect it had on

13 us.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 A. 'Cause they didn't have to hurt us in any way, they

16 disciplined us in other ways but you still conformed,

17 whether you wanted to disobey or not, which you

18 wouldn't, you just wouldn't.

19 LADY SMITH: You just didn't dare?

20 A. No. No.

21 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

23 A. Never answered a nun back in my life.

24 Q. In relation to the food, 'Marie', you say that you used

25 to baulk at the food?

1 A. Yes, yeah.

2 Q. But you had to swallow it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. In terms of washing and bathing arrangements, was that

5 something that was quite tightly controlled?

6 A. Well, we had to cover ourselves when we had a bath, erm,

7 so that we didn't look at ourselves or anybody else.

8 And it was always cold water. Once a week. But you had

9 to cover yourself with a long white thing you had to put

10 on before you got into the bath. That was for modesty.

11 Q. When you say bathing was once a week, did everybody bath

12 -- was that once a week for everybody?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Can I ask you about the clothing that you wore, and what

15 you were asked to do with your hair. Was there specific

16 clothes that you had to wear?

17 A. Well, we could only wear what they made for us, which

18 was just a skirt, blouse and cardigan. And then in the

19 winter, you probably got a heavier skirt. But apart

20 from that -- and we had to wear plimsolls, just

21 plimsolls, we didn't have shoes, but -- and you had sets

22 of underwear, but you couldn't wear our underwear, as

23 girls, a bra or anything like that, you weren't allowed

24 those.

25 Q. Were you provided with a bra at all during --

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. -- the time you were there?

3 A. We weren't even provided with stuff for our monthlies.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. It was ones they'd made in coarse cotton. And you

6 couldn't even mention it, you had to put it in a book

7 and then they appeared on the end of your bed.

8 Q. I think you tell us about that in your statement,

9 'Marie', you say:

10 'We weren't allowed to mention our periods.'

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. Did anybody explain to you when you got to the age that

13 your periods might start what was happening or what you

14 might expect?

15 A. No. The person that explained it to me was a nurse in

16 the hospital. I was in the hospital and she explained

17 to me.

18 Q. Was that before you went to --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- Bishopton.

21 Did your hair have to be --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- worn in a particular way?

24 A. It was cut to here, just round.

25 Q. You're indicating to below the ear?

1 A. Yes, you weren't allowed curly hair. Well, if you had
2 naturally curly hair, but anything else, you just had it
3 straight, you know.

4 Q. Was all the girls' hair then cut to look quite
5 similar --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- to one another?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. We have touched on this briefly, 'Marie', but I think
10 you tell us in your statement that almost all your time
11 at St Euphrasia's was spent in the laundry?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that right?

14 A. That's right. The laundry and sometimes in the kitchen.
15 Not often. Mostly in the laundry.

16 Q. When you arrived at St Euphrasia's, aged 11 or 12, were
17 you at that age expected to be working in the laundry?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. Every day?

20 A. Every day.

21 Q. What sort of hours were you expected to put in in the
22 laundry?

23 A. Straight after breakfast at 8.00, until about 6.00. But
24 if there -- we used do a lot of laundry for the boats,
25 the ships coming in, so if the tide was -- we had to

1 meet the tide. We'd work later until it was done, so
2 that they would catch the tide. But it was thousands
3 and thousands of stuff we used to do.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Hotels, hospitals, the ships.

6 Q. How many children, roughly, were working in the laundry
7 at a given time, can you help me with that?

8 A. At any one time?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I would say maybe 60, 60 of us.

11 Q. What about Sisters, were there Sisters in there too?

12 A. She used to sit on a raised bit to watch us.

13 Q. So there was one Sister watching and about 60 --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- young girls working in the laundry?

16 A. Yes, some were on the calenders, some were on the swing
17 presses, some were on the shirt presses, the irons, then
18 there was the packing room, that was more girls, where
19 they used to pack the clean laundry.

20 Q. I think you have mentioned there some of the sorts of
21 laundry that you were doing, or where it was coming
22 from. Did you mention it was coming from hospitals?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And hotels?

25 A. Hotels. But the worst was Erskine Hospital, where they

1 had the soldiers, the amputees, and it was just vile,
2 the laundry. And we had to salt that by hand. It
3 wasn't nice.

4 Q. There we are talking about children as young as 11 or 12
5 doing that sort of work?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', am I right in thinking that you were
8 having to salt this laundry because of all of the blood
9 stains?

10 A. Pardon?

11 LADY SMITH: You were having to salt this laundry because of
12 all the blood stains on it; is that right?

13 A. Yes, yes, and all the -- from the wounds and all of
14 that, yes.

15 MS MACLEOD: I think in your statement you mention stump
16 covers, soiled covers --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- soiled pyjamas?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say there were thousands and thousands of sheets?

21 A. Oh, thousands. And, especially off the ships, because
22 of them being away so long, and, I mean, tea towels used
23 to be up to here at a time that come off the calenders,
24 and you had to fold them and pack them. But I used to
25 iron, because apparently I could iron, so I got to do

1 the special ironing. So I was -- but I used to do
2 shirts, all the hand starching for the ships, for the
3 crew. Uniforms, you know, the white ones they wore in
4 the hot weather and that.

5 But there was just hundreds, hundreds of these items
6 coming off the ships. You can imagine.

7 Q. Could that be a ship that had been away for months,
8 months at a time, and everything was coming off?

9 A. Pardon.

10 Q. A ship that had been away for months --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- at a time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. This was all the laundry coming off?

15 A. Yes, I think somehow during the war they had a contract
16 with the convent, and it carried on afterwards. And the
17 hotels in Glasgow. And a few of the hospitals as well,
18 but the Erskine was the worst.

19 Q. In relation to the ironing, you mentioned that in the
20 summer, the heat --

21 A. Yes, we had floor-to-ceiling glass windows along that
22 side and all the ironing boards were along that side, so
23 the heat used to hit you, plus the heat of the ironing.
24 It wasn't comfortable at all but ...

25 Q. I think you mentioned that priests' vestments were

1 something that you were involved in ironing, as well.
2 Priests' vestments?

3 A. Yes, priests' vestments I used to do, and a lot of the
4 starching, the hand starching, I used to do. And the
5 fancy linen, erm, from -- not linen, say night attire,
6 flimsy things, from the better hotels, I used to iron
7 those as well to go back.

8 Q. In the laundry there, 'Marie', with about 60 young girls
9 working and the Sister sitting watching, are you able to
10 describe the atmosphere to me, what was it like?

11 A. It was just silence, just silence. You got on with it.
12 I mean, I'd worked on the swing presses as well, not the
13 calenders so much, maybe an odd time if there was a girl
14 sick, but mainly swing presses and the ironing, there
15 was other girls on the shirt press, lots of accidents in
16 there.

17 Q. Was it silent because you weren't allowed to talk?

18 A. We weren't allowed to talk, no.

19 Q. If girls did talk, what would happen?

20 A. We just didn't. 'Cause you'd lose other things, like
21 talking -- having to be able to talk after dinner, or
22 whatever. So you saved it for then.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', can you explain to me what a swing
24 press was?

25 A. Erm, well, the overalls in those days used to be very

1 heavy, in the kitchens, and workmen. Not like they are
2 today. And you'd put them on the flat press, and swing
3 it round, put your foot on, and it would go down, press
4 it. Come back up, press the pedal. And then you'd
5 swing it again to do another bit. That's what a swing
6 press was.

7 LADY SMITH: I see, and are you telling me that using this
8 press was hard because the mechanism was very heavy to
9 use?

10 A. Well, it was heavy. Even the irons were heavy. They
11 had written on them 'Made in Wormwood Scrubs'. They
12 were not like our irons today, they were heavy irons.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 A. But, erm, we just did it because we were told do it and
15 we had to do it, we had no other choice.

16 LADY SMITH: Were these steam irons or not?

17 A. No.

18 LADY SMITH: You didn't have the help of steam that we have
19 nowadays.

20 A. No, everything we did was with wet cloths and whatever,
21 starching things like that, you didn't have that in
22 those days, just an old heavy iron.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 Ms MacLeod.

25 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

1 'Marie', you mentioned accidents. Did accidents
2 happen in the laundry?

3 A. In the laundry it did, the girl on the shirt press. She
4 must have put a hand on the pedal when her hands were on
5 the shirts, you know, you'd put it on and then you
6 smooth it out. Well, she must have put her foot down
7 and it burnt all the tops of her hands off.

8 And in the kitchen there used to be quite a few
9 accidents, burns, and there was one girl that died. She
10 was cleaning, 'cause we had to do all the cleaning
11 ourselves, convent and everywhere, kitchens, whatever,
12 she was cleaning the top windows along the marble
13 staircase, and she slipped and fell, and the only way we
14 knew something was wrong, because our nun that was
15 watching us, jumped up and flew out the laundry, we
16 didn't know what was going on, but when she came back,
17 she told us what had happened and she said, 'Well, thank
18 God there was a priest to give her the last rites'.

19 We heard no more. We believed that. Looking back,
20 I think I believed that, why did I believe that? And we
21 heard nothing about her after that.

22 Q. In relation to the work that you were doing in the
23 laundry day in/day out, did you or any of the other
24 girls receive any payment for what you were doing?

25 A. The only payment we got on New Year's Day, they gave us

1 what we give the kids to learn how to use money,
2 cardboard money. And, you know, like you'd give the
3 kids to play shops, they'd give us that to buy clips,
4 toothpaste and soap, nothing else, that was it.
5 I'd never handled money until I came out.
6 Q. Did you sometimes work in the kitchen as well?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. What did that involve?
9 A. Well, usually the vegetables had to be done. Erm, bread
10 had to be sliced and buttered. All the veg had to be
11 done. And there was long cookers, as long as that, and
12 you had to clean that every single day from top to
13 bottom, that whole range had to be done. The sinks were
14 wooden, you had to scrub them 'til they were white and
15 the floor you had to do as well, scrub the floor.
16 So everything was done every single day. Nothing
17 was left. But it was the carrying of these big pots and
18 things like that, the girls used to get burnt, tip it or
19 something on their feet, or whatever. All the prep of
20 the veg, and washing up, all that was done by hand.
21 Q. The cookers, the row that you mentioned there, I think
22 in your statement you say there might have been up to
23 ten cookers in a row?
24 A. Sorry?
25 Q. Were there about ten cookers in the range?

1 A. As long as that, yes, it was one big long top, then you
2 had ovens.

3 Q. Was that where the food for the girls was prepared?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. If you were working in the kitchen, you were involved in
6 the preparation --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- of the girls' food?

9 A. Yes, and obviously clearing away and washing up and
10 putting stuff away again ready for either the next day
11 or the next meal.

12 Q. What about the Sisters' food?

13 A. No, they didn't eat with us.

14 Q. Do you know where they ate, or what they ate?

15 A. No.

16 Q. In your statement at paragraph 30, you say that on
17 Saturdays and Sundays that you cleaned?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell me about that?

20 A. Well, we had to clean our dormitories. Our -- wherever
21 our sleeping space was. Do our own darning and sewing
22 and all of that. Downstairs in the convent itself, we
23 had to do all the polishing and big buffers we used to
24 use with liquid wax. Put that down and then buff it off
25 with big long ones. So we had to keep everything spick

1 and span everywhere.

2 Q. Were there cleaners or were the girls expected to do all

3 of the cleaning?

4 A. No, no, we did that.

5 Q. What about toilets?

6 A. We did that as well.

7 Q. On a Saturday, would the cleaning take all day?

8 A. Yes. You'd probably finish about 4.00, 4.00-ish; time

9 for tea.

10 Q. What about Sunday?

11 A. Sundays we didn't work in the laundry, or Saturday.

12 Unless sometimes on a Saturday morning, as I say, with

13 the boats. But usually no, not on a Saturday.

14 And on a Sunday, it was mass and we weren't allowed

15 television, or radio, or anything like that. But we

16 could read but ... We had a library but we had no

17 teachers, anything like that.

18 Q. What sort of books were available for you to read?

19 A. Well, I'd say there was quite a fair amount of books,

20 you know. I wouldn't say fun books, but they were

21 educational.

22 Q. On Sundays, did you also launder your own clothes for

23 the following week?

24 A. Well, it had to be all ready and pressed, ironed, ready

25 for you to put on on Monday morning.

1 Q. To go back to the laundry on Monday?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Was there much opportunity to get outside and walk

4 around?

5 A. We had a small square, maybe a sort of a rockery round

6 it. That was the only place we could walk. And you had

7 to have what we called a Child of Mary there to

8 accompany two girls at a time, so that the conversation

9 was kept clean.

10 Q. What's a Child of Mary?

11 A. That was somebody that had worked her way through

12 certain badges 'til she got the Child of Mary Medallion,

13 and they were considered trustworthy to be trusted to be

14 able to watch over and listen to us.

15 Q. So would this be other girls who had that position of

16 Child of Mary?

17 A. Yes. A few, not many.

18 Q. Okay. If you were outside, you might be with another

19 girl but there would be a Child of Mary with you --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- to supervise what you were saying?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. If you were seen to say something that you shouldn't

24 say?

25 A. You were -- it was reported back --

1 Q. To the Sisters?

2 A. -- and then you'd have the repercussions of that.

3 Q. Was that on a Sunday that you were allowed out --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- in the grounds?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you tell us that you were allowed to walk in

8 twos or threes for half an hour at dinner time and half

9 an hour on a Sunday?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So it wasn't a case of being able to go outside for

12 fresh air whenever you wanted?

13 A. Oh no, you couldn't do that, no.

14 Q. Can you help me with what sort of conversations were

15 deemed to be the sort that you weren't supposed to have?

16 I think you call it 'worldly talk' in your statement?

17 A. Well, the older girls obviously would talk about boys.

18 We were younger, we didn't. But even if you were

19 talking about music, or worldly things, worldly things

20 that would be normal, but to them it's not normal. So

21 it would be, no, that's not to be in the conversation.

22 Q. What sort of things were you expected to be talking

23 about?

24 A. Well, just talking -- really talking about God, to be

25 honest. Or we might talk about something we'd been

1 doing that day, but we weren't allowed to question it,
2 so we used to maybe say it in a cloaked way, you know,
3 'Oh, did you have to do that?' Or, 'Did have you to do
4 it?' But if they picked up on it, they would report it
5 to the nun and then they'd say, 'Well, you shouldn't be
6 talking like that, you do as you're told, don't question
7 it'.
8 Q. During the four years or so that you were at
9 St Euphrasia's, did you ever leave the grounds of the
10 school?
11 A. No, no, I never ran away from there, never, no, there
12 was two girls, older girls than me, that did, and when
13 I saw what happened to them, I thought I'll never do it.
14 I'll never do it.
15 Q. Were you ever allowed to leave the grounds --
16 A. No.
17 Q. -- to go somewhere?
18 A. No.
19 Q. So from when you arrived at the age of 11 or 12 until
20 you left at 15, you never left the grounds --
21 A. No, no.
22 Q. -- of St Euphrasia's?
23 A. No, no, that was when I was pregnant, no, no.
24 Q. We've spoken about the weekends there. During the week,
25 was it after dinner that you were given a window where

1 you could talk to one another?

2 A. Yeah, until about 7.30, then it was time for the rosary,
3 after that it was bed.

4 Q. Did I pick you up earlier when you said that the Sister
5 in the dining room would ring a bell --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- when she considered that it was time that you could
8 talk?

9 A. Oh yes, yes, you couldn't talk before that.

10 LADY SMITH: So was that the only time in the day that you
11 could chat to the girls that you were with?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Just an hour?

14 A. Yes. I mean, after lights out we used to whisper a bit,
15 but if we were heard ... so we didn't used to do it very
16 much, but we did used to whisper a bit late at night to
17 say, 'Oh, how was your day?' You know, and I wasn't
18 allowed visitors, or letters, or anything like that. So
19 I didn't have anything to look forward to, if someone
20 was getting visitors. But, erm, that's the only time we
21 could whisper at night, lights out.

22 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', would it help you if we gave you
23 a short break just now, or do you want to just carry on?

24 A. I think I'll carry on for now.

25 LADY SMITH: You are okay?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: If you change your mind just let me know, it is
3 not a problem, all right.

4 A. Pardon?

5 LADY SMITH: Just say, if you change your mind, you just let
6 me know, that is not a problem.

7 A. I will. I'd rather get it over with.

8 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

9 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

10 Did you have access to newspapers or radio?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Or anything that could give you updates on what was
13 happening in the world?

14 A. No, nothing, not a comic, even.

15 Q. Not a comic, did you say?

16 A. Not even a comic.

17 Q. Did the Sisters tell you anything about what was going
18 on in the world outside?

19 A. The only thing they told us was when the Pope died, not
20 this last but one, the one before that, he died, and we
21 were watching the smoke come out, you know, when they
22 re-elected a pope, that's the only thing we ever watched
23 and the only thing they ever talked about.

24 Q. Now, did priests come into St Euphrasia's to say mass?

25 A. They did, and take confession.

1 Q. I think you mentioned in your statement that older girls
2 used to complain about the priest?

3 A. Yes, that's right. Yeah, they used to come out of
4 confession and say, 'We're not going to confession,
5 because the priest asked us X, Y, Z', which they
6 shouldn't have been talking about. And it wasn't
7 anything to do with the confession. But if they were
8 confessing something like that, then he'd ask them to go
9 into detail and explain everything, and they didn't like
10 that. So a lot of them wouldn't go back to confession.

11 Q. When you say that they might say the priest mentioned X,
12 Y or Z, can you help me with what sort of things you
13 remember the girls saying about the priest?

14 A. Mostly sexual. Mostly sexual. If they'd had
15 relationships, and things like that. He wanted them to
16 go into detail, and everything like that.

17 Q. I see.

18 A. He didn't say that to us younger ones, thank God.

19 Q. At paragraph 36, something you say, 'Marie', you say, is
20 that:
21 'We believed what the nuns and priests told us'.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you help me with what sort of things you're thinking
24 about there, in terms of things they told you that you
25 believed?

1 A. Well, our behaviour, what would be the consequences. It
2 was all doom and gloom. Everything was a sin. And they
3 didn't explain life to you as it was, or give you any
4 sympathy, or encouragement. It was: you're here, you're
5 here for a reason, which mine was not going to school,
6 and I just -- there was nothing there to say, 'Well,
7 now, when you do go home, do this, or that, or that', or
8 encourage you in any way. It was just laundry,
9 preaching, the church, it was -- there was no empathy
10 with us at all.

11 Q. Was there anything at all in terms of education, like
12 English, or maths, or anything like that?

13 A. There was nothing. My education stopped when I left
14 St Joseph's.

15 Q. Were girls' birthdays celebrated?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Were birthdays even acknowledged?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did a social worker ever come to visit you during your
20 time there?

21 A. No.

22 Q. I think you mentioned that an uncle came to visit you
23 once, and that was the only visitor that you had?

24 A. My uncle? My uncle [REDACTED], yes. He came to visit me once.
25 He was the only visitor I ever had.

1 Q. In paragraph 41, you mention that you would be given
2 a laxative on Mondays?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Can you help me with that? Was that something everybody
5 was -- all the girls were given?
6 A. All the girls were given it, as we came into the dining
7 room on a Monday morning, the table nun used to be
8 there, and you'd either have to take cascara or, oh,
9 God, what's it called, the white clear one. But anyway,
10 it was one or the other, and consequently it was so
11 embarrassing, because straight after breakfast, everyone
12 wanted to go to the loo, and, you know, there were so
13 many of us, we were all queueing to go into the loo, and
14 it was just so embarrassing, and, you know, it made you
15 feel bad but you had to take it.
16 Q. Do you know why you were given the laxative?
17 A. They didn't say, they just say you have to take this.
18 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', I am sorry to interrupt, I just want
19 to check something to do with the transcript.
20 'Marie', I don't know if you realise, but
21 a transcript is being made of your evidence --
22 A. Yes, that's fine.
23 LADY SMITH: -- and it is just having a hiccup at the
24 moment, it is stalled. But these gentlemen are trying
25 to get it started up again.

