

1 Wednesday, 11 December 2024

2 (10.10 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Chapter 11,  
4 in which we are hearing evidence about St Euphrasia's at  
5 the moment.

6 We have a witness who is ready to give evidence,  
7 I think, Mr MacAulay?

8 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady, we do.

9           This witness is an applicant who wants to remain  
10       anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Margaret' --

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: -- in giving evidence. 'Margaret' gave  
13 evidence before orally --

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MR MACAULAY: -- in the foster care chapter. That was on  
16 Day 297, on 16 June 2022. That evidence is at  
17 TRN-10-0000000028.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 'Margaret' (sworn)

20 LADY SMITH: Good morning, 'Margaret'.

21 A. Good morning.

22 LADY SMITH: Welcome back.

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23         'Margaret', do sit down and make yourself
24     comfortable.
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25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Just take your time.

2 Are you all right, 'Margaret'?

3 A. Yes, thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Good. Thank you, as I say, for coming back

5 today to help us with more evidence. I remember you

6 gave us such a help last time you were here, and there

7 are some questions we would like to ask you about some

8 other parts of the written evidence that we already have

9 from you today.

10 Can I just remind you, having that written statement

11 beforehand has been really helpful to me, because I have

12 been able to see what's in it beforehand and think about

13 that. So we won't need to go through every single line

14 of it, we will just focus on some particular parts that

15 we are interested in, if that's okay with you.

16 'Margaret', if you need a break at any time, for any

17 reason, just tell me. It is not a problem.

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: You can have a break. If we are going too

20 fast, or we are not explaining things properly, you tell

21 us. It is our fault, not yours, if that happens. Do

22 remember, I appreciate that coming to talk about your

23 own life in this setting is really difficult. And it

24 can get very upsetting, I know that. Don't be

25 embarrassed, I do understand, and we can deal with that.

1       We will do what we can to help you through, all right.

2   A.   Thank you.

3   LADY SMITH: I will hand to Mr MacAulay, and he will take it  
4       from there. If you use all those tissues, we can get  
5       you another box.

6   A.   Thank you.

7   LADY SMITH: All right. So pull away, all right.

8                       Questions from Mr MacAulay

9   MR MACAULAY: Hello, 'Margaret', and as Lady Smith said,  
10       welcome back to the Inquiry, and thank you for coming  
11       back.

12       The first thing I want to do is just to give the  
13       reference for your statement to the stenographers, and  
14       that's at WIT-1-000000553.

15       Last time you were here, 'Margaret', you confirmed  
16       that you had signed your statement, you may remember  
17       doing that, and you also told us that you were happy for  
18       your statement to be published and what you say in it is  
19       true.

20   A.   Yes.

21   Q.   Is that right? You also last time confirmed that you  
22       were born in the year 1954?

23   A.   Yes.

24   Q.   Now, as we go along, your statement is in front of you  
25       in the red folder there, it also comes up on the screen,

1       so that if there is any part of it that you want to look  
2       at to remind yourself as to what you have said  
3       previously, feel free to do that.

4           Can I begin just to ask you a little bit about your  
5       life before you went into care. What you tell us is  
6       that when you were staying with your mother, your father  
7       was in prison?

8   A. Yes.

9   Q. Is that right? He was in prison because he was stealing  
10       in order to buy food for the family?

11  A. Yes.

12  Q. Because things were tight?

13  A. Yes.

14  Q. Can you then tell me what happened in relation to your  
15       mum, and how you had to go into care?

16  A. Well, it was my dad's sister that reported my mum to  
17       a police woman called Miss Foot, and she came along and  
18       my mum was ill wi' tuberculosis, so I wasnae getting  
19       seen to properly. And I think it was Miss Foot that got  
20       social care in to see to me, and I was taken away from  
21       my mum. This is as much as I know.

22  Q. Of course. You were very, very young at the time.

23  A. Yeah. I mean I only ken the stories that were told to  
24       me; I don't know the facts.

25  Q. You don't remember, of course. You were taken to



1 Nazareth House, Kilbarnock?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You must have been what, 1 or 2 at that time?

4 A. Probably, yeah.

5 Q. And so because you were so young, you have very little

6 memory of your time there. But one thing you do tell us

7 is that there was a young teenage girl who helped you

8 when you were there?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. As we will see, much later in life you came across her

11 again?

12 A. Yeah, [REDACTED], yeah.

13 Q. One thing I do want to ask you about is what you say in

14 paragraph 14. We are not looking at Nazareth House in

15 this chapter, but I just want to ask you about this

16 particular point, because what you say there is:

17 'The social work just put us in Nazareth House to

18 rot.'

19 Do I take it from that you have no recollection of

20 having any input from the social work service?

21 A. No, they never came to see me or anything. I was just

22 left there.

23 Q. Yes. The other thing you tell us, and I want to ask you

24 about, because this, I think, has impacted your life, is

25 that at paragraph 16, when you were about 3 years old,

1           you had tubular meningitis?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   What do you remember about that?

4   A.   Nothing.

5   Q.   Nothing. But have you --

6   A.   I was taken away from Nazareth House, that's all I know.

7   Q.   Okay. I think, as you tell us later on in your

8           statement, 'Margaret', this tubular meningitis that you

9           had did cause some scarring?

10   A.   Yes, on my brain.

11   Q.   Of your brain, yes.

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   That has affected things like your balance, and so

14           forth?

15   A.   Yeah.

16   Q.   You also go on to tell us, and this is what you

17           discussed before when you were here, 'Margaret', that

18           you had two placements in foster care?

19   A.   Yeah.

20   Q.   One good and one not so good?

21   A.   Yeah.

22   Q.   It was against that background, then, that we come to

23           look at what we are looking at today, and that's your

24           time at St Euphrasia's. Before you went there, you

25           moved back to live with your father; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How was that, when you went back home?

3 A. Well, at first it was fine. Erm, I was still at school.

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. And I had to go through a court, erm, for ... to get

6 back to my dad.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. And then well, we left school. I was 14 when I left

9 school, but I passed to go to, like, cookery college,

10 but there was no grants then, so I got a job in

11 Woolworths. So when I got the job in Woolworths, my

12 stepmum took all my wages.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. And I thought well, they wages were mine for to save up

15 for to get to college, because I needed money to get to

16 college. And it was 4, 10 shilling, the old

17 10 shilling, and she gave me a 10 shilling to keep me

18 all week, that was to buy my dinners and my bus fares

19 and that, and I turned round and I says to her, 'Look,

20 I cannae afford to save up and get dinners and

21 everything off 10 shilling', and she says, 'Well, that's

22 all you're getting', so me and her didnae get on. And

23 when my dad went fishing, she turned round and got

24 socials, social work --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- and said, 'Right, it's either her or me'.  
2 Q. Was the end result that you were taken to the social  
3 work people?  
4 A. Yeah.  
5 Q. When that happened, though, what did the social worker  
6 that dealt with you say to you as to where you were  
7 going to go?  
8 A. Well, the social work turned round, she was really nice,  
9 she turned round and says to me, 'Would you like to go  
10 to college?' Of course I jumped at it, I says, 'Yes,  
11 yes, I would love to go to college'. And like a fool,  
12 I went to St Euphrasia's, didn't I?  
13 Q. Tell me how that happened, then. Did the social worker  
14 take you?  
15 A. She took me to St Euphrasia's.  
16 Q. Did you think that she was taking you to a college?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. To do your cookery class?  
19 A. Yeah, I was going to the college.  
20 Q. Yes.  
21 A. Yeah.  
22 Q. So she misled you, the social worker didn't tell you the  
23 truth as to what was happening?  
24 A. No, no, I was going to a college as far as I was  
25 concerned, yes.

1 Q. So when you got to St Euphrasia's then, did you realise  
2 that that wasn't the case and you were going to a place  
3 that was being run by nuns?  
4 A. Well ... I'm awfully slow, right.  
5 Q. Take your time.  
6 A. I'm awfully slow. I mean, the nuns didnae come into it  
7 to start with.  
8 Q. Right, okay.  
9 A. Right? I seen the nuns, I thought it's a college run by  
10 nuns. Er, I seen a lot of other lassies there, like as  
11 a college, and, er, I was quite happy to start wi',  
12 because I thought it was a college. Erm, I went to  
13 school in there to begin wi'. To learn how to touch  
14 type, do shorthand, and I thought but that's no what  
15 I want.  
16 Q. Yes.  
17 A. That's no what I wanted.  
18 Q. When did you realise then that this wasn't the sort of  
19 college that you thought you were going to?  
20 A. Er, when we all got into the big hall and we were all  
21 separated into different houses, and, er, we were all  
22 put in to dormitories.  
23 Q. Yes.  
24 A. And I thought, 'What's going on?' Ken? 'What is  
25 this?', and the other lassies says, 'Where do you think

1       you are?' I says, 'This is a college, in't it?' And  
2       they burst out laughing and they said, 'No, and you'll  
3       find out what it is just shortly'.

4           And I thought right, and that was it. You didnae  
5       call them Sisters, you called them Mother.

6   Q.   Okay. Can you remember the names of any particular  
7       Sisters then that you had dealings with?

8   A.   No, LLW [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED].

9   Q.   Mother?

10   A.   LLW [REDACTED].

11   Q.   LLW [REDACTED], yes.

12   A.   Yeah, erm, the -- I forget what my housemother was  
13       called.

14   Q.   Okay.

15   LADY SMITH: Don't worry.

16   MR MACAULAY: You mention someone that may have been in  
17       charge of your house. You describe it at paragraph 62,  
18       and that's on the screen, as Miss FSH [REDACTED].

19   A.   Miss FSH [REDACTED] was a woman that had already been there as  
20       -- well, as a teenager, I would say. And she stayed on  
21       and she helped wi' the kids that were going in there.  
22       She was in charge of the bungalow where like you sort  
23       of -- you went fae being in the -- what did I say that  
24       was ...

25   Q.   I think you told us there were perhaps, what, four

1       houses separate in the building?

2   A.   Aye.

3   Q.   That's groups of girls?

4   A.   Yeah. Well, four girls went into the bungalow.

5   Q.   Yes.

6   A.   Right, and that's where me and [REDACTED] were, and

7       Miss FSH [REDACTED] was to look after us four.

8   Q.   Was that later on after you'd been there for a while, or

9       was that from the very beginning?

10  A.   No, that was after about a year.

11  Q.   Yes. So you were there for a while, and was that

12       perhaps in preparation for your leaving and going out to

13       work?

14  A.   That was in preparation for to go home.

15  Q.   Yes.

16       You tell us a little bit about the -- well, perhaps

17       I should put this to you first. So far as the Inquiry

18       is concerned, we have recovered records which suggest

19       that you were admitted to St Euphrasia's in [REDACTED] 1969

20       when you would be 15. Would that fit in with your own

21       recollection?

22  A.   Yeah.

23  Q.   I think you say in your statement there is possibly

24       about 40 other girls there, is that roughly the numbers

25       of girls you reckon that were there at the time?

1 A. Oh, no, there was mair as 40.

2 Q. More than that?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Your house, then, that you were put into at the  
5 beginning, how many girls were in that house?

6 A. Aye, about, aye, 40.

7 Q. About 40, okay.

8 One thing you say, again at paragraph 63 is:

9 'I found that everything was done by routines.'

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you help me with that, can you just explain that to  
12 me?

13 A. Right, when you got up in the morning, right,  
14 Miss EJK, that was the woman that looked after us  
15 in the dormitories.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Right, she'd go up and down the dormitory, ringing a wee  
18 bell, and she would start saying, 'In the name of the  
19 Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen', and we  
20 all jumped up and knelt down in our dormitory space.  
21 And we'd all start saying prayers, in the morning. And  
22 then when we said our prayers, we got up, got changed,  
23 got our beds made and our wee cubicle all cleaned, and  
24 then we got into a queue and down the stairs and into  
25 the breakfast, and, er, we waited on the Mother coming



1       in, whatever Mother was on --

2   Q.   On duty?

3   A.   Like where Lady Smith's sitting.

4   LADY SMITH:   Yes.

5   A.   And whenever she came in, then another bell went for

6       whoever was to get the breakfasts, and the two girls

7       would go up and get the breakfast for each table, and

8       then another bell would ring for you to start eating,

9       and another bell would ring for you to clear the dishes

10      away, and then yous would get your work after that.

11  MR MACAULAY:   Yes, I was going to ask you about that,

12      because was there no schooling, then?

13  A.   No.

14  Q.   By that I mean academic schooling?

15  A.   No.

16  Q.   I think you did mention that you were taught to type?

17  A.   Yeah, touch type.

18  Q.   Touch type.

19  A.   Yeah.

20  Q.   So far as the work was concerned, what sort of work did

21      you have to do?

22  A.   Well, there was the laundry, erm, the laundry done,

23      like, bringing sheets and everything off the beds. And

24      they done Celtic football team, erm, and aye, we were

25      proud to do Celtic football team, to be honest.

1 Er, and then there was the needlework room, where we  
2 hand sewed the priest's garments.

3 Q. Okay, yes.

4 A. Chain stitched the bottom wi' all of the designs at the  
5 bottom. And we stitched the police's sergeant things  
6 on.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Erm, aye, we took great pride in what we done.

9 Q. You mentioned cleaning toilets as well. Did you have to  
10 clean the toilets?

11 A. Oh, that was after -- after I run away.

12 Q. Okay, I will come back to that, then.

13 You tell us at paragraph 67 that you stayed, you  
14 were at St Euphrasia's for about two years in total, and  
15 that you did knuckle down and get on with things, is  
16 that right?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, that was when I was in the sewing room, aye.

18 Q. Would you mind if I asked you to look at a photograph,  
19 'Margaret', to see if you recognise the building?

20 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', we have got a photograph that, if  
21 it is okay with you, we would like to put on screen, and  
22 see if you recognise it, is that all right?

23 A. That's fine.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay.

25 MR MACAULAY: This is at GSH-000000086, at page 2. If you

1 look at the top photograph, it is described as 'Senior  
2 Training Home, Old Bishopton, Renfrewshire'. Do you  
3 recognise that building?

4 A. No.

5 Q. What about the building at the bottom? It is 'Convent,  
6 Old Bishopton', do you recognise that building?

7 A. No.

8 Q. No. The other photograph I want to put up for you is at  
9 GSH-000000086. What about that building, do you  
10 recognise that at all?

11 You are shaking your head?

12 A. No.

13 Q. No. Can you describe the building, then, to me that you  
14 were accommodated in, before you went to the bungalow?

15 A. The building that I went to was ... you went down a long  
16 road, right, the gates were away at the top. You come  
17 down the road, and on the right-hand side was the  
18 unmarried mothers' bit.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Right, and you come right down the road and on the  
21 right-hand side was St Euphrasia's Training Centre.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. And on the left-hand side was -- I forget the name you  
24 call it, but I'll call it for sane's sake the borstal  
25 side.

1 Q. Was that known as Dalbeth, Dalbeth School?

2 A. I've nae idea what it was named as.

3 Q. No. But then if we focus on the St Euphrasia's

4 building, what sort of building was it? Was it a large

5 building, an old building, can you help me?

6 A. To be quite honest, I've got memory loss.

7 Q. Don't worry about that, then, that's fine. It's not

8 really important, I just wanted to know.

9 A. I could take you there but ...

10 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', don't worry, we are asking you

11 about things in your life that were about half a century

12 ago. It is not surprising you don't have any detailed

13 memory.

14 A. Yes, the door, I ken the door is on the right-hand side,

15 there's nae middle door, the door is on the right-hand

16 side.

17 MR MACAULAY: Right.

18 A. Right? There is no middle door to St Euphrasia's.

19 Q. But it was a big enough building to accommodate quite

20 a lot of girls?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Yes. Okay, the other thing I want to ask about your

23 time there is to do with visits. You tell us at

24 paragraph 70, 'Margaret', that some people did get to go

25 home at weekends, is that correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What about yourself?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You never got home?

5 A. I did, er, I got home very occasionally. Erm, maybe  
6 twice, thrice. But that was it.

7 Q. Okay. One thing that I think shocked you at the time  
8 was when you were talking to other girls and when you  
9 were told that you were in a group of kids that were  
10 deemed uncontrollable. Did that take you aback?

11 A. Oh that, that was the girls at the other side. At the  
12 borstal side.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. They were separated fae us.

15 Q. I understand that, but did somebody say to you that you  
16 were in a group that was uncontrollable, or was that  
17 really talking about the group of the other girls?

18 A. No, that was --

19 Q. That was their group?

20 A. Yeah, that was, I'm talking about them. When we went up  
21 for, sorry, Holy Communion.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Right, we werenae allowed to sort of look down like  
24 that, and say 'Hiya', if you ken what I mean.

25 Q. You weren't allowed to speak to the other girls; is that

1           what you are telling us?

2   A.   No, 'cause you were --

3   Q.   You were kept apart?

4   A.   Yeah, you went up to the altar, you could only see them

5           when you went up to the altar, and, er, when you went to

6           receive the sacrament, you could sort of go like that.

7   Q.   You could look round, yes?

8   A.   And look round, and you could say, 'Hiya', or whatever.

9           And they didnae allow that.

10   Q.   No. You go on to tell us a little bit at paragraph 72

11           and 73 about healthcare, and in particular you were

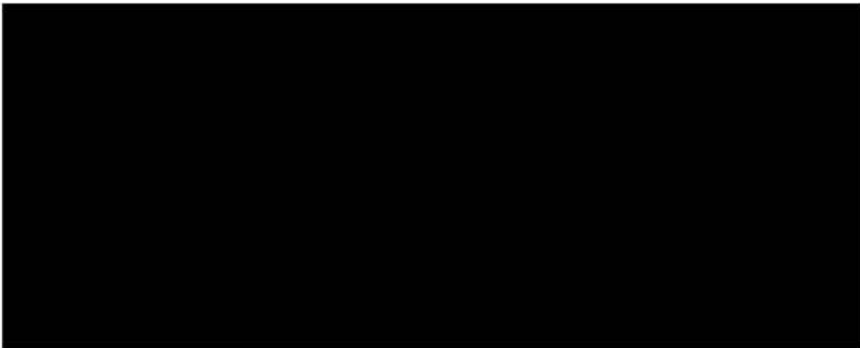
12           given a brown tablet by the nuns to take each night. It

13           is blacked out, but I just want to ask you about it, and

14           you never knew what these tablets were for, do you

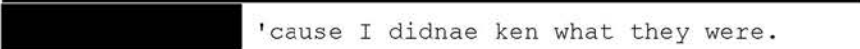
15           remember that?

16   A.   Yeah, I remember that.

17   Q.   

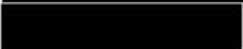
18

19

20   A.   

21

22

23    'cause I didnae ken what they were.

