

1 Thursday, 9 January 2025

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to our
4 continuation of Chapter 12 of Phase 8 of our case study
5 hearings.

6 We turn this morning to the evidence of another
7 witness in person. I'm told he's ready, Mr Sheldon.

8 MR SHELDON: He is ready, my Lady. He's anonymous and known
9 as 'Greg'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 'Greg' (affirmed)

12 LADY SMITH: 'Greg', thank you for coming along this cold,
13 very cold morning --

14 A. Yes, it is that.

15 LADY SMITH: -- to provide oral evidence in relation to your
16 time in residential care. You will be aware of our
17 particular interest in one or two of the institutions
18 that you were in, when you were young.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Your statement is in that red folder. It will
21 be available to you to refer to, if you want to, as we
22 go through your evidence. You don't have to, but it's
23 there. We'll also be able to put parts of it up on the
24 screen. That may or may not help you. If you don't
25 like it, we can take it down. You just say.

1 Quite separately from that, 'Greg', can I assure you
2 it's been really helpful to have your written statement
3 in advance so I've been able to look at your written
4 evidence and see what you have to tell me there.

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: We won't be going into every word in detail.
7 There are particular parts we want to focus on. But
8 separately from all those practicalities, I know that
9 what we're asking you to do is difficult. You've come
10 into a public forum to talk about yourself, your own
11 life, your private life, and in particular, your early
12 life, when things weren't great, not to put too fine
13 a point on it. I can see that.

14 If at any time it gets too much for you, just let me
15 know. If you need a break, if there are things that you
16 are too uncomfortable to talk about, we can deal with
17 that.

18 The essential thing to remember is I want to do what
19 I can to help you give the best evidence you can, and if
20 it works for you, it's highly likely whatever you're
21 asking will work for me. So you guide me if you need
22 to.

23 A. Right.

24 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I'll hand over to Mr Sheldon
25 and he'll take it from there, all right?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

3 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

4 Questions from Mr Sheldon

5 MR SHELDON: Good morning, 'Greg'.

6 A. Morning.

7 Q. 'Greg', as Lady Smith has said, your statement's in the
8 red folder in front of you. There's a couple of
9 housekeeping things that we need to do before we get
10 underway properly.

11 Could you perhaps open the folder for me, please,
12 and if you can open your statement at the last page.
13 It's page 22. Can you just confirm that you've signed
14 and dated the statement?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Is that your signature?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You say at the last paragraph there:

19 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
20 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
21 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
22 true.'

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Thank you very much.

2 You can just turn back to the start of the statement

3 again. Again, just for our purposes, for our records,

4 the reference of your statement is WIT-1-000000657.

5 A. That's correct, yeah.

6 Q. All right.

7 'Greg', I don't need your date of birth, but I think

8 you were born in 1955, is that right?

9 A. That's correct, yeah.

10 Q. You tell us that you were born in Perth. You lived with

11 your mum and dad and two brothers?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You say your dad wasn't there -- he was in the armed

14 forces -- but life in Perth was great?

15 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

16 Q. It was a nice childhood?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. An eventful childhood, yeah.

18 Q. Certainly later on and we are going to come to that.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You tell us that you were actually expelled from primary

21 school when you were in primary 4?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And sent to St Ninian's School?

24 A. To St Ninian's, yeah.

25 Q. Was that in Perth?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, St Ninian's, yeah.

2 Q. We have heard evidence about another St Ninian's, but

3 not this one.

4 A. Yeah, yeah, St Ninian's was the school attached to

5 St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth.

6 Q. Right, okay, thank you.

7 You say that at that time you were anti-discipline,

8 you were a rebellious boy perhaps?