1 If that doesn't work within the next few minutes,
2 I will have a break.

3 A. That's all right. (Pause)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', I'm really sorry, we are going to have
5 to take a break to get this transcript matter sorted
6 out.

7 I will go off the bench first, you take your time.

8 A. Thank you.

9 (11.00 am)

10 (A short break)

11 (11.49 am)

12 LADY SMITH: 'Marie', I am so sorry about the delay, but we
13 are just going to carry on now as best we can. Are you
14 ready for us to do that?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 Ms MacLeod.

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

19 'Marie', in your statement you tell us that there
20 was only one time you remember a doctor coming to
21 St Euphrasia's?

22 A. (Nods)

23 Q. I think you say that was when some of the girls got
24 ringworm?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. Indeed, I think you tell us that the girls were all
2 hoping to get it so they wouldn't have to go to the
3 laundry?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was there a nurse at St Euphrasia's who assisted with
6 some medical aspects?

7 A. Yes, I think she'd been there many years, since the war,
8 and she had shell shock, and, erm, she shook a lot, and
9 couldn't walk straight. But we dreaded her doing
10 anything for us, because she couldn't keep still when
11 she was doing it. But -- I mean, there was an occasion
12 when I had a large carbuncle here, it was out here.

13 Q. On your lip, was that on your lip?

14 A. Yes, just here. The scar's there. And I couldn't put
15 my head down it was so bad. But then she just yanked it
16 and I thought -- the pain was unbearable. And I thought
17 oh God, but that's all she did. And I had that for
18 a good couple of weeks, 'til it healed properly. But it
19 shouldn't have been done like that, it shouldn't have
20 been treated like that.

21 Plus with the accidents that happened, the burns and
22 what have you, I mean, one girl had to go into hospital
23 because her foot turned septic, because she'd cut all
24 the blister off.

25 Q. The nurse?

1 A. The nurse. And she had to go into hospital because her
2 foot turned septic. Things like that, you know. She
3 was an ex nurse, but she wasn't able physically to do it
4 anymore.

5 Q. Did some of the girls wet their beds?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How was that dealt with by the Sisters?

8 A. Well, they were got out of bed, they had to wash their
9 sheets themselves, and make -- remake their beds and go
10 back to bed. It wasn't talked about, but it was frowned
11 on. They weren't -- erm, there was no sympathy about
12 it, it was a case of, 'This isn't what you should do,
13 it's wrong'.

14 Q. You mention in your statement that you, or other girls,
15 could sometimes be left in a room on your own for hours?

16 A. Oh God, yes, yes.

17 Q. Can you tell me about that, 'Marie', what would lead to
18 that happening?

19 A. Well, you'd obviously done something wrong. I mean,
20 I was in solitary for two weeks once, and that was for
21 spinning my beret on the way to mass, you know, you had
22 to wear a beret -- we always covered your head then --
23 and I was spinning it.

24 Q. On your finger you are indicating, right?

25 A. Yes. Which I had to go in there for two weeks, and

1 I had a bed on the wall that used to come down, that was
2 all -- it was a tiny little place, you got no visitors,
3 nobody was allowed to talk to you.

4 Q. So you were in there on your own in the room?

5 A. On your own.

6 Q. Would you be brought out, for example, to go to work?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You stayed in the room?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. All the time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was food brought to you in the room?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what --

15 A. The food was brought to you, that was all.

16 Q. What about if you needed the bathroom?

17 A. Pardon?

18 Q. If you needed to go to the bathroom?

19 A. Yes, they had a small sink toilet that was outside of
20 the room, but that was locked. So when the nun -- you
21 had to ask the nun to come and -- well, you didn't ask
22 her, she used to come at a certain time if you wanted to
23 have a wash in the morning. You had to wash your
24 underwear at night yourself, your socks, put them on the
25 radiator ready for the morning, then you were put in

1 there again. Erm, just nobody spoke to you at all. At
2 all.

3 Q. Can you remember how old you were when you were in the
4 room for two weeks?

5 A. I wasn't very old. Maybe -- not the exact age.
6 Probably between 12 and 13, maybe.

7 Q. Were you given anything to do while you were in there
8 during the day?

9 A. No. No. Nothing.

10 Q. Do you know if other girls were sent to a room on their
11 own in this way?

12 A. Yes, the two girls I was talking about that ran away,
13 erm, when they came back, one of them had hurt her ankle
14 when she jumped out from the window to get out, and when
15 they came back, they dressed them in sacks, this bit was
16 taken out, and they put sacks on them and brogues
17 without socks.

18 Q. So was the sack cut --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- so that the head could come through it?

21 A. Yes, and they were sent to Coventry as well, you weren't
22 allowed to speak to them. And they were away from us.

23 So it was pretty severe for what -- I mean, I know
24 they'd run away, but at the same time it was
25 humiliating. I think it was really bad. Well, it

1 stopped me from running away, I tell you. I never ran
2 away. Not there I didn't.

3 Q. Could girls also be sent to church sometimes to kneel on
4 their own for a period of time?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Did that happen to you?

7 A. I've had to kneel and say the rosary, yes. Something
8 we'd done, or something they thought we'd done, that was
9 wrong.

10 Q. What sort of thing would be seen as wrong that would
11 lead to you having to go to --

12 A. Well, for instance, spinning my beret on the way to
13 mass, maybe talking when I shouldn't be talking, things
14 like that.

15 Q. How long were you expected to stay in church for, on
16 your own?

17 A. As long as they thought was necessary. Maybe an hour.
18 Maybe two. It depends.

19 Q. Were you expected to kneel?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. For the whole time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Something you say at paragraph 49, 'Marie', is you say:
24 'There was no corporal punishment. I think we had
25 enough mental punishment.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. 'They didn't need to use corporal punishment because we
3 just complied with whatever they wanted us to do.'

4 A. That's right, that's right.

5 Q. At paragraph 50, 'Marie', you say:
6 'It was like old-time prison.'

7 A. Yeah, that's what it seemed like.

8 Q. You say:
9 'We had no stimulation.'

10 A. No.

11 Q. You say:
12 'We had nothing to look forward to.'

13 A. No, no.

14 Q. You say:
15 'There just wasn't anything.'

16 A. No, there wasn't.
17 Just work, more work.

18 Q. At 52, you say, 'Marie', that it affected you mentally?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say:
21 'Being shut in all the time and the incessant work.'

22 A. Yes, yes, it did. I mean, it's affected the whole of my
23 life, actually. It's only in the last few years that
24 I've been able to more or less -- not forget it, but try
25 and live with it. I mean, it affected my whole

1 relationships with my children, I didn't have the
2 confidence I should have had. I couldn't do the work
3 that I wanted to do. But I knew I could do it, but
4 I didn't have the confidence. So socially I wasn't
5 equipped when I came out to be anything in the world
6 yet, because I didn't know anything about it. And
7 I more or less got married the year after I left.

8 Q. We will look at that in a couple of moments. I just
9 want to ask you, while you were at St Euphrasia's, did
10 you ever tell anybody the way you and the other girls
11 were being treated --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- by the Sisters?

14 A. No, there was no point.

15 Q. Was there anybody that you could have told?

16 A. No, there was no one. And we weren't asked either. We
17 weren't -- you know, nobody said to you, 'How are things
18 with you?', or, 'Are you upset?'. If you were upset,
19 you were upset, that was it. Nobody was there to
20 comfort you, or help you, or anything. And you just
21 felt so alone, you know, why am I here? In the world,
22 never mind here.

23 Q. Did you have an understanding of how long you were going
24 to be there?

25 A. No. No. Not even the night that I was coming away from

1 there, you weren't told. They just moved you to another
2 part of the convent and we stayed in a room overnight,
3 and you were given breakfast and a packed case with
4 little or nothing in it, and your fare, bus fare, and
5 a packed lunch. That's all I had. I couldn't say
6 goodbye to none of the girls I knew. They didn't know
7 I was going, I didn't know I was going, I didn't even
8 know where I was going after that, to be honest, until
9 they said, 'Well, you're going back to London'. And
10 I thought well there, I've only got my brother, and they
11 didn't really want me -- the responsibility. My mum was
12 ... definitely not.

13 Q. Were you 15 then?

14 A. Pardon?

15 Q. Were you aged 15?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you given any preparation or advice about where you
18 might go or where you might get support from?

19 A. No, nothing, nothing. And consequently I ended up back
20 at my mum's, where it wasn't ideal, because her life and
21 the way she lived her life -- well, in a way it was
22 blessing because thank God I didn't end up like that,
23 but I could have done, very easily, if I'd stayed.
24 That's where I got -- not how, but where I got pregnant,
25 because I was out and about and just doing whatever

1 I wanted to.

2 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you were pregnant with
3 your son when you were 16?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you tell me then, from then, did you contact your
6 social worker again, Miss Gordon?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Had she been in touch with you at all during the four or
9 more years in between?

10 A. No, no. The only time she was in contact with me was
11 when I fell for [REDACTED], and she came up to see how I was
12 doing. I give her her dues, she did try with me for
13 St Joseph's, but that's the only social worker. After
14 that, no. And then when I got -- wanted to get married,
15 I had to get permission from them because it was, erm,
16 'til I was 18, and she saw me through that. But leading
17 up to that, no.

18 Q. When you were pregnant, and Miss Gordon contacted you,
19 did she arrange for you to go somewhere?

20 A. She arranged for me to go back. No, I was going back to
21 St Euphrasia's anyway, because I wouldn't -- I didn't
22 want to live with my mother. I didn't -- I couldn't
23 live with my brother and his wife and their children.
24 So I thought, well, where else can I go? So I asked to
25 go back to St Euphrasia's. But once I got to

1 St Euphrasia's, when they had the ringworm outbreak,
2 that's when I found out I was pregnant. I didn't know
3 I was pregnant. So it was Mother St Philip in
4 St Euphrasia's that moved me up to the other end of the
5 convent, to the mother and baby unit.

6 Q. So you were back in St Euphrasia's, in the part where
7 you had been before --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- when you found out you were pregnant?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You were moved from there to the mother and baby unit?

12 A. Yes, at the top of the convent.

13 Q. I think you tell us, 'Marie', that your son was born at
14 seven months?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What sort of care did you receive at the mother and baby
17 unit?

18 A. Well, we were looked after. But it was -- emotionally,
19 no. It was just a sad, horrible place to be, because
20 a lot of them had to give their children up, and I was
21 determined that I would not be giving mine up. But then
22 I went into hospital to have him turned, because he was
23 breach, but they wouldn't do that today, but they did
24 then, and consequently I went into labour.

25 Erm, but the other girls there that had to give up

1 their children, it was horrendous. There was suicide,
2 there was girls that run away with their babies and had
3 to be brought back, it was just such a sad place, and
4 girls used to come back looking for their children, and
5 they weren't there, they'd been adopted out, you know.
6 But they wanted me to do that, but I wasn't going to
7 give him up, no.

8 Q. What you tell the Inquiry at paragraph 59, 'Marie', is
9 you say:

10 'I don't know where I got the strength from but
11 I wouldn't sign the papers.'

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Is that the adoption papers?

14 A. That's right, I wouldn't, I said, 'No, that's not going
15 to happen'.

16 Q. You say:

17 'They told me I couldn't offer the baby anything,
18 but I stuck to my guns and wouldn't sign.'

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Is that what they told you, 'Marie', that you couldn't
21 offer the baby anything?

22 A. As well as him being mixed race, that he wouldn't be --
23 adoption -- been able to be adopted, they weren't -- it
24 wasn't popular then, but apart from all of that,
25 I always vowed that none of my children would ever leave

1 me, not of my accord, anyway, and I didn't, I didn't.

2 I went to work in Langside Hospital, 'cause I wanted
3 to nurse, and they put him in Cherry Tree, it was
4 called, the nursery, and I used to have to pay for him
5 to be there out of my monthly wages every week and I'd
6 see him lots, loads, and then in the April, I picked him
7 up and came back to London.

8 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you got married later
9 on that year?

10 A. Yes, that's right.

11 Q. Did you work in a hospital in London, or near London?

12 A. No, my husband lived in Bedfordshire, so it was at Luton
13 & Dunstable Hospital I worked. Those days we had to do
14 one month days, one month nights. But he wouldn't have
15 the nights and look after the two boys, so I had to give
16 it up.

17 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you had two children
18 by then?

19 A. Yes. I had four by the time I was 26.

20 Q. Did you also foster children for a while?

21 A. Yes, I did, I did. Mine were always used to someone in
22 the house different. And they settled with them too,
23 fine. But it was too hard for me in the end, 'cause
24 I saw too much of the same thing happening time after
25 time. You'd get them right, you'd get them healthy and

1 they'd be sent back, and within weeks, or less, and it
2 was just heartbreaking. You couldn't make the social
3 services stop all contact, or at least not send them
4 back to the home, and the last two I had, [REDACTED] and
5 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was six weeks old when they brought her,
6 during the night, I used to have the emergency one, and
7 her little brother, who was 4, and that baby was already
8 alive with lice. She was not even six weeks old.

9 And I had her, and we got her fit and healthy, and
10 she was lovely when she went back, and I did that two or
11 three times. But each time the mother -- I knew what
12 was going to happen, she used to lock them in the room
13 and go out for the weekend. And I just lost heart with
14 it. I shouldn't have done, because I should have tried
15 to persevere, but it was too much to keep giving them
16 back to that sort of environment.

17 Q. There is a section in your statement, 'Marie', headed
18 'Impact' and I think in that section you describe for
19 the Inquiry the impact that you consider your life in
20 care had on you.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I just want to focus on a couple of things you say,
23 particularly in relation to St Euphrasia's. And one
24 thing you say is you say at paragraph 69:

25 'I had to learn from scratch. The day I married,

1 I couldn't boil an egg.'

2 A. That's true, that's absolutely true. I had never

3 handled money, I didn't know what a 10 bob note was. So

4 I had to learn it from scratch.

5 Q. You make the point here, you say:

6 'My education stopped at the age of 11.'

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Something I think you've already touched on, is you say:

9 'I had no confidence.'

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. At 71, you say that your time at St Euphrasia's affected

12 you for many years of your life.

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Did you think about it a lot?

15 A. I did. Up until I was probably 60, I couldn't forgive

16 my mother at all. I was very angry, still angry about

17 it but I've forgiven her. But I'm still angry. But it

18 was my confidence to be in the world. To be normal like

19 other people. And my children; to be able to relate to

20 them the way I should. I was crying all the time. They

21 couldn't understand, 'Why are you crying? Why are you

22 crying?'

23 As they got older they did but it's only lately

24 really that they know what they do know. But it just --

25 I ended up taking cleaning jobs. Now, I'm not stupid,

1 I'm not silly, and I always wanted to do my nursing.
2 I did in the end go back to King's College London, in
3 London, and I worked in the [REDACTED] and did the
4 [REDACTED] course there. So I did achieve it in the end,
5 but I was 40 when I did that.

6 But I didn't have -- like, socially I wasn't very
7 good either. I don't make friends easily. I have had
8 friends, I lost my good friend a year after my husband
9 died, my best friend, but since she died, I haven't made
10 any new friends. It's -- I just haven't got that
11 confidence to make new relationships.

12 Q. You say at paragraph 73 that when you used to foster
13 children, that your own experience in care affected the
14 way that you looked after them?

15 A. Yes, I used to look after them well, really well --

16 Q. And you say -- sorry, carry on.

17 A. The social worker I had at the time from Blue Star
18 House, she wanted me to give talks to help, you know,
19 and I said I would do it, you know, I would, 'cause
20 I still feel there's not enough done for them, I still
21 feel the same way, and that's how many years later? And
22 unless they've got a voice, or somebody that can speak
23 for them, they don't have anyone. If their parents
24 don't care, who cares? And they must have someone that
25 can speak for them and say, 'Well, this isn't right, or

1 you should do this, or that'. It doesn't matter if
2 they're in trouble. You can work with that, but you
3 don't wait 'til they are 15/16. Too late.

4 Q. You say, 'Marie', that most of all you tried to give
5 them attention and listen to them?

6 A. Yes, yes. Encourage them, you know.

7 Q. A point that you make -- I think a couple of times in
8 your statement, 'Marie' -- is that you say in relation
9 to your own children, you make the point that no matter
10 what happened, your children would never leave your
11 side?

12 A. No, no way. I mean, I didn't have a fairytale marriage,
13 I was married for 53 years, I had four children to
14 consider, and I had no way in my mind that I would have
15 them put in care, or we would have nowhere to live, or
16 something like that. No, I wouldn't have done that.

17 So consequently ... but he was a good provider, but
18 it wasn't a happy marriage, but at the same time, it
19 was -- it was, erm, secure for the children.

20 Q. You say in your statement, 'Marie', that you still sleep
21 with the light on?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that the case?

24 A. I can't sleep without the light.

25 Q. And you say --

1 A. Or lock a door.

2 Q. Or lock a door. You say that's because of what happened
3 to you at St Euphrasia's?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. You share with the Inquiry, at paragraph 77 of your
6 statement, that you have attempted to take your own
7 life?

8 A. Yes, in the early part of my marriage, I did.

9 Q. I think you say in your statement, and you have
10 explained today, that you are now in a place where you
11 are able to -- I think what you say is you put things in
12 a box for a period of time, but now you are able to
13 think more about what happened to you --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- without having the same sorts of feelings towards it?

16 A. Yes. Yes.

17 Q. What do you think led to that change for you?

18 A. Mainly my grandchildren and my children, but mainly my
19 grandchildren. And I wanted to be able to do for them
20 what I couldn't fully do for my own, which I've tried to
21 do. I can't for my great grandchildren, because I'm not
22 steady now, but if I could I would. But, erm -- and
23 plus my faith helps me as well, which I've never lost
24 that, I never will, but all said and done, erm, you
25 don't have to be a Catholic to be a Christian anyway, in

1 my eyes, anyway. But with all that's going on, I did
2 falter for a while there, but, erm, I'd never lose my
3 faith. I don't trust it as much as I used to, but that
4 would stop me from anything like suicide, or anything
5 like that.

6 Q. Moving now to that part of your statement where you set
7 out certain lessons that you think could potentially be
8 learnt for the future. One thing you say is that you
9 should have been put in a responsible foster placement
10 instead of being moved around?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. I think stability, you're making the point there that
13 stability of placement --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- for a child is important?

16 A. Oh, of course, it is, it is. Because I never knew which
17 home I was going to end up in or when I was going to end
18 up, it was just from place to place.

19 Q. You say:

20 'It would have helped if there had been somebody
21 there to speak to. Locking us away didn't achieve
22 anything in the long run.'

23 A. No.

24 Q. You want people to be held accountable, and you want to
25 know that what happened to you can't happen again?

1 A. Yes. That is true. Because there will be girls after
2 us, and they will need the same care and protection that
3 we needed, and hopefully they will get it.

4 MS MACLEOD: 'Marie', that's all the questions that I have
5 for you today. I just want to give you the opportunity
6 in case there's anything you want to add before we
7 complete your evidence?

8 A. I'm here today just really because it has affected the
9 whole of my life, not just life, the whole of my life,
10 and I'm 80 now. And this has been going on since I was
11 a toddler.