24   Q.   No.

25   A.   And I was so lonely, naebody wrote to me. I felt alone,

1 no loved, and I was desperate. I just wanted to die.  
2 I asked God why was I born, why was I put on this earth,  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 Q. [REDACTED]  
7 A. [REDACTED]  
8 Q. Obviously you didn't die, 'Margaret', [REDACTED]  
9 A. Yeah.  
10 Q. Did you get any consideration or help [REDACTED]?  
11 A. No. They left me, they left me [REDACTED]  
12 and that would make me learn, [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED] It was  
14 my own fault.  
15 Q. Take your time, 'Margaret', we are not in any hurry.  
16 A. Sorry.  
17 Q. 'Margaret', I want to ask you about a time when you and  
18 one of your friends ran away from St Euphrasia's.  
19 A. Yeah.  
20 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did that come about?  
21 Why did you decide to run away?  
22 A. When we were in the bungalow, it was good. Erm, there  
23 was only four o' us. And something happened wi'  
24 [REDACTED], erm, and FSH [REDACTED] got on to her, and [REDACTED] was  
25 -- she was timid, would you say timid?

1 Q. This is your friend [REDACTED], I think?

2 A. Yeah, and, erm, whenever she got worried, she wet the  
3 bed. Erm, it was a psychological thing and that night  
4 she wet the bed and FSH [REDACTED] actually went through her  
5 the next morning and she gave her hell and that was it.  
6 I says, 'Come on', I says, 'I've had enough of her,  
7 we're going to run away, come on'. I says, 'We'll run  
8 away, we'll get a flat together'. Mind, we didnae have  
9 a penny, not one o' us had a penny.

10 Q. Was she the same age as you, 'Margaret'?

11 A. Yeah. I says, 'We'll get a job, and we'll just stay  
12 together', 'Aye, okay'.

13 Q. You are telling us there this decision was made because  
14 of the way your friend [REDACTED] had been treated --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- by FSH [REDACTED]?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What about your own treatment from the nuns, how were  
19 you treated generally?

20 A. It wasnae the nuns, it was the women that actually --  
21 the nuns never got their hands dirty.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Can I say that?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. They never got their hands dirty. They got the women to



1 do the dirty work.

2 Q. What was the dirty work?

3 A. Er, shouting, er, throwing things about, and basically

4 just bullying us.

5 Q. These were members of the lay staff, then?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Female staff?

8 A. Yeah, female, yeah. And we took off, me and [REDACTED] took

9 off.

10 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

11 A. Yeah, erm, naively, again, we started hitching on the --

12 is it the motorway, you call it?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. The motorway. And the police picked us up. It was

15 funny, the police picked us up, 'Where are you going?',

16 'We're going home. We were at a party and we spent our

17 money'. Oh, the lies that we tell. And then it come

18 over the thing, erm, 'Two abscondee from

19 St Euphrasia's', and they turned right round and took us

20 back to St Euphrasia's, and that was when we were kept

21 outside LLW [REDACTED]'s office and we had to stand

22 there 'til the doctor came.

23 Q. Is that yourself and [REDACTED] standing there waiting outside

24 the office?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Did you separately go into the office, did you go into  
2 the office first, or what happened?  
3 A. Well, there's, like, LLW [REDACTED]'s office here and  
4 there's a wee sick room there.  
5 Q. Right.  
6 A. And they said they were waiting on the doctor coming,  
7 but it was FSH [REDACTED] and Miss EJK [REDACTED] who were in that  
8 room, and I was called in first.  
9 Q. Are you able to tell us then, what happened, 'Margaret'.  
10 A. Yeah. I was put up on the bed, well, you know, the  
11 white bed things, leatherette bed things, and ... pulled  
12 my pants down.  
13 Q. Who did that?  
14 A. FSH [REDACTED] and EJK [REDACTED].  
15 Q. Did you know what was happening?  
16 A. No. No. And then they pushed my legs up and then they  
17 spreadeagled my legs, and then this man -- this man  
18 stuck his hand up me. He stuck his hand up me and then  
19 he said -- he said, 'She's intact, intact', and then  
20 they tell me to put my pants on, and send [REDACTED] in.  
21 And when [REDACTED] come out, she never said two words, she  
22 never said two words.  
23 Q. When this was happening to you, 'Margaret', were you  
24 screaming?  
25 A. Yeah, yeah. Of course I was screaming, it was so

1       sore --

2   Q. Was [REDACTED] outside waiting to come in?

3   A. Yeah.

4   Q. When this had finished, do I understand you to say that

5       you were put out of the room?

6   A. When I was finished with, when they were finished with

7       me, they put me and told me to send [REDACTED] in.

8   Q. Do you know what happened to [REDACTED]?

9   A. Well, we were put into penance dresses.

10   Q. Okay.

11   A. Old-fashioned dresses down to our feet. And she was

12       made to scrub corridors and I was sent up to scrub the

13       bathrooms. And I had to scrub the bathrooms every time,

14       you know, the lassies had a bath. And I wouldnae do it,

15       'cause they should scrub their own bath after they had

16       finished, clean their own dirt up. Why should I have to

17       do it, they normally had to do it themselves anyway. It

18       was a penance I had to do and I wouldnae do it.

19   Q. I'll come back to what happened because of that, but

20       just coming back to when [REDACTED] went in the room, did you

21       stay outside?

22   A. Yeah.

23   Q. Did you hear what was going on?

24   A. (Shakes head)

25   Q. Did you speak to [REDACTED] afterwards, after she had been in

1           the room and come back out?

2   A.   I asked her if she was all right and she wouldnae speak  
3           to me.

4   Q.   Okay. The penance dresses that you have mentioned, can  
5           you just describe these for us, please?

6   A.   It was square, square here.

7   Q.   You are pointing to your upper chest?

8   A.   Yes. Square there. Straight down, with wee short  
9           sleeves, and right down to your ankles.

10   Q.   And what were they made of?

11   A.   Excuse me, I'd have said cotton, I didnae ken. Some  
12           kind of cotton fabric. I didnae ken.

13   Q.   You told us how you were told to clean the bathrooms and  
14           you just refused to do that?

15   A.   Yeah.

16   Q.   What happened then when you didn't do what they told you  
17           to do?

18   A.   Well, right at the bottom of the bathroom there's  
19           a room, a wee room, and there's a chair, and there's  
20           a cross in this room, and it's luminous, it's white and  
21           when it's dark, it's luminous.

22   Q.   Okay.

23   A.   And I was put in there, I was locked in there with this  
24           luminous cross, and I had to say my prayers because  
25           I wouldnae do the penance.

1 Q. Who was telling you to do this?

2 A. FSH .

3 Q. FSH . Were you in that room all night?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. What were about the following day, what happened?

6 A. Oh, I come out to get my breakfast, and they brought

7 breakfast up to the toilets, 'Here's your breakfast'.

8 I'm no wanting it. That was fine. 'Here's your lunch',

9 I'm no wanting it. That was fine. And it went on, and

10 it went on, and then she threatened to ram it down my

11 throat and I says, 'Well, you do that and I'll make

12 myself sick'. I says, 'You ram it down my throat and

13 I'll make myself sick'. I says, 'I've had it. I've had

14 it'. One way or the other, I was finished. I was

15 finished with that. I wanted to die, and I was going to

16 die. You don't understand, you don't understand that,

17 I wanted to die. And I telt her, I telt her, I said,

18 'I want to die, and it doesn't matter how much food you

19 try and ram down my throat, I'm going to die. I've had

20 enough of you. I'm going to die'. And she went to

21 LLW and LLW sent for my father.

22 Q. Did he come?

23 A. (Nods)

24 Q. Are you able to tell us, then, 'Margaret' what happened

25 after your father came?

1 A. I got sent hame. And he tried to lose me in Glasgow  
2 Central Station. 'Cause he didn't want me neither,  
3 naebody wanted me.

4 Q. You say he tried to lose you, he had come for you, you'd  
5 gone to Central Station, how was he trying to lose you,  
6 what was he doing?

7 A. Walking away from me, walking away from me, no waiting  
8 on me. I was lost, I didnae ken where I was.

9 Q. Did you manage to get home with your father?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Was your father's wife still there?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. I think there's a section in your statement, 'Margaret',  
14 where you talk about your life after being in care, and  
15 in particular you managed to get a job where you were  
16 allocated a room in the hotel that you were working  
17 in --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- to stay in. That took you out of the home, so to  
20 speak?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You then tell us that you managed to get another job,  
23 various jobs, and you got married when you were really  
24 very young, at 19?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. I think you tell us that, as you put it, the dream  
2 didn't last and you were living in a static caravan is  
3 how you ended up?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. You gave birth to your first child, I think you say in  
6 1974, is that right?  
7 A. Yeah.  
8 Q. As far as the records go, you appear to have been taken  
9 home from St Euphrasia's in [REDACTED] 1971 when you were about  
10 16. Again, would that be about right? That's what the  
11 records seem to suggest. Can you remember if you were  
12 about 16 when you left?  
13 A. 17, I think.  
14 Q. 17, okay. You go on to tell us about your life at this  
15 time and in particular that your marriage wasn't happy,  
16 and you tell us about that in the next few paragraphs.  
17 Is that right?  
18 A. Sorry?  
19 Q. You talk about your marriage and it wasn't happy, and  
20 you tell us things that happened, and I think you ended  
21 up splitting up from your husband?  
22 A. Yeah.  
23 Q. Your husband, you tell us, had an accident and he died  
24 from his injuries?  
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You were left to bring up the children, I think you had  
2 two, at least, by then?  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 Q. On your own, is that right?  
5 A. Yeah.  
6 Q. You tell us at paragraph 100, 'Margaret', that you  
7 remarried, somebody you knew from school, as you tell  
8 us, and you had some more children, and you've been  
9 together ever since, is that right?  
10 A. Yeah.  
11 Q. It's at this time you took a trip back to  
12 Nazareth House; is that correct?  
13 A. Yeah.  
14 Q. You met somebody there from all these years ago?  
15 A. Yeah, [REDACTED], yeah.  
16 Q. She was still there, was she?  
17 A. Yes, she'd never got out of Nazareth House.  
18 Q. Did you recognise her?  
19 A. Actually, no, she recognised me.  
20 Q. So that was a happy reunion?  
21 A. Yeah.  
22 Q. You have a section in your statement, 'Margaret', headed  
23 'Impact'. You have been asked about this before, but  
24 I think it's quite important just to get your response  
25 to this again. The one thing you do say at the very



1       beginning there is that your time in care made you  
2       a stronger person. Can you just explain to us what you  
3       mean by that?

4   A. By being in care?

5   Q. Yes, what you say is you think your time in care:  
6       '... made me a stronger person and this gave me the  
7       confidence to be able to foster children.'

8       For example, because you became a foster carer as  
9       well?

10  A. Yeah, I did, actually.

11  Q. Yes.

12  A. Erm, my time -- my time in care made me a survivor, and  
13       that's the word. It's no -- what was the word you said?

14  Q. The word in the statement is 'stronger person', but  
15       I think I can understand what you mean; that you have  
16       survived the experiences you had in care?

17  A. I'm a survivor. Erm, stronger, survivor, erm,  
18       determined, erm, loving.

19  Q. I was about to ask you that, because one of the things  
20       you do tell us is you have gone out of your way to make  
21       sure that your children had all the love and support  
22       that they could possibly have?

23  A. Oh aye, oh aye, because I never -- I never had one bit  
24       of love fae anybody. I'm sorry, I really am sorry, but  
25       I never had one iota fae anybody, not that much. And

1 I wish my mother was still alive, honest to God, my  
2 mother was put in a pauper's grave, so she was, I didn't  
3 even have a grave to go to talk to my mother.

4 Q. But you have reacted to that by giving your children as  
5 much love and support as you possibly could, 'Margaret',  
6 that's the position, isn't it?

7 A. You didnae understand where I'm coming fae.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. You didnae understand where I'm coming fae.

10 Q. I am always willing to try and understand.

11 A. Right, my mother died, I was in a home that didnae feed  
12 me, I got tubular meningitis, then I went to a foster  
13 carer, because she wasnae a Catholic -- because she  
14 wasnae a Catholic they took me away fae her, a loving  
15 foster carer, I was taken away fae her and put to  
16 a Catholic that battered us useless, that flung me in  
17 a coal hoose, right? She was a bitch o' hell, right,  
18 she made us go and pray to a man that was in a grave  
19 that we never knew, right. You've nae idea.

20 And then I went to St Euphrasia's, right, and it is  
21 only because -- because I spoke -- I spoke to these  
22 people, here, these people, right ... I'm sorry if I'm  
23 shouting.

24 Q. No, no, carry on.

25 A. These people here, at 67, 67 years old, that I was told

1       that this man, be it a doctor, or a priest, I do not  
2       know, that I was sexually assaulted in St Euphrasia's.  
3       And that I did not have my mother's grave to even turn  
4       round and go to her and say, 'Mum, this is what's  
5       happened to me when you died. This is what's happened  
6       to me, why has this happened? Please help me. You're  
7       up there, please help me'. I'm sorry.  
8   Q.   Okay, don't worry.  
9   A.   I'm sorry, Lady Smith, I'm sorry.  
10   LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', please don't apologise.  
11       I can't answer your question as to why it happened,  
12       but can I say this: having read everything in your  
13       statement and listened to you, I do understand that it  
14       did happen and it is still, all these years on, deeply  
15       distressing, and I can well understand that.  
16   A.   I was 67, Lady Smith, 67.  
17   LADY SMITH: Yes.  
18   A.   Before I spoke to these people, and these people turned  
19       round and said you were sexually abused at  
20       St Euphrasia's. Now, how would you feel at 67? That  
21       was three years ago. Three years ago.  
22   LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', when you are talking about 'these  
23       people', you mean the Inquiry people --  
24   A.   Yes, yes.  
25   LADY SMITH: -- that you spoke to when you were giving your

1 statement?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 A. It is horrible.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 A. And I'm very -- I'm sorry, I'm very naive.

7 LADY SMITH: No, don't apologise. And you have made

8 absolutely clear how isolated you felt, how unloved, and

9 that there was nobody there for you, looking out for

10 you. That's crystal clear.

11 A. Can I get a break, Lady Smith?

12 LADY SMITH: Absolutely you can get a break.

13 In fact, Mr MacAulay, do we have any other questions

14 for 'Margaret' or not?

15 MR MACAULAY: There is very little, I have just one more

16 question.

17 LADY SMITH: Can you manage just one more question, and then

18 you can totally relax.

19 MR MACAULAY: We have that because the rest of your

20 statement has been covered. But there is just one thing

21 I want to ask you is what you say at paragraph 112.

22 A. I'm sorry for shouting at you, sorry.

23 Q. Don't you worry about that.

24 What you say at 112:

25 'My reasons for coming to the inquiry are to help

1       stop what happened to me happening to new kids in care.'

2       That's your position, isn't it, 'Margaret'?

3   A.   Yeah, for what they done to me.

4       Now, listen, I could go on forever, right, about

5       St Euphrasia's. I could, because, right, there's good

6       things and there's bad things, right. What they're

7       doing is wrong. I mean, we were all made -- I'll tell

8       you how bad it is, we were all made to pray, to 'pray'

9       right, for the Tories to win the election, because the

10       nuns wanted the Tories to win the election. So we had

11       all to pray for the Tories to win the election, right?

12       We didnae have a mind of our own. We didnae have a mind

13       of our own. That's wrong. They make us like robots,

14       right, everything's done by the bell, right? They need

15       to stop the bell, right?

16       Right? They need to let kids have a voice. They

17       need to let us have a voice. To be able to turn round

18       and talk like I've spoke to you, I've spoke to

19       Lady Smith, you need to be able to talk, get an answer,

20       whether the answer is what you want or no. They should

21       be able to ask, 'Can I please have?', 'No. The reason

22       being ...' No just no, 'The reason being why you can't

23       have this'.

24   Q.   So an explanation?

25   A.   Yeah. They werenae -- they never got any money in that

1 place for the work that they done in St Euphrasia's.

2 LADY SMITH: That was the children, they were working but

3 they weren't getting paid?

4 A. Yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 A. Right? Now, they said that they were getting paid,

7 right, but they only got enough to get talcum powder,

8 antiperspirant, toothpaste, things like that, right.

9 They didnae ken how much money they should have been

10 getting paid, they should have been getting a wage.

11 They should have been getting a wage. You understand?

12 MR MACAULAY: I do, I do understand.

13 A. All these things should be changed and -- oh, I can go

14 on forever.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', if it is any reassurance, you have

16 covered these points in your written statement already,

17 don't worry about not having told me, you have done,

18 they are here, they are very clear and detailed in

19 writing in the statement that you have already given us.

20 Shall we let you finish here?

21 A. Lady Smith, can I say something to you?

22 LADY SMITH: Go on.

23 A. I fostered a wee boy. I cannae gi' you names, right.

24 LADY SMITH: Don't give me his name.

25 A. And he was under a psychiatrist.

1 LADY SMITH: Was it a psychiatrist or maybe a psychologist,  
2 I think you said in your statement.  
3 A. No, a psychiatrist.  
4 LADY SMITH: Oh, right, just in your statement you said  
5 psychologist.  
6 A. Oh, sorry.  
7 LADY SMITH: It maybe doesn't matter. Somebody helping him.  
8 A. Yeah. And a loving wee boy, a really loving wee boy.  
9 And he turned round and asked if he could call me mum,  
10 and social work said no, so I had to tell him no. The  
11 minute I said 'no' to that wee boy, that wee boy turned  
12 like that. He felt that I didnae love him, right, and  
13 my heart went out to that wee boy, it really did, and  
14 the psychiatrist turned round and says he got mair out  
15 of that wee boy in the year that I had him, and when  
16 that wee boy was taken away fae me, that wee boy set the  
17 next foster place home on fire.  
18 Do you understand where I'm coming fae, Lady Smith?  
19 LADY SMITH: Yes.  
20 A. Just wi' a wee word that says 'I love you'.  
21 LADY SMITH: Yes.  
22 A. Just a wee word that means 'I love you', that's all it  
23 takes for a child in care, and these people that are in  
24 social work need to understand this.  
25 I'm sorry, but unless you've been there, unless

1       you've actually been there, and lived it, you'll never,  
2       ever, understand what it's like not to be loved.  
3       That's all I've got to say.  
4   MR MACAULAY:   Well --  
5   LADY SMITH:   Well, 'Margaret', thank you.  
6   MR MACAULAY:   I was about to say the same.  
7       Thank you, 'Margaret', for coming here for the  
8       second time, and indeed for the important words that you  
9       have left us with.  
10   A.   And I'm very sorry --  
11   LADY SMITH:   'Margaret' --  
12   A.   -- for shouting, Lady Smith, I'm very sorry.  
13   LADY SMITH:   -- you have nothing to apologise for.  
14       Now, please just go and be assured that you have  
15       added more to your evidence by being here this morning,  
16       you did it before for foster care, you did it before  
17       that by giving me your written statement, and you have  
18       really given me a full, clear, picture now that's so  
19       valuable, thank you for that.  
20       You go and relax for the rest of today, I think you  
21       will be very tired.  
22   A.   Thank you.  
23   LADY SMITH:   Okay.  
24       Would you like an arm to support you on the way out?  
25   A.   Yes, please.