9 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I was probably disruptive, but

10 I never knew -- I never knew, er, until I was speaking

11 to my auntie, this was a couple of years ago, that I was

12 diagnosed with alpha kinetic(?), right, and it was -- we

13 were talking -- because we were talking about my

14 daughter, who's got Alpha-1 and certain things up with

15 her, OCDC, whatever you call it, ADHD. And my auntie

16 says, 'But LLX -- 'Greg', you were diagnosed with

17 alpha kinetic'. Which is ADHD, but a different

18 version -- well, before it was called ADHD --

19 Q. It's related to ADHD, is it?

20 A. Yeah, alpha kinetic. Aye, so that was probably why

21 I was a bit disruptive.

22 Q. Did the people really know how to deal with you at that

23 stage, do you think, how to cope with you and that

24 condition?

25 A. No. I don't really know, like. My auntie -- my mum

1 never told me anything. Aye, she never told me
2 anything.

3 Q. You tell us that you were taken for some assessments,
4 but your mum didn't tell you the results of the
5 assessment?

6 A. No, every ... once a week I had to go to, er, another
7 part -- another -- somewhere, right, where you were just
8 put into a room, right. There was a sandpit, there was
9 like a gymnasium, but for kids, right. And every week,
10 me and another, I didn't know who the other guy was,
11 they just -- obviously they were observing us at some
12 stage. But every week for -- probably until I got sent
13 to approved school, I had to go to this assessment place
14 kind of thing.

15 Q. What age would you be then, 'Greg'?

16 A. Er, 10, about 10.

17 Q. You say you were expelled from primary 4, so maybe 9 or
18 10, something like that?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. You tell us that the first time you went to court was
21 Perth Juvenile Court in 1965, and you were represented
22 by a lawyer called 'Jailer Smith'?

23 A. Aye, Charlie Smith.

24 Q. Right, why was he called 'Jailer Smith'?

25 A. Eh?

1 Q. Why was he called 'Jailer Smith'?

2 A. Because he wouldnae let you plead not guilty -- even if

3 you were not guilty, he always wanted you to plead

4 guilty, and there was no -- he ended up a Sheriff,

5 Charlie Smith, and I don't think he really -- he wisnae

6 interested in defending people. That was my theory.

7 Q. That was your feeling?

8 A. Yeah, that was my feeling. He'd go, 'I'm not -- in

9 actual fact there was one time, he actually says to me,

10 my mother was sitting, right, it was for trespassing on

11 the railway line, and, 'I'm not going to plead not

12 guilty for you, I mean you're obviously guilty'. That

13 was -- that was Charlie Smith's attitude, aye, and hence

14 he got the name 'Jailer Smith'.

15 Q. That time I think you tell us you were given probation;

16 is that right?

17 A. Yeah, I got probation for trespassing and stealing metal

18 from -- scrap metal from the railway line.

19 Q. Then I guess there must have been another incident, is

20 that right, and you tell us you were sent to approved

21 school?

22 A. Yeah, that was Balgowan.

23 Q. That was about 1965 or 1966 you think?

24 A. '65 or '66, yeah.

25 Q. We have a record that you would have been in Balgowan by

1 [REDACTED] 1966 so does that help you date when you would have
2 gone into Balgowan?

3 A. Yeah, roughly about that time, yeah.

4 Q. Okay. So you tell us a bit about Balgowan, it was a big
5 building, like something from the Addams Family, what do
6 you mean by that?

7 A. Yeah, (Inaudible/overspeaking) tower.

8 Q. Sorry?

9 A. A big tower, there was dorms there, at one end was
10 Scott, Wallace and Duncan. That was for people up to
11 the age of maybe 12, Scott, Wallace, Bruce and Duncan.
12 And then you had Scott, Wallace, aye, Bruce and Duncan
13 were for the -- when you got to past 12, 13, you went to
14 the other end. Aye.

15 Q. From the description that you give, that it's like
16 something from the Addams Family, it sounds as though it
17 was quite a scary-looking place?

18 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, when you're first going down the
19 driveway, yeah, aye.

20 Q. You are about 10 at that stage?

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. So how did you feel going to a place like that?