12 So all those years of someone else being given the
13 responsibility of care and protection didn't happen. It
14 didn't happen. And I think they should be accountable
15 for that. It doesn't matter whether it's the nuns or
16 the social workers or the government, whoever was
17 responsible, should be accountable.

18 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Marie'.

19 My Lady, I can confirm I have no applications for
20 questions.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 'Marie', can I add my thanks. I am so grateful to
23 you for coming here today to give your oral evidence in
24 addition to your written evidence and I have seen you do
25 so despite the ups and downs of our stenography today.

1 This is an applicant who wants to remain anonymous
2 and to use the pseudonym 'Eleanor' in giving evidence.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 'Eleanor' (read)

5 MR MACAULAY: Her statement is WIT.001.001.5074.

6 'Eleanor' was born in 1958, and at paragraph 2 she
7 says:

8 'I've always lived in Lennoxton. Before going into
9 care, I lived with my parents and ... my six siblings
10 ... Life was hard, like everybody else's. We didn't
11 have much.

12 'I was 12 when I was taken into care. I didn't know
13 why I was taken into care. At the time I was a pupil at
14 [school]. I didn't go to school very often. I was told
15 go to the headmaster's office. I was told to take my
16 bag with me, so I thought something was wrong at home.
17 When I got there, there were two police officers and
18 a lady, who I subsequently found out was a social worker
19 ... They said I had to go with them. I had no choice.
20 I was taken from school to ... health centre in Kilsyth.

21 'When I went to the health centre, I blew a gasket.
22 I just didn't want to go with them. I tried to get away
23 from them, but it didn't work. After that, I was taken
24 to [a home]. They just said I was going to a children's
25 home. I didn't know what that was. I didn't know where

1 I was. My siblings stayed at home.'

2 She goes on to describe the children's home that she
3 was taken to, and that the social worker came to see her
4 there a couple of times:

5 'I was there for about nine months and then they
6 said I was to move to another children's place. They
7 said it was run by nuns. I didn't know what a nun was.

8 'I was 13 when the social worker came to take me to
9 the new place. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11 St Euphrasia's was way out in the back of beyond. It
12 was run by nuns. I'd never even seen a nun before.
13 There was about 80 girls there aged from 12 to 16.'

14 Can I say the records show that 'Eleanor' was
15 admitted on [REDACTED] 1973, when she would be aged 15:

16 'We were put into house groups within the same
17 building. We all slept in dormitories, eight girls to
18 a room. Sister Helen ... was in charge of my house
19 group. All of the doors in the place were locked.
20 There were no open doors. I couldn't walk freely
21 through any door. The size of the place in itself was
22 scary. It was always freezing cold.

23 'I remember the massive long driveway and big
24 buildings. The size of it was horrible. It was very
25 different from where I'd been before. I was met by two

1 nuns: Sister BGR and SNR ,
2 Sister LLW . I was put into a side room for about
3 half an hour, then they came and told me where to go.
4 By then the social worker had left. I had to go and get
5 showered and have my hair checked by nuns. Then I got
6 my uniform. They told me that I wasn't allowed my socks
7 and shoes in case I ran away. After that I just
8 remember bells ringing. Other girls came along the
9 corridors. I think they were going for lunch. I was
10 put into one of the lines and that was the routine from
11 then onwards.

12 'If you had any possessions when you went in, they
13 were taken away. You never went out of the place once
14 you were in. I was given a number when I went in. It
15 was on my uniform and things like that ...'

16 She goes on to talk about aspects of the routine:

17 'We were woken up by a bell at 6 am in the morning.'

18 At 11:

19 'Sometimes there would be civilian staff doing the
20 night shifts.'

21 And at 12:

22 'The nuns would come around and check you were in
23 your bed. They would shine a wee torch. It woke me up
24 100 times a night.'

25 Moving on to paragraph 14:

1 'There was a school in the place. The school was
2 ridiculous. School's supposed to be for learning, but
3 all we learned was religion. I wasn't a Catholic, so
4 I didn't know the half of it. We were never taught
5 maths, English or anything like that. The nuns who were
6 in the house groups would also teach at the school.
7 After school, we went to chapel and then we had dinner
8 back in the hall.

9 'We had to do sewing classes at school. We made
10 robes for vestries and embroidered them. It wasn't like
11 going to an ordinary school. It was mostly religion and
12 work.

13 'On Saturdays we'd be woken up by the bell and we
14 had to clean throughout the day. We had to do all of
15 the corridors. They were tiled, so they had to be
16 brushed and scrubbed.

17 'Some of the older girls worked in the laundry after
18 school. I worked there for a couple of weeks before
19 I left. It was hard work, especially the pressers. You
20 had to fold things a certain way for the presser to come
21 down.

22 'We got recreation for an hour at night. We would
23 stay in our house groups and we were allowed to talk to
24 each other or watch the telly. Sister Helen ... was
25 great. She couldn't talk to us during the day because

1 the other nuns were there, but in the evening she would
2 come and sit beside us and ask us what we were doing.'

3 At paragraph 21 she talks about the uniform:

4 'All of the girls wore the same uniform. You were
5 given a couple of sets, it was a green skirt, a v-necked
6 top and a blouse. The uniform had your number sewn on.
7 They never called us by our first names, always our
8 second names or our numbers. We all had ups and downs
9 with that, because we all had first names.

10 'For the first 12 weeks I didn't have any shoes.
11 Nobody did. You knew all the new girls by their blue
12 feet. After the first 12 weeks, we were given sandals
13 to wear.

14 'Birthdays were never celebrated. Christmas was
15 just constant chapel. You weren't allowed home.

16 'Visitors were allowed once a month on a Saturday.
17 I never got any visitors. I wasn't encouraged to keep
18 in touch with my family. I saw my social worker about
19 three times. I never saw her alone. A nun would always
20 be present. I never had the opportunity to tell her
21 what was going on.

22 At 26:

23 'I tried to run away after I'd been there for
24 months. All the dormitory windows were screwed down.
25 It took me about two months to gradually unscrew the

1 window screw. Once I got it open, I didn't realise how
2 high it was. I tried to climb down the drainpipe but
3 I fell and broke my leg. The nuns did their checks
4 during the night and I wasn't there. They found me
5 lying underneath the window. I was taken to hospital to
6 get it X-rayed. I got it plastered and then I was taken
7 straight to detention.

8 'The first time I was disciplined was at the school.
9 I'd only been there a couple of weeks. I was given
10 paperwork about Our Lady. Of course, I didn't know who
11 Our Lady was, so I couldn't write about her. I put my
12 hand up and asked who the woman was. I thought
13 Sister BGR had broken my four fingers, she came
14 down so hard on my hand with a cane. She was good at
15 doing things like that. She took me to SNR
16 SNR office and said I was impertinent and
17 ignorant. Sister LLW said, "She will be, she's not
18 one of our flock yet". I didn't know what that meant at
19 the time. That went through my head for months, but
20 then I realised it was because I was a Protestant. She
21 was right. I'd learned it all by the time I left.

22 'We would be disciplined if we didn't do things the
23 way the nuns wanted. Everything had to be their way or
24 no way. If you were out a bit from the line or carrying
25 on in the classroom, they would just come up and crack

1 you. That happened every day. We were either given
2 a rap around the back of the head or, if your hair was
3 long, they would get a hold of your hair and twist it.
4 We always got slapped to the back of the head. They
5 were good with the cane. They would have that with them
6 all the time. That could happen at school, in the
7 dining hall, in the dormitories, in your house group.
8 It happened anywhere, because they were always there.
9 Sister BGR was the worst. SNR ,
10 Sister LLW , was also strict. I learnt as the time
11 went on what I could do and what I couldn't do.

12 'They didn't tell us the rules and they weren't
13 written down anywhere. You were just supposed to follow
14 the rules as they told you them and that was it. You
15 went down the left side and up the right side when you
16 walked; you couldn't walk in the middle. If a nun came,
17 you had to stop. You learned from the other lassies.
18 They would shout at me by my last name or my number.
19 That got to me a few times and I would answer back,
20 saying that I had a first name. It didn't make any
21 difference.

22 'If I answered back, I'd be put in the detention
23 room. It was up the stairs, right at the very end. It
24 was horrible. The first time I was put in there, they
25 kept calling me by my last name and my number and I lost

1 it a bit. I was told to strip. If I didn't strip, they
2 would hold me down and strip me. I had to take all my
3 clothes off before I went into the room. I was given
4 a blanket, one of the jaggy army ones. I was just left
5 in the room. It was quite small. There was one small
6 window at the top. I was locked in and I wasn't allowed
7 out, not even for the bathroom. There was a bucket in
8 the room. The length of time you were in the room
9 depended upon what you'd done. You could be in there
10 for a couple of hours or you could be in there for days.

11 'The worst time was when I was in there for two
12 days. I'd been in the home for a number of months when
13 it happened. One of the nuns clattered me at the back
14 of the head and twisted my ponytail. It hurt. I turned
15 and grabbed her veil, and unfortunately it came off.
16 I was given food in the room, but I couldn't eat it.
17 How could I eat when there was a bucket at the side?
18 I didn't see anybody when I was in there. The nuns
19 would come and open the hatch, have a look in and shut
20 it again. For months after that, I didn't open my
21 mouth. I didn't talk to anybody. I just did what I had
22 to do. I learned to cut myself off.

23 'There were two detention rooms. One at the back
24 and one at the front. Other children were put in there
25 as well for answering back, or refusing to do something.

1 You would hear them screaming along the corridor on the
2 way there. You learned to try and stay out of the
3 detention room because it was freezing. It was used
4 throughout my time at St Euphrasia's. Sister BGR
5 was famous for taking girls to the detention room.
6 There was another lady who worked there called FSH.
7 She had something to do with the sewing. She was evil.
8 She would take you there as well. It was always her,
9 Sister BGR or Sister LLW that would take you.
10 They were built like tanks. Detention was the worst
11 thing and the clatter of the heavy steel door, you never
12 knew how long you were going to be in there for.

13 'If you tried to do something differently, you'd be
14 disciplined. They would tell you that you'd never
15 amount to anything. You were nothing to them.
16 Sister BGR always belittled me. She would tell me
17 I was there because I was bad and that my parents didn't
18 want me.

19 'I left just before my 16th birthday.
20 LLW sent for me. Sister Helen Marie was
21 there. They said they couldn't help me any more and
22 that I could leave.'

23 According to the records, she left on 1974,
24 when she was 16.

25 LADY SMITH: So how long was she in St Euphrasia's then? So

1 she went in when she was 15?

2 MR MACAULAY: Just under a year.

3 LADY SMITH: Just under a year, so [REDACTED] 1973 and out

4 in [REDACTED] 1974?

5 MR MACAULAY: 1974:

6 'I didn't get to say goodbye to anybody, they gave

7 me the clothes I came in with, which hardly fitted, some

8 bus money and just opened the door. They didn't suggest

9 where I could go or give me any advice, I never saw my

10 social worker after I left.

11 'I walked along the driveway and tried to figure out

12 where I was. I didn't know where I was. I had never

13 heard of Bishopton or Renfrew. I'd never left

14 Lennoxton before being taken to [the home]. I saw

15 a bus and asked where it went. It went to Glasgow so

16 I got on the bus. I'd never been to Glasgow before.

17 The bus arrived at the bus station. I looked around and

18 saw a bus that said "Campsie Glen". I knew I stayed in

19 Campsie Glen, so I jumped on that bus.

20 'I got back to Lennoxton. I asked my mum if

21 I could come back and she said no. I wasn't allowed

22 back in the house. I had nowhere else to go. I was out

23 on the street. I slept in the toilets up the road

24 because they were open all night.

25 'I slept in the toilets ... for a few months.

1 I wandered the streets all day and sat in the park or
2 whatever. I'd go back to the toilets at night.
3 I didn't have any food. A supervisor at the local
4 hospital saw me a couple of times. She took me into her
5 office and gave me a job. She asked if I was sleeping
6 on the streets and I said I was. She got me a room in
7 the nursing residence.

8 'I was there for a few months and then I got married
9 to a doctor in the hospital. I was married in 1975. He
10 was a lot older than me. My husband had a house at [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] so we lived for there for a while until we got
12 a house in the village. I worked at the hospital for
13 about a year. I was a domestic cleaner. It was all
14 I knew.'

15 She goes on to talk about her family life.

16 She tells us, in paragraph 41, about her
17 grandchildren.

18 Then, at paragraph 42, she says:

19 'I didn't have anybody to confide in at
20 St Euphrasia's. You weren't allowed to ask a nun why
21 she had done something, because you would just get it
22 again. You spoke when you were spoken to, you did what
23 you were told to do, you got up when you were told - you
24 had no say. None. Sister Helen Marie knew what was
25 going on. We would tell her. She was always trying to

1 keep the peace. She was lovely.

2 'After I left, I didn't tell anybody about what
3 happened to me until years afterwards. In 2008, there
4 was a girl in the paper talking about the abuse at the
5 Good Shepherd home, which was previously St Euphrasia's.
6 They still had the detention room, but it was called the
7 zombie room. I phoned the Daily Record and told them
8 I couldn't believe that that was still happening in this
9 day and age. They came out and took a story. Maybe if
10 I'd spoken up earlier, it wouldn't have happened to that
11 lassie. But who was going to believe me.'

12 Then she talks about contact with the police, and
13 her experiences in relation to that.

14 Then over the page at paragraph 48, she talks about
15 impact:

16 'I never had any support for the experiences I had
17 in care. My head was messed up after I left. The first
18 time I spoke about it was to ... In Care Survivors.
19 It's hard because it brings things back. I just had to
20 cope. I just had to get on with it. I've never
21 received support from a counsellor or my GP. I keep in
22 contact with [In Care Survivors].

23 'I never discussed my experiences in care with my
24 family; it was never brought up. My sisters were a lot
25 younger than me when I was taken into care. They asked

1 where I was and I just said I was away for a while.
2 I never went into any detail. You couldn't tell weans
3 things like that. I never spoke to them about what
4 happened in later life.'

5 At 51:

6 'I hate shut doors, in case somebody locks them.
7 For years, I had no doors in my house, I took them off.
8 I'm only beginning to draw them over now. Every door
9 you walked through at St Euphrasia's was locked and
10 unlocked, locked and unlocked. You had to wait for the
11 nuns to open and shut the doors. Now, I only have
12 a kitchen door and a front door.

13 'I can never get a heat in me. I feel like I've
14 been cold my entire life. I never put the heating on.
15 It's just what I'm used to after St Euphrasia's. When
16 [my friend] comes to see me, she's always shivering
17 away. She uses my dogs to give her heat.

18 'The impact never goes away. I can never get close
19 to anybody. I can never trust anybody. I'm wary of
20 everybody, especially anybody in authority.'

21 At 56, she says:

22 'Social workers should be there more often and ask
23 the children what's going on. They shouldn't just take
24 the word of the people running the places. I very
25 rarely saw my social worker. More checks should be

1 done. Children shouldn't be put into these places and
2 everybody then assume that they're safe. If I can help
3 one wee wean by coming forward, it'll be worth it.'

4 She ends by saying:

5 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
6 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
7 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
8 true.'

9 'Eleanor' has signed the statement, quite some time
10 ago, on 9 November 2017.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. One more before the lunch
12 break? Let's do that.

13 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is of an applicant
14 who will use the pseudonym 'Maria'.

15 'Maria' (read)

16 MS MACLEOD: The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.8769.
17 Part of 'Maria's' statement has already been read in
18 during the Quarriers, Aberlour and Barnardo's case
19 study.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MS MACLEOD: That was on Day 102, 13 December 2018:

22 'My name is 'Maria' ... [I was born] in 1960. My
23 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

24 'I was born ... near Falkirk. My mother and dad
25 were alcoholics. I had six brothers and sisters. I was

1 number four ... We were a scruffy, dirty, smelly little
2 family, from what I can remember. I was always hungry.

3 'In the house, there might have been three bedrooms.
4 I remember there was a lot of us in one bedroom and we
5 all shared one bed. I went to ... primary school. The
6 school often put me in the sink for a wash, so I must've
7 been smelly or something. I can't remember ever having
8 a bath or shower at home. I'd be first into the dinner
9 hall at school. I think social work was involved with
10 our family but I was too young to understand.

11 'Before going into care, things happened with the
12 family. Not good things. I was abused before I went
13 into care. Grandads, uncles and brothers, were all
14 abusive when I was at home as a youngster. I'd be below
15 9 years old when all of that was taking place.
16 I remember being in bed with my brother ...'

17 She goes on to say that she recalls her brother
18 doing stuff behind her back:

19 'I can't remember stuff past that. My sister ...
20 says there is stuff past that ...

21 'I know I was fostered out a lot before I went into
22 care. Every time my mam had a baby we were fostered
23 out. I was too young to remember any of that. It was
24 short term while mam had the baby and recovered ...

25 'My mam ran away with her alcoholic boyfriend,

1 leaving us behind with my dad. I remember being in
2 a phone box with my dad when he was ringing up social
3 work. My dad was saying, "I can't cope, I can't cope,
4 you're going to have to come and get them". My dad was
5 a frail old man with lung disease, and he worked full
6 time. We were picked up a few days later from school.

7 'Being picked up from school was absolutely
8 horrible. I didn't know it was going to happen. You
9 were put in a car and that was it ... The social work
10 took us to [a children's home] at Polmont.'

11 She describes that an older brother was taken to
12 a different place in Edinburgh and that an older sister
13 was left at home with the father, because of her age.
14 An older sister and an older brother:

15 'I was 9, nearly 10, when I went to [the children's
16 home].'

17 Between paragraphs 8 and 16, the witness speaks
18 about her time at a children's home near Falkirk.

19 I will read paragraph 17:

20 'Me and my brothers and sisters were at [the
21 children's home] just short term. I'd say ... a matter
22 of months, maybe a year. Then [we] went to Aberlour.
23 We must've been waiting ... for a long-term placement.'

24 Between paragraphs 18 and 45 the witness speaks
25 about her recollections of her time at Aberlour

1 Children's Home in Dunfermline. That part of her
2 statement has already been read in on the day that
3 I referred to at the outset.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS MACLEOD: In that part of her statement the witness
6 speaks about being sexually, physically and emotionally
7 abused and that she left that home when she was aged 11
8 or 12.

9 I will read from paragraph 45:

10 'I remember [a social worker] coming to take me out
11 of the home. I was about 11 or 12. The day I left,
12 [the male staff member who had abused me] was shouting
13 in my face, "You're a sex maniac, you're a nuisance, you
14 keep running away, we can't watch over you". [My social
15 worker] was stood there, I couldn't say anything. The
16 person who was shouting all of this ... was actually
17 doing it to me. I sat there sobbing. Looking back [the
18 abuser] was shouting to cover his own tracks.

19 'That was it, I never saw my brothers and sister
20 again until I was an adult. I kept in touch by letter
21 and phone. I was put back to [the children's home in
22 Polmont] just for a few weeks, until they found me
23 something else. Then social work sent me to a place in
24 Glasgow, I think it was called Cardross. That's when
25 somehow, my mam found out I was nearby ... I ended up

1 going to live with my mam. She lived in Glasgow.

2 'I was about 12 or 13 when I was put into Cardross.

3 I wasn't there long, only a few weeks. I remember being

4 in Cardross and it being institutional, like a lock up.

5 I can't remember any abuse taking place there. If any

6 abuse had happened, I would remember it because I was

7 older. I didn't go to school when I was in Cardross.