1 LADY SMITH: We can do that.

2 A. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

3 LADY SMITH: Or we can give you two arms, 'Margaret', if

4 that would help. There you go.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: You take care.

7 A. Thank you.

8 (The witness withdrew)

9 LADY SMITH: I will rise for the morning break in a moment,

10 but just some name checks.

11 People whose identities are protected by my

12 General Restriction Order. We had reference to [REDACTED],

13 and [REDACTED], both of whom were children in care at the

14 same time as 'Margaret'. And LLW [REDACTED], who has

15 also been referred to as Sister LLW [REDACTED], Miss FSH [REDACTED],

16 who has also been referred to in other evidence as

17 Sister FSH [REDACTED], and just as FSH [REDACTED], and

18 Sister EJK [REDACTED], who may also be referred to as

19 Miss EJK [REDACTED]. They are not to be identified as

20 referred to in our evidence outside of this room.

21 MR MACAULAY: Just to say, my Lady, the planned read-in is

22 for 11.45 am, because somebody's coming to --

23 LADY SMITH: I appreciate that.

24 I will rise now until 11.45 am.

25 (11.20 am)

1 (A short break)

2 (11.45 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, I think we have a read-in, have we?

4 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady, we do. It is a read-in of

5 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Marie'.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 'Marie' (read)

8 MS MACLEOD: The statement can be found at WIT.001.002.8534:

9 'My name is 'Marie'. [I was born in] 1967 ...

10 'I was born in Glasgow. I lived with my mother, my

11 father and my siblings ...

12 'Life was horrendous at home. I had a horrible

13 mother ... [My sister, who] was 7 when I was born, [has

14 told me that] when I was a baby she caught my mum trying

15 to smother me. My mum didn't want me. [My sister] told

16 me that I used to get left outside in the pram in all

17 weathers. My mum was hoping that I'd either die or

18 someone would take me.

19 'I liked school, because it was an escape ...

20 I don't think many days went by when I didn't get the

21 belt. I was used to it. I went to ... Secondary

22 school ... The school said I was disruptive because

23 I was always getting the belt. I was just acting out.

24 I got the belt for cheek and talking back. I hated

25 authority. I was going to school to get away from that,

1       so I was cheeky.

2               'I was sent to a psychologist in primary four or  
3       five, but I never said anything about what was happening  
4       ...

5               'The belt was nothing to me, but on this particular  
6       occasion I refused to take the belt. I was  
7       orchestrating getting away from my mother. I was  
8       suspended from school. I think it was for two weeks  
9       initially, then there was another meeting and I still  
10      refused to take the belt. I got suspended again. There  
11      were various meetings with the school and my mother, who  
12      wasn't too keen on me being in the house. I still  
13      refused to take the belt. Eventually, they said that  
14      I'd just be expelled. I thought it was all working to  
15      plan.

16              'I was allocated a social worker because I was  
17      refusing the belt. She's the only one whose name I can  
18      remember. Her name was Gillian Coates. I was taken to  
19      a Children's Panel. I never told them anything either.  
20      I sat there and let my mother tell all her lies. She  
21      made me out to be a terrible person, unruly, all the  
22      rest of it. I just sat there and nodded. I thought it  
23      meant that I was going to get out of there. I thought  
24      that if I argued the point I'd just end up being sent  
25      home, so I agreed with everything so I could get out of

1       there. The Children's Panel sent me to Robertson  
2       [Assessment Centre] to assess me and see what was to be  
3       done.'

4               Between paragraphs 8 and 14 the witness describes  
5       her time at Robertson Assessment Centre in Glasgow.

6       I will move to paragraph 15 of the statement:

7       Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
8       [REDACTED]

9       I presume that the staff discovered I wasn't the type of  
10      person that I'd been made out to be, because they said  
11      I could go home before moving on. I still hadn't said  
12      anything about my mother. I was back at home for about  
13      five weeks.

14             'My social worker told me that she had three places  
15      to show me. St Euphrasia's was the first. I wasn't  
16      going to see the other places until a bit later. When  
17      I visited St Euphrasia's, I met SNR [REDACTED],  
18      Sister GWJ [REDACTED] ... we were met where we parked at the  
19      car park at the end of the big long drive ... one of the  
20      residents showed me all around and made it sound  
21      amazing. She sold it to me. I found myself doing that  
22      later on down the line as well. It was just me and [the  
23      girl] showing me around. She showed me the living  
24      areas, the upstairs areas and the kid-on school area.  
25      I said I wouldn't be going to that school because I had

1       been told I could go to outside school. She just said,  
2       "Oh all right", she knew that I wasn't going to outside  
3       school but she never said anything.

4       'Every single door was locked. I asked what that  
5       was about and she told me it was for our safety. It was  
6       like watching a television programme about prisons,  
7       every single door was locked. Compared to Roberton  
8       [Assessment Centre], it was a much bigger place. The  
9       dormitories looked like hospital wards. But [the girl]  
10      sold it to me. I was asking different things because of  
11      what I'd [seen in the assessment centre]. I'd been  
12      taken out on trips, shopping and to the pictures. She  
13      said that kind of thing happened all the time in  
14      St Euphrasia's. I thought it was going to be the same  
15      as [the assessment centre]. I had it in my head that  
16      I was taking the first place anyway. At the end of the  
17      visit, I told the social worker that I didn't need to  
18      see the other places.

19      'I think I started at St Euphrasia's about two weeks  
20      after my [first] visit. It wasn't long. My social  
21      worker came to collect me and took me there.'

22      Records recovered by the Inquiry suggest this  
23      witness was admitted to St Euphrasia's on  
24      [REDACTED] 1981, when she would have been aged almost  
25      14.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: It is noted her as her leaving on

3 [REDACTED] 1982, when she would have been 15.

4 LADY SMITH: So she was there for about 15/16 months, or

5 14 months.

6 MS MACLEOD: She was there from when she was 13, almost 14,

7 to 15.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS MACLEOD: That coincides with her own recollection, as we

10 will find out in the next paragraph where she says:

11 'I was still 13 when I went to St Euphrasia's. It

12 was [REDACTED]. There was a big, long driveway leading

13 up to the home. It was long, winding and tree lined.

14 It looked lovely. It was off a country road. There was

15 a bus stop at the top of the driveway. There was a big

16 long corridor when you went in. There was no reception

17 desk or anything. The nuns stayed on the right-hand

18 side and we stayed on the left-hand side.

19 'I know from speaking to other people that it used

20 to be almost all nuns who worked at St Euphrasia's.

21 When I went to St Euphrasia's there were only a few nuns

22 working there. They all ... stayed there, but they were

23 in a different part of the home from us.

24 Sister GWJ [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED], and Sister GWK [REDACTED]

25 was the house nun for my group. I met ... who had been

1       at St Euphrasia's before me ...'

2   LADY SMITH: 'I met people'.

3   MS MACLEOD: 'I met people who had been at St Euphrasia's

4       before me and it had been almost all nuns working there.

5       There was one member of staff who stayed overnight,

6       I can't remember her name, but she stayed in the

7       village. There were two civilian members of staff for

8       our house group and Sister GWK. We were the only

9       house group that had a nun. One of the members of

10      staff, Mrs Smith, was nice. She was part-time so we

11      didn't see her a lot. I'll call the other member of

12      staff GWL because I don't want to give her full name.

13      One would have the morning shift until we were carted

14      off to the pretend school. I think she then went home,

15      but was there when we got back around 4 o'clock.

16      'There were four house groups. I can only remember

17      the name of three of them, St Claire, St Margaret and

18      St Goretti. We lived in our house groups, but it wasn't

19      a house. There was a big door. You went in and there

20      was a corridor. On the right-hand side there was

21      a kitchen and dining room. Straight ahead was the

22      living room part. It was really old-fashioned. The

23      dormitories were upstairs. There was about 14 of us in

24      the group. All the house groups had about the same

25      number of girls in them. The dormitory was split into

1 different sides, although it wasn't that big. Half of  
2 us were on one side and half on the other side. You  
3 could go between them but the door was usually locked.

4 'There were lots of different buildings, but they  
5 were all joined up. The school was within the building.  
6 I think the school had a downstairs and an upstairs. It  
7 was at the back of the building, nearer the fields. We  
8 were surrounded by fields and farmland.

9 'The dormitories were freezing cold all year round.  
10 They were like old-style hospital wards. We had  
11 curtains round our beds. It put me in mind of  
12 hospitals. It was plain and cold. There were wee,  
13 rickety metal windows that only opened about an inch.  
14 Beside the bed we had a cabinet to keep our things in  
15 and a sink. The door would be locked to get out into  
16 the main corridor, where the baths and things were.  
17 There was a toilet in the dormitory, shared between us  
18 all.

19 'There was one person on shift overnight. We were  
20 locked in, so I don't know where she went during the  
21 night. I didn't think about it at the time, but if  
22 there had been fire we'd all have been in trouble. The  
23 first time I needed someone during the night I was told  
24 to go back to my bed by the member of staff who worked  
25 overnight. She was one of the nice ones but she said



1 I had to go back to my bed because she was the only  
2 person working. Looking back, I can understand it. She  
3 might have been afraid to open the door because there  
4 were ten or 12 of us who might jump her. The door never  
5 got opened, no matter what you said. We'd just be told  
6 to go back to our beds and the staff would be in in the  
7 morning. After that, I just dealt with any problems  
8 myself.

9 'The staff member who was in overnight woke us up  
10 before the other staff came in at 8 o'clock. That woman  
11 stayed in the village but I can't remember her name.  
12 She was all right. She would get us up and tell us to  
13 get ready and be down the stairs for 8.00. There was  
14 always somebody on breakfast duty. I was on that quite  
15 lot. If you were on breakfast duty, the member of staff  
16 in the corridor would take you downstairs at 7.30 and  
17 lock you in. You had to do breakfast for everybody.

18 'Breakfast was always two slices of toast and  
19 a boiled egg. It never varied, not even at weekends.  
20 On Monday to Thursday, a lady from the village came in  
21 and made the dinners. A lot of people went home for the  
22 weekend. If you were kept in, you were with a civilian  
23 member of staff for the whole weekend and she would do  
24 the cooking. We couldn't eat between meals because the  
25 food was locked away. We ate when we were told to eat.

1           'The food wasn't very nice. It was cheap, nasty  
2           processed stuff. I remember when it was burger day.  
3           They weren't very nice, but they were edible. You knew  
4           you were going to be hungry that night because that was  
5           all you got. That one burger on a bun. You were hungry  
6           going to bed. I was hungry all the time. The best  
7           eating I ever did was when I wasn't there, when I was on  
8           the run.

9           'I've always been fussy. Food was put down to me  
10          time and time again and I was told to eat it. I was  
11          told that I was lucky I was being fed. If I didn't eat  
12          the lunch, I'd get it again for my dinner, then my  
13          breakfast, then my lunch, then my dinner. It would go  
14          on for days until it got to the point where they  
15          realised they couldn't force me to eat it, because it  
16          would make me unwell. The thing that sticks in my mind  
17          was gammon steak. I quite like it now but I hated it  
18          then. It would be put down to me until it had turned  
19          itself into leather [that] could be used as a doorstep.

20          'The baths were out in the big corridor, in the  
21          dormitory area upstairs. I think we all shared the  
22          baths. There weren't that many of them. I think there  
23          were two lots of bathrooms, with two or three baths in  
24          each bit. I don't remember there being any showers.  
25          I'll never forget the baths because I spent enough time

1 getting put into cold ones.

2 'The baths were open so you didn't get any privacy.  
3 Separate house groups had baths at separate times. We  
4 were never in at the same time as another house group.  
5 The baths were deep, old-fashioned things. The staff  
6 weren't supervising the whole time. They were away  
7 talking, but they'd come in and check. We got clean  
8 bathwater, but the water was never very warm. It was  
9 always lukewarm.

10 'All of the house groups wore a colour-coded  
11 uniform. St Claire's was brown, St Margaret's was blue  
12 and I can't remember the fourth. Mine was green, which  
13 is probably why I don't like wearing green clothes. We  
14 wore a green skirt and a green blouse with Jesus  
15 sandals. We washed our clothes in the sink in the  
16 dormitory.

17 'The only time we mixed with the other house groups  
18 was during the day at the "Mickey Mouse" school, apart  
19 from leisure time on a Monday night. The school was in  
20 the building. I'd just started second year of secondary  
21 school when I went to St Euphrasia's. I wanted to do  
22 exams. The teachers at my previous school had told me  
23 I would get to do all these exams and that I'd pass them  
24 because I was clever. The schooling reminded me of  
25 being in primary school. It was primary two and three

1 level. I was secondary school age, but it was basic  
2 primary school stuff.'

3 LADY SMITH: She wouldn't be the only person who was  
4 secondary school age, virtually all of the girls were in  
5 St Euphrasia's, isn't that right?

6 MS MACLEOD: I think that's right, my Lady. I think the  
7 youngest suggestion was 10, but I think the vast  
8 majority were maybe between 12 and 18.

9 LADY SMITH: Teenagers, yes.

10 MS MACLEOD: 'When I went to visit St Euphrasia's,  
11 Sister GWJ told me that I could go out to school.  
12 She had even told me the name of the school. She told  
13 me I'd get the bus from outside and the bus stop was  
14 right at the gate. She told me the number of the bus  
15 and what time it came in the morning and everything.  
16 I had no reason to disbelieve that when I got there I'd  
17 be going out for school. It was totally sold to me.  
18 I was only in St Euphrasia's for a day when I was told  
19 that I wouldn't be going out for school. I was asking  
20 if I'd be starting at school the next week because I'd  
21 been told I could go to a school in Greenock. I was  
22 told that nobody went out for school. I wasn't in there  
23 for long when I realised why nobody was getting out to  
24 go to school. It was in case anybody told. It didn't  
25 take me long to work that out.

1           'The nuns didn't teach in the school. It was people  
2           who came in. I can only remember two of the teachers,  
3           who I liked. One did sewing and hairdressing, but  
4           I can't remember her name. She lived in the village.  
5           There was another woman who looked ancient to me at the  
6           time. She taught art. She also taught me to play the  
7           piano. The academic subjects were taught at primary  
8           school level.

9           'In the summer, we were allowed out on the grounds  
10          for games. It was part of school. I remember tennis,  
11          although there were no tennis courts. I remember one  
12          occasion when I was being my usual obtuse, horrible,  
13          person. They'd annoyed me for some reason and I was  
14          being awkward. I was refusing to play and I was  
15          purposefully not helping. We were playing against the  
16          other house group and I was not hitting the ball back.  
17          That resulted in a beating.

18          'We didn't get outside often. Mostly the games were  
19          in the hall. That was where I learned to play badminton  
20          and volleyball. I spent more time outside when I was  
21          running away than I ever did officially.

22          'After breakfast, we did our chores, which included  
23          cleaning the kitchen, the bathroom, the hall and the  
24          living room. We had to do that before school, every  
25          day. The civilian member of staff on duty or the nun

1       checked whether we had had done our chores. We had to  
2       dust, polish and Hoover the living room. In the hall,  
3       dining [room] and kitchen area there was marble-effect  
4       flooring that had to be waxed and buffed. It was  
5       a punishment to be on that task. We used a big heavy  
6       thing on the end of a pole to wax the floors. It  
7       weighed a tonne. You could be there for three weeks in  
8       a row, never sleeping and it was never going to be  
9       shiny.'

10    LADY SMITH: So this is the early 1980s but they are using  
11       what sounds like the item that was described as a bumper  
12       in, for example, Smyllum long before then?

13    MS MACLEOD: It sounds like that, my Lady, yes.

14    LADY SMITH: Yes.

15    MS MACLEOD: 'On a Monday night, we mixed with the other  
16       house groups in the big hall which was called the  
17       recreation hall. It was downstairs, at the back of the  
18       building. If you were good, you were allowed to go to  
19       that. There were daft games, like wheelbarrows.

20       'We never went to the pictures or on holidays. I'd  
21       been promised trips and holidays when I visited  
22       St Euphrasia's, but I only remember leaving the place  
23       twice. We went to Cardross for a disco on two  
24       occasions. It was a mixed home. It looked like heaven  
25       compared to St Euphrasia's. I've since learned it

1       wasn't, but coming from St Euphrasia's it looked better  
2       than where we were. They had monthly discos at  
3       Cardross.

4       'I went shopping once not long after I'd gone in.  
5       It was leading up to my birthday and they bought me  
6       a pair of trainers and a pair of jeans for my birthday.  
7       That was the only thing I was ever bought the whole time  
8       that I was in there. I was taken out by the civilian  
9       member of staff called **GWL** I didn't get a birthday card.  
10      I don't remember anything about being there over  
11      Christmas.

12      'We had to go to mass on a Friday morning. It was  
13      on the grounds. We went with all the retired nuns who  
14      lived there as well. There were people there who  
15      weren't Catholic but we had no choice whether to go to  
16      mass. I was religious when I had to be but not after  
17      I left St Euphrasia's.

18      'I got a couple of visits from my dad and his  
19      sister, who I looked on as my mother. They brought my  
20      brother once. The visits took place in the dining room  
21      in the house group. I don't remember anybody else being  
22      there. We sat around the big long table in the dining  
23      room. I'd already been in there for months because we  
24      weren't allowed visitors for the first six months. We  
25      were told that we weren't allowed visitors in order to

1       acclimatise to the place and get used to it.

2       Sister GWJ told me on the day I visited

3       St Euphrasia's. She said I wasn't allowed visitors

4       because I'd just want to go home with them.

5       'I don't remember seeing Gillian Coates again after

6       I told her to get me out of St Euphrasia's. I had

7       another two social workers after that, and I think I saw

8       each of them once. I think they were welfare visits.

9       The last social worker was a man called Terry O'Brien.

10      He was all right. They'd ask how I was doing and I'd

11      say, "Everything's great". I learned my lesson after

12      the first time. I was reminded before each social work

13      and family visit, "Just remember what will happen to you

14      if you say anything". Sister GWK and GWL would say

15      that to me.

16      'I didn't go back to the Children's Panel, but there

17      were review meetings which took place in there. My

18      social worker would be there along with my mother and

19      the staff that worked with me. I'd be called in at the

20      end of it. They would tell me what had been discussed

21      and that I was doing really well, apart from being

22      disruptive. They would ask me what my thoughts were and

23      I would say that I was fine and the place was brilliant.

24      I had been warned beforehand. If there were

25      inspections, they happened without me knowing about



1       them. If I had been spoken to during inspections,  
2       I probably would have been daft enough to say what was  
3       really happening.

4       'If you behaved yourself during the week you got  
5       home for the weekend. I went home as little as  
6       possible. I made sure I was on punishment. I decided  
7       that what was happening in St Euphrasia's was still  
8       better than going home.

9       'If you were ill, you just had to suffer it. I only  
10      made one visit to a hospital. It was because one of my  
11      [REDACTED]. I know it was in the West End  
12      of Glasgow, so I think it was the Western  
13      General Hospital. I got antibiotics. When I went  
14      there, they did blood tests. They discovered I had some  
15      allergies. They discovered I was allergic to nuts and  
16      cheese. I'd never eaten nuts or cheese before, so  
17      I didn't know. That was about the one good thing that  
18      came out of me being in St Euphrasia's.

19      'I told the staff at the hospital that [REDACTED]  
20      [REDACTED]. I just said that I'd felt like doing it. I'm  
21      guessing that they might have asked me more questions  
22      about St Euphrasia's, but I'd already learned my lesson  
23      not to say anything. I started self-harming not long  
24      after I went into St Euphrasia's. I think I'd been  
25      there for about three months. The social workers knew

1       that I was self-harming. At social work reviews the  
2       nuns and the civilian staff at St Euphrasia's told them  
3       that I was doing it for attention.

4       'I didn't have much growing up because my mum never  
5       got me anything. I had a Bible, which had been given to  
6       me at St Euphrasia's. I wasn't allowed any other books  
7       because they were sinful. I didn't have anything else  
8       to look at or play with. It was a dire, horrible place.

9       'Friendships weren't encouraged, especially with the  
10      girls from the other houses. I think things were  
11      different in different houses. I got that impression  
12      from talking to other girls during the school day.  
13      Unless they were telling lies, they made it sound like  
14      their house groups were the way I had been told  
15      St Euphrasia's would be before I went in. I don't know  
16      why our house group was so bad, and whether it was  
17      because we were the only house that had a nun. Unless  
18      they were lying, their house groups seemed to be all  
19      right. The civilian staff were allocated to houses.

20      'I think all the girls wet the bed at some stage,  
21      but we slept in it for the rest of the week. We got  
22      a cold bath if we made a mess in the bed. We might be  
23      beaten as well. Eventually it got to the point where we  
24      didn't say. We knew we'd be sleeping in it for the rest  
25      of the week anyway, so at least it avoided the cold

1 bath.

2 'I ran away loads. There was hardly a week that  
3 went by when I didn't run away. The windows on the  
4 ground floor of the house group opened inwards. They  
5 only opened a little but I was quite wee and skinny and  
6 I was able to get out. That was how I escaped most of  
7 the time. The second time we went to a disco at  
8 Cardross, I ran away. Much of the time I ran away with  
9 my friend ... Her house group was better than mine.  
10 She did get taken on trips and things like that, but she  
11 just liked the buzz of running away.

12 'One time my friend and I hadn't long been taken  
13 back to St Euphrasia's after running away. They thought  
14 that they would humiliate us. We were told that we had  
15 to go to the school in our pyjamas and Jesus sandals.  
16 We had sports in the hall. There were fire escapes in  
17 the hall. I looked at it and she looked at it and it  
18 was just like a nod. They thought there was no way that  
19 we'd run away because we were in our pyjamas, but we  
20 did. We burst out that door and went down the back  
21 hill, near the fields. Nobody chased us, I think they  
22 thought we'd sit out for a wee while and then come back  
23 in, but we didn't.

24 'We went down onto the M8. We were walking along  
25 the motorway heading to Glasgow, thumbing it. A car

1 stopped and it was a female in a two-door car. The lady  
2 asked us where we were going and we told her we were  
3 going to Glasgow. I don't know what we thought we were  
4 going to do when we got there in our pyjamas. We were  
5 in the back seat and we couldn't get out. That was when  
6 she told us she was a senior social worker. She said  
7 she was taking us to India Street, which is where social  
8 work was based. She took us there and we were there for  
9 hours and hours. I told her what was going on at  
10 St Euphrasia's as well, because she was a senior social  
11 worker. However, later on that day, we were taken back.  
12 I was 14.

13 'It was nearly always social workers who took us  
14 back. I think they were duty social workers.  
15 I remember they always came in a black car. If it  
16 wasn't them, it was the police. They asked why we were  
17 running away, but I only told them one time. Usually  
18 when we were taken back to the home it would be after  
19 8 o'clock. The night shift person was there.

20 'One of the times I ran away, I ran to Robertson [the  
21 assessment centre]. I found that in my notes. I turned  
22 up there with [my friend]. I don't remember that. They  
23 let us stay overnight and then they took us back in the  
24 morning. I think that's why I don't remember it,

25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2  
3  
4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

they took me back.

5 'We'd be made to wax and polish the floors as  
6 a punishment. We'd be told it wasn't right and kept  
7 there all day. Sometimes we didn't get sent to school  
8 because we had to spent the whole day waxing the floor.  
9 That happened to me loads of times. I never learned my  
10 lesson from getting the belt at school. I still had  
11 lots of back chat. Every time I was brought back after  
12 running away, I'd be kept in there for a whole day,  
13 sometimes two, before I was allowed to go back to their  
14 hopeless school. I'd be locked in the house group all  
15 day, on my own.

16 'If I was brought back after running away, and it  
17 was nighttime, I'd be put in the cupboard in the house  
18 group so as not to disturb everybody. It was a big  
19 cupboard with two parts to it. One part was where the  
20 staff hung their coats and the other part was where the  
21 food was stored. If I was bought back in the middle of  
22 the night that's where I'd be put until the morning.  
23 The door was locked and I'd be in there 'til morning, no  
24 light, no toilet, no blanket, nothing. It was at most  
25 six feet by six and it was pitch black. The light

1 switch was on the outside and it was locked. To this  
2 day I'm still scared of the dark. If I was brought back  
3 during the day, I was put in a cold bath and beaten by

4 **GWL**

5 'Another punishment was to turn the other girls  
6 against you by telling them that they weren't going to  
7 get this or that because of me. The staff let the girls  
8 do their work for them. I was never really friendly  
9 with anybody in my house group because of that.  
10 I wasn't the only one that happened to, but I was the  
11 most cheeky. We didn't get very much anyway, but  
12 whatever privilege there was would be taken off them and  
13 they'd be told it was all my fault. I knew what was  
14 going to happen when I went upstairs in the dormitories.  
15 The staff knew what was going to happen because they  
16 would say things and you can tell by the atmosphere.  
17 Girls would say things like, "You're getting it when we  
18 go up the stairs, because it's your fault we're not  
19 getting the telly for the rest of the week".

20 'We were given points for good behaviour. We had to  
21 score 80 points to be allowed home for the weekend. You  
22 lost one of your points immediately for running away.  
23 Other points would be deducted for back chat or not  
24 doing your chores right. The civilian staff member **GWL**  
25 worked three weekends and Mrs Smith did one weekend

1 every month. I was only kept in once when it was  
2 Mrs Smith's weekend. It was a good weekend. She took  
3 me out in the car and we went out for food. I think I'd  
4 ran away so I lost all my points. I didn't want to go  
5 home. I wasn't the only one who didn't want to go home.  
6 Some people did want to go home, and they'd be gutted if  
7 they did something stupid and lost their points.

8 'There was a lot of bullying at St Euphrasia's, but  
9 they couldn't bully me. [My friend] was the staff  
10 member called **GWL** favourite when I first went in. She  
11 was a bit of a bully, but she got away with everything.  
12 I wasn't scared of her. I wasn't scared of anybody, she  
13 couldn't bully me, but I couldn't do a lot against  
14 a group. [My friend] was probably asked by **GWL** to rally  
15 the rest of them. I couldn't see Mrs Smith doing that  
16 because she was nice.

17 'If the girls said I was going to get it in the  
18 dormitory, it was one wee person against the rest of  
19 them. They would beat me but it didn't bother me. They  
20 beat me with their fists and kicked me. I would be  
21 standing up until they got me down. I couldn't stand up  
22 for long. I would go into the foetal position. I still  
23 sleep in that position. I was used to it at home.  
24 I used to go into that position because of my mum as  
25 well, so it was nothing different for me. They would

1       punch me and pull my hair. The staff would witness the  
2       beatings, especially if it happened downstairs in the  
3       house group. I don't remember Mrs Smith being there.  
4       I really don't think she would have let it happen. **GWL**  
5       was definitely there, and the nuns were there. The nuns  
6       seemed to enjoy it. The beatings came to an end when  
7       the girls got fed up with it. They were trying to break  
8       me, but I wouldn't give them the pleasure.

9       'I was always told as a child that I was my own  
10      worst enemy and that I should learn when to stop. I was  
11      defiant. At that age I thought they wouldn't break me  
12      and I would break them.

13      'The nuns weren't that physical at St Euphrasia's,  
14      I might have got a slap from Sister **GWK**, but it was  
15      more mental abuse with her. She would talk about how  
16      horrible a person you were and tell you that you were  
17      a sinner. I knew I didn't like mirrors. I've been  
18      getting all these flashbacks recently and it came back  
19      to me why I don't like mirrors. We were told that we  
20      were sinners and that we were ugly. We were told that  
21      only nasty, horrible, evil people look in mirrors.  
22      Sister **GWK** and Sister **GWJ** both said things  
23      like that. I still don't have mirrors in the house.  
24      Either the day I arrived or the very next day,  
25      Sister **GWK** told me that I was in there because



1 nobody wanted me, I was a horrible person, and society  
2 didn't want me. She would say that it was only sinners  
3 in St Euphrasia's, bad people who would spend the rest  
4 of their lives alone. She wasn't wrong about that, but  
5 that's through choice.

6 'The physical abuse started quite quickly. I hadn't  
7 been there very long, probably for about a week, when GWL  
8 started to beat me. I was giving back chat and I said  
9 the place wasn't what I'd been told it would be, and  
10 said that I'd be complaining about things. I said I'd  
11 be getting out of there. GWL would always remind me that  
12 I was doing it to myself because the reason for the  
13 beatings was always back chat or cheek. I knew the  
14 consequences but I still did it. The beatings were  
15 nasty with GWL but they were never to the face. She was  
16 like a big man and she would punch me everywhere, except  
17 for the face. I don't know what that was all about,  
18 because bruises show up in other places. It was all  
19 punches unless she was pulling me by the hair. I had  
20 shoulder-length hair then. I just got bruises normally,  
21 rather than any other injuries.

22 'The beatings mostly took place in the house group.  
23 There was one time when I must have been really bad, GWL  
24 was called to come up from the village, which is why  
25 I think the civilian staff must have gone home during

1 the day. I got dragged by the hair from the school part  
2 of the building to the house part of the building.  
3 After I came out of St Euphrasia's, [a friend] told me  
4 that her mother had been visiting that day. She had  
5 seen me getting dragged along the corridor. I don't  
6 know why she didn't say something or report it if she  
7 saw that happening, but she didn't. When I was taken  
8 back to the house group, I got a good beating in the  
9 cupboard.

10 'The beatings were nearly daily. I was always  
11 getting it because I was my own worst enemy. The  
12 cupboard was **GWL** favourite place for beatings. They  
13 mostly happened in there. You knew that if someone was  
14 getting taken in there, it wasn't for anything nice. It  
15 was her place. I saw other people being taken into the  
16 cupboard. I don't know if she was doing other things to  
17 other people, because nobody about talked about it. You  
18 just knew that they were getting a doing. You could  
19 hear it. The cupboard was only a few steps away from  
20 the living room. You could hear people crying.

21 'If we wet the bed we'd be put in a cold bath and  
22 beaten, we soon learned not to tell them. They'd just  
23 make us sleep in it anyway. When we had our period, we  
24 were called "dirty" by the nuns. We didn't get sanitary  
25 towels and we'd be put in a cold bath if we made a mess.

1       They expected us to use our socks as sanitary towels.  
2       We washed them ourselves in the sink in the dormitory.  
3       The cold bath punishment involved being stripped by GWL  
4       and held down in a cold bath. I was then scrubbed. GWL  
5       was always on her own when that happened. Sometimes,  
6       she would submerge your head in it if she wanted to  
7       frighten you.

8       'If you went home for the weekend the staff picked  
9       you up in their minibus at [the] bus station. It was  
10      pitch black on the country roads and GWL would turn the  
11      headlights off. She knew the roads because she lived  
12      out there, but she was driving a minibus at 60 miles per  
13      hour. Things could have popped out at any moment. She  
14      thought that was funny because we'd all be screaming.  
15      She was twisted.

16      'After I reported what was happening to my social  
17      worker, Gillian Coates, GWL beat me. I always knew by GWL  
18      face when she came storming in. She would point her  
19      finger and say, 'You, now. Move'. To this day, I hate  
20      anybody pointing at me. I never, ever, went with GWL  
21      willingly. She had to drag me into the cupboard, with  
22      every hit she would say, "So we do this, do we?" Wham,  
23      "And we also do that, do we?" Wham. I knew that she'd  
24      been told everything that I had said to Gillian Coates,  
25      because she repeated everything that I had said. She

1       said, "And where did you think it was going to get you?  
2       They're just like us, you know. They think the same way  
3       as us. You're the dregs of society".

4       'The sexual abuse didn't start 'til later on. [My  
5       friend] was **GWL** favourite. When she left, I discovered  
6       that she must have been getting sexually abused before  
7       me. After [my friend] left, I was the favourite unless  
8       I said anything. I would be kept back at the weekend  
9       and it would just be me and her. It started when I was  
10      14. The sexual abuse happened mostly in the cupboard,  
11      but also in other parts of the house. She used to take  
12      [my friend] down to her house in the village. She never  
13      did that with me, although I knew where her house was  
14      ... I don't know whether I feel good or bad that  
15      I wasn't taken there. Am I not as good as [my friend]  
16      because I never got taken there, or the opposite?  
17      I don't know what to make of that. It's not that I've  
18      repressed it, because I think I'd remember it.

19      'I'm unable to talk about the sexual abuse. I don't  
20      find it easy because of the shame and the fact that it  
21      was a female. I've yet to meet anybody else who was  
22      sexually abused by a female. It happened all the time  
23      until I left. I had been naughty so I wouldn't be sent  
24      home at the weekend. I started to follow all the rules  
25      and do everything that they wanted so that I would score

1 enough points to be allowed out for the weekend. **GWL**  
2 would always find something that stopped me from going  
3 home for the weekend. It was always when it was her  
4 weekends. You needed 80 points to go home at the  
5 weekend. After [my friend] left, I always seemed to  
6 score 79. I was usually the only one from my house  
7 group kept at St Euphrasia's for the weekend.

8 'Gillian Coates came to do a welfare visit when I'd  
9 only been at St Euphrasia's two or three weeks. I told  
10 her that she needed to get me out of there and that I'd  
11 made a big mistake. I told her what they were doing.  
12 I told her about the beatings, the cold baths and the  
13 verbal abuse. She sat there and listened to everything  
14 and made her notes. She said she'd get me out of there.  
15 As I soon found out, not long after that she left. She  
16 told the staff what I'd said. It got a lot worse after  
17 that. I didn't tell again until I told the police.

18 'As an adult, I don't believe for one minute that  
19 social work didn't know what was going on in there.  
20 I wouldn't have been the only person in the whole  
21 history of that place who told their social worker what  
22 was happening. By the laws of probability they must  
23 have known.

24 'One of the times [another friend] and I ran away,  
25 we were picked up in Glasgow city centre. I hadn't been

1       there that long, because I obviously hadn't learned my  
2       lesson from telling social work. We were taken to  
3       Stewart Street Police Station. I think the police were  
4       getting fed up, always having to take us back. They  
5       asked us what was going on and why we were always  
6       running away. I looked at [my friend]. Nothing like  
7       that was happening to her, but she told me to tell them.  
8       I told them about the beatings, I told them that they  
9       withdrew food, I told them that they locked us in  
10      six-by-six cupboards overnight with no toilet or  
11      anything in the dark. I told the police and the police  
12      told the staff what I'd said.

13           'Nothing came of it, except that I was informed that  
14      the staff knew what I said. That night I was put  
15      straight into the cupboard to save the night staff from  
16      having to come out of her bed and take me upstairs. If  
17      you were taken back after 8 o'clock at night, that's  
18      what happened. The next day, I was taken out of the  
19      school. The staff informed me that they knew what I had  
20      said to the police. I was beaten and told that  
21      I should've learned my lesson by now.

22           'I left St Euphrasia's when I was 15. I believe to  
23      this day that my dad never knew anything about what my  
24      mum had been doing in the house. My parents were at  
25      a review about me, three weeks before I did leave. My

1       dad said he was fed up of the situation and that he  
2       wanted me to come home. My mum said she didn't want me  
3       back in the house. My dad told her she could leave and  
4       that's exactly what happened. I didn't find out until  
5       I was on a rare weekend visit home. I walked in and I  
6       just knew something wasn't right. My dad looked tiny.  
7       He was sitting all hunched up. I asked my dad what was  
8       happening and he told me that she was gone. It didn't  
9       please me. I was so used to St Euphrasia's at that  
10      point. I only had a year to go and I was hardened to  
11      it. [My friend] and I had made big plans that as soon  
12      as we made 16, we were off. We were going to go abroad.  
13      Right away, I knew those plans were out the window  
14      because my mother was away.

15           '[My friend] did go abroad, but without me ...  
16      I felt guilty because my dad was in a state. I couldn't  
17      go. I witnessed my father on a daily basis. He loved  
18      my mum and it really affected him that she was gone. Me  
19      being me, I couldn't leave him because of what he gave  
20      up for me. I still call it my curse empathy. My dad  
21      was all right. He was very strict but there was no  
22      violence. At the age of 18, I still had to be in by  
23      10 o'clock. I didn't want to be there, but I was out of  
24      St Euphrasia's so that was something.

25           'My mum took my wee brother when she left the house.

1 My older sisters had left home and married by [that  
2 time]. I didn't [want to] go back to school. I was 15  
3 and there were only five months left [to go at] school.  
4 I was going to be the dunce because I hadn't had  
5 an actual secondary school education since being taken  
6 into care, so I refused point blank. Maybe a part of me  
7 thought they'd put me away again and then I wouldn't  
8 feel guilty about not being at home, but I never got  
9 taken [back] into care again.

10 'I went to the Douglas Inch Centre, which was in the  
11 Charing Cross area of Glasgow ... It was a psychology  
12 place for children who had been excluded from school and  
13 children who had been in care ... I went there for  
14 three days a week, until I turned 16. Legally I still  
15 had ... somewhere and I was refusing to go to school.

16 'I stayed at home with my dad until he died ...

17 'My dad passed away when I was 20. It was just me  
18 and him from when I was 15 until he died ...

19 'My mum became unwell in November and December of  
20 that year ... She died eight months after my dad, at  
21 the age of 47 ...

22 'After my father died, I took over the tenancy of  
23 the house. I waited until I was 21, because I'd heard  
24 about I would only qualify as a mature student at that  
25 age. I had no qualifications. I went to college.



1 I studied for a National Certificate and then a Higher  
2 National Diploma in accountancy. I passed with  
3 distinction without any education. I was a fast  
4 learner. I had a bit of a photographic memory in those  
5 days. I was three years at college then I went across  
6 the road to Caledonian University. I spent two years  
7 there, studying accountancy at professional level.

8 'After I left university, I worked for 18 months and  
9 discovered very quickly that I hated it. It just wasn't  
10 for me sitting at a desk. I lasted about a year and  
11 a half in the job and I left. [I was heartbroken]. I'd  
12 never really grieved for my father dying. I ended up in  
13 hospital. I still didn't tell anybody about the abuse  
14 I'd experienced as a child ...