8 'All of a sudden I was getting these visits from my

9 mam, who I've never seen since I was 9 years old. [She]

10 started to visit weekly, which I got quite excited

11 about, as you do. [She] wanted to start taking me at

12 the weekends to see if things would work out. She

13 stated to social workers that she would like me back.

14 I've got letters about that.

15 'I would be about 12 or 13 when the social work gave

16 my mam a chance to take me at weekends to see how we got

17 on. I know from my records that it was on the

18 assumption that [she] would get back to them about how

19 I was getting on. From then, I went to Cardross to stay

20 with my mam ... in Glasgow. How that happened is a blur

21 to me.

22 'I was at my mam's for a short spell, about

23 six months ...'

24 She describes that she was raped by her mother's

25 partner:

1 'All of this abuse was going on and I never told
2 anybody. I was only tiny. Again, I was unfed and
3 unkempt. My mam was still an alcoholic with
4 an alcoholic boyfriend, who turned out to be a rapist.
5 No one from the Social Work Department came to visit me
6 while I was there. I wish they had because I was
7 starving. My mam and [her partner] chose drink over
8 food. If you got food you were lucky.

9 'My mam and [her partner] disappeared overnight ...
10 [They] abandoned me. There's a letter in my file that
11 says I rang social work. I was going to school most
12 days and I would come back to a boarded-up house. The
13 neighbour was giving me food.'

14 The witness speaks about being placed back in
15 a children's home in Polmont for a short time before
16 going to St Euphrasia's Residential Approved School in
17 Bishopton. Records recovered by the Inquiry suggest
18 that the witness was admitted to St Euphrasia's on
19 [REDACTED] 1974 and that she was there until [REDACTED],
20 1975, so when she was aged between 14 and 15 it suggests
21 that she was there:

22 'I went to St Euphrasia's when I was 14 years old.
23 It was run by loads of nuns. St Euphrasia's was
24 a locked-up place. You couldn't get out. There was no
25 way of getting out. You didn't get outside even for

1 a walk in the grounds. In my eyes it was a borstal. It
2 was like a prison.

3 'It was all girls, in St Euphrasia's. The girls
4 were ages with me, 11 to 16. I don't have anything
5 against Catholics but I was born a Protestant and that's
6 the way I was brought up. That's what I knew. I went
7 to church as a Protestant ... during all that time I had
8 been in children's homes. I'm now this little girl
9 thrown into a convent, where there [were]... 200 nuns
10 going about, bowing with crosses around their necks. It
11 was alien, absolutely alien.

12 'I couldn't understand why I was in St Euphrasia's.
13 I thought, what am I doing in here? Every girl that was
14 in there was in for a really bad reason. They'd be
15 running away from home, wouldn't be attending school, or
16 they'd be getting into trouble with boys and their
17 parents couldn't control them. There were 100 girls and
18 100 reasons why they were all in there. I said to ...
19 my social worker, "Why am I in here?" I was an alien.
20 I wasn't hard or a fighter. I was this little girl in
21 with this group of thugs. He said, "Oh, we can't find
22 another home, we'll keep looking". I was there until
23 I was 16.

24 'I would call Sister BGR SNR
25 there. She was little. I think she was English.

1 Sister BGR [REDACTED] reminded me of a baby Hitler. She'd
2 walk around, stern-faced. There was an older nun [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] Sister BGR [REDACTED]. The older nun was the
4 sweetest nun. She was Irish. I think her name was
5 Theresa.

6 'There was a funny nun, Sister FSH [REDACTED], who lived
7 in the nun bit. Sister FSH [REDACTED] would sneak me off for
8 a fag. I got on with her great. There were also the
9 school nuns. Every classroom was run by a nun. I liked
10 the one [who had] the baking class. She must have taken
11 a soft spot for me, she paid a lot of attention to me.

12 'You were in dormitories. There was loads of
13 different dormitories. I was in Sister GXO [REDACTED] house
14 group. There was a woman who I think was called Helen
15 or Margaret, who was employed to look after us in the
16 house, as well as Sister GXO [REDACTED]. This woman was
17 always there at night when we came in from school.
18 I was taken in, and ... introduced to this house group.

19 'Your house group was in a big room with a little
20 kitchen attached to it. You'd go through a door and up
21 a big stair, that's where your sleeping dorms were.

22 'The routine was that you got up and dressed. You
23 then got in line and went to the classroom, then to your
24 next class and back to the dormitory. You were allowed
25 a lolly or a fag. Then bedtime, line, upstairs,

1 dormitory. Everything was robotic. There were no nice
2 things about St Euphrasia's. You were a number. There
3 was never a little cuddle or a bit of praise.

4 'All of a sudden, it gets to Sunday. You'd get
5 taken in lines to the chapel. There you're introduced
6 to mass, benediction and rosary, three times a day on
7 a Sunday. In these houses if you went to mass,
8 benediction and rosary, you were awarded points. You'd
9 get treats, like cake, or a sweet at night, if you
10 didn't smoke. I sat through the first lot and
11 I thought, this is alien, the girls were all sitting
12 there with crosses or beads. They were singing all
13 these different songs. I sat there and thought, "This
14 ain't me". On the second week, I put my foot down and
15 I said, "I'm not walking inside that place".

16 'The school was in the grounds. There was a lot of
17 nuns that taught you in different groups. You'd go in
18 your lines. It was robotic. Each dormitory would have
19 a different lesson at a different time, one would go to
20 cooking, one would go to English. You'd get gym in the
21 physical education hall. That was your exercise. That
22 was once a week or something, depending on what lessons
23 you were getting all week, that week. I used to try and
24 "bunk off" school if I could.

25 'Every child would do baking in the baking class,

1 scones or cakes. On a Sunday, when there was no
2 catering staff, all the cakes were presented with
3 sandwiches for your dinner. Thinking back now, there
4 was a use for everything the nuns did. If 100 girls
5 made a cake each, that was their cake for dinner.
6 Looking back, the nuns seemed to know what they were
7 doing.

8 'Breakfast, dinner and tea were very prompt. I was
9 a greedy kid and I ate everything, except for cod roe.
10 The meals were good. Sunday was my favourite day
11 because you'd get a banana and two boiled eggs for
12 breakfast. You'd get some bread and butter. I loved
13 making sandwiches. My mates would say, "I hate boiled
14 eggs", I would say, "Pass". I'd be there with ten
15 boiled eggs or something.

16 'We were given a talk about periods at
17 St Euphrasia's and then we were given sanitary towels,
18 once a month, you'd go up to your dormitory and your
19 pack of sanitary towels was on your bed. You put them
20 in your locker. The nuns explained, when you moved in,
21 that that facility was there.

22 'Everybody had their own chores to do. I don't have
23 anything against the chores we were made to do.
24 A certain group would take the pots to the sink,
25 a certain group would wash the pots, another group would

1 dry the pots, that group would put the pots away. We'd
2 sweep and clean the dormitory. We'd tidy in the living
3 room and clean up after ourselves in the kitchen. It
4 was all things that are normal to me.

5 'At night, you got things you could do. You could
6 watch TV. I watched Top of the Pops. I knew every
7 song. I learned to crochet, not through choice though.
8 I used to crochet blankets for charity. I'd crochet
9 squares and then crochet them together. There were
10 always clothes to wear. You just wore your own clothes.

11 'There were good times in St Euphrasia's, but there
12 were a lot of bad times. The good times were singing,
13 baking, sometimes on a Saturday night we had a disco, or
14 just the amount of friends you make. It became like
15 a home after a little while. You were in your dormitory
16 with the same people. I settled eventually.

17 'On a Saturday and Sunday there was no school.
18 Every six weeks, the nuns let you go home on leave.
19 I didn't have parents so I think I went to my Auntie
20 You'd get put on a bus or train to go to your
21 place and you'd come back on a bus or a train. I'd be
22 going from Glasgow to Falkirk and then to [my auntie's].

23 'This is the danger I put myself in back then.
24 There was this man. He said, "I'm going to Glasgow, you
25 could come in my car", I thought, I'll save the train

1 fare because you want a bit of money in your pocket as
2 a young child. I got in that man's car. I remember the
3 man pulling up not far from the convent and looking at
4 me menacingly. I thought, what have I put myself up to?
5 I got out of the car, making excuses. I went back to
6 the convent. I put myself in a lot of danger back then.

7 'We'd go to places like a dance for a treat. You
8 knew your birthday, but there was never birthday parties
9 or anything like that. The older nun, Sister Theresa,
10 who was at the top, taught me to sing. She took me up
11 on the stage and took me to singing competitions.
12 I spent a lot of time with that nun. Sister Theresa
13 taught me all the Irish music, all the Irish songs that
14 I know.

15 'Every Saturday was called "visiting day". I didn't
16 have any family, so I didn't have any visitors. One
17 day, they were doing all of the visiting rooms up, so
18 they had visiting day in the dormitory where we were
19 living. All of the visitors went to the kitchen for
20 their visit. I put my head through the door to see the
21 girls with their visitors. I had struck a really good
22 friendship with [a girl], [she] had her mum and her
23 auntie were visiting. [The girl's] auntie asked [the]
24 mum who I was. A nun came up and said, "That's 'Maria',
25 she doesn't have any visitors".

1 '[The girl's] auntie visited me every Saturday after
2 that. That's why me and [the girl] are so close. [The]
3 auntie started to take me away on my leaves. I went to
4 her practically every leave after that until I left
5 St Euphrasia's. [The] auntie and uncle would pick me up
6 from St Euphrasia's and bring me back. [The] auntie and
7 uncle couldn't have children. She took me under her
8 wing as one of hers. [The] auntie was like a mum to me.
9 I had my own room. I had cuddles. My first cuddle
10 I thought, "What! What are they doing?", I learned to
11 relax and love them back. I went to [the] auntie and
12 uncle's at Christmas.'

13 My Lady, I see the time, and I do have a bit to go
14 with this statement.

15 LADY SMITH: You have a bit to go.

16 Should we stop now for the lunch break and finish it
17 off after the lunch break?

18 MS MACLEOD: There is a witness coming at 2 o'clock.

19 LADY SMITH: At 2.00. 1.50 pm?

20 MS MACLEOD: 1.50 pm will be fine.

21 LADY SMITH: Let's make it 1.50 pm then.

22 (1.00 pm)

23 (The luncheon adjournment)

24 (1.50 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

1 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

2 Prior to the lunch break, I was reading in the
3 statement of 'Maria', which can be found at
4 WIT.001.001.8769 and I will start now from paragraph 75.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS MACLEOD: This is the witness speaking about her time at
7 St Euphrasia's Residential Approved School:

8 'In the early days, the nuns would say you had
9 a choice about attending chapel. You could sit outside
10 on the bench. There was two Protestants in this
11 Catholic place. Me and another girl. The other
12 Protestant used to go to chapel. She was a little quiet
13 girl who toed the line. I was the naughty kid. Well,
14 I wasn't naughty, I stood my ground. I wasn't
15 a Catholic. The other Protestant never had the same
16 stick as I had. All the girls in my house group turned
17 against me because all the points they accumulated for
18 treats were docked because of me not going to mass.

19 'I was punished because I refused to go into mass.
20 I was sent to clean out the bit where the priest sits
21 and someone else sits and there's a window in between.
22 A girl from another house group was punished for
23 something. She did one side and I did the other. They
24 left you to it. We were just having a bit of fun and
25 the girl was pretending to be the priest and I was

1 [pretending to be] the other person. We were talking,
2 shoving brushes through and getting each other. We were
3 having a right good laugh. We got caught. It's a big
4 sin and a big mockery if the nuns catch you doing stuff
5 like this.

6 'My first experience of detention came after me and
7 the girl from the other house group were caught. A nun
8 or the woman who worked in our house group took you
9 through the chapel, up loads of stairs. At the top of
10 the convent there's two rooms back to back, facing
11 different ways. There is a cell or a dungeon as I would
12 call it. You were put in the dungeon. It is a cold
13 room with a metal bed. There's a gym cushion on the bed
14 and a blanket. There's a bucket in the corner for going
15 to the toilet. Food was brought up. You could see
16 through the top of the window if you climbed up. There
17 were bars on the window. It was always the woman who
18 worked in our house group, Sister BGR or
19 Sister GXO who put me in.

20 'Each day the woman, who worked in our house group,
21 would come up with food. She came up three times a day.
22 Then she'd take your tray away. It was her job to see
23 to the bucket and make sure I had a wash. The woman
24 would bring in a pail for washing. You were locked in.
25 You were on your own. I was in the cell hundreds and

1 hundreds of times between the ages of 14 and 16. I was
2 always in there. I nearly lived my life in there.

3 'I was put in the cell every Sunday without fail
4 because I still wouldn't go to mass. I didn't care, the
5 nuns could have locked me up for all my life, but
6 I wasn't going to mass. You'd be in for at least a day.
7 You'd get back out the next day. The convent is in the
8 middle of a big wood. You'd look through the top of the
9 bars that were on the window. Through the bars I could
10 see the dormitories and I'd shout on all my pals. When
11 you looked the other way, it was trees and owls. It
12 would get dark and my pals would go to sleep. It was
13 absolutely scary. It was the most scary thing. This is
14 where my nightmares are, in this black room.

15 'To me, I was being punished for not being
16 a Catholic. When the woman or Sister **GXO** were
17 walking me to the cell, I'd be saying, "You're only
18 putting me in because you are a ..." I can't remember
19 the word. If it was Sister **BGR**, I'd be hit all the
20 way up the stairs. I can't remember Sister **GXO**
21 being really bad.

22 'I started it all when I went into St Euphrasia's.
23 Sometimes you've got to sit back and think well, you
24 were a little bugger. I'm not saying I was a good girl
25 back then. I was a little bit naughty regarding the

1 things I did to the nuns. I'd never seen a nun.
2 I always wondered what was under the hat. I could never
3 imagine a nun going for a pee.

4 'I remember once walking in lines with your class
5 and I said to my pal ... "I wonder what's under that
6 hat?" Sister BGR was walking by and I just pulled
7 the black thing that was over her head. Off it came.
8 There was a little white thing on her head and I didn't
9 even get to see what was under there. I never did see
10 because my feet never touched the floor for ten minutes
11 after that. That was my first experience of getting
12 absolutely battered by Sister BGR. I was on the
13 floor. She was slapping me and beating me.
14 Sister BGR was a horrible little nun.

15 'I didn't retaliate. I remember taking the beating
16 because it was fair. In my brain back then, I thought,
17 well, you've done wrong, you got to see what was under
18 the hat. You were aged 14 to 16 and you think, I got
19 what I deserved, it's not what you do to a nun, but it
20 was curiosity. I just wanted to see if they had hair.
21 I didn't know back then that it was quite offensive.

22 'That was the first of many beatings I got off
23 Sister BGR. I don't know how often, but it was
24 a lot of times. Some of the beatings were deserved but
25 some of there were because I refused to be one of them.

1 There was another incident when we were all in assembly
2 and one of the nuns said to another nun, "Excuse me,
3 I've just got to go to the toilet". I just cracked up
4 because I couldn't imagine a nun sitting on a toilet.
5 I could go on and on and on with examples of beatings.
6 Half the times the beatings were deserved and half the
7 time they weren't. I would often get a short, sharp
8 slap on the face and marched up to the dungeon.

9 'Sister BGR would often take her turn to take
10 me upstairs to the dungeon. Sister BGR would be
11 the one to give me the hammerings all the way up there.
12 I was not going to shift. I kept saying, "I'm not
13 a Catholic, I'm not sitting in the chapel, I'm not
14 going". Maybe I offended them by, what would you call
15 it nowadays, blasphemy?

16 'You had to be back from your leave by a certain
17 time on Sunday night. I'd be punished because I was
18 always late. Maybe I didn't work out bus times
19 properly. The punishment would be being put in the
20 dungeon. Honestly, all that I remember of
21 St Euphrasia's was being locked in the dungeon
22 90 per cent of the time.

23 'Sister BGR never liked me. I spent a lot of
24 time with the nun at the top, Theresa. I think
25 Sister BGR was jealous. There'd be times a group

1 of girls would run away down the fire escape. They'd
2 all be caught, it was just a kids thing. I remember
3 Sister BGR reading through all of the different
4 house groups at assembly. She'd get to my name and she
5 would look, expecting me to be one of those that had
6 run. I think Sister BGR hated me. In the nuns'
7 eyes I was just a naughty kid.

8 'Sister BGR would often slap other girls across
9 the face. I think back in the fifties and sixties it
10 was acceptable to the nuns. I never questioned half of
11 the beatings I got because, back then, that was just the
12 norm. Every home you went into, you were kicked up the
13 backside or slapped on the face. Other girls were taken
14 up to the dungeon and locked in overnight. Looking back
15 now, it was illegal, half the stuff the nuns did.

16 'We were all in singing group. We were learning to
17 sing a song that ends "When my cup overflows", I'm
18 singing at the top of my voice, "My bra overflows", this
19 is a young girl thing. This is me at 14. You're in
20 a group, you're bored, you're sat there at choir
21 pretending you took a big interest in choir, just to get
22 off school. All the other girls cracked up laughing.
23 I was taken straight off the stage by the nun who was
24 the singing group teacher and punished.

25 'The woman who worked in our house group caused

1 a lot of fights amongst the girls. She'd say, "What are
2 you saying about that lassie?", and shout it out loud so
3 that that girl would hear. The girl would come up and
4 cause a fight. We'd be sitting having a discussion and
5 saying, "That happened in class today, I don't think
6 that was very fair, that shouldn't have happened". The
7 woman would shout out, "Well, what's [the girl] got to
8 do with this?" Making sure that [the girl] would hear
9 that. I remember no end of fights with that woman.
10 There were other nuns who were nasty. They were more
11 vocal.

12 'I still had the same social worker, Mr Crearer,
13 I was in Glasgow in St Euphrasia's and Mr Crearer was
14 based in Falkirk. I was writing to him, begging him to
15 come and see me. I have the letters in my social work
16 file. One of the letter says, "Please try to tell me
17 when I can get a Panel, I'd like to see you about
18 something very important". In another letter I said,
19 "Where have all my letters and visits gone? I am very
20 angry because I have so much to tell you".

21 'Mr Crearer didn't visit very often, but I do
22 remember the occasional visit. He would say, "You'll be
23 having your leave soon, you're going to your
24 [auntie's]". That was the kind of the things he would
25 talk about. It was that rare, you can remember what he

1 talked about. I'd say to him, "This nun's hitting me,
2 this nun's slapping me, this nun's punching me", but he
3 always retaliated with, "You deserve it, you have to
4 behave, you have to do this, you have to do that".
5 Mr Crearer never took anything seriously. I told
6 Mr Crearer about being locked up in the dungeon. He was
7 told everything. Mr Crearer was the most useless social
8 worker.

9 'I'm down as the only person who escaped
10 St Euphrasia's successfully. I was 15 years old. They
11 were fitting new windows in the school. I asked to
12 leave the school room to go to the toilet. I was
13 through the window and gone. I was away for five
14 months. I ran away to Glasgow.

15 'My mam had moved back ... to Glasgow with [her
16 partner]. I found out where my mam was living. I slept
17 at my mam's home but only when she was there. I told my
18 mam that in those days you could leave school at 15.
19 I think you could leave school at 15 back then.

20 'I got a job, casual, in a car wash. I worked daily
21 and I got a good amount of money to live. I'd sleep at
22 my mam's and buy my food with what I earned. I got
23 caught. The reason I got caught was because I phoned
24 Mr Crearer and asked how my sister and ... brothers
25 were. The social work traced me through the telephone

1 call or I would never have got caught.