15 'I didn't get to work for quite a long time. My pal  
16 had a pub in London. I went to work there [in the early  
17 2000s] ... While I was down there I decided that  
18 I wanted to be a prison officer. I applied to join the  
19 Prison Service and I was accepted ... [Around that  
20 time] I was attacked by a female stranger ... I had to  
21 have an operation ... I came back home to Glasgow.

22 '... About a year and a half later they caught the  
23 female who had attacked me. They told me that she was  
24 schizophrenic. I wanted to go and work in that field to  
25 see if I could better understand people with mental

1 health problems. I worked as a mental health support  
2 worker ... I did that for about 13 years, until I was  
3 medically retired in 2013...

4 'After my breakdown, I managed to put it all away  
5 again, in that wee box to the back. I never thought  
6 about it again until three years ago.

7 'St Euphrasia's has had a profound effect on my  
8 life. You only have one life and you can't go back.  
9 I was a Catholic before I went to St Euphrasia's.  
10 I certainly wasn't when I left. I hate the Catholic  
11 Church. A few years ago, I decided I was going to go  
12 back and look at St Euphrasia's. I looked on Google  
13 Maps and it's gone. It's been levelled. In my mind  
14 I thought that maybe if I went back to see the place it  
15 would all stop. My wee niece came up to stay with me  
16 when she was 13, 14. She was wee and skinny. I was  
17 looking at her and thinking, "My God, I was that size".

18 'I hate getting upset and I very rarely do it in  
19 front of anybody. It takes me right back. That's what  
20 their end goal always was at St Euphrasia's and it was  
21 my mother's end goal before I went in. My sisters used  
22 to say, "For God's sake, go and just greet, because  
23 that's all she's wanting". I wouldn't. That's what  
24 they wanted to do at St Euphrasia's, as well. To this  
25 day I still get annoyed with myself if I get upset in

1 front of other people. I've been told that it's not  
2 a sign of weakness, but it is for me because the endgame  
3 in St Euphrasia's and in the house was to break me. I'm  
4 the type of person who cries during adverts about  
5 children and animals, but I hate to do in front of  
6 anybody else.

7 'I've been having flashbacks in the last few months.  
8 I had trained my mind not to think about it. When the  
9 Inquiry started up ... I wasn't able to put it away  
10 again. That's when I contacted Wellbeing Scotland. Now  
11 I can't get it to go away. I hope it does after all  
12 this. For months, I wouldn't meet anybody from  
13 Wellbeing Scotland. It made it too real. I was  
14 emailing [them] backwards and forwards. I finally  
15 agreed to meet ... in person. I finished up with them  
16 last June. That really floored me. I nearly ended up  
17 in hospital. [They] were the first person I had ever  
18 spoken to about what happened. I had seen [my worker  
19 from there] every two weeks for two years.

20 '[My worker there] told me about Future Pathways ...  
21 Future Pathways referred me to the trauma centre at the  
22 Anchor in Glasgow. It was only supposed to be for  
23 six months, but they agreed to let it continue because  
24 I was giving evidence to the Inquiry ...

25 'I've been having nightmares, especially recently.

1 I'm remembering millions. I don't know why I've  
2 remembered it, but last week I remembered that I was up  
3 on the roof at St Euphrasia's. I'm scared of heights,  
4 so what made me go up there? I can see it perfectly,  
5 like I'm watching a video. It was a sunny day. I can  
6 see GWL down there with the nuns and a couple of other  
7 lassies saying, "Get fucking down from there, because if  
8 I need to come up for you, you'll know all about it".  
9 I was feeling afraid when I was up there. I'm scared of  
10 heights but I don't know if that's what has made me  
11 scared of heights. I keep dreaming about it and  
12 remembering about it when I'm awake. I don't know how  
13 I got up there or how I got down. Clearly I did come  
14 down because I'm here. I'm trying hard to think about  
15 it before I go to sleep, hoping that I might dream what  
16 happened before it and after it. It's bugging me and  
17 I'm really trying hard ...

18 'I know where my claustrophobia and hatred and fear  
19 of locked doors comes from. I don't like the dark to  
20 this day. I sleep with the TV, switched to Smooth  
21 Radio. It's a purple screen. The sound is switched  
22 off, but I get the purple light. I've never, ever,  
23 stopped being scared of the dark. My mental health has  
24 been seriously affected. I never said why. I would go  
25 to the doctors and be put on antidepressants, but

1 I never told them what happened. I'm always on edge.  
2 I need to be close to a door. I was diagnosed with  
3 complex post traumatic stress disorder ... It made  
4 a lot of sense to me when I read about it. I'm always  
5 on edge and I lose the rag quickly. I hate doors being  
6 locked. I wish I lived in the days when people didn't  
7 have to lock their doors. All the doors in my house are  
8 open.

9 'My experiences in St Euphrasia's impacted upon my  
10 ability to trust. Trust is so difficult for me.  
11 I don't trust anybody. I keep everybody at arm's  
12 length...

13 'The sexual abuse has left me with profound feelings  
14 of shame and embarrassment. It has been a big part of  
15 my mental health difficulties and is the content of my  
16 nightmares and intrusive trauma memories. I can't speak  
17 about it in any detail. I am so distressed and avoid  
18 the memories if I can, which is why I self-medicated  
19 with alcohol for so many years and self-harmed [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]. What my abuser did haunts me and shames  
21 me.

22 'I used to think the biggest thing I hated  
23 St Euphrasia's for was my education. That's the second  
24 biggest thing, because I got that in the end. I did it  
25 myself. They robbed me of an education, but I sorted

1       that out by going to college.

2       'The biggest regret I have in life is not having  
3       children. That came about because my version of normal  
4       was what I went through. I went through it in the house  
5       with the biggest caregiver in the world, your mother.  
6       I came out of that and went into care to be looked  
7       after, because it was a better place and it was worse in  
8       there. To me that was normal, that was what you did  
9       with children. It must be normal, because it happened  
10      everywhere I'd ever stayed. I didn't want to be the one  
11      to have to do that to a child. I was too scared in case  
12      I did that so I never had any. Now that I'm much older,  
13      I know I wouldn't have done that. At the time it was  
14      too big a chance to take. What if I did that? I knew  
15      how it affected me. I didn't want to put anybody  
16      through that. That's the biggest impact and I'll never  
17      forgive them for that.

18      '... Wellbeing Scotland got my notes for me ...

19      'My records weren't even an inch thick after  
20      everything that had happened to me. I haven't read all  
21      my notes. I've only read about two pages of my notes  
22      about St Euphrasia's, because it's all lies. It's not  
23      about what really happened. It's all about me running  
24      away ...

25      'When I skimmed through my notes it said that my

1       behaviour at St Euphrasia's was so bad, they were  
2       considering expelling me and sending me somewhere else.  
3       I wish I'd known about that. I would have said, "Send  
4       me then, because anywhere has got to be better than  
5       here"...

6       'I think there should be cameras everywhere.  
7       I don't believe abuse has ended ...

8       'It's no good getting a protection of vulnerable  
9       group check every three years. You could go out and do  
10      something the day after getting a clean one. You're  
11      still working with those people for three years. You  
12      might have been convicted of a sexual offence. Your  
13      employer wouldn't know, because they only send you to be  
14      checked every three years. I think it should be every  
15      six months.

16      'It's gone from one extreme to the other, from not  
17      believing children to a child saying one thing and being  
18      removed from the house. They need to do something  
19      because it's gone too far ...

20      'I want recognition for what happened. When  
21      John Swinney apologised, I went through to the Scottish  
22      Parliament. At the end of the day, it wasn't the  
23      Scottish Government that did it. We didn't even have  
24      a Scottish Government back then, but they're having to  
25      pay the price now. I think it's the Catholic Church

1           that needs to apologise. I hate them.

2           'I know the Catholic Church weren't the only  
3           organisation, but they were the organisation responsible  
4           for my care. They need to be outed and shamed and made  
5           to pay. The Government and taxpayers shouldn't be made  
6           to pay. It should be the institutions that did it.  
7           They should be paying and they should be on their knees  
8           apologising for what they did. We survivors spent our  
9           childhood being used as a punching bag and a sex toy.  
10          I heard a saying in the last year that child abuse casts  
11          a shadow that lasts a lifetime. It's true. People have  
12          been affected for the rest of their lives. It didn't  
13          end, coming out of there. They need to pay for that.

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

18          'Marie' signed the statement on 12 September 2019.

19   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20   MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I do have another statement to read,  
21               but I don't think I would finish it by the lunch break  
22               and I'm aware that there is another witness scheduled  
23               for 2 o'clock.

24   LADY SMITH: Due to start at 2.00 pm, yes.

25               Knowing what's in the next statement, I think it is



1 better that it is not broken, that it is read straight  
2 through. Let's stop now. We will have the next witness  
3 at 2 o'clock. We may or may not get time for the other  
4 statement today, possibly not. We will see.

5 Two other names before I rise. Two more of the  
6 nuns; Sister GWJ and Sister GWK, they are not  
7 to be identified as referred to in our evidence outside  
8 of this room.

9 Thank you.

10 (12.35 pm)

11 (The luncheon adjournment)

12 (2.00 pm)

13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady, we have another applicant who  
15 will be giving oral evidence this afternoon.

16 She wants to be anonymous and to use the pseudonym  
17 'Lydia' --

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: -- when giving her evidence.

20 Before she comes in, can I just say she was read in  
21 on the Sisters of Nazareth case study, that was on  
22 Day 70, 14 June 2018. That evidence can be found at  
23 TRN.001.003.3383.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1                                'Lydia' (sworn)

2    LADY SMITH:    Good afternoon, 'Lydia'.

3                                'Lydia', do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

4                                'Lydia', thank you for coming along this afternoon

5                                to help us with your evidence.    I have, of course,

6                                already explored your written evidence in the Sisters of

7                                Nazareth part of our work, some time ago now, part of

8                                your statement covers that, and I have been able to read

9                                your statement, of course, before you coming today, and

10                               that's been really helpful too.    But we would like to

11                               explore some aspects of it which are relevant to the

12                               case study that we are looking at just now, if that's

13                               all right.

14                               As we go through your evidence, taking you back many

15                               years, I know that it just feels difficult.    Because it

16                               is so long ago.    It feels difficult because you are in

17                               a public forum --

18    A.    Excuse me, Lady Anna, sorry, I cannae hear you properly.

19    LADY SMITH:    Can you hear me now?

20    A.    Aye, sorry.

21    LADY SMITH:    It may feel difficult because we are asking you

22                               about things so long ago, it may feel difficult because

23                               you are in a public place and it may be difficult

24                               because you are going to be asked about some things that

25                               may well be upsetting.    I understand that.

1           If you want a pause or a break or it just gets  
2       tearful, that's not a problem, you mustn't feel  
3       embarrassed and you mustn't feel that you can't speak up  
4       and ask for a break or anything else that would help,  
5       all right?

6   A.   Okay, thank you.

7   LADY SMITH:  If we are not explaining things properly, tell  
8       us, it is our fault not yours if you don't understand  
9       what we are asking or why we are asking.

10  A.   Okay.

11  LADY SMITH:  If you are ready I will hand over to  
12       Mr MacAulay and he will take it from there.

13  A.   I'm ready, thank you.

14  LADY SMITH:  Mr MacAulay.

15                       Questions from Mr MacAulay

16  MR MACAULAY:  Yes, hello, 'Lydia'.

17  A.   Hello.

18  Q.   In front of you, you will find a red folder and in that  
19       red folder you will find your statement, and the  
20       statement will also come up on the screen, so if you  
21       want to refer either to the screen or the statement in  
22       the folder, feel free to do so.  That screen in front of  
23       you.

24       The first thing I want to do is give a reference to  
25       the stenographers of the statement, and that is

1       WIT.001.001.7004.

2           'Lydia', the first thing I would like you to do for  
3       me is to turn to the last page of your statement.

4   A.   I've done it.

5   Q.   Page 29. Can you confirm you have signed the statement?

6   A.   Can I?

7   Q.   Can you confirm for me that you have signed the  
8       statement?

9   A.   Yes, it's my signature, I've signed this, yes.

10   Q.   Do you tell us in the final paragraph of the statement:

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

13       I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
14       true.'

15   A.   Yes.

16   Q.   You can then go back to the very beginning of the  
17       statement, and use whatever parts of the statement that  
18       you would find would help you as much as you would like.

19           Because you are anonymous, 'Lydia', I don't want  
20       your date of birth, but just to get a context for your  
21       evidence, can you confirm that you were born in 1961?

22   A.   Yes.

23   Q.   You begin by telling us what life was like before you  
24       were taken into care for the first time. In particular,  
25       that your mother had previously been married, and then

1 married again to your father?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That you have, I think you tell us, a sister and two

4 brothers, is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Your sister was older than you?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. But the brothers a bit younger?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You also say at paragraph 3 that you realise that your

11 father was away from home; do you know where he was?

12 A. Sometimes in the prison.

13 Q. Yes. Did that mean your mother had to bear the brunt of

14 caring for the children?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The other thing you tell us early on, 'Lydia', is that

17 you were travellers?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you just explain that to me, and how life was as

20 a traveller?

21 A. It was very strict. My father wouldn't let us out to

22 play or anything. And I remember it must have been the

23 school, the school, I think it was, it got

24 a psychologist in to talk to me and then it was

25 a cruelty man, a Mr Black, he came to my mum and dad's

1       house, and the man was asking my father why he doesn't  
2       let us out to play or that and my dad didn't let us out  
3       to play because it was to try to protect, ken, fae what  
4       was going on in Aberdeen.

5   Q.   You talked about Aberdeen there, did you stay all your  
6       time in Aberdeen?

7   A.   No.

8   Q.   No.

9   A.   We were travelling, we call it trailers, but caravans,  
10       we went travelling about in that, they were trailers,  
11       or, sorry, caravans.

12  Q.   I think what you tell us in your statement is that you  
13       were aged about 4 or 5 when you first were taken into  
14       care?

15  A.   Yes.

16  Q.   Was that to Nazareth House in Aberdeen?

17  A.   Yes, Colin.

18  Q.   You were very young at that time?

19  A.   Aye, my ma had fell out the window, that's what  
20       happened, Colin, she fell out the window, and I just  
21       mind me and my sister being in the living room, she  
22       cleaned the inside of the windows, it was the top floor,  
23       and then, er, I just mind seeing police and ambulance at  
24       the bottom of the stairs, but I cannae remember if that  
25       was what took us into the care system.

1 Q. What you are telling me, and I think you talk about this  
2 in your statement, is that your mother suffered injuries  
3 because of the fall?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. Did she then have to go into hospital?

6 A. Yes. Colin, sorry, but, erm, just last week I sent away  
7 for my mother's papers, because that will be able to  
8 clarify the date when I know I was definitely, and that  
9 was when I was getting put in hot and cold water, me my  
10 sister was in Nazareth House, I can only remember the  
11 once being in there, but my sister and my mother told me  
12 it was twice --

13 Q. You certainly talk about once in your statement, but if  
14 there is any other information you would like to pass on  
15 to us, feel free to do so down the line.

16 A. When I did my statement, I says the once, because it was  
17 only the once I remember.

18 Q. Yes, absolutely.

19 A. But I went home, my sister told me no, it was twice we  
20 was in.

21 Q. You must bear in mind, 'Lydia', that you were very young  
22 when you went into Nazareth House, you may have been  
23 aged about 4 or 5?

24 A. 4 or 5, that's right, aye.

25 Q. That would mean that was around 1965 or possibly 1966?

1 A. I've just sent away for papers. I got a doctor to come  
2 to my mother's house in order to countersign it, in  
3 order to get the dates. So probably there's a letter,  
4 'cause I've been down here for four days, so there's  
5 probably a letter in the house.

6 Q. As I have said to you, if there are dates that you have  
7 discovered and you want to let us know, please do so.

8 A. I think it could be 1964 or 1965.

9 Q. Okay, thank you.

10 You tell us a little bit about Nazareth House,  
11 I don't think you were there very long?

12 A. I don't know how long I was there.

13 Q. What you do tell us at paragraph 11 is you don't  
14 remember anybody coming to visit you?

15 A. No, I just remember the Sister, she was like strawberry  
16 blonde hair and glasses, her coming and getting me and  
17 my sister and, erm, we was took into her office and my  
18 dad was standing with his back to the three of us, and  
19 I was happy to see my dad, but I remember it must have  
20 been them that bought my sister and me, one got a blue  
21 dress and one had a yellow dress, so it was  
22 Nazareth House that had bought the dresses for us.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. And me da came in an estate car and took us awa', so me  
25 ma must have been in the hospital then.



1 Q. Yes.

2 A. And then another time, I know that it was a council  
3 lady, a Mrs Queen, she came to the house and my da was  
4 lying sleeping and she told us that she was taking us to  
5 a picnic. It wasn't a picnic, it was Nazareth House  
6 bit.

7 Q. Yes. So you were misled, then, it wasn't true what she  
8 had said to you?

9 A. Sorry?

10 Q. It wasn't true, you weren't going on a picnic, you were  
11 being taken back into care?

12 A. No, no, erm, took into care.

13 Q. What you tell us in your statement is that when you left  
14 Nazareth House, the time we have been talking about, you  
15 went to stay with your grandmother for a while?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No? Where did you go then when you left?

18 A. Me da had took us home.

19 Q. Okay. Did you then go to school?

20 A. I cannae mind. I cannae remember that.

21 Q. Do you remember getting bullied at school?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. Can you tell me about that?

24 A. Puts age, Colin, I was getting bullied at Smithfield  
25 School. Erm, (Inaudible) what age I was. I was getting

1       bullied at Smithfield School, and Hilton School, and  
2       that.

3   Q.  As you already told us, you were from the travelling  
4       community and your father, in particular, was  
5       overprotective of you?

6   A.  Mm-hm.

7   Q.  Is that right?

8   A.  Aye, I was terrified of my father, Colin.

9   Q.  He wouldn't let you out to play, for example?

10  A.  Aye, he wouldn't let us out to play or that.

11  Q.  Do you remember then this other social worker coming and  
12       asking questions?

13  A.  A Mr Black, it was, that came to --

14  Q.  What was he interested in, what did he want to know?

15  A.  He was wanting to know why I was carrying on at school,  
16       doing wrong in the school and that. And him and me da  
17       spoke and then he told my father that -- there was  
18       a club across from the school -- there was a school,  
19       middle school, [REDACTED], and he  
20       says to my father that me and my sister should be  
21       getting to go to the club once or twice a week to  
22       interact with other people.

23  Q.  Yes.

24  A.  And my father was saying no at first and that, but it  
25       ended up we got to go to the club and that.

1 Q. You did go to the club?

2 A. Yes, we ended up getting to go because of Mr Black

3 coming to the house, and I think it was the school that

4 got him to come to the house. 'Cause I must have been

5 saying to the psychologist in the school about not

6 getting out to play and whatever.