2 'I was taken back to St Euphrasia's. I spent ages
3 in the dungeon because of that, but it was worth it.
4 I was in the dungeon for about a week. I wasn't allowed
5 out of the dungeon at all for that week. You were just
6 on your own, that was it, there was nothing. You just
7 looked through the bars at night and shouted to your
8 pals. I didn't really care about that. I think in the
9 end I maybe got used to that place. I was in it that
10 long I could tell you every brick in it.

11 'At 16, they chucked you out. You're on your own.
12 The aftercare for kids leaving care is terrible. I was
13 lucky I had [my] auntie. I was lucky I could still fall
14 back on [my friend's] auntie. You just got your bus
15 fare. The nuns knew where you were going. I can
16 remember the day I left. God, it was good, I left with
17 a wee bag with my clothes.

18 'When I came out of St Euphrasia's, I was nearly 16.
19 I went to stay at my auntie's ... I went to ... high
20 school to take my exams because I wanted to be a nurse.
21 I went on to ... high school for six months then I sat
22 my exams. I only just passed, so I wasn't clever enough
23 to be a nurse ...

24 'I stayed at my auntie's ... until I was nearly 17
25 ... [when I moved to England] ... That was a disaster.'

1 At paragraph 100, the witness speaks about having
2 got married at the age of 17 to a man who was 49 years
3 old at the time and having two children and that the
4 relationship broke down after nine years. That she then
5 met somebody else, and that that wasn't a bad marriage
6 and that she had two children again and that that
7 marriage eventually broke down.

8 At paragraph 101, she says:

9 'I've always worked hard. I'm a mobile dog groomer.
10 That's the main job I've always done ...

11 'I got my social work records two years ago. That's
12 what's kicked everything off. I'm reading through the
13 files and it's brought back horrible memories.
14 Everything I've got in my social work record is about
15 'Maria' being naughty ... being this ... being that ...

16 'When I read the psychologist's letter in my
17 records, I was so relieved. I thought someone believes
18 me. It was just nice to have something in writing to
19 say I'm normal, healthy, not sexually active, not the
20 slightest bit interested in sex. I have kept that
21 report in a special place.

22 'Why didn't social workers read these reports? You
23 can clearly see a kid who's really in distress, a kid
24 that's being sexually abused. Why didn't social workers
25 listen to me?'

1 I will now move to paragraph 109, where the witness
2 says:

3 'When I lie down to sleep, the bedroom door's always
4 open and the hall light is always on. Before I go to
5 sleep I have to look into the halls three times to make
6 sure nobody's there. I have to look at the door handle
7 three times to make sure it doesn't turn. It's a form
8 of obsessive compulsive disorder, OCD.

9 'As a child sitting in that dungeon in
10 St Euphrasia's, I would often wonder what it was in life
11 that I had done so wrong to receive such abuse and
12 hostility. It was barbaric. I have a lot of nightmares
13 about the dungeon. The biggest part of my nightmares
14 come from that room. It's terrible. That's about the
15 one thing I can't handle about St Euphrasia's, probably
16 Sister BGR as well. The nightmares have been there
17 all my life, but they've got worse since I've started
18 reading my records. I can cope with the things I know
19 happened. The things that I don't know happened,
20 I can't cope with.

21 'The nuns punished you and, looking back now, I call
22 it abuse. If somebody's pulling your hair or slapping
23 and kicking you, or got you on the ground and punching
24 you, it's abuse. It wasn't classed as abuse in those
25 days. Looking back on the child I was back then,

1 I wouldn't say the beatings were deserved. It was
2 a little bit of cheek and a little bit of curiosity.
3 It didn't deserve what I got.

4 'There are good bits from St Euphrasia's where
5 I look back and think well, I learned this and I learned
6 that. I'm a really good baker. Everybody gets me to
7 bake their cakes. I won no end of money singing. The
8 singing's been a good thing to learn. I don't think my
9 education was badly affected. I am very clever. I know
10 I can achieve what I want to achieve.

11 'You get insecure when you get shifted about from
12 place to place and you don't know where your family is.
13 It's your background that affects people who've been in
14 care. No one ever tells you they love you or cuddles
15 you. You can't trust anybody. You don't let anybody
16 near. You're in your own bubble and there's a wall. If
17 anyone tries to get by the wall, woe betide them.
18 I wanted to work hard and bring my kids up. That's all
19 I was interested in. Not the men. Relationships are
20 disasters.

21 'The disaster of being in care is that you meet
22 someone who shows some interest in you and you marry
23 them. When I got married at 17, I don't know whether
24 I was looking for a father figure or looking for someone
25 just to care for me. Needless to say it was a disaster.

1 When I started to grow up, I looked at him and thought,
2 you've just jumped straight into another predator.

3 I thought, why did I do this? I said to him the age
4 difference was too big, and we got divorced.

5 'When you've been abused as a child you never have
6 a proper life. Things like marriages failing you can
7 cope with. I wanted to be the best mum that anybody
8 could be. I brought up four beautiful kids. They are
9 all good kids. They all work. They're all respectful,
10 good adults. I've got seven beautiful grandkids. My
11 kids are all educationally good. They are all
12 headstrong, they've all got opinions.

13 'You'll never be a normal person. You're scarred
14 and you're damaged for life. You can say your
15 experience turns you into a better person in other ways.
16 You're a more protective mother. You're stronger, you
17 work harder. It works two ways. What happened to me in
18 the past hasn't stopped me turning my life around and
19 proving the system wrong. I've created a good life and
20 a lovely family.

21 'Between ages 19 and 22 I nearly killed myself with
22 drink. I don't drink now. I was drinking a lot of
23 vodka. I thought to myself, you're turning into your
24 mother and your kids will have to go into care. It hit
25 me like a brick and I just stopped. I haven't drunk

1 vodka since. I have an easily addictive nature. It's
2 in the past history of the family ...

3 'I never did get back in touch with [my friend's]
4 auntie [this is paragraph 122]. It's a shame.
5 I should've done. When I left care, I saw the
6 opportunity to flee. At the time you're a messed-up
7 kid. The thought of a new life, in another country, was
8 brilliant. It was what I needed. When I got my social
9 work records, they had written down that I used to go to
10 [my friend's] auntie and uncle. Social work had put
11 [the] auntie and uncle's name and phone number there.
12 I thought, I wonder? I rang the phone number and they
13 answered. They are really, really old now. [The] uncle
14 said "I can't believe it". They put me back in touch
15 with [my friend] ... It was such a fluke, that they
16 could be so old and still have the same phone number.
17 I'll try and visit them some time.

18 'After I left Aberlour, I kept in touch with my
19 brothers and sisters by phone and writing letters.
20 I didn't see them. Being in care has affected my
21 relationship with them because we were separated. At
22 St Euphrasia's you weren't allowed to use a phone.'

23 I will now move to paragraph 132, where the witness
24 says:

25 'About two years ago I walked into [a] police

1 station and reported the abuse at Aberlour and
2 St Euphrasia's and the rape by [my mother's partner] ...
3 I took part in a recorded interview. The interview was
4 sent to the police in Scotland.'

5 At 136 the witness says:

6 'I reported Sister BGR to the police. The
7 police rang me three months ago to say Sister BGR
8 died in 2010. The police said there'd been lots of
9 complaints about her.

10 'About two and a half years ago, I found out that
11 every child could ask for their records by law. I rang
12 up Falkirk District Council first. The woman I spoke
13 thought my records were archived. The woman phoned me
14 back to say the council had the records but it would
15 take her a few weeks to copy them and post them out ...
16 I now have those records. Some of my records are from
17 Glasgow, some are from Grangemouth and some are from
18 Stirling.

19 'There's always going to be paedophiles and
20 predators. There's always going to be ways they'll get
21 through loopholes. Anybody who works with kids in
22 a children's home should be vetted. Social workers need
23 vetting and checking. Social workers need updating and
24 training. There has to be much more regular contact
25 between the child in care and their social worker.

1 There should be more interaction from school. Kids
2 might talk to their teachers. More attention has to be
3 paid to troubled children and young offenders, who might
4 be behaving the way they are because they are being
5 abused.

6 'Children in care should get one social worker who
7 really is good. The social worker should take the child
8 from the beginning. The top priority has to be trust.
9 The social worker should get the child's trust, visit
10 regularly and ask the child what they need or want. If
11 I'd had someone like that, I would have told them
12 straight away what was happening. You need a lot of
13 time for that kind of relationship. The social work has
14 to listen to the child and believe the child.

15 'The failings back then were absolutely terrible.
16 I think back in those days care was a paedophile
17 attraction ...

18 'I took part in the National Confidential Forum
19 about two years ago. I was asked to go up to take part
20 in a group and to go back to see the findings from what
21 everybody had contributed. They put on a video. My
22 quotes were on there, I knew they were my words and they
23 hadn't asked for my permission ... there was loud music
24 and the whole room exploded into tears. It was too much
25 ...

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Megan' (sworn)

3 LADY SMITH: 'Megan', do sit down and make yourself

4 comfortable.

5 A. Thank you, [REDACTED].

6 LADY SMITH: 'Megan', thank you for coming along this

7 afternoon to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry. I do

8 of course already have your written statement, and it is

9 a great help to me to have that and have been able to

10 study it in advance. But we would like to discuss with

11 you some particular aspects of it this afternoon if

12 that's all right with you.

13 A. That's fine.

14 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod will take you through the parts we

15 are most interested in.

16 'Megan', before we move to that, can I just assure

17 you that if there is anything I can do at any time to

18 help you give the best evidence that you can, I want you

19 to let me know, whether it is having a break, a pause,

20 explaining something better than we are explaining it.

21 If we don't make sense, that's our fault, not yours, so

22 do speak up if you have any questions.

23 Can I just say that I do know that being asked to go

24 back in your memory such a long time is not an easy

25 task.

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: So don't worry if you have to sometimes think
3 hard about it or just tell me you can't remember. Don't
4 worry if you find any of it upsetting. People sometimes
5 do, once they get down to actually talking in this sort
6 of environment about things that happened to them when
7 they were children. So I do understand and you mustn't
8 feel bad about that if it happens to you, all right.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to
11 Ms MacLeod and she will take it from there.

12 A. Hello.

13 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

15 Questions from Ms MacLeod

16 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, 'Megan'.

17 A. Good afternoon.

18 Q. I don't need your date of birth, because you are
19 anonymous, but to give a timeframe, can you confirm you
20 were born in 1957?

21 A. I was.

22 Q. You have provided a statement for the Inquiry, and there
23 is a copy of your statement in the red folder in front
24 of you. I am just going to give the reference of that
25 for the transcript: WIT-1-000000649.

1 'Megan', I wonder if we could look at the very last
2 page of the statement, please, and that's to confirm if
3 you have signed it.

4 A. Sorry, the very last page?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. Yes, that's my signature.

7 Q. In the final paragraph, do you say:

8 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
9 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
10 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
11 true.'

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If we can go back to the beginning of the statement and
14 I will just ask you some questions about that.

15 Before I do that, 'Megan', you have given evidence
16 to the Inquiry before?

17 A. I have.

18 Q. That was during the Foster Care Phase of the Inquiry?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. Just for the transcript, I am going to give the day and
21 the date that that happened, that was on Day 290 on
22 1 June 2022. The transcript number is TRN-10-000000018,
23 and 'Megan's' evidence can be seen at pages 59 to 94 of
24 that transcript.

25 'Megan', in your statement you begin by giving us

1 some background about your life as a young child and
2 about your family.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think you tell us you were born in Aboyne?

5 A. I was born in Aboyne.

6 Q. You say that your natural family were travelling people?

7 A. They were travelling people, yes.

8 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you had a mother and
9 a father and a younger sister and an older brother?

10 A. Younger brother and younger sister.

11 Q. Younger brother and younger sister.

12 I think you say that it is hard to explain, but that
13 when you were a young child you lived in a tent that was
14 quite big?

15 A. I did, I did.

16 Q. You say there was a fire in the middle of it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You say that you can't remember too much about that time
19 in your life?

20 A. I can't.

21 Q. Did there come a time where somebody came one night
22 to --

23 A. A lady came and a man, who I assumed at the time to be
24 a police officer, but looking back it may have been
25 an RSPCA -- a children's care officer.

1 Q. Were you and your sister --
2 A. Removed.
3 Q. -- taken away from --
4 A. We were removed.
5 Q. You were removed. Your brother at that time remained
6 with your parents?
7 A. He remained with my parents.
8 Q. Were you and your sister taken to a children's home?
9 A. We were.
10 Q. Was that in Ellon?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. I think in your statement, 'Megan', you provide some
13 evidence about that, but you say that you have blocked
14 quite a lot of that out?
15 A. I have.
16 Q. How old were you at that time, 'Megan'?
17 A. I'd have been about 4, maybe 4. I know I started school
18 not long after.
19 Q. Okay. What about your sister?
20 A. She was younger than me. My sister had a speech
21 impediment, and I used to talk on behalf of my sister.
22 Q. While you were at that children's home, were you
23 involved with a social worker called Mrs FSG ?
24 A. Miss FSG .
25 Q. Did she remain your social worker for a number of years?

1 A. Right through my life.

2 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that a couple came to the
3 home one day?

4 A. Yes. Mr and Mrs FNZ-SPO

5 Q. Were they looking for children to adopt?

6 A. A child, one child.

7 Q. One child. Were they told, in relation to you and your
8 sister, that they would have to take you both --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- if they were going to take one?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us in your statement that the female foster
13 carer, Mrs FNZ, you say she only wanted one, that she
14 wanted your sister?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But ultimately did both you and your sister go to live
17 with FNZ-SPO?

18 A. We did.

19 Q. Did they have another daughter, their own daughter
20 living with them?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, you have provided evidence to the Inquiry already
23 about your recollections of your time living with Mr and
24 Mrs FNZ-SPO But from what's in your statement and what's
25 in the transcript, 'Megan', is it fair to say that you

1 were not treated well by the female foster carer,
2 Mrs FNZ ?
3 A. I was not.
4 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that things came to a head
5 at a certain point in time and you were moved to
6 a children's home?
7 A. That's correct.
8 Q. Was that in Aboyne?
9 A. Yes, Craiglarach.
10 Q. Did your sister remain in the foster placement?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. From that home, did you move to the Royal Hospital for
13 Sick Children in Aberdeen?
14 A. Yes, I did.
15 Q. At the time, 'Megan', what was your understanding of why
16 you were going to hospital?
17 A. To be honest, I didn't really know. I knew it was
18 different, but, erm, I remember the doctor there asked
19 me to build up bricks and I said, 'Build them yourself',
20 I knew how to build up bricks. And I really feel
21 I shouldn't have been there. It was because, maybe,
22 I wet myself. You know, I thought it was 'cause of
23 that.
24 Q. Was your understanding that you were there for some sort
25 of assessment?

1 A. No, I didn't know.

2 Q. Okay. How old were you when you left FNZ-SPO ?

3 A. I think I would have been 8, maybe 7 or 8.

4 Q. I think you tell us that after being in the hospital,

5 you went back to Mr and Mrs FNZ-SPO for a short time?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. I think you mention a week or so?

8 A. A week.

9 Q. Then did you go to a boarding school in England?

10 A. School, yeah, in England. It was assessed --

11 I remember the doctor was called Dr Simone, and

12 I remember quite distinctly the doctor saying to me,

13 'Miss FSG thinks you're retarded and you should be

14 put in St Joseph's, sit this examination and prove to

15 her'. I sat an examination and I was accepted for

16 boarding school in England.

17 Q. How long did you spend at the boarding school in

18 England?

19 A. A year.

20 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you loved subjects

21 there, like history and biology?

22 A. Yes, I liked English, history and biology. But it was

23 a very forward-thinking school, and, erm, you called the

24 teachers by their first names, and you went to classes

25 that you liked. And unfortunately, my failure was

1 mathematics, so I didn't go, you know, I didn't attend.
2 Which I wish I had done now. But English was always
3 my -- and history. But I unfortunately got drunk in
4 a haystack and got expelled.
5 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that, that you were
6 expelled from the school and returned to Aberdeen?
7 A. Returned to Aberdeen, yes.
8 Q. Did you go to a children's home in Aberdeen when you
9 returned?
10 A. Yes. It was actually in the town of Aberdeen.
11 Q. Was that for about a year that you were there --
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. -- as well?
14 LADY SMITH: That would have been when you were about 12, 11
15 or 12 years old.
16 A. 11 years old.
17 LADY SMITH: 11?
18 A. Yes.
19 MS MACLEOD: Did you start high school while you were in
20 that home?
21 A. I was in Coblehaugh when I started the high school,
22 a different --
23 Q. You had moved to a different home when you started high
24 school?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Was that the school that you moved to in Inverurie?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. So having spent about a year in the school in Aberdeen,
4 you then moved to a different home --
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. -- in Inverurie?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. That's where you started high school?
9 A. Yes. Or maybe I was already at high school, but
10 I remember I went to high school there because -- yeah,
11 I went to high school in Inverurie, 'cause Mr Slater was
12 the headmaster.
13 Q. How long did you spend living at the home in Inverurie?
14 A. Not long.
15 Q. From there did you go to London?
16 A. I went -- I'd been told that my parents -- well, a year
17 in between each other they both were deceased, I got
18 told, and, erm, an incident happened, so I wasn't happy,
19 but I couldn't talk to anyone, so I thought, well, go
20 somewhere, and I just hitched to London.
21 Q. I think, indeed, you tell the Inquiry that you hitched
22 all the way to London when you were aged around 13?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Ultimately, having been in London for a period of time,
25 did you end up being arrested?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. And going to prison?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was contact then made somehow with Aberdeen, again did
5 a policewoman from Aberdeen come down to London?

6 A. Yes, they did, erm, they contacted Aberdeenshire and the
7 policewoman from Aberdeen came down to London, picked me
8 up, but she took me for a Chinese meal. And then she
9 said, 'I'm sorry, FKW [REDACTED], but I have to take you'.
10 And, erm, I was sent to Craiginchies, ultimately.

11 Q. That was a prison in Aberdeen?

12 A. Aberdeenshire, yeah, Aberdeen. And I was remanded
13 because the Aberdeen local council, Miss FSG [REDACTED], said
14 she didn't want ... and that was it.

15 Q. How long did you spend in Craiginchies Prison in
16 Aberdeen?

17 A. About two and a half/three months, maybe. Maybe not
18 quite that long. It seemed like that. But, erm, I went
19 up twice to court and on the third appearance, the
20 sheriff said to me, 'You shouldn't be here'. He said,
21 'If Aberdeenshire Council won't deal with you, I'll send
22 you to Glasgow', and he said, 'I'll send you to a place
23 in Glasgow, erm, which will be for care and protection'.
24 Q. Were you sent to Glasgow?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that when you were sent to St Euphrasia's List D
2 school --
3 A. In Bishopton.
4 Q. -- in Bishopton?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. I think you know, 'Megan', that the focus of these
7 hearings at the moment is on St Euphrasia's --
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. -- in Bishopton?
10 What's your recollection of the age that you were
11 when you went into St Euphrasia's?
12 A. Must have been nearly 14.
13 Q. Now, I think --
14 A. Or 14.
15 Q. -- you may be aware that the Inquiry has recovered some
16 records which suggest you may have been slightly older.
17 A. Maybe.
18 Q. But it is really your own recollection we are interested
19 in?
20 A. I think about 14 and a half maybe, erm, I can't
21 remember.
22 Q. How long did you spend at St Euphrasia's?
23 A. A year and a bit.
24 Q. Did you know at the time how long you were going to be
25 there?