7 Q. Did you also then have another social worker that you

8 were involved with for quite a period of time?

9 A. It's only one social worker I can remember having, it

10 was Mary McDonald.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. She was a nun.

13 Q. You think she was a nun, was she?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did she wear the nun's habit?

16 A. No, no.

17 Q. No.

18 What you tell us then is that you thought you were

19 about 11 when you went back into care, and you were put

20 into a home for girls in Aberdeen?

21 A. Erm, I think it was St Margaret's or St Clair's,

22 I think, I cannae mind the name.

23 Q. Did you think you were about 11 at that time? Maybe

24 older?

25 A. Maybe a bit older. I cannae mind, sorry.

1 Q. Okay.

2 You tell us a little bit about St Clair's, and it

3 was after you had been there that you were put into

4 Brimmond Assessment Centre, do you remember that?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Thank you. We have records for that, and I think you

7 may have seen the records yourself --

8 A. I cannae mind.

9 Q. -- that you went to Brimmond on [REDACTED] 1975, so you

10 would be aged about 13, does that fit in with your own

11 recollection?

12 A. Probably.

13 Q. Who [REDACTED] Brimmond when you were there?

14 A. A Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] ERL-ERM .

15 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about your time in

16 Brimmond, then?

17 A. I had been running away, Colin, from the house, er, so

18 my father had took -- my mother and my father took me to

19 the Social Work Department, and I just remember sitting

20 in the front -- a room at the front, and me dad had went

21 in and spoke to her, and my da had says to the social

22 worker, 'My daughter's going to end up getting murdered

23 or raped wi' her running away', he says, 'And it will be

24 on your hands', he says, ''Cause I've come up here'.

25 Well, that day, I just remember my ma and me da walking

1 down from the betty at the window, ken, and I was upset,  
2 I cannae actually mind going in to Brimmond that day.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But I mind my ma, she was greetin, I was greetin, ken,  
5 but they didnae come into the room to say, 'You're going  
6 awa' or anything ...

7 Q. But that's when you went into Brimmond?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. I think when you were there, you were in a dormitory  
10 with other girls; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Have you any idea how many children were at Brimmond at  
13 that time?

14 A. No, I ken I was -- sorry for speaking like this, Colin,  
15 but it was prostitutes, there was girls in there that  
16 were prostituting, from there, from -- [REDACTED],  
17 I cannae mind her last name.

18 Q. So there were older girls in there?

19 A. There was older girls in there as well.

20 Q. When you were at Brimmond, were you going to school or  
21 getting any lessons?

22 A. No. There was -- downstairs, there was -- I think there  
23 was two rooms, and I never, ever, got taken in to get  
24 educated or anything in Brimmond, no.

25 Q. Did your social worker come to visit you at Brimmond?

1 A. Nae that I can remember, nae in Brimmond.

2 Q. What about your mother?

3 A. My mum used to come up, I think it was a Sunday, she  
4 used to come up every time. And I ken me da came, I had  
5 smashed one of the windows in Brimmond, and, well, my da  
6 ended up -- he come up to see me, and I refused the  
7 visit, I didnae go to the visit, because I said, 'My da  
8 will end up killing me for doing that', ken, I used to  
9 say, 'My da will end up killing me'. Me dad used to  
10 assault me, Colin, when I did wrong and that, he did,  
11 but I never, ever told the truth when I was younger,  
12 ken, I never stuck my da, I'll say, I never told  
13 anybody.

14 Q. Okay. You tell us a little bit about things that  
15 happened at Brimmond. This is from paragraph 31  
16 onwards. One thing you say is Mrs ERL would take  
17 the boys out and have them massage her feet.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Did you see that happening?

20 A. No, I never seen it happening, no.

21 Q. How did you find out about that?

22 A. 'Cause the boys would say ken, when we was doon in the  
23 dining hall and that, 'cause the boys and the girls were  
24 in the dining halls together and the boys would say ken,  
25 'Am I getting to do the massaging?' I didn't see

1 nothing wrong with that, Colin.

2 Q. You also had dealings with a staff member by the name of

3 LMH ?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. Can you tell me about that?

6 A. I had smashed a window, so I don't know if I'd done it

7 the first time or the second time, I'd smashed a window,

8 and LMH had come into the -- where are the girls was

9 and that, and he took me through to the corridor, it

10 would be that door's locked, 'cause the boys is in that

11 end, and I was in the corridor, I had to sleep in the

12 corridor, and the girls' door -- so the boys' door and

13 the girls' door was locked and that was the staff's

14 flat. LMH used to sleep in the flat, and, er,

15 I cannae mind the man's name, but she used to take

16 a male member of staff in there, ken, and they would get

17 up to things and I'm lying in the corridor and I would

18 hear them and that, ken, and -- I don't ken how it

19 happened, but LMH ended up assaulting me in the

20 corridor, without anybody seeing.

21 Q. What did she do to you?

22 A. She was pulling me hair and I ended up grabbing her by

23 the hair, Colin, I did, I grabbed her by the hair and

24 I was made to sleep in the corridor for smashing the

25 window and then -- and I may say nothing bad about

1 Mrs GJP and Mr GJO was -- to me she was  
2 a lady and he was a gentleman, the GJO-GJP, and,  
3 well, the last time I had to scrub the stairs, I didnae  
4 scrub the stairs, Colin, they gave you a toothbrush.  
5 Q. Now, who gave you the toothbrush?  
6 A. LMH .  
7 Q. LMH, yes.  
8 A. And Mrs GJP had given me one as well, she'd  
9 given me -- and, well, I was pretending, it was during  
10 the night, it was never during the day, it was during  
11 the night, and you'd get the cloth and the toothbrush to  
12 scrub the stairs wi'. The staff didnae stay in the  
13 stairs during the night wi' you, ken, they would go  
14 away, and, well, I used to pretend I was scrubbing the  
15 stairs, ken, but I didn't, I used to wipe it, and just  
16 move doon, sit for a while, ken, and then wipe it.  
17 I didnae scrub it with the toothbrush.  
18 Q. Was this then some sort of punishment?  
19 A. Aye, aye.  
20 Q. Why were you sleeping in the corridor?  
21 A. It must have been because of the, ken, carrying on and  
22 (Inaudible) where the girls was, so I was made to sleep  
23 in the corridor.  
24 Q. How long --  
25 A. The two doors, that was the boys' door, just say here



1 I'm sleeping, and that was the girls' door, so the girls  
2 couldnae get to me, the boys couldnae get to me, it  
3 would only be the staff member LMH , it was her that  
4 was always in the flat, staying in the flat.

5 Q. Yes, how long did you spend sleeping in the corridor?  
6 A. During the night.

7 Q. Every night?  
8 A. No, no, no, no, it happened -- say about four times it  
9 happened.

10 Q. Okay. You say that this lady, LMH , picked on you, is  
11 that how it felt?  
12 A. Aye, but she was a young lassie, er, LMH , she was  
13 young, so --

14 Q. Was she a member of staff, though?  
15 A. Aye, she was a member of staff. So I think wi' me  
16 smashing the window and everything, and she'd be wanting  
17 to be in the flat, ken, with the boyfriend, and then,  
18 well, with me smashing windows, well, that's caused  
19 carry ons for them and of course it was an inconvenience  
20 for them, if I was doing wrong.

21 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 33 that when you were  
22 in Brimmond, clearly because of your age, you hadn't  
23 started your periods?  
24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. Did something happen, though?

1 A. LMH -- it was LMH that made me put a Tampax inside  
2 me, Colin, but I never had my periods or anything.

3 Q. No.

4 A. And I ended up taken the pads and the Tampaxes out the  
5 bathroom and I stupidly threw them out a window, but  
6 I didnae realise, so it must have been when I've nae  
7 long went into the place, I didnae realise that where  
8 I had throwed them out, it was the yard, it was the yard  
9 where the boys played football, and they asked me to go  
10 out and get 'em, I says, 'No, I'm nae doing that in  
11 front of the boys, I'm nae going out to get them', they  
12 knew it was me, obviously, that done it and I said, 'No,  
13 I'm nae going out to get the Tampax or nothing in front  
14 of the boys, I'm nae doing it', but I didnae realise  
15 that they played football in the yard.

16 Q. Did you have to sit with the tampon inside you at some  
17 points?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Can you help me with that?

20 A. LMH told me to put the Tampax inside me, and I did put  
21 the Tampax inside me. And, erm, to tell you the truth,  
22 Colin, it's only twice in my life that I've actually --  
23 wi' LMH getting me to do that, and I was in agony, and  
24 I was in agony, uncomfortable and everything.

25 And the second time that I had used a Tampax, yous

1       can check with the doctors and that, when I used the  
2       Tampax, I'd forgot I had the Tampax in me, and the  
3       doctor told me I could have toxic poison I think it's  
4       called, toxic poison, because it was left inside me and  
5       I had forgot it had been inside me.

6   Q.   Was that later on, though?

7   A.   Aye.

8   Q.   You also tell us --

9   A.   The doctor had to take it out, Colin.

10  Q.   Okay, but was that after you left Brimmond?

11  A.   Yes.

12  Q.   You tell us that they had a cell, what you described as  
13       a cell in Brimmond?

14  A.   Uh-huh, that was in the corridor where the boys was,  
15       when you went up the stairs, it was an L-shape, the boys  
16       were in the long corridor, their rooms was all in a long  
17       corridor, and there was a cell, with like plastic --  
18       a plastic window, and I was in the cell as well, Colin,  
19       I had dyed my hair when I was in Tynepark and I says,  
20       'I'd better nae go hame to my ma and da's, my da will  
21       kill me for doing it', 'cause my dad would see it as  
22       prostitutes, ken, dyeing their hair, to do my nails, or  
23       anything and I had, erm --

24       Sorry, Colin, I'm ...

25  Q.   It's okay, don't worry, I will try and keep you on the

1 straight and narrow if I can.

2 A. Well, that's what happened, Colin. Because I had went  
3 to a friend's house, I went to my grandmother's house  
4 first, and my grandma says to me, 'You can't stay here',  
5 'cause it will cause trouble with me da, and it would  
6 have, because that was my mum's side.

7 Well, they would have let me out to play and  
8 everything, so I ended up going to a [REDACTED], I cannae mind  
9 her last name, a [REDACTED], she was in St Euphrasia's, [REDACTED],  
10 and I had went to her house, and this -- I phoned the  
11 social worker Mary McDonald to tell her that I couldnae  
12 go hame to me ma and da's because of me dyeing my hair.  
13 Well, she came and collected me and took me right to  
14 Brimmond, and that's how I got put in the cell in the  
15 first time.

16 Q. You talk about that later in your statement, and I will  
17 come to that, but then on this occasion when you were in  
18 Brimmond when you may be 11 or so, were you ever put in  
19 the cell?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. For what reasons would you be put in the cell?

22 A. Because instead of me going home to my mum and dad's,  
23 instead of me going to their house, and I tried to --  
24 well, my da seen it as me being wild, going to my  
25 grandmother's house and then going to a friend's hoose,

1 Mary McDonald came and got me, and I never seen me ma  
2 and da, and she took me right to Brimmond and I was put  
3 in the cell.

4 Q. Is that the only time then you were in the cell?

5 A. No, I was in it three times.

6 Q. All together. Can you describe the cell to us, 'Lydia'?

7 A. It was just like a police cell, Colin, it was freezing  
8 cold in the cell, and to me it was -- I cannae remember  
9 if her name was GJP, it was --  
10 she was coming in and giving me tea and whatever, and  
11 she used to come in and speak to me, ken, and say to me,  
12 'Is your (indistinct) on?' And, 'Just try and be good  
13 and everything', she was a good woman.

14 Q. Can you tell me how long you spent in the cell on these  
15 occasions?

16 A. A few nights.

17 Q. A few nights?

18 A. A few nights.

19 Q. Was there a bed there?

20 A. It was like a -- kinda like a slab.

21 Q. Okay. What about a toilet, if you needed the toilet?

22 A. I cannae mind, Colin, (Inaudible) toilets.

23 Q. That's fine.

24 A. I cannae mind.

25 Q. You tell us then at paragraph 39 onwards about when you

1       came to leave Brimmond. You thought you were there for  
2       about three months, and, according to the records, you  
3       left in [REDACTED] 1975, when you were aged 13. Does that  
4       fit in with your own thinking?

5   A. I can't remember.

6   Q. When you came to leave Brimmond on this occasion, was it  
7       Mary McDonald who came to take you away?

8   A. Erm, Mary McDonald came and got me, and it was to go  
9       down to St Euphrasia's for the day. So we travelled  
10      from Aberdeen.

11         Erm, no, we went to Forfar first, she stopped at  
12      Forfar, 'cause she drove, we stopped at Forfar for  
13      a Chinese and Mary McDonald, she ordered me a plate of  
14      bean sprouts.

15   Q. Right.

16   A. And whatever meal -- it was a meal she had, I got  
17      a plate of bean sprouts, and I mind sitting eating it  
18      and going, 'I cannae eat this, ken, I cannae eat it',  
19      she thought I was just being awkward, but it was just  
20      a big plate with bean sprouts.

21         She took me down to -- fae Forfar, we went to  
22      St Euphrasia's, and there was other girls from Aberdeen,  
23      [REDACTED] and that, she was in there at the time, a  
24      [REDACTED], I cannae mind her last name, [REDACTED], there was  
25      other girls in there. But when you went in, it was just

1 to get a look around, ken, for a few hours, ken, and the  
2 Aberdeen girls, they would be -- it would be them that  
3 was showing me round the place, and --  
4 Q. Did your social worker tell you, then, that this is  
5 where you were going to be?  
6 A. Uh-huh.  
7 Q. You were told that?  
8 A. Yes, that's how she took me down, to let me see the  
9 place.  
10 Q. That's, I think, in about [REDACTED] 1975, when you were  
11 aged 13?  
12 A. I cannae mind the age.  
13 Q. No.  
14 Can you tell us a little bit about St Euphrasia's,  
15 it was run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Do you  
16 remember any of the names of the Sisters, for example  
17 who was SNR [REDACTED] when you were there?  
18 A. Yeah, HOJ [REDACTED], she was SNR [REDACTED], she was a nice  
19 lady, and she was a nice lady.  
20 And Sister LMJ [REDACTED], she was the -- the house we  
21 stayed in, I cannae mind how many girls was in it, but,  
22 erm, she was in charge of us, Sister LMJ [REDACTED]. She  
23 was an older lady, erm, Sister LMJ [REDACTED], and I think  
24 she had too much to do.  
25 Q. Why do you say that?

1 A. Because -- I think she was an older lady, and she was  
2 always kind of exhausted, and kind of having to -- she  
3 had too much to do. To me, she had too much to do.

4 Q. Were there other nuns there as well, apart from the two  
5 you have mentioned?

6 A. No, no, I was -- I think her name was LMM ,  
7 a woman, ken, she would be teaching you how to crochet  
8 and that in there.

9 Q. You tell us a little bit about the routine, and I will  
10 pick up one or two points. For example, I think you say  
11 that there were dormitories but they had wooden  
12 partitions, is that right?

13 A. That's right, aye.

14 Q. How many girls would there be to a room?

15 A. Six.

16 Q. I think it was all girls who were at St Euphrasia's?

17 A. Aye, it was all girls.

18 Q. The age range, can you help me with that? Have you any  
19 recollection?

20 A. I cannae remember how old I was.

21 Q. You were 13, I think, according to the records.

22 A. So it would be girls, probably, there was younger girls,  
23 I know there was younger girls, because there was  
24 sisters in there, and an older sister and a younger girl  
25 than me, , I think her name was, I think they were



1 Italian, the two of them.

2 Q. You tell us, again looking at the routine, that you  
3 would be woken up early in the morning, particularly as  
4 a punishment for running away, and you had to go to mass  
5 at 6 o'clock in the morning?

6 A. Everybody had to do that. I told a lie, Colin, 'cause  
7 I used to get to phone home on a Wednesday and a Sunday,  
8 two days of the week I used to get to phone my ma, and,  
9 sorry, what did you just ask me there?

10 Q. Just on that then, you were allowed to phone your mother  
11 during the week when you were there. Of course, you  
12 were in Bishopton, which is near Glasgow, and was your  
13 mother still in Aberdeen?

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. So a long way away?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. One thing you say in the statement is that you were  
18 always fainting when you were kneeling to pray?

19 A. Aye, that was when I was at church, aye, in church.

20 Q. What happened when you fainted?

21 A. I ended up being -- a lot of the girls got to smoke,  
22 Colin, they were allowed to smoke, and they would get  
23 breakfast, they would get breakfast, and so I would say  
24 it was jealousy on my behalf, that they were getting  
25 toast and tea in the morning and they got to smoke and

1       that, and I ended up saying to my mother, talking our  
2       language, saying to my mother, ken, to phone  
3       St Euphrasia's, to tell a lie, that I wasn't a Catholic.  
4       I am a Catholic, but I got my mother to phone,  
5       without my father knowing, to say that I wasn't  
6       a Catholic, in order for me to not to go to the church  
7       and that.  
8   Q. Did that make a difference, did you still have to go to  
9       church, or did your mother do the phone call?  
10  A. No, my mother made the phone call to them, but the nuns  
11       knew that I was telling lies, that it was me.  
12       Sister LMJ used to stand, it was like a phone  
13       box, a wooden box it was, and I used to go in there to  
14       phone, well, she couldn't understand what I was saying  
15       on the phone, so she was always biling with me, kind of  
16       annoyed with me, because she couldn't understand what  
17       I was saying, and they knew that I was telling lies,  
18       anyway, because they ken wi' my da that we was Catholics  
19       and that.  
20  Q. Did you have to do work when you were there?  
21  A. Everybody had to do work, Colin, everybody.  
22  Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that, what types of  
23       work you had to do?  
24  A. We had to clean the whole place. Whatever unit -- if  
25       this was our unit, we had to -- one person would have to

1 do the living room for a week, they would have to clean  
2 the living room for a week, the other person would have  
3 to clean the bathrooms, the other person would have to  
4 clean the corridors. Everybody was allocated a job, and  
5 then the week after, ken, it would change, ken everybody  
6 got moved around to do it.

7 Q. What about schooling, then?

8 A. And Colin, it's to make this clear to you, years ago we  
9 had to use buffers.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. And it was blocks, kind of heavy blocks, my hands used  
12 to, there, I used to hae blisters on 'em, ken, when I  
13 was -- 'cause it was like, heavy, how can I --

14 LADY SMITH: 'Lydia', I heard evidence about these bumpers,  
15 as some people called them, in earlier case studies and  
16 we have some photographs of them, actually, we put one  
17 of the photographs in one of the case study  
18 publications.

19 A. Aye, no --

20 LADY SMITH: They are big, very big, for children.

21 A. For children to use it, it was to polish the floors.  
22 They would get us to -- I think it was wax, I cannae  
23 remember, put the wax all around the floors, definitely  
24 in the corridors, and then I think it was, just cloths,  
25 ken, they would let us slide up and down, well, I liked

1       that, getting to slide up and down, to polish them, but  
2       I didnae like when we had to use the buffers, 'cause the  
3       buffers was that -- they would pull you about, they were  
4       heavy, the buffers.

5   Q.   Schooling then, I was going to ask you about schooling,  
6       were you --

7   A.   Schooling in St Euphrasia's.

8   Q.   Were you getting some schooling when you were there?

9   A.   Uh-huh.

10  Q.   And who were the teachers?

11  A.   I cannae -- I remember a priest being in the school,  
12       a young -- maybe I'm remembering the priest because of  
13       me running away, Colin, wi' other girls, I had to, me  
14       and a [REDACTED] fae Paisley, me and her, we had no  
15       underwear on, we'd plimsolls yous would call it, so we  
16       had our gym shoes on and just thin nightdresses, and  
17       because of this, the priest being the teacher, well,  
18       I had phoned home and told my mother, and my mother told  
19       my father, so he'd phoned St Euphrasia's and says to  
20       Sister [REDACTED] HOJ, 'My daughter's not going to a school  
21       [aye, and the school was in there] with the teacher  
22       being a man'. So I ended up getting my clothes. I got  
23       my clothes but at the time they had been putting us to  
24       school with nightdresses on in order for us to not run  
25       away.

1 Q. The nightdress was a punishment for having run away?  
2 A. Yes. The reason they'll hae done that, Colin, me and  
3 [REDACTED] had to wear this nightdresses to go to the school  
4 and just gym shoes would have been so we didn't run  
5 away, ken, with just a nightdress on. I never thought  
6 it at the time, but years later, I thought, ken, that's  
7 probably how they done it. But my da went off his head  
8 with them, ken, sorry, he went off his head because --  
9 well, a priest being there, ken, a man being there, and  
10 me having to wear a nightdress.  
11 Q. You do tell us a little bit about some leisure time that  
12 you had. One of the things you would do at the weekend,  
13 you say, was to go for a walk across the Erskine Bridge?  
14 A. Aye, I was terrified, I used to refuse.  
15 Sister LMJ [REDACTED] used to pull up in the van and other  
16 girls had to get out the van, and I just used to sit in  
17 the van and say, 'No, I'm nae doing it, I'm nae getting  
18 out', I was terrified to walk over the bridge, I says,  
19 'I'm nae doing it'.  
20 Q. So you didn't do it?  
21 A. No, I didn't do it, I wouldnae do it.  
22 Q. Were birthdays celebrated when you were there?  
23 A. I can only remember the girl, [REDACTED], there was two  
24 sisters, and it was something to do with their mother,  
25 I remember she got a birthday cake, the girl, [REDACTED],

1       [REDACTED] her name is, she got a birthday cake. It's  
2       only her I remember getting a birthday cake.

3   Q. Were you there over Christmas, did you spend Christmas  
4       there?

5   A. I can mind trees, decorations being up and that, Colin,  
6       but I cannae mind if I was actually there to celebrate  
7       Christmas.

8   Q. You have told me about your running away, and did you  
9       run away quite a lot?

10  A. I think I did, Colin, aye.

11  Q. Other girls, did other girls run away as well?

12  A. Aye, it was other girls that stayed in Renfrewshire and  
13       Paisley and, ken, round about that area.

14  Q. Of course, your family were up north in Aberdeen, so  
15       where did you go when you ran away?

16  A. I went wi' the girls.

17  Q. Yes. Were you usually caught by the police and taken  
18       back?

19  A. I remember one of the train stations, I was wanting to  
20       go to Aberdeen, and I had says -- I says to the girls,  
21       ken, 'We'll go to Aberdeen', when we was in whatever  
22       station it was, Central or the other one in Glasgow, and  
23       I just remember police running everywhere, and us, they  
24       were all taken into a room and I just remember the  
25       police shouting, 'Where's the Aberdeen girl? Where's

1       the Aberdeen girl?' Well, one of the girls must've  
2       says, ken, 'That's her, ken, out in the station', and  
3       I got taken into the station and that, I remember that.  
4       And then I remember I ran away another time, and we  
5       must've been in fields, and the police, they had torches  
6       out and everything, well, they'd caught the other girls,  
7       and I was still in the field, and the police were  
8       shouting to me, ken, 'If you dinnae come, ken, you'll  
9       get left here on your own'.  
10       Well, I ended up -- I thought right enough, ken,  
11       I'll be terrified, so I ended up going to the police,  
12       aye, in the field.  
13    Q.   Why were you running away?  
14    A.   Because I didn't like the place.  
15    Q.   Did you say anything to the police about why you were  
16       running away?  
17    A.   I da ken. I cannae mind.  
18    Q.   When you went back then, to St Euphrasia's, you have  
19       told me about the nightdresses, having to wear  
20       a nightdress, did anything else happen to you?  
21    A.   What, in St Euphrasia's?  
22    Q.   Yes.  
23    A.   I was getting bullied in there as well, Colin.  
24    Q.   Was that by other girls?  
25    A.   Aye, other girls. 'Cause what would happen is the

1 staff, which they did do, rather than them saying  
2 anything, because I used to clype all the time to my ma  
3 and my da, I used to clype to them all the time, so in  
4 order to pay me back, I'll say, they would get other  
5 girls to bully me, and they had favourites in there,  
6 ken, girls that was there for long times, ken, and the  
7 girls would do what was asked of them.

8 I used -- when I went home, in home leaves, Colin,  
9 my mother used to buy me every colour of wool, ken, for  
10 crocheting, because they learned me how to crochet and  
11 that, well, the girls that didnae hae nothing, ken, when  
12 I went back, I used to gi' girls, erm, wool and that.

13 Well, I was getting into trouble for doing that.  
14 They said I was buying friends, that's what they says to  
15 me, I was buying friends when I was sharing with the  
16 girls, ken, them that had nothing, or them that didnae  
17 hae parents, ken, to go home to or that, I used to gi'  
18 them big balls of wool and that.

19 Q. The bullying you have been telling me about, was that  
20 then by older girls?

21 A. I da ken if they were older, Colin.

22 Q. You have already mentioned the fact that you were  
23 allowed to phone home?

24 A. Wednesday and a Sunday I got to phone.

25 Q. What you say in your statement at paragraph 58, I will



1       just read this:

2           'On a Sunday I was allowed to use the phone because

3       I was running away.'

4           Then you say:

5           'I should never have been ripped away from my family

6       in Aberdeen and sent all the way to Bishopton.'

7           Is that how you feel about it?

8   A.   Uh-huh.

9   Q.   You were taken away from your family and sent far away?

10   A.   Uh-huh.

11           I mind Mary McDonald saying to me that it was --

12       it's just ... the other girls, ken, they are far away as

13       well, and I used to argue wi' her and say to her, 'No,

14       they stay local, and they can go hame at short notices

15       or anything', ken, it was me that was the furthest. But

16       there was other girls from Aberdeen there as well.

17   Q.   What you go on to tell us is that during the time you

18       were there, you may have got home four times during that

19       whole time?

20   A.   Sorry, I got what?

21   Q.   You say in your statement that during the whole time

22       that you were at St Euphrasia's, you may have got home

23       four times on leave?

24   A.   I cannae mind --

25   Q.   You can't remember, okay.

1 A. -- how many times I get home.

2 Q. One thing you do say is that your mother couldn't afford  
3 to visit you?

4 A. No, that's right. I remember my mother being down there  
5 once, Colin, and I don't know ... to me I think it  
6 was -- they know -- the Sisters all knew the way my  
7 father was. And I remember my mother being there once,  
8 and when I went out the room, my ma was greetin' and  
9 everything, so I think that was when I was raped, when  
10 my mother was --

11 Q. I will come to that.

12 A. Sorry.

13 Q. Was it then that your mother came down?

14 A. I think it was, uh-huh.

15 Q. What you say in paragraph 60, and I will just read this  
16 for you, because you quote something here:

17 'My social worker, Mary McDonald, just thought I was  
18 a troublemaker.'

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. You make reference to an entry in your records. Do  
21 I take it that you have recovered your records?

22 A. Not them all, Colin, no.

23 Q. But you have recovered some?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. This quote comes from your social work records?

1 A. What's the quote?

2 Q. I will just read it to you.

3 A. Sorry, sorry.

4 Q. There is an entry in your records for [REDACTED] 1975:

5 '[You] were admitted to St Euphrasia's ... [and

6 that's the date of your admission] here she shows

7 herself to be a first class manipulator.'

8 A. No, I used to tell the Sisters, ken, anything to do wi'

9 anything, I used to say that, 'Me da will kill me, me da

10 will kill me', ken, I used to say that to them, ken, if

11 I did anything wrong.

12 Q. She goes on to record:

13 'She has spoken of the unjust treatment given her at

14 home by her parents, and to her father, she complains of

15 the treatment meted out to her at St Euphrasia's, just

16 as she did at Brimmond.'

17 Now, were you complaining of the treatment you were

18 getting at St Euphrasia's?

19 A. Aye, I'd been complaining about Brimmond as well.

20 Q. So what were your complaints?

21 A. I was complaining about the way they was wi' us, strict

22 and that, they was wi' us.

23 Q. Okay. You have another quote at paragraph 61, and you

24 say that she visited you twice and she came with your

25 mother after you were raped, and I am going to look at

1       that in a moment:

2       'The other time may have been for the nun's funeral.

3       She tried to belittle me with lies. She wrote to me

4       [this is a letter] on 29 August 1975, and accused [you]

5       of misbehaving when I was actually homesick.'.

6       So this is a letter she wrote to you?

7   A. Er --

8   Q. This is a letter that she --

9   A. Colin, Mary McDonald, I know when she came to me ma and

10       da's hoose, my da and her would argue kinda as though

11       they were a couple and me da used to say to her, ken,

12       'You're a woman of the Lord' and that, ken, and, 'It's

13       wrong what you're doing, ken, with my daughter' and

14       that. Ken, she actually tried to get my two brothers

15       into care as well.

16   Q. Well, if I just read what you have set out here that

17       she's written to you:

18       'I was very distressed to hear from Sister BGR

19       that your behaviour has not been all that it should. It

20       is sad to think that you are taking advantage of the

21       fact that you live a long way from home, where, in point

22       of fact, of course, the girls living in places such as

23       Glasgow or nearer are in every respect, mileage

24       accepted, as far from home as you.'

25   A. Mary McDonald wrote me that letter.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. She wrote me the letter saying that to me.

3 Q. Was this at the time or was this later on?

4 A. When I was in St Euphrasia's, she wrote that to me.

5 Q. She goes on to say:

6 'It grieves me to think that your pattern of conduct

7 has not changed from the time you first went to

8 Brimmond.'

9 What did you think when you received this letter?

10 A. I couldn't say anything, because it was a nun, and then

11 it was nuns that were in there.

12 Q. You go on to tell us about the fact that at

13 St Euphrasia's there were two cells?

14 A. Aye, there was two cells in there. It was up the

15 stairs. So I must have run away, because I remember

16 haeing the nightie on, and the gym shoes on, and it was

17 Sister LMJ, and I didnae realise that they had

18 cells and I never heard any of the girls speaking about

19 cells or that.

20 They took me -- Sister LMJ took me up to the

21 two cells, and there was a man sorting -- he must have

22 been a man to maintain the premises -- he was sorting

23 the lights, and she was trying to scare me from running

24 away, showing me the two cells, that that's where I'm

25 going to be, and I ken, the bit it was, it was like awa'

1       fae everyone else, naebody would have heard you, nobody  
2       would have heard you.

3   Q.   Right.

4   A.   And it did intimidate me for a while, but I think  
5       I'd run away again after that.

6   Q.   Can you describe the cells to me?

7   A.   It was just like a police cell, the two of them was just  
8       like a police cell. Cold, it was just cold, bare, the  
9       two of them, I cannae remember to do with the beds. But  
10      I ken they were up the stairs, she took me to show me,  
11      and she'd been doing that in order to scare me nae to  
12      run awa'.

13  Q.   Did you ever actually end up in the cells?

14  A.   No, no.

15  Q.   At paragraph 64, what you say is:

16       'I was just a slave and a number.'

17       Can you explain what you mean by that?

18  A.   'Cause that's all we had to do in there, it was clean,  
19      clean, clean, clean all the time. We just had to clean.

20  Q.   And being a number?

21  A.   Sorry?

22  Q.   You say you were a slave and a number?

23  A.   Aye.

24  Q.   Were you given a number, or were you --

25  A.   No.

1 Q. You go on to say:  
2 'They were cruel to me.'  
3 Can you --  
4 A. They used to get the girls to ignore me and that, Colin.  
5 They would just be silent. Ken, nae speak to me, or  
6 anything.  
7 Q. One thing you say is that they told your mother that you  
8 never asked for her?  
9 A. They told my mother?  
10 Q. That you never asked for your mother, was that true?  
11 A. No, of course I used to ask for me ma.  
12 Q. Can I talk about what you have already mentioned in  
13 passing, 'Lydia', and that's the rape in Paisley. Can  
14 you just give me the background to how you came to be in  
15 Paisley?  
16 A. [REDACTED] came from Paisley, the girl that I'd run  
17 away with, and I cannae mind -- it was Paisley that we'd  
18 run away, she came from Paisley, that's what it was, she  
19 came from Paisley, I think it was [REDACTED], no,  
20 [REDACTED], or something, it was called. So it was her  
21 area that we'd run away to.  
22 And I remember too staying in a woman's house,  
23 a young woman with children, we stayed in her house  
24 overnight, and then we had to leave the house 'cause the  
25 woman was feared for the police coming or anything,

1 'cause obviously they'd been looking for us, and me and  
2 her had left the house and wherever the boys was, it was  
3 boys that she knew, I'd be telling a lie if it was three  
4 boys or four boys, I cannae remember, I just remember it  
5 was a LMN, his nickname was LMN, and -- well, how  
6 old, you are saying I was 13?

7 Q. I think you were 13 when you went into St Euphrasia's.

8 A. Well, I remember and me and these boys that she  
9 knew sitting in a park and the boys saying to me that  
10 I looked old enough to go into the -- an off licence, it  
11 was, to get alcohol. I says they wouldnae give me  
12 drink, I says I wouldnae get the drink, so me and her  
13 didnae hae money, so it must have been the money the  
14 boys gave me.

15 Q. Did you go to the off licence?

16 A. Aye. I couldn't tell you how far it was, Paisley, it  
17 must have been in Paisley, and we'd went to the -- so  
18 they had been outside and I went into the off licence,  
19 'cause they says I looked old enough, but I did get  
20 served. I don't know if it was a quarter bottle of  
21 vodka or if it was a half bottle of vodka, and I bought  
22 like Eldorado wine, so it was a bottle of Eldorado wine  
23 and say it was a half bottle of vodka, I got served  
24 that, and then we all went back to the park where we was  
25 originally.



1           And it's only now I'm realising, Colin, they hadnae  
2       been drinking it, well, I was sitting drinking, well, to  
3       me it was a lot of us sitting in the park drinking it,  
4       and I just remember wakening up and it was young girls,  
5       maybe they were the same age as me, ken, they were  
6       screaming and everything, so wherever this park was,  
7       there was houses, they could see this park, and they had  
8       seen whatever went on. And the girls took me to  
9       their -- one of their houses and I just remember sitting  
10      in the bathroom and the dad of one of those girls, he  
11      was cleaning my left knee, 'cause I must have fell when  
12      I was there, being intoxicated with alcohol, and, erm,  
13      my leg was all burst open, and I remember the man saying  
14      to me, 'Look, hen, I'll have to report this to the  
15      polis'. And I says, 'Of course, I understand, you'll  
16      have to report it', and I remember the police coming  
17      into his house and I had told him what happened, and  
18      I told them about me being sore and everything down  
19      below.

20   Q.   Sorry, about?

21   A.   I told them about me being sore and everything down  
22       below.

23   Q.   Yes.

24   A.   And they took me to the police station. I think it was  
25       about 1.30 in the morning. They took me to the police

1 station and I remember being in the police station and  
2 getting examined, and it was a man and a woman, I think,  
3 like, secretaries in St Euphrasia's, I think they did  
4 secretarial work, they came to collect me about 1.30 in  
5 the morning and when the two CID came out with me and  
6 this two members of staff, I think we went up the  
7 stairs, because I cannae -- I just remember the lift  
8 opening and the two CID and the two members of staff was  
9 wi' me. The lift opened with two CID and one of the  
10 boys that was there, well, I must have remembered  
11 something at the time, even though I was intoxicated,  
12 because I remember saying, 'That's him', his nickname  
13 was LMN, and I said, 'That's him, it was him'. The  
14 lift doors opened with the two CID and the boy was in  
15 the lift, they came out.

16 Q. Was that in the police station?

17 A. Aye, it was Mill Street Police Station, it was the top  
18 floor.

19 Q. I think you tell me you were examined in the police  
20 station?

21 A. In the police station, uh-huh.

22 Q. Who did the examination?

23 A. I cannae mind. I cannae mind that.

24 Q. Were you told anything following upon the examination?

25 A. Sorry?

1 Q. What were you told about the examination?

2 A. I wasn't told anything, I wasn't told anything, it was  
3 the staff, two members of staff, it was a man and  
4 a woman, it was them, they were speaking to the police,  
5 I wasn't told anything.

6 Q. But you say now, I think, that you were raped?

7 A. I was raped, Colin.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. Colin, that's something -- that's something I would  
10 never have done, never ever went wi' a boy or anything  
11 like that. When I was -- I think it was when I was  
12 11 year old, because of me running away in Aberdeen, my  
13 father got my mother to take me to the doctor to get me  
14 examined, and I'll never forget the doctor saying to my  
15 mother, 'Mrs [REDACTED], this is terrible', he says, 'That  
16 I have to give this girl an examination'. So I think  
17 I was about 11 when I was running away, my da got my ma  
18 to take me to get examined. And I wouldn't have done --  
19 never, as long as I had a boyfriend in my head, ken, but  
20 nae to kiss him or anything like that.

21 Q. Did they actually discover that you had love bites on  
22 your neck when they examined you?

23 A. I forgot about that, Colin. I didnae realise about the  
24 love bites. That's probably how when I see that, ken,  
25 I think about it. I forgot about that.

1 MR MACAULAY: Don't worry.

2 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, 'Lydia'.

3 A. I had forgot about that. I had seen it in the man's  
4 bathroom, the man who was cleaning my leg. I had seen  
5 him and that's probably how I seen love bites, sorry.

6 MR MACAULAY: Don't worry.

7 You have told us, I think, that two members of staff  
8 from St Euphrasia's came to pick you up?

9 A. A man and a woman, it was.

10 Q. Did you recognise them?

11 A. Would I recognise them?

12 Q. Did you know who they were?

13 A. I think the man -- I remember seeing him going about in  
14 St Euphrasia's.

15 Q. Okay. When you got back, you tell us, perhaps a few  
16 weeks afterwards, that you had an encounter with  
17 Sister HOJ and another person. Can you tell me about  
18 that? What happened?