1 A. No.

2 Q. In your statement, you tell the Inquiry that

3 St Euphrasia's was run by the nuns from the Good

4 Shepherd?

5 A. Convent, yes.

6 Q. Who was SNR [REDACTED] of St Euphrasia's?

7 A. Sister LLW [REDACTED].

8 Q. What was she like, Sister LLW [REDACTED]?

9 A. She was quite a strong personality, quite a strong

10 woman, and she took an immediate dislike to me.

11 Q. What gave you the impression that she took an immediate

12 dislike to you?

13 A. Well, she had asked -- erm, we had, like, houses, and

14 FSH [REDACTED] was the head of my house, like, looked after

15 us, and she told FSH [REDACTED] she didn't want me there, and

16 she really -- and FSH [REDACTED] said, 'Well, where else will

17 she go?'.

18 Q. Is that Sister FSH [REDACTED], was she another Sister?

19 A. She was not a nun, she was a -- she'd been in the

20 convent all her life as a helper. She wasn't a nun, she

21 was a worker.

22 Q. Was she known as Sister FSH [REDACTED]?

23 A. I believe she could have been, yes, but she wasn't

24 a nun.

25 Q. She wasn't a nun. Okay.

1 Can you tell me then a little bit about
2 St Euphrasia's, 'Megan'? First of all, do you remember
3 arriving there?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Can you tell me about that?
6 A. It was strange, because I had -- I don't know if you
7 know, desert boots, and socks, jeans and a shirt on.
8 And when I arrived there, I met SNR [REDACTED] of the place,
9 Sister LLW [REDACTED], and I knew ... I got a feeling that she
10 didn't like me, but then again, maybe ... but she
11 didn't, she just introduced herself and told me to go to
12 the common room or whatever it was and a girl took me.
13 And she told me she wouldn't stand any nonsense from
14 me. I think because a lot of the girls were there
15 through not behaving at school, erm, maybe lesser
16 things, or unfortunately for them bad home lives, erm,
17 whereas I, this thing about drugs, she didn't like it.
18 Q. Okay.
19 LADY SMITH: When you say 'this thing about drugs', was that
20 when you were in London, you were found --
21 A. Why I was in prison, yes. I had that amount of cannabis
22 on my possession, which -- not a lot.
23 LADY SMITH: It was because of that you ended up in prison
24 in London?
25 A. Yes, yes.

1 MS MACLEOD: You tell us in your statement that
2 St Euphrasia's was -- the building itself was quite
3 a large house?
4 A. Very intimidating. It was a very big building. With
5 very long corridors, and each corridor at the end had
6 a statue of Our Lord or Our Lady and, erm, things like
7 that. We had to get up at 6.00 in the morning to go to
8 mass and things like that.
9 But the first introduction for me was, erm, it must
10 have been about tea time I arrived, because I went into
11 the dining room and there was a girl, quite a big girl,
12 and she said to me, 'Pass the bread'. Now,
13 unfortunately I couldn't understand what she meant, and
14 I says, erm, 'I beg your pardon?' And she said, 'Pass
15 the bread'. And I went, 'I'm sorry, I don't know'.
16 She said, 'Well, you just' -- she swore at me, and gave
17 me a black eye, so I picked up the table, I thought,
18 now, if I let her speak to me like this, and there's all
19 these other girls, and I was always very small, I'm
20 going to be bullied. So I pushed the table at her. But
21 unfortunately the nuns came in while I was pushing the
22 table, and I got into trouble.
23 Q. What happened?
24 A. Put me in detention. 'Cause they had, like, a detention
25 place where you went when you didn't behave.

1 Q. What did that involve, being in detention?
2 A. Just in a room.
3 Q. Were you on your own in the room?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. For how long were you put in there?
6 A. A day, something like that.
7 Q. Overnight, or just during the day time?
8 A. I was in overnight, 'cause I got out the next morning.
9 FSH came for me.
10 Q. Was there a bed in the room?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. After that, were you allocated to a dormitory?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. How many girls or how many beds were in your dormitory?
15 A. I would say quite a few. I can't -- maybe six ... there
16 were quite a lot in the dormitory.
17 Q. Are you able to help me with how many girls were at
18 St Euphrasia's, the total number of girls, roughly?
19 A. That were at St Euphrasia's?
20 Q. Yes.
21 A. Maybe 36, maybe more.
22 Q. What was the age range of the girls?
23 A. They were all mostly younger than me, although -- no,
24 they were mostly ... apart from one, who was about ages
25 with me.

1 Q. Were the others older or younger than you?

2 A. Mostly -- there was one or two older, and some younger

3 than me.

4 Q. I see.

5 You have mentioned FSH on a number of

6 occasions, 'Megan'. What was FSH, or

7 Sister FSH, what was her role in St Euphrasia's?

8 A. Her role was really to make the priests' vestments in

9 the sewing room, that's what she did all day, make

10 priests' vestments. But in the evening, she would come

11 to the ... because it was like a common room thing, and

12 we all sat, maybe, I don't know, we might watching

13 telly, I don't know, I can't remember, but she sat with

14 us, with a nun, and sort of supervised the girls.

15 Q. Did you get on well with FSH?

16 A. Extremely well.

17 Q. You say in your statement that she was lovely and she

18 was the making of you?

19 A. She was.

20 Q. Can you tell me about that?

21 A. Well, she's the only person, apart from people I've met

22 since, that has ... like, I knew SNR wanted me out

23 and I thought it would be all too easy just to do it.

24 But she, for some reason, saw something in me and

25 always -- it's like -- oh, she told me off, but she saw

1 something in me that maybe someone else couldn't see.
2 And she defended me the whole way. A lot more than what
3 I knew at the time.
4 Maybe ... but, I mean -- and -- she was, like, she
5 was like a normal person, she smoked, she didn't get on
6 with the nuns, some of them, herself. But she wouldn't
7 tell me that. But she protected me in a way.
8 Q. You tell us a little bit about the routine in
9 St Euphrasia's and what you did each day. And I think
10 you tell the Inquiry that you were up early, about
11 5.30 am in the morning?
12 A. Yes. Well, 5.30, 'cause you had to go to mass at
13 6 o'clock in the morning.
14 Q. After chapel, what happened then? Did you have work to
15 do?
16 A. Yeah, you had to -- you got your breakfast. Well, the
17 work consisted -- there was classes, there was, erm,
18 typing class, there was some other classes.
19 Q. Was this after breakfast?
20 A. Yes, after breakfast.
21 Q. I think you describe them in your statement as practical
22 classes?
23 A. Practical, yes.
24 Q. Was that to learn practical skills?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Like typing, did you mention there?

2 A. Yeah, and hairdressing, I think they had a hairdressing

3 class.

4 Q. I think you include sewing lessons --

5 A. Sewing, yes.

6 Q. -- in your statement? Were there any academic subjects,

7 like maths or English or geography or history?

8 A. Nothing like that. No. No, no.

9 We got health and hygiene.

10 Q. The practical classes that you were provided with, then,

11 was that during the morning, or during the whole day?

12 A. During the morning. Most -- or some in the afternoon.

13 It wasn't like a regular -- like you'd go to school,

14 periodic table, you went to classes maybe for a few

15 hours in the morning, a few hours in the afternoon.

16 Q. When you weren't at these kinds of lessons, what were

17 you doing during the day?

18 A. When I wasn't in lessons?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Scrubbing corridors.

21 Q. So were the girls required, then, to clean

22 St Euphrasia's?

23 A. Yes, we were required to clean. We had to do the

24 toilets, the corridors, and, erm, I was assigned to the

25 corridors, which were quite -- you don't know, but they

1 were very long, and you used to get a mop and a bucket
2 and I would do these corridors. But there was one
3 person, I had done it all, and I had had the bucket, she
4 tipped over, and she said, 'Do it again'. And she gave
5 me a toothbrush.

6 Q. Was that a Sister?

7 A. That was a nun, yes.

8 Q. Do you remember her name?

9 A. LMM [REDACTED]. And I was scrubbing the place with
10 a toothbrush and FSH [REDACTED] came looking for me and she
11 said, 'What are you doing?' And I told her, and she
12 says, 'This is ridiculous, come on, come on, just
13 finish mopping, mop it, and come into the sewing room'.

14 Q. You said the cleaning of corridors was the job assigned
15 to you. Was that something you had to do on a regular
16 basis?

17 A. Every day.

18 Q. Every day. Were there cleaners in St Euphrasia's?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were the children expected to keep it clean?

21 A. The children were expected to keep it clean. There was
22 no cleaners.

23 Q. Did that include the toilets, for example?

24 A. I'm sorry, I have no recollection of the toilets, no.

25 They always said that I was very silently defiant.

1 Q. You speak about the arrangements for washing and bathing
2 'Megan', in paragraph 121. I think you say you got
3 a bath once a week?
4 A. Correct.
5 Q. You say:
6 'The nuns told us not to look at ourselves when we
7 had a bath.'
8 A. Correct.
9 Q. Can you help me with that?
10 A. I was in the bath and a Sister came through and told me
11 to put a towel or a facecloth over my body. I was not
12 to look at myself when I was bathing.
13 I was -- I remember being in a class, I remember
14 this quite distinctly, and for some reason, I don't know
15 what happened, but the Sister that was taking the class
16 hit me with a ruler, and she said to me, 'Stand there,
17 get in the middle of the hall, stand there and tell the
18 devil to get behind you'. I remember that.
19 Q. Did the nuns use physical punishment?
20 A. No, not -- no, I don't. It was more, like,
21 psychological things they would do. I got hit by
22 a ruler when you didn't do things right, you know, but
23 nothing physical, like, physical, like, bad.
24 Q. You described on your first day when you pushed the
25 table that you went to detention?

1 A. Detention.

2 Q. Is that something that was used by the nuns regularly as

3 a punishment --

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. -- for the girls?

6 A. It was used regular, yes, detention. Nobody wanted to

7 go there, that was why.

8 Q. Were you sent there on other occasions as well?

9 A. I have been to -- I was in there another time, erm,

10 because I was arguing with someone and it was -- ah, I'd

11 been made the Virgin Mary in the Passion Play, and --

12 FSH had asked me to be the Virgin Mary in the

13 Passion Play for Easter, so I practised for this, and

14 I was -- we had underwear, but you only got a certain

15 amount of underwear, and someone had taken my underwear

16 from the radiator, 'cause I left it there, and I knew

17 who took it and I went to see her about it and there was

18 a big argument.

19 Anyway, I got caught again and I went down to get my

20 breakfast. Somebody -- you got one egg a week, one egg,

21 and somebody took my egg, so I got annoyed at this. So,

22 erm, the girl that I said, 'You took my egg', she said,

23 'I never', I got another black eye, so I was back in

24 detention again. But unfortunately it was the night,

25 the day, that the Passion Play was going to be on.

1 So FSH had to tell the people that the Virgin
2 Mary was in detention with a black eye, and Our Lord had
3 jumped out the window anyway and ran away, so there was
4 no Passion Play at all.
5 Q. It was cancelled that year?
6 A. For Easter.
7 LADY SMITH: What was it about the detention that the girls
8 didn't like?
9 A. Sorry?
10 LADY SMITH: The detention that you told me about.
11 A. I think it was probably being on your own. I mean, it
12 wasn't like -- it was just very basic, your bed, and you
13 had to do the toilet in there. It was being on your
14 own, I think, and not knowing when you were going to get
15 out.
16 LADY SMITH: You had to do the toilet in a bucket; is that
17 right?
18 A. Yes.
19 LADY SMITH: Was it cold?
20 A. It was cold.
21 LADY SMITH: You say you wouldn't know when you were going
22 to be let out?
23 A. No, 'cause you just got told you were going to
24 detention. They didn't say, you know, 'You're going to
25 detention until tomorrow', or ... they just said you're

1 going to detention. It was like their way of breaking
2 up arguments and things.

3 LADY SMITH: Did you think that was fair?

4 A. No. But at the time I didn't know. Well, at the time
5 I thought -- see, I've never bothered with being on my
6 own, but at the time I thought well, it's what they do.

7 LADY SMITH: You had no choice?

8 A. I had no choice.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: 'Megan', did you ever run away from
11 St Euphrasia's?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did other girls run away?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When girls who ran away were brought back to
16 St Euphrasia's; what would happen?

17 A. They'd be put in detention.

18 Q. Did that act as a deterrent for you running away, did
19 that stop you running away?

20 A. To be truthful I never thought of running away. Well,
21 for one thing you were locked in, the door was locked,
22 the main door was locked, and to my recollection the
23 dormitory -- I can't remember, you were locked in,
24 I couldn't see how they could get out. And I think --
25 I didn't think -- I thought -- I didn't know where

1 I was. I didn't. I mean, I knew I was somewhere, but
2 I'd never been there before and if I ran away, where do
3 I go? Don't know.

4 Q. When it came time for you to leave St Euphrasia's, how
5 was that explained to you? Who told you you were
6 leaving?

7 A. That morning.

8 Q. Who told you you were leaving?

9 A. Sister LLW .

10 Q. She told you on the morning of the day that you were
11 going to be leaving?

12 A. 'Get ready and leave', yes.

13 Q. Before that you didn't know?

14 A. No.

15 Q. When you were going to be leaving?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What were you told about where you were to go or what
18 you were to do?

19 A. Nothing.

20 Q. Do I take it from that that you didn't have any
21 preparation for where you could get support or anything
22 like that?

23 A. No, nothing. Well, the only thing that -- FSH saw
24 me -- came to the door and gave me 5.

25 Q. Did you take a train after you left?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. I think you tell us that you went to Aviemore?

3 A. That's where I went, because I didn't know Glasgow, and

4 I got the first train that came and that went to

5 Aviemore, and I went there.

6 Q. Had you seen a social worker at all while you were in

7 St Euphrasia's?

8 A. No, see, the other girls got to go, during term -- you

9 called it term time, they got to go maybe home,

10 Christmas and that. But I had nowhere to go, so I just

11 stayed in convent. And believe you me, Christmas, well,

12 they went to their masses and did what they normally

13 would do, but Christmas wasn't celebrated for me.

14 I know that. But I went to Aviemore, and that's the end

15 of it, really.

16 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you met a couple there

17 who let you stay with them for a while?

18 A. She gave me some nice clothes, yes.

19 Q. I think did Miss FSG get back in touch, or did you

20 get back in touch with her, maybe, once you got out of

21 St Euphrasia's, was contact made with Miss FSG?

22 A. I made contact with Miss FSG about -- it was, erm,

23 months later I contacted her.

24 Q. I think you tell us that you had a job for a while in

25 an old folks' home?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. I think you tell the Inquiry that you met a man and got
3 married when you were about 17?

4 A. 17 I married my first husband, who turned out to be
5 nothing. But anyway, yes, I was married at 17.
6 I thought perhaps maybe I was looking for a home or
7 somewhere to go, you know, I thought it was the right
8 thing to do.

9 It turned out to be a mistake, but ...

10 Q. I think you say that you had a daughter?

11 A. Yes, she wasn't a mistake, she (Inaudible).

12 Q. You tell the Inquiry about some jobs that you had?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Including as a chambermaid and then that you worked with
15 adults with learning difficulties for 30 years?

16 A. Yes, I did. More or less. Apart from Edinburgh
17 Association for Mental Health, I worked for them.

18 Q. Did you retain contact with FSH from
19 St Euphrasia's?

20 A. She wrote to me and said she was very upset because she
21 hadn't had a Mother's Day card, but it never occurred to
22 me to send FSH a Mother's Day card. And I sent her
23 one the next year, and she came to visit me and my
24 husband. Erm, then she told me about why she was -- had
25 been in St Euphrasia's and the fights she had to keep me

1 there.

2 Q. When you say the fights she had to keep you there, can
3 you tell me about that?

4 A. Well, FSH stated that it was like constant, it was
5 like every small issue that I made. I mean, I behaved
6 myself, but, like, every slight issue, Sister LLW
7 would be on FSH, 'Come on, we're getting her out,
8 we don't want her here', and FSH kept saying, 'But
9 she's fine, she's fine, I'll take her in the sewing
10 room'.

11 Q. At paragraph 144 onwards of your statement, 'Megan', you
12 provide some evidence about the impact that you consider
13 your time in care has had on your life. Something you
14 say at the outset of that passage is:

15 'I never think about my time in care unless someone
16 brings something up that reminds me of it.'

17 A. That's correct.

18 I've spent many times in psychiatric hospital, and
19 I eventually ended up in Melrose, and I don't know if
20 you've heard of it, Dingleton Hospital, it's a more --
21 like, they again listened to me. And, erm, I was on
22 lots of medication when I went there, and they reduced
23 it all to be completely off everything. And I was there
24 for a year, and at the end of it all, they decided that
25 all these admissions in previous times and there had

1 been due to my upbringing, my childhood. And that my
2 not looking at it, or dealing with it.

3 So that year in psychiatric hospital in Melrose. It
4 was probably just mostly dealing with my childhood.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Which I found very difficult to do. It took a year.

7 Q. In terms of lessons that you think should be learnt
8 going forward, 'Megan', you say:

9 'There should be someone in place to support girls,
10 someone for them to speak to, not social work, someone
11 to trust and for them to have a say.'

12 Is that something that you felt was missing for
13 yourself?

14 A. For me, I never had a voice, because I felt, well,
15 Miss FSG, she was, I suppose she was -- she
16 probably was a very good social worker in her field.
17 But she actually came from the Metropolitan Police in
18 London. But she just had a terrible dislike for
19 travelling children.

20 Now, I could voice this, I'm not the only one, like
21 my cousin could say the same. Erm, and I think there
22 was various things happened to me in care which I would
23 maybe have spoken about, had I trusted anyone enough to
24 speak to, and I didn't.

25 Q. When you say that she had a terrible dislike for

1 travelling children, what was it about her behaviour or
2 what she said that gave you that impression, 'Megan'?

3 A. Well, she said to me -- she said to me, I remember,
4 I didn't go to school once, and -- well, a couple of
5 times I didn't go to school. And [REDACTED] had came with
6 me from the children's home and she said to me quite
7 distinctly, 'FKW [REDACTED], you do what you want, because
8 you will never amount to anything, you will never amount
9 to anything', she said, 'You're just a tinker'.

10 Then I got my brother's report about why my brother
11 stayed with my mother was because -- I know it is
12 difficult to believe, but because he was a 'tinker's'
13 child, he was in relatively good condition.

14 Q. Another point you make, 'Megan', in your statement, and
15 you mention this a couple of times, you say:

16 'I hope nobody slips through the net like I did.'

17 A. Yes. I feel that perhaps -- I was a quiet child,
18 although a lot of people would say I was silently
19 defiant. You know, like I'd bang the door or -- but I'd
20 never answer back.

21 I really -- I know it's different now in social
22 work, I know it's very different, erm, but I feel there
23 might be that silent child who maybe is being abused or
24 ill treated and keeps quiet about it. I hope they
25 manage to have a voice and say, 'Please, somebody help

1 me'.

2 MS MACLEOD: Thank you for answering my questions today,

3 'Megan'. I don't have anything else I need to ask you.

4 But before we finish, I would just like to give you the

5 opportunity to see if there is anything else that you

6 would like to say before we complete your evidence.

7 A. No, I think that's everything, thank you.

8 Apart from to wish everyone a happy Christmas.

9 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Megan'.

10 I haven't received any applications for questions.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 'Megan', thank you so much and thank you for coming

13 back today to add to the evidence I heard from you

14 previously. It has now given me a full picture of the

15 whole variety of your experiences. That's really

16 helpful to the work we are doing here.

17 A. Thank you very much.

18 LADY SMITH: Feel free to go.

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: I hope the rest of your day is more restful

21 than the first part has been.

22 A. Thank you very much. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: We will take the afternoon break in a moment,

1 before I rise some names of people whose identities are
2 protected by my General Restriction Order.

3 First of all, the witness used her own first name at
4 one point, and Sister LMM, Sister GXO,
5 FSH, Sister LLW and a Sister BGR.

6 Thank you.

7 (3.03 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (3.13 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we now have another applicant who
12 wants to remain anonymous and to use the name 'Liz' as
13 a pseudonym.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Liz' (read)

16 MR MACAULAY: Her statement is at WIT-1-000000750.

17 'Liz's' statement was read in previously, or parts
18 of it, in particular in connection with Chapter 6, which
19 was Dr Guthrie's Chapter.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MR MACAULAY: That was on Day 449, on 4 June of this year,
22 and the transcript is to be found at TRN-12-000000082.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: As I said, significant parts of her statement
25 have already been looked at.

1 She was born in 1962, as she tells us at the outset,
2 and she provides some background information as to her
3 family circumstances. She says at the end of that
4 paragraph:

5 'My dad wasn't there a lot of the time as he was in
6 and out of a psychiatric hospital. I think he was
7 schizophrenic. Both my parents are deceased.

8 'When I was growing up I always thought I had been
9 adopted because I wasn't treated the same as my brothers
10 and sisters. My mum and dad had very little time for
11 me. Even when I got older I wasn't treated like I was
12 their child ...'

13 Moving on:

14 'My dad used to batter my mum and me regularly.
15 When he was drunk he was violent to us, but he was
16 completely different when he was sober. I never saw him
17 hit my brothers or sisters.'

18 Then at 4, she says at the age of 10 she went to
19 live with another couple.

20 At 5, she says she was there for about six months.

21 Again, she went there subsequently, and she says at
22 7:

23 'Things got so bad that I tried to kill myself.
24 Duncan Gray, our social worker, came to the house and he
25 thought it would be better for everyone if I went into

1 care for a while.'

2 She says:

3 'I went to a Children's Panel at Shotts when I would
4 have been 11. There were three people on the Panel and
5 I was there with my mum and Duncan Gray, my social
6 worker. My dad wasn't allowed into the hearings room
7 because of his bad temper. The police were at the
8 hearings too. At the hearing it was decided that
9 I should be placed in care and I was sent to
10 a children's home ...'

11 She talks about that again at paragraphs 9 to 10,
12 when she was there for about two months.

13 Then she goes to another children's home in Wishaw,
14 and she discusses that up until paragraph 20.

15 At 21:

16 'I think I would have been at [that] home for about
17 six months. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19
20 Secondary Institutions I went to another Children's Panel. My
21 mum was probably there. At this hearing it was decided
22 that I should go to the Good Shepherd in Bishopton.
23 [The children's home] was only supposed to be for
24 short-term placements, so I couldn't stay there.
25 I couldn't go home because my mum said she was looking

1 after my dad and couldn't cope with me too. I was taken
2 straight from the Panel to the Good Shepherd by a social
3 worker.'

4 At 22, she says:

5 'I was in the Good Shepherd at Bishopton on three
6 occasions ...'

7 That's somewhat confusing, because she only talks
8 about one occasion in the statement, and it may be
9 because she was running away and going back, that's
10 probably what she had in mind.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: In any event, it hasn't been cleared up.

13 The records suggest that she was admitted there on
14 [REDACTED] 1976, when she would have been 14, and judging by
15 what she says later, she was there for about eight
16 months.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes.

18 MR MACAULAY: She begins by describing the building, and 24,
19 that the Good Shepherd was run by Catholic nuns. At
20 this time, she says HOJ [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED], and she
21 was very strict.

22 At 25:

23 'When I arrived I was taken to meet HOJ [REDACTED],
24 who was SNR [REDACTED]. I then met Sister GXO [REDACTED], and she
25 told me all about the rules and regulations. She warned

1 me about running away because we were away out in the
2 woods and there was nowhere to go. She showed me round
3 the building and then took me into a room where there
4 was a TV and there were about 20 girls already in
5 there.'

6 She talks about the routine, in particular being
7 woken up every morning at 6.00 am to go to mass, we have
8 heard about that from other witnesses. The food,
9 washing, leisure time and trips and holidays.

10 Then at schooling, at 31:

11 'We went to school between 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock,
12 which was in the two school classes within the Good
13 Shepherd. It was the nuns who did the teaching. I only
14 remember one of the nuns' first names was HOI . We
15 were taught English and arithmetic. I actually looked
16 forward to the classes because it was something to do.
17 There were about eight girls in each class.

18 'I was a Protestant but regardless I was still made
19 to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning to go to mass,
20 which was about an hour long. I didn't like it but
21 I just did what I was told. The chapel was a separate
22 building joined on to the main building. There wasn't
23 any other religious instruction apart from mass at the
24 church.

25 'We had chores to do, like scrubbing the corridor

1 floors. I only had to do this about three times in all
2 the time I was there. After you had done it, Sister ...
3 would walk on it and point out bits that you had missed,
4 but it was where she had walked and it was her
5 footprints. I can't remember doing any other chores.

6 'I wet the bed a lot of the time when I was there
7 and I was punished for it. Other girls wet their beds.'

8 She describes later what happened to her.

9 'My mum didn't visit me. Duncan Gray visited me
10 regularly when I was at the Good Shepherd. He knew
11 I wasn't happy and wanted to go home.'

12 And at 37:

13 'The nuns were very strict. I saw a few of the
14 girls getting their legs slapped if they did anything
15 wrong. There was another nun who liked hitting you on
16 the back of your head as you walked past. She did this
17 for no reason apart from because she wanted to do it and
18 took pleasure from it. One time she hit me on the head
19 so I jumped up on her and pulled her headress off.
20 I was put in the punishment room for that.

21 'I had only been there about a month when I started
22 to run away. I was frequently running away and I was
23 always caught near my house by the police and was taken
24 back to the Good Shepherd. There were a couple of
25 occasions when I got weekend leave and when it was time

1 to go back I was supposed to go to the Anderston bus
2 station to get picked up by the minibus but I never went
3 there.

4 'I didn't like fish. One time it was served and
5 I couldn't eat it. Sister GXO started shouting at
6 me telling me to eat it. I refused. She pulled my head
7 back and with her other hand stuffed the fish into my
8 mouth. I was boking. She then left me. She only force
9 fed me on this one occasion. I saw other girls being
10 force fed in the same way. The next morning my plate of
11 fish was served to me at breakfast time.

12 Sister GXO told me to eat it or I would have to
13 starve. I never ate it.

14 'Because I didn't eat the fish at breakfast time,
15 Sister GXO grabbed me by the hair and pulled me
16 through to the punishment room. This was the first time
17 I had been put in there. I was made to strip to my vest
18 and pants then she locked me in. I think this was to
19 stop me from running away. She came back with a metal
20 tin for me to use as a toilet. I was in that room for
21 four nights.

22 'The punishment room was just a bare room with
23 nothing in it apart from something that was like a sofa
24 bed. The lights were always left on even through the
25 night. It was cold, but there was a cupboard there that

1 was used as a store for covers and other things.
2 I often took a cover out to try and stay warm. After
3 that day I was put in there quite few times, always by
4 Sister **GXO**. I was sometimes in there for a week.
5 I was brought food and when I had been to the toilet in
6 the metal tin they let me out to empty it but someone
7 always came with me. No one was allowed to try and
8 speak to me when I was in the punishment room. I saw
9 other girls being put in there for days too. You would
10 get put in there for things like fighting or talking
11 when you weren't meant to talk, arguing or not eating
12 your dinner.

13 'One time when I was in the punishment room I was
14 desperate to get out and go home. I knew that the
15 Social Work Department had paid for my whole family to
16 go to Butlin's holiday camp the next day, so I wanted to
17 go with them. I set the fire alarm off, because I knew
18 that this would release all the doors and everyone would
19 evacuate the building. When the door unlocked I ran
20 through and grabbed a cardigan and a pair of trousers
21 then smashed the window in the punishment room and
22 climbed out and ran into the woods. I went to a bus
23 station in Glasgow and begged money from passers-by so
24 I could phone my mum. She told me to tell me where she
25 was and she would arrange for the police to pick me up

1 and take me home. I told her, but when the police came
2 they just took me straight back to the Good Shepherd.

3 'I regularly wet the bed. I tried to pull the
4 covers over so they wouldn't see in the morning. They
5 must have checked and found that I had.

6 Sister GXO [REDACTED], HOJ [REDACTED], HOI [REDACTED] and another nun
7 would check in the morning. Sister GXO [REDACTED] said
8 something about having to keep putting up with me
9 wetting the bed. When they found out I had wet the bed
10 they would grab me by the hair at the back of my head
11 and rub my face in the wet sheets. I was upset and
12 always felt degraded. This happened about three times
13 a week. They then stripped my bed and threw the sheets
14 in a trolley outside to get washed.

15 'Sometimes when I wet the bed I would get put in the
16 punishment room until the following morning. I didn't
17 get to have a shower or a wash. When they let me out
18 I would often be given a chore to do like scrubbing the
19 corridor or something else they wanted done. I saw
20 other girls having their faces rubbed in the wet sheets
21 and getting put in the punishment room.

22 'Sometimes if you were cheeky to Sister GXO [REDACTED] she
23 wouldn't let you have your evening meal and would send
24 you to your bedroom. I just remember feeling sad and
25 lonely all the time that I was at the Good Shepherd.

1 There was other abuse in there but I am not ready to
2 talk about that yet.

3 'I told Duncan Gray my social worker everything that
4 went on when I was at the Good Shepherd, including the
5 punishment room. He asked me if I wanted him to do
6 anything about what I had told him but I told him
7 I didn't. I was too scared that this would make it
8 worse for me, because he wasn't going to be there all
9 the time. Sometimes he took me out to a coffee shop and
10 he knew that all I wanted was to go back home with my
11 family. He always told me, and he was really nice about
12 it, that he wouldn't agree to me going home.

13 'I was at the Good Shepherd the first time for at
14 least eight months. Because I kept running away, the
15 Good Shepherd refused to take me back. HOJ
16 told me that I couldn't stay there and I was taken from
17 the Good Shepherd to [another place] which was a remand
18 home. A social worker took me.'

19 She talks about being in the remand home, and if we
20 go on to paragraph 70, that's where she talks about
21 Dr Guthrie's School for Girls.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MR MACAULAY: That is beginning at paragraph 70, that has
24 been read in verbatim up to paragraph 93, where she
25 talks about having left Dr Guthrie's and life after

1 being in care.

2 At 94, she starts talking about the impact, again
3 that has been looked at. She begins by saying:

4 'It was when I was at the Good Shepherd the third
5 time that I started trying to kill myself. I would have
6 been 14. I was feeling really low and didn't want to be
7 there. I was in the punishment room at the time. A nun
8 came into the room and quizzed me about what I had done.
9 I didn't get any medical or mental health support at the
10 time. I was left on my own in that room after this
11 incident and I am not aware of anyone checking to see
12 that I was all right.'

13 She goes on to tell us that she tried to take her
14 own life also when she was an adult:

15 'If I had been given a better education when I was
16 in care I think I would have achieved more and would
17 probably have worked with the Social Work Department,
18 especially with children who were in care.

19 'I find it very hard to trust people because of my
20 time in care. There was never anyone I could turn to
21 for help or advice. I also had difficulty forming and
22 sustaining any trusting relationships.'

23 Again, much of this has already been looked at.

24 At 101 she says:

25 'I regularly think about my time in care and when

1 I do I try to remember more about my past. I just hope
2 that I can get my records to help me. As well as
3 flashback I have nightmares about my time in care.'

4 Paragraphs 102 on to 108 have been already
5 summarised.

6 109 to 111, I think, have been read in verbatim.

7 Perhaps I should read 112:

8 'Duncan Gray, my social worker, was brilliant with
9 me and he was the only one who regularly visited me. He
10 even came to some of the homes and took me to church
11 with his wife and kids.'

12 At 114:

13 'I contacted the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry after
14 I read the story about the two young girls who had been
15 in care who jumped off Erskine Bridge. At the time the
16 Good Shepherd were denying they had a punishment room.
17 This made me want to come forward to confirm that they
18 did.'

19 She ends by saying:

20 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
21 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
22 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
23 true.'

24 'Liz' has signed the statement on 9 July 2021.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is of an applicant
2 who will use the pseudonym 'Maxine'.
3 'Maxine' (read)
4 MS MACLEOD: The statement can be found at WIT-1-000001190:
5 'My name is 'Maxine' ... [I was born in] 1961 ...
6 'I was born in Paisley Hospital ...
7 'I have five sisters and two brothers ...
8 'I grew up in Bridgeton and we were poor. Dad was
9 a great person, but he was an alcoholic and drink was
10 his downfall. Mum had a horrible life, but that's just
11 the way it was. Whenever dad managed to get a job, he
12 never held onto it for long. When I was about 4 or 5
13 I remember dad was off the drink and got a job looking
14 after the park in Bridgeton. There was a restaurant in
15 the park and he used to take us there and we'd get a wee
16 bit of rice and a wee bit of jam. That was good,
17 however, as fast as dad got the job, he was back on the
18 drink and so he wasn't there long.
19 'We were always dressed like tramps. We had
20 nothing. We got flung out of house after house and each
21 one was always dirty ...
22 'We went to ... school and we were always getting
23 bullied and chased by the other kids. We would be told
24 we were diseased and that we lived in a smelly house.
25 School was hard and I used to struggle, but instead of

1 teaching me I was always getting a skelp off the nuns
2 ...

3 'There was never enough food. Mum used to go up to
4 the school with a tin and bring food down, because dad
5 would be in jail or away to his brother's in England.
6 We also used to rake middens for scraps. I remember
7 a time I found a [wee] bit of wedding cake and took it
8 home to share. It was lovely.

9 'The social work were involved with us for all of
10 the time I can remember, although I don't remember
11 seeing a social worker in our house a lot ...

12 'Even from a [very] young age, we were sent on
13 residential holidays to different homes around the
14 country to give my mother a wee break ...

15 'Eventually my sister ... and I were put into
16 St Euphrasia's Convent in Bishopton, because a teacher
17 at ... secondary school battered [my sister] ...

18 'My sister and I hadn't been going to school because
19 we were getting bullied, and called names and so, after
20 this happened, we were put to a Children's Panel and
21 they told us we were getting sent away. I don't
22 remember getting put to the Children's Panel at any
23 other time and I don't remember getting to say much that
24 time we did. All I do remember about what the Panel
25 said was that we would be picked up the next day by

1 social work and taken to a home. We weren't told how
2 long we would be there, or where we were going.'

3 Between paragraphs 14 and 24, the witness describes
4 her experiences in the residential respite care
5 placements that she mentioned.

6 From paragraph 25 onwards, she focuses on her time
7 at St Euphrasia in Bishopton. Records suggest that this
8 witness was admitted to St Euphrasia's on
9 [REDACTED] 1975, when she would have been aged 14, and
10 that she was discharged on [REDACTED] 1977, when she would
11 have been aged 16.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: 'The convent at St Euphrasia's was a really big
14 old building with a [wee] bit at the back where older
15 nuns stayed. Inside the building was split into houses,
16 all named after different saints. There was
17 Goretti House, St Claire's House, St Margaret's and
18 a few others. There was also a gym hall with a stage,
19 a big dining hall, a chapel and several workshop rooms
20 where girls did various jobs.

21 'When you went into Goretti House there was a hall,
22 a big living room with lots of couches, a kitchen and
23 a toilet. If you went through another couple of doors
24 you came to St Claire's, and if you went upstairs, you
25 came to the dormitories.

1 'The dormitories were big rooms with curtains around
2 each of the beds like in a hospital ward. I think there
3 were eight beds in the dormitory I was in and all there
4 was in each space was a bed and a wee table at the side.
5 There were no downies, all the beds had sheets and jaggy
6 covers on them and were washed in the laundry.

7 'Sister HOJ was the nun who was SNR, but
8 I can't remember the names of the other nuns. One of
9 the Sisters in Goretti House was a Newcastle football
10 supporter, but I can't remember her name. She came from
11 Newcastle and used to talk about football all the time.

12 'All the nuns stayed in the convent, but there were
13 also staff who came in from outside. Two of the staff
14 in Goretti House were a Mrs McRoberts and
15 a Miss Stanley, who were both ladies from Bishopton.
16 They were both nice and had been there for years. The
17 staff used to help out the nuns during the day.

18 'I would say there were probably about 100 girls in
19 total in St Euphrasia's and about 12 in each house.
20 There were girls from all over the country in Goretti
21 House, and I became quite friendly with a couple of them
22 ...

23 '[My first stay] must have been in 1975, when I was
24 14. [My sister] and I were sent ... by the Children's
25 Panel.

1 'We went home after the Panel and the next day
2 Mrs Shannon came in her own car to take us to the
3 convent. [That's the social worker]. I don't think we
4 took anything with us, although we never had anything to
5 take, other than the clothes we were wearing.

6 'I remember being in the car with Ms Shannon and [my
7 sister] and thinking we were just going to yet another
8 respite home. I also remember walking into
9 St Euphrasia's and seeing all the nuns. They were all
10 wearing big hats and long black robes with white down
11 the middle and were all carrying rosary beads.

12 'Mrs Shannon came in for a short time and then [my
13 sister] and I were left with one of the nuns, who
14 I think was Sister HOJ . She got somebody else to
15 take us up to our dormitories and I thought [my sister]
16 and I would be going to the same room, but we were told
17 they didn't put sisters together. I was put in Goretti
18 House and [my sister] was put into St Claire's.

19 'As soon as we arrived I was taken into a wee room
20 and given a comb and a toothbrush and toothpaste. We
21 had to carry that comb with us all the time in our sock
22 and I was told that if I lost it I would have to buy
23 another. I don't know how I could have bought one
24 though, because I never had any money.

25 'Nobody was allowed to speak in the dormitory, and

1 one of the Sisters, or one of the staff, used to sit
2 right outside the door of the dormitory all night to
3 check that we didn't. If you needed the toilet you
4 would get up, and she would be sitting there. If
5 somebody did speak, you'd be in trouble.

6 'In the morning, the nun would shout us to get up,
7 and we'd have to tidy up and make our beds. I don't
8 remember what time it would have been, but it was early.
9 We'd have to wash our faces at the sinks in the
10 bathroom, one at a time and we'd have to make sure our
11 hair was nicely brushed.

12 'We were inspected every morning by whichever member
13 of staff was on. We stood outside the door of our
14 dormitory and they would check to make sure we had
15 washed properly and our hair was neat. If you hadn't
16 done it properly you were shouted at and told to get it
17 done again.

18 'After the morning inspection, we'd get breakfast in
19 our own houses and then we had to walk along the
20 corridors to the gym hall and stand in lines in each of
21 our houses for assembly. We weren't allowed to talk,
22 and the staff would stand with us while the nuns stood
23 up on the stage. Sister HOJ would be there, and she
24 would tell us what might be happening that day and we'd
25 all say prayers.

1 'Once assembly was over, we'd go to one of the
2 workshop rooms where we'd be given something to do, and
3 then we'd have a [wee] break and we could go outside.
4 All we'd do outside was walk around in a circle. We
5 were allowed to talk as long as we didn't overdo it.
6 Sometimes we were allowed to sit but then a nun or one
7 of the staff would tell us to get up again and start
8 walking in a circle.

9 'We had our dinner at either 12.30 pm or 1.00 pm in
10 the dining hall with all the girls from all of the
11 houses, and then we'd be given work to do in the
12 afternoon, which was usually cleaning. I'm not sure
13 what time we ate in the evening, but we had that meal
14 back in Goretti House.