19 A. After I'd been raped -- I wasnae thinking at the time,  
20 I didnae realise or that what was happening.

21 Sister HOJ used to get me to come to her office once  
22 a week and she used to weigh me. But it's only now  
23 I realise she'd been weighing me in case I was pregnant  
24 after the rape. But I didnae think like that at the  
25 time.

1           And I remember twice when I had went into her room,  
2           I don't know if it was a psychologist, to me it could  
3           have been a nun dressed up in a suit, and I will say  
4           that, to me it could have been a nun dressed in a suit,  
5           but it was a man to me, sitting talking to me, about the  
6           rape, well, I couldnae speak to the man, I couldnae  
7           speak to him about the rape.

8   Q.   What were you being asked about?   What were they --

9   A.   I can't remember.

10   Q.   But it was about the rape?

11   A.   It was to do with the rape.   But I -- to me, I mind just  
12       being silent, because I was too embarrassed to speak to  
13       the man.

14   LADY SMITH:   This was at St Euphrasia's in Sister HOJ 's  
15       room?

16   A.   Uh-huh.

17   LADY SMITH:   Some time after you had returned to  
18       St Euphrasia's.

19   A.   It was the police -- no, the two members of staff came  
20       to the police station in Mill Street and took me back  
21       there.   So they've took me back, she was weighing me  
22       every week.

23   LADY SMITH:   Sorry, I thought you said twice when you went  
24       into Sister HOJ 's room there was a man --

25   A.   That was a man that was in there, and I don't know if it

1           was a psychologist or it could have been nun wi' a suit  
2           on, and I didn't know.

3   LADY SMITH: I think that's what we were exploring with you  
4           'Lydia'.

5   A. Sorry.

6   LADY SMITH: It's all right.

7   MR MACAULAY: Whoever it was, it was all to do with what had  
8           happened, in particular the rape?

9   A. Uh-huh.

10   Q. Were you questioned subsequently by the police about the  
11       rape?

12   A. When the man -- the man -- the girls that came and got  
13       me from that field.

14   Q. Yes.

15   A. The man told -- the father of one of them that cleaned  
16       my leg and that, he told me that he would have to get  
17       the polis, that's what he says to me, and I says of  
18       course. Well, I told the police the truth. So whatever  
19       they witnessed, they told the police as well.

20   Q. Did the police at any time after that come and see you  
21       and ask you questions --

22   A. No.

23   Q. -- about what had happened?

24   A. No. Once they took me to the police station in  
25       Mill Street.

1 Q. What happened then, did anything happen?

2 A. They examined me.

3 Q. You have mentioned the person that raped you. Was there

4 any investigation, any police investigation?

5 A. No, no. I think, Colin, if I mind right, I'm nae going

6 to tell a lie about Mary McDonald, but I'm sure

7 Mary McDonald tried it make out that I was sexually

8 active, which I was never sexually active, never.

9 Q. You have told me about the time then that your mother

10 came down after this had happened?

11 A. Aye, to me it was after I had been raped that my ma --

12 when I went into the room, my ma was sitting crying,

13 Sister HOJ and Sister LMJ was in the room with

14 my ma.

15 Q. And --

16 A. And my ma said to me, Colin, so it must have been to do

17 with the rape, 'cause my ma said to me, 'Ken, your da's

18 going to go off his head', my ma didnae tell my da, my

19 mother held that back from my father. And I must have

20 got records years and years ago, 'cause when I got the

21 records, my ma and da came into the hoose and

22 I stupidly, started screaming -- I had took a nervous

23 breakdown, to tell you the truth, and I started

24 screaming to my ma and da, and says to them, 'It's your

25 fault what happened to me'. Well, me da thought I was

1       going round the bend ken and when they read the files,  
2       my sister came out the hoose with my two brothers, and  
3       says, 'LDD', you'll hae to gi' us the files for da to  
4       read your files'. I says, 'I'm nae worried', I says,  
5       'It's their fault ...' It wasnae their fault, but at  
6       the time I blamed them, I blamed my ma and da for it.  
7       But they got the files and my da must have got rid of  
8       the files, ken, and it would put me round the bend at  
9       the time.

10    Q. I think you tell us that you couldn't tell your father  
11       about the rape?

12    A. No, I couldn't tell my da.

13    Q. But he did find out shortly before he died?

14    A. Aye, my da -- my da would have rested in the chapel,  
15       Colin, ken of where they (inaudible), and I didnae ken  
16       until I was in the hoose and my da was resting in the  
17       bedroom, and I had says to my sister [REDACTED], 'I'm wanting  
18       da to go to the chapel ken', and my sister said to me  
19       quietly, ken as open as eggshells, she says, 'No, she  
20       says, 'Da says he's nae wanting to rest in the chapel'.  
21       I says, 'Da said that? I don't believe that'.  
22       She says, 'LDD ...'.  
23       It was only my ma and my sister, [REDACTED], in the living  
24       room at the time, she says, 'No, da says after what  
25       happened to you, and things getting covered up as well,



1       da's nae wanting nothing to do wi' it'. So he didnae  
2       rest in the chapel the night before.

3   Q.   Okay, this is much later on, of course?

4   A.   Uh-huh.

5   Q.   You have told us about what clearly was a traumatic  
6       experience for you. Were you offered support by the  
7       nuns?

8   A.   No, Sister LMJ took me to a room and she would  
9       sit and speak to me and that, ken, sit and speak and  
10      that, and she would advise me nae to run away, and that,  
11      ken, because of things that would happen. But the first  
12      day my ma and da took me to the social workers, they  
13      told Mary McDonald, 'My bairn is going to end up getting  
14      raped or murdered', that's what they said, so for me da  
15      to find out that that happened to me, ken that would  
16      have put him mad, ken.

17   MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I see it is 3 o'clock, that might be  
18      a good point to stop and have a break.

19   LADY SMITH: Would that be a useful point to stop?

20   MR MACAULAY: Yes.

21   LADY SMITH: 'Lydia', I usually take a break at this point  
22      in the afternoon, would that be all right if we do that  
23      now?

24   A.   That's okay.

25   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 (3.01 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (3.15 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Lydia', are you ready for us to carry on with

5 your evidence?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

10 'Lydia', I am going to take you to the time when you

11 came to leave St Euphrasia's. According to the records,

12 you left on [REDACTED] 1976, and I think at that time you

13 would be aged 14. Does that fit in with your own

14 recollection?

15 A. I can't remember, but you'll be right, Colin.

16 Q. You have set out in your statement how it came to be

17 that your father persuaded the Panel that you should be

18 allowed home. It was your father, I think, who

19 persuaded the Panel that that should be the case?

20 A. Mary McDonald was wanting to keep me in.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Yes, I don't know how long I was there, if it was a year

23 or what, and Mary McDonald -- it was a Panel in

24 Golden Square or Albert Place, I cannae remember,

25 I think it was Golden Square.

1           The members were sitting at a table and Mary, the  
2           nun, she was emphasising that I should go back to  
3           St Euphrasia's, and what happened was, Colin, my da  
4           ended up getting up in front of the Panel members and he  
5           says, 'No, this will never happening', and me da opened  
6           the door and he was screaming at me in front of them,  
7           and he says to me, 'Get out, get out this room'. So  
8           there must've been other rooms in the Panel, and my da  
9           said to me, in front of them, he says, 'No, you get  
10          outta here, get outta here', and put me into another  
11          room, and then I just mind my ma and da coming out the  
12          room, and my da said to me, 'Come on, oot, just get oot,  
13          get oot the place', to me it felt as though I was  
14          running awa', to tell you the truth, but obviously  
15          hadn't a dicky of what was said in the room.

16   Q. I think in fact you were being allowed home at that  
17          time?

18   A. No, no, they werenae wanting me to go home.

19   Q. But they let you go home?

20   A. Aye, I ended up, I think, if my mind's right, the  
21          Sisters took me on the plane to Aberdeen for the Panel.

22   Q. You tell us, however, at paragraph 73 that you ended up  
23          going to Tynepark School in Haddington, East Lothian,  
24          and I think that was because you got into trouble, and  
25          that's where you ended up?

1 A. It was at Powis School(?), I'd went to Powis School, and  
2 a girl, [REDACTED], she took a bottle of vodka or a half bottle  
3 of vodka into the school and I was consuming it with  
4 her, I was consuming it with her, and we had went to  
5 wrote our names in the toilet but I had wrote it with my  
6 left-hand, so that they didnae ken it was me that had  
7 a part in doing it, and the school had wrote a letter to  
8 my da, telling my da. So when I went into the hoose,  
9 ken, my da said, 'Has everything been all right at  
10 school?' I (Inaudible) a lie I said, 'Aye, everything  
11 has been good' and he says, 'Oh no, no, it's nae, yous  
12 been drinking vodka', I says I wasnae drinking --  
13 I denied it, but I was drinking vodka in school.

14 Q. You go to Tynepark, and I think you were admitted there  
15 on [REDACTED] 1977, when you were aged 15. As far as  
16 Tynepark was concerned, you tell us at paragraph 79 you  
17 really liked it there?

18 A. Aye, Tynepark was a good day school, it was.

19 Q. I think you told us about your short visit to Brimmond,  
20 because you had dyed your hair and you didn't want to go  
21 home until you could present yourself to your father?

22 A. I must've got out of Tynepark, Colin --

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. -- because I remember after the incident in the school,  
25 Powis School, I mird just opening the front door and

1       there was a member of staff, John, and a woman --  
2       I can't remember her name -- it was John, the male staff  
3       member, and a woman. And I says 'How are yous at this  
4       door?' And they'd came to my ma and da's to take me  
5       back to Tynepark, so I had to go back to Tynepark, which  
6       now I think it was unlawful what they did, it should  
7       have been done through a Panel.

8   Q.   You also mention, this is at paragraph 84, again telling  
9       Mary McDonald about the abuse at Brimmond and  
10       St Euphrasia's. You also say that you spoke up at  
11       Children's Panels as well. You tell us that  
12       Mary McDonald wrote to you in August 1975 and you set  
13       out the terms of what her letter in that paragraph --  
14   A.   Yes.

15   Q.   -- and over the page.

16       I just want to ask you about what she says at the  
17       very end. This is what she says, three lines from the  
18       top of page 21:  
19       'I can only say that if Sister BGR finds reason  
20       to complain again we might have to consider sending you  
21       to some place that would be much stricter and possibly  
22       more in line with "your imagined" St Euphrasia's.'

23   A.   Aye, she was trying to put it doon that it was all in my  
24       imagination, what was going on and everything in the  
25       places.

1 Q. You then tell us, 'Lydia', about your life after being  
2 in care, and in particular that you married young, is  
3 that right?  
4 A. 16.  
5 Q. Then you left your husband with somebody else and  
6 I think you took your daughter with you at that time?  
7 A. I married my second husband, aye. He was abusive, my  
8 first husband, and he messed around.  
9 Q. You then, under a heading 'Impact', tell us about  
10 relationships, and, for example, the relationship you  
11 had with your second husband and what happened to him?  
12 A. My first husband broke my jaw, Colin, because I couldnae  
13 be intimate with him. He broke my jaw.  
14 Q. Your second husband, you also had --  
15 A. Stabbed him, I stabbed him because he made a remark  
16 about a whore --  
17 Q. Yes.  
18 A. -- and I stabbed him. I'd be telling a lie if it was  
19 four times, I cannae remember.  
20 Q. On page 23, under the heading 'Family', you talk about  
21 your own children, and in particular one of your  
22 children who ended up in care?  
23 A. Aye.  
24 Q. I think one of your other children also ended up in  
25 care?

1 A. No, my son.

2 Q. Just the one.

3 A. Colin, I'd be telling a lie if it was -- things was  
4 coming out to do wi' the priest and the nuns at the time  
5 when I -- no, it was to do with priests and nuns, and it  
6 was putting me round the bend, and I ended up -- the  
7 school phoned me and says to me, 'Mrs LDD, could you  
8 come into the school, 'cause GGC's refusing to come into  
9 the school.'

10 And I stupidly went into the school and I slapped  
11 him in the face and I assaulted him wi' a belt ... when  
12 I got him home I assaulted him.

13 Q. Is that how it came to be that he ended up in care?

14 A. Aye, and because of other lies that's went on, Colin,  
15 I knew, ken, the lies that was done wi' me, and how  
16 powerful Mary McDonald was being a nun, a woman of the  
17 Lord, and if she could get away with it, well, when GGC  
18 went into care, everything, every documentation, I used  
19 to ask every home, I'm wanting the paperwork and the  
20 social workers used to write letters to each other  
21 saying, 'Why is LDD wanting all of the paperwork?'.  
22 Well, I did get the pleasure of saying to the one  
23 social worker that was complaining why I was wanting  
24 documents, I says, 'I'll never forgive yous for what  
25 yous has did to my GGC.'

1           It's because there is a lot of corruption in  
2       Aberdeen, Colin, and it's who they know and everything,  
3       there was a lot of things --

4   Q.   Carry on. But now, are you close to your children?

5   A.   I've always been close to my children, always been close  
6       to them.

7   Q.   I think you say at 102 that your family would do  
8       anything for you?

9   A.   Uh-huh.

10   Q.   And vice-versa?

11   A.   I would do the same for them, Colin, aye.

12   Q.   You have told us already about your relationship with  
13       your father and how sometimes that would be difficult.  
14       But when he was dying, I think you went to see him --

15   A.   I did.

16   Q.   -- every night?

17   A.   He took a stroke, the first time he took a stroke, erm,  
18       I went and stayed with him, my ma and my da, for a week,  
19       and I never ever seen my mother and father held hands,  
20       and the only time I ever seen them, a quick kiss, was  
21       under the mistletoe in New Year, and that's the only  
22       thing I ever witnessed with my mother and father.

23           And my ma and da were sitting on the settee when  
24       I stayed with them for the week, it was a shame, I had  
25       looked over at the two of them, ken, and the two of them



1       was -- my da was holding on to my ma, ken, holding on,  
2       the two of them were sitting on the settee holding  
3       hands, ken, and I just looked at them and I says, 'Da',  
4       I says, 'I'm sorry for everything I've done', I says,  
5       'You were right', I says, 'It was me that was wrong', I  
6       says, 'All you tried to do is protect us', I says, 'And  
7       I'm sorry', and my da's only words to me was, 'Now', but  
8       that was him saying it now was to say now you've finally  
9       registered in your brain, ken, what he was trying to do.

10    Q.   When he went to hospital, you went to visit him every  
11       day?

12    A.   It should have been my sister. I was -- I stayed in the  
13       hospital every night with my dad and my sister would  
14       stay all day and take my mother up during the day, and  
15       I think it was a Tuesday, it should have been my sister  
16       that was there, and she was always good, my sister,  
17       never got into trouble, or anything like that, so I feel  
18       as though my sister was robbed, ken, of being wi' my da.

19    Q.   You go on to tell us about some mental health  
20       difficulties you have had, and support.

21       In particular, can I just focus on the support you  
22       have had, 'Lydia'. Because you have been in contact  
23       with the In Care Survivors group INCAS?

24    A.   If it wasnae for Helen Holland, Colin, I think I would  
25       have committed a murder, and I do think that.

1           I should have says to you earlier on, but you were  
2           on about support fae St Euphrasia's, if it wasnae for  
3           Helen Holland, well, I say to Helen, ken, St Helen, and  
4           they shouldnae get a sainthood when they've passed away,  
5           they should be getting it when they're on earth. If it  
6           wasnae for Helen Holland, I think things would have been  
7           right out of control with myself.

8   Q.   She has been a regular supporter for a number of years?

9   A.   Years, Helen's -- I could phone Helen any time of the  
10       day or anything like that, I could phone her and say,  
11       'Helen, I need you to come through to Aberdeen', and  
12       Helen would be there. That's -- you couldnae get any  
13       better support, Colin.

14   Q.   She has been giving you advice as to what might trigger  
15       your moods and so on?

16   A.   Sorry?

17   Q.   She's been giving you advice?

18   A.   Aye, if it wasnae for Helen I wouldnae be calm and  
19       collected, ken, to do wi' things like that.

20   Q.   You have a section towards the end of your statement,  
21       'Lydia', it's headed 'Hopes for the Inquiry' at  
22       paragraph 115. You say at the beginning there:  
23       'I'd like everybody to be exposed for what they've  
24       been doing. Nothing should be covered up when it's to  
25       do with children.'

1           That's your position?

2   A.   Yes, Colin, it's my position, because I am fully aware  
3       of what's been going on wi' all professionals, all walks  
4       of life, the corruption that's been going on with them  
5       all, and it's who you know, scratching each other's  
6       backs and covering up things.

7   Q.   You say that you should have been given counselling  
8       after leaving care, not years later, after you had the  
9       problems with your son?

10  A.   Aye, no, I should have had it years ago.

11       It was Helen Holland that recognised it was anxiety,  
12       ken, that was the worst with me, that's when I went to  
13       the doctor and I got propranolol, she was right,  
14       I should have got it years ago.  Propranolol.

15  Q.   'Lydia', that's all I want to ask you today.  The rest  
16       we have covered fully in your statement.  Is there  
17       anything further you would like to say to the Inquiry?

18  A.   I would like to say, Lady Anna Smith -- I'm happy  
19       knowing the work that Lady Anna Smith doing, because  
20       she's uncovering everything, there's no favouritism or  
21       anything like that, it's excellent, the way she is, and  
22       yourself, Colin, and Helen Holland, and all the team in  
23       here.  It's been a great pleasure for me to engage with  
24       all different members of the Inquiry team, 'cause  
25       they've all been supportive, every one of them.

1 MR MACAULAY: 'Lydia', thank you for these kind words, they  
2 are much appreciated, and thank you for coming here  
3 today to give your evidence.  
4 A. Thank yous, Colin, thank yous.  
5 LADY SMITH: 'Lydia', can I add my thanks to you for coming  
6 on a dark day when you are going to be going home in  
7 what feels like the middle of the night, even though it  
8 is still just the afternoon, but it has been so good to  
9 hear you yourself talking about the evidence that we  
10 wanted to explore with you today. I am really grateful  
11 to you for that.  
12 A. Thank you.  
13 LADY SMITH: I am now able to let you go --  
14 A. Okay.  
15 LADY SMITH: -- and safe travels back home.  
16 A. Thank you.  
17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
18 (The witness withdrew)  
19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I know it is earlier than usual, but  
20 perhaps your Ladyship could consider adjourning now. We  
21 have three oral witnesses tomorrow. We have only one  
22 read-in left.  
23 LADY SMITH: I see that, and if we do that read-in properly  
24 it may not be finished by 4 o'clock, so I think we  
25 should just stop for today --

1 MR MACAULAY: I think so.

2 LADY SMITH: -- and then sit again tomorrow with, as you

3 say, yes, three witnesses, three witnesses tomorrow? Is

4 that right?

5 MR MACAULAY: Three oral witnesses.

6 LADY SMITH: Three oral witnesses tomorrow, that's right,

7 yes.

8 Thank you.

9 (3.30 pm)

10 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Thursday, 12

11 December 2024)

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