15 'After the evening meal, there was always more
16 cleaning to be done before we were allowed to sit down.
17 We then had some supper and we were always in bed early,
18 but I don't know what time that would have been.

19 'I remember being asked if I smoked when I arrived,
20 and I can't remember whether I did before, but I said
21 I did anyway. Every evening after that we used to be
22 given one cigarette each, which we all sat and smoked
23 before we went to bed. The cigarettes were kept in
24 a wee office just at the door of Goretti House and every
25 night everyone, even the younger girls of 11 years old,

1 were given a cigarette. We each had a packet that they
2 must have put our names on and the Sister would give us
3 one from it before locking them away again. I don't
4 remember any girl not smoking.

5 'I was still wetting the bed while I was at
6 St Euphrasia's. Sometimes I tried to hide it if
7 I could. Other times I couldn't and I'd have to get in
8 the bath and wash myself. It would depend what staff
9 were on, but some of them would call me names and say
10 I was disgusting. I am not sure which staff behaved
11 like that, but it wasn't Mrs McRoberts or Miss Stanley.

12 'The toilet was to the right outside our dormitory,
13 but you couldn't just have a shower or a bath whenever
14 you wanted. You had to wait for your turn and you were
15 told when you could have one. I don't remember getting
16 a lot of baths, it was more washes at the sink that we
17 had. When we did have a bath the door was closed and we
18 had privacy, but the door was never allowed to be
19 locked.

20 'They'd given us a toothbrush and toothpaste when we
21 arrived, but once the toothpaste ran out you had to have
22 money to buy more. Boxes were kept in a room upstairs,
23 but I never had any money to buy any. Some girls did
24 have money, I don't know if their parents had given them
25 some, but my mother never did.

1 '[For meals] I think there were four tables in
2 Goretti House, and five or six girls would sit at each.
3 We always had the same seat and we all knew where we had
4 to sit. At dinner time, all the girls from all of the
5 houses ate in the dining hall and we all sat at tables
6 for each house, but we ate the evening meal back in
7 Goretti House.

8 'The food was all right and I was quite grateful for
9 whatever I was given. I think we had cereal and toast
10 for breakfast, but there was never a choice for any
11 meal. We all had to stand in a queue and get it and
12 then take it back to our tables. Sometimes one of the
13 staff in Goretti House cooked the evening meal, but
14 I can't really remember what we got. At nighttime
15 somebody would maybe make a bit of toast and we'd get
16 a cup of tea.

17 'Once there was fish and I'd never seen fish before
18 so I took it along with some potatoes. As soon as
19 I tasted the fish I knew I didn't like it, so I left it.
20 I thought it would be okay, but I was told by one of the
21 nuns that I had to eat it. I told the nun I didn't like
22 it so I left it and went away. At the evening meal,
23 though, back in Goretti House it was served up to me
24 again. Someone had taken the fish from the main dining
25 hall so that it could be served up to me again in

1 Goretti House.

2 'I still refused to eat it and it was served up to
3 me again for breakfast and at dinner the next day.
4 Later on that night, I was taken back to the dining hall
5 and it was served up to me again. It was just me and
6 the nun in the dining hall and she told me I had to eat
7 it. I realised there was no way out of it, so I took
8 some, along with a sip of water, and then ran to the
9 toilet because I was vomiting. The nun told me that was
10 enough and I have never touched fish since.

11 'We never did much, if anything, outside Goretti
12 House. It wasn't as if I could go and see my sister ...
13 or anything like that. I don't remember anything being
14 organised for us in Goretti House either, although maybe
15 different houses might have done things.

16 'There was a TV in the living room, but that was
17 only on at certain times. I remember Top of the Pops
18 used to be on, but nobody was ever allowed to just put
19 the telly on when they wanted. I think there were books
20 about, but I couldn't read, so they were no use to me.

21 'A lot of girls went home at the weekend so
22 sometimes there were only two or three of us left. You
23 wouldn't really see the nuns at the weekend, instead we
24 were looked after by Mrs McRoberts. Ms McRoberts used
25 to take us walking a lot and we went down to the village

1 and through the fields.

2 'There was a woman from America at the convent who
3 was supposed to be a PE teacher. We would all stand in
4 the gym hall while she taught us how to breathe and we'd
5 have to do exercises and put our arms up in the air and
6 things like that.

7 'We wore a uniform all the time and all the houses
8 wore different colours. In Goretti House it was a green
9 skirt and jumper.

10 'I had no other clothes, but Miss Stanley used to
11 bring me things. She brought me a couple of pairs of
12 trousers which were old, but I was grateful for them and
13 I wore them all the time. I also made myself
14 a grandfather shirt and a pair of trousers in sewing
15 class ...

16 'Some girls were taken out shopping and when I asked
17 about it they told me that they got a clothing grant.
18 I never got anything like that so I asked the nun in the
19 office. She used to tell me I didn't have enough money,
20 so I never got to go for new clothes.

21 'The only time I was taken out shopping was just
22 before I was 16, when I was taken to a big store in the
23 town by one of the staff. She told me I was to get
24 a coat and I ended up getting a long coat, a pair of
25 shoes and a dress. I wasn't happy at all because

1 I wanted to go to another shop and get different things.

2 'I don't remember seeing a dentist, but I think
3 a doctor from outside came in once a fortnight or so,
4 I think that was just for a check up, I don't remember
5 seeing a doctor when I was ill.

6 'I was late with my periods and never started them
7 until I had left St Euphrasia's, but some of the other
8 girls did have theirs. They were given sanitary towels
9 but I don't think they got enough. I remember other
10 girls saying they would have to make do with what they
11 had.

12 'I don't think all the girls at St Euphrasia's were
13 Catholic, but everyone had to go to chapel and everyone
14 had to say the prayers.

15 'I hated going to chapel. I was brought up
16 a Catholic, and we used to go when we were young, but we
17 went a lot in St Euphrasia's. We also had to go to
18 confession with a priest, who stayed in the convent, and
19 there were prayers all the time. The nun in Goretti
20 House would say the prayers in the morning, then we'd go
21 down the stairs for breakfast and there would be more.

22 'I know that some of the other houses used to
23 organise different trips for their girls, but there was
24 nothing like that in Goretti. We were never taken
25 swimming or to the cinema or anywhere. I used to wish

1 I was in my sister's ... house, because I thought
2 St Claire's was much better. I know they got taken out
3 and that [my sister] got stuff bought for her.

4 'Mrs McRoberts, one of the staff, used to take me
5 and another couple of girls to her son's grave at the
6 weekend sometimes to lay flowers. Eventually they got
7 a minibus and a few of us were taken to Glasgow Airport
8 to see the planes. We just went and wandered around for
9 an hour or so before going back to the convent.

10 'In the summer the convent shut for six weeks and
11 some girls would go back to their parents, although [my
12 sister] and I never did. Instead, as well as some other
13 girls, we were sent elsewhere to stay. Before
14 St Euphrasia's shut we all had to stand in the assembly
15 hall and one of the nuns would read out where you were
16 going ... [My sister] and I were always sent to
17 different places.

18 'I remember being in Saltcoats, but I don't remember
19 doing much. All I remember is we stayed in a wee place
20 where there were more nuns.

21 'I had no schooling at St Euphrasia's, even though
22 I'd been sent there for skipping school. I couldn't
23 read or write and yet I got nothing. I don't think
24 anybody would have got much of an education though,
25 because instead, every day, we all had to work. I'm not

1 sure how many hours a day we spent, but we were working
2 and cleaning seven days a week.

3 'A lot of the time I worked downstairs in one of the
4 workshop rooms, where a crowd of us used to sort out
5 hundreds of coloured pins. When I think back on it,
6 I think they must have got work in and we were doing it
7 for somewhere else. All the pins would be put on a
8 table, and each had a ball on the end that was white or
9 red, that we had to sort out, and put in boxes. We
10 might do that for two or three days each ...

11 'I've since spoken to my sister ... and she said she
12 used to get paid for doing this, but I never did.
13 I don't remember getting any money at any time. At
14 other times, like at Christmas, if it was coming up,
15 we'd have to make things. We'd be given stuff and told
16 what to do by one of the nuns.

17 'The girls were the cleaners for the convent, we
18 cleaned everywhere. Every Thursday night the living
19 room in Goretti House had to be cleaned. We moved all
20 of the furniture to one side of the room, cleaned,
21 dusted, polished everywhere, and then moved everything
22 to the other side and did the same before moving
23 everything back. Some of the furniture was heavy, there
24 were sofas and big sideboards and there was a rug in the
25 middle that took four of us to lift.

1 'After we had cleaned one of the Sisters would come
2 in and inspect everywhere. It was only if she thought
3 everything was all right that we were allowed to put the
4 telly on.

5 'Sometimes I worked in the laundry, where there were
6 [always] ringers that I had to feed bedsheets through.
7 I also had to get the milk for the cereal at breakfast
8 sometimes. One of the girls who had been there for
9 a while would be picked and I had to do it quite a lot,
10 even though I hated doing it. You had to walk along
11 these dark corridors in the kitchen with one of the nuns
12 and carry a big jug of milk back. The nun would be
13 unlocking and locking doors as you went and if you spilt
14 any of the milk on the way you would be in big trouble.

15 'After dinner we also had to do the dishes and they
16 always had to be done in a certain way. The dishes had
17 to be dried with a certain dish towel and a different
18 cloth had to be used for the pots. There were quite
19 a lot of dishes and pots to be dried and if you forgot
20 to use the correct cloth there was big trouble. You'd
21 think you had murdered somebody the way the nun would
22 react, grabbing you and shouting in your face.

23 'One of the staff had a baby while I was there and
24 brought it into work and I was told I had to look after
25 it. I had to push the baby about in its pram and feed

1 it with the food she gave me. I had to do that for
2 quite a while.'

3 The witness then provides some evidence about
4 birthdays and Christmas, personal possessions and
5 visitors, where she says that her mother came to see her
6 and her sister once, but that otherwise she had no
7 visitors.

8 In relation to review of care, the witness says that
9 she thinks Mrs Shannon, her social worker, came to see
10 her and her sister once in all the time they were in
11 St Euphrasia's and she can't recall being at another
12 Children's Panel.

13 She doesn't remember anybody coming in to inspect
14 St Euphrasia's while she was there:

15 'My mother didn't want us home at first, but after
16 a time she decided she would have [my sister] and I home
17 for a weekend and we were given the bus fare by the
18 nuns. Another time we were taken on the minibus and
19 dropped off at the ... bus station, and then we had to
20 get a bus to where my mum was staying ...

21 'My mum didn't have a phone so I couldn't have
22 called her but I don't remember any other girl phoning
23 home either.

24 'I wasn't allowed to talk to [my sister] at any
25 time. We were always kept separate and girls in

1 different houses weren't ... allowed to mix with each
2 other.

3 'I ran away quite a lot. I don't know how often,
4 just that I did so as much as I could. I didn't know
5 where I was going, but I ... had to get away. I knew
6 where the motorway was and I managed to make it there
7 once, even though I never had any shoes or socks on ...
8 I got to my mother's and she called the police and I was
9 taken back to St Euphrasia's ...

10 'I ran away with another girl a different time and
11 she took us to a ... bus station, because ... we had
12 nothing on our feet and she knew we could get old shoes
13 there.

14 'Nobody ever asked me why I ran away, but you always
15 got punished when you got back. Any time the police
16 caught me they never spoke to me, they just took me back
17 and handed me over to the Sister.

18 'Once I was taken up the stairs and had to polish
19 the floor of the big long corridor as a punishment for
20 running away. Usually there would be a few girls doing
21 that, but that time it was just me. I had to go down on
22 my hands and knees and rub grease all the way along the
23 floor, because I got the big bumper to rub it in and
24 then shine it up with a pad. After I'd done it, one of
25 the Sisters came along and wiped her finger along the

1 floor. I don't know which Sister it was, and she never
2 said much, but she made me do it again.

3 'It depended what nun or what member of staff was on
4 duty overnight, but if you were caught speaking you
5 would be in big trouble. They might come in and grab
6 you and tell you to be quiet.

7 'I used to scratch my face, pull my hair and shake
8 my leg all the time and if I did that I would get a slap
9 on the head, or on the knee, from one of the nuns or the
10 staff. I couldn't help it, and I still do it, but ...
11 they would hit me on the back of the head all the time.

12 'I remember cleaning the dormitory once and seeing
13 a dirty sanitary towel on the floor. One of the other
14 girls had kicked it under my bed and the nun told me to
15 pick it up. I told her it wasn't mine, but the nun
16 started shouting and bawling at me. I can't remember
17 which nun it was, and I told her it wasn't mine, but she
18 told me to pick it up and then she grabbed my hand and
19 made me pick it up and took me to the toilet to get rid
20 of it.

21 'She told me she was going to report it, and so
22 I had to go downstairs in front of Sister HOJ .
23 I can't remember the punishment I got, but I was
24 furious. They knew it wasn't mine, because I wasn't
25 getting my periods, and yet I was still made to pick it

1 up and punished when I refused.

2 'When my mother came to visit, [my sister and
3 I] asked her for a pair of sandals. [She] had said that
4 she was going to take us home on ... Friday and we were
5 looking forward to it. But when Friday came we were
6 shown into Sister HOJ [REDACTED]'s office and she asked us if we
7 had asked for shoes. When [my sister] told her she had,
8 Sister HOJ [REDACTED] slapped her really hard across the face
9 and grabbed me by the arm after I tried to protect [my
10 sister], and we never got home.

11 'A regular punishment was being locked in a wee
12 visiting room in your pyjamas if you didn't do as you
13 were told. That happened to lots of girls regularly,
14 and it happened to me a few times. You'd spend hours in
15 that room, sometimes you'd be in all night and they
16 never brought any food or gave you a blanket or
17 anything. Someone would come and check on you every so
18 often but that was all.

19 'Goretti House was a bit rowdy, and there were a few
20 troubled girls in there. [There was girl in there]
21 I got on all right with her, but she was a bully. She
22 was quite verbal with other girls and everybody was
23 scared of her.

24 'If [the girl] was playing up, the staff would grab
25 her and take her away. Once in the dormitory the nun

1 was trying to [grab the girl to get the girl] to do
2 something, and [the girl] was being verbal back to [the
3 nun]. The next thing, the nun grabbed hold of her, so
4 [the girl] pushed the nun and the police were called.
5 I think [the girl] was locked up afterwards, down the
6 stairs in the visiting room.

7 'One time I saw my sister ... getting bullied by
8 another girl at dinner time and none of the staff were
9 doing anything, so I grabbed the girl. After I did,
10 I was grabbed by one of the staff, I don't know who, and
11 put in a room. I only had my pyjamas on and nothing on
12 my feet, but I decided to run away and I climbed out the
13 window. I walked along the back streets of Bishopton
14 and took a jacket off a washing line to keep warm.
15 Eventually I was caught ... and taken back.

16 'Over a few weekends one of the staff, although
17 I can't remember who it was, took me to Quarrier's Homes
18 in a car. There was nobody else, just me and this
19 woman. I remember seeing all the big houses with lots
20 of children. We stopped outside one of the houses and
21 I saw there were babies sitting outside on the grass.
22 I'd never seen so many children all sitting about.

23 'Every time I was taken inside the house, which was
24 always the same one, but I can't get by that door to
25 find out what happened inside. My memory just won't let

1 me and I don't know if I've blocked something out.

2 'I told my mother how I was being treated at
3 St Euphrasia's, but she never said anything much. I'm
4 not saying it was right, but things like that just
5 happened in those days.

6 'Every girl left St Euphrasia's when they were 16,
7 so I knew I would be leaving then too. Someone in the
8 convent had sorted out something with Castlemilk
9 Community Centre before I was due to leave and I had to
10 get there for work experience ...

11 'My dad was out of jail by then, so I went to stay
12 with him [for a while] ...'

13 From paragraph 105 the witness speaks about her time
14 after being in care a little more, she says that she was
15 pregnant when she was 17 and that she eventually married
16 her partner and that they had seven children by the time
17 she was 27.

18 At paragraph 106, she says:

19 'At the same time, I had my own house and I liked
20 cleaning. Cleaning and painting was all I knew.
21 I never had any pals and I never went out, because I had
22 the children ...'

23 And her partner was a drinker.

24 She says:

25 'I enjoyed having my children and teaching them how

1 to look after themselves, teaching them how to clean,
2 iron and cook. That was what I had done at
3 St Euphrasia's and I taught my children what I had been
4 taught, however, when I look back I know it was wrong
5 that I did that.'

6 In paragraph 110 onwards, the witness describes the
7 impact that she considers her time in care has had on
8 her life. She says:

9 'A lot of things have come back to me, although
10 sometimes your brain keeps things from you ...'

11 At paragraph 113 she says:

12 'I don't trust people, but I don't know why that is.
13 I have never had any friends and I can't get close to
14 people. I shut the door if anyone tries to get near me.
15 I keep myself to myself as I did in Goretti House.'

16 She says the worst mistake of her life was getting
17 into a relationship with her husband. She says:

18 'I had nowhere to go when I left St Euphrasia's, no
19 support and no advice and I didn't know any better.'

20 At 115, she says:

21 'I know that I have obsessive compulsive disorder
22 and I think I have passed that to some of my children.
23 That comes from me having to clean all the time in
24 St Euphrasia's and some of my children are the same.
25 The only time I was happy was when I was cleaning and

1 they always have to be cleaning as well, all the time.'

2 At 116, she says:

3 'I was never given an education. I'm not a speller
4 and I'm not a writer, although I am all right now ...

5 'The only things I've ever bought new for myself is
6 my underwear, everything else I buy in charity shops
7 ...'

8 She says:

9 'I don't know if it's maybe because I feel as if
10 I don't deserve it. I wouldn't feel comfortable
11 treating myself.'

12 In paragraph 121, the witness says that her sister
13 applied for her records and that she thinks she is
14 mentioned in those, but that she's never applied for her
15 own records.

16 From paragraph 124 onwards, the witness sets out
17 some points about lessons to be learned and she says:

18 'Every kid is an individual and all have different
19 problems and need more reassurance when they are in
20 care. They need time to sit together and to talk to
21 each other. They need to learn how to have feelings,
22 and they need to be comforted and be encouraged that
23 they have a future. I used to lie in my bed in
24 St Euphrasia's and wonder how I would meet a man and how
25 I would find somewhere to live.

1 'It was all rules in the places I was, there was
2 never any reassurance and nothing was ever explained to
3 me about life. I think a lot of people would be willing
4 to try and help teach kids that life doesn't have to
5 mean running away and getting a house and a pram. They
6 need to be told that love will come to them and that
7 they can have security.

8 'Kids in care have got to be looked after properly.
9 They need to feel secure because there are too many
10 people going about who might want to do them harm. They
11 are more vulnerable, especially when they're in their
12 teenage years, and the right people need to be looking
13 after them, who can recognise what they need.

14 'That support should continue after they leave for
15 couple of years, or however long is needed. I had
16 nothing from anyone. I knew nothing about getting
17 a bank account or managing money and paying bills. Kids
18 in care need help, even more than kids who are still
19 with their parents.

20 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
21 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
22 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
23 true.'

24 'Maxine' signed the statement on 2 February 2023.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 We will finish there for today.

2 Tomorrow morning, 10 o'clock, I think we have a live
3 witness ready at that stage?

4 MS MACLEOD: We have a live witness planned for that stage,
5 and then some read-ins, and then another live witness
6 planned for 2 o'clock.

7 LADY SMITH: 2 o'clock, very well.

8 Until then, thank you very much.

9 (4.00 pm)

10 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday, 11
11 December 2024)

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