23 A. Scared, very scared.

24 Q. Did you know anything about approved schools or Balgowan
25 in particular by that time?

1 A. No, no, no. Always got -- my dad always says to me,
2 'You buck up or you'll end up in approved school', aye.
3 But ...
4 Q. But you didn't really know what to expect?
5 A. No, I didnae know what to expect.
6 Q. You tell us that SNR [REDACTED] was a Mr LIF [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] was Mr LSB [REDACTED] ?
8 A. LSB [REDACTED], yeah.
9 Q. You tell us at paragraph 8 about I think a grading
10 system. You say you started off on grade 4?
11 A. You started off on grade 4.
12 Q. Can you just tell us about that and what that was meant
13 to do?
14 A. There was a big board in the dining room wi' squares in
15 it and everybody's name, or number. I was number [REDACTED]
16 right. And you started off at grade 4, which was four
17 weeks in grade 4. That was before you could get a day
18 out by yourself.
19 Right, you reached the top of grade 4, you went into
20 grade 3, right. As soon as you got to grade 3, which
21 was 24 boxes, right, to work your way up to grade 1,
22 grade 2, grade 1. And, er, that -- as I say, if you ran
23 away you got put into a grade 5, which was obviously
24 below grade 4.
25 Q. Sure. So were these grades about your behaviour?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

2 Q. You were given rewards, as it were, for good behaviour?

3 A. Yeah, yeah. You got a reward -- if you had good marks,
4 you sometimes got a jump where you jumped two squares,
5 quicker to get into grade 1.

6 Once you were at the top of grade 1, you could go
7 home every week until you got your liberation date.

8 Q. You tell us, paragraph 9, that after four weeks you were
9 allowed to go home?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Was that because you had got good marks, good points on
12 the system?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I could, er -- well,
14 Dundee is only half hour from Perth. You got on the bus
15 and I used to go home for a couple of hours and I'd get
16 back for tea time.

17 Q. Is this a bus that the school put on?

18 A. No, no, you just got a ... down to the railway station.

19 Q. Right, because you talk in paragraph 9 about what you
20 call the meat wagon, what was the meat wagon?

21 A. That was, er -- the meat wagon was Oakbank.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. The meat wagon was Oakbank. It was a -- like
24 a furniture van wi' benches on it, no windows, right, if
25 and if you were lucky you got in front with the driver,

1 right, and he would take you to what destination you
2 were going to. Dundee, people were getting a weekend in
3 Dundee or a weekend in Perth and then it would carry on
4 to either Edinburgh or Glasgow and --
5 Q. But that was an Oakbank thing?
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. Okay. I think you tell us at paragraph 10 that you had
8 a good job. Was this at Balgowan in the back kitchen?
9 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
10 Q. How did you happen to get the job in the back kitchen?
11 A. Just wi' my behaviour.
12 Q. Right. Did all the boys get jobs?
13 A. Sometimes you used to get bad marks and bad reports,
14 good marks and good reports. The bad reports were put
15 in black and the good reports were put in red, right,
16 and I used to get good reports all the time.
17 Q. Okay.
18 A. Right, and I ended up in the back kitchen, which was you
19 got as much food as you wanted.
20 Q. Right.
21 A. Right. And you buttered the bread, get everything
22 prepared for dinner time, breakfast time, tea time.
23 Aye. That was probably one of the best jobs in
24 Balgowan.
25 Q. Right. Did all the boys get jobs or have to do jobs or

1 was it just people that behaved well?

2 A. No, you had class -- you had class -- it wasnae like

3 a full-time job, you had to go to your class.

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. Er, do your education and then, say about 11 o'clock,

6 you'd go in and start preparing for the dinners or half

7 past 6, start preparing for the breakfast and all that,

8 you're getting the breakfast half past 7/8 o'clock,

9 whatever time it was. Aye. But that was a good job.

10 Q. What was the food like generally, not just the food that

11 you had, for all the boys?

12 A. I thought it was good.

13 Q. Was it alright?

14 A. Yeah, especially when you got cake and custard.

15 Q. Right. You tell us a bit about the routine. This is

16 page 3 of your statement, and you say the first people

17 you saw when you walked in were Mr and Mrs Ness. Who

18 were they, 'Greg'?

19 A. They -- she was -- Mrs Ness was the secretary, right, so

20 she put you through -- you got your number and this,

21 that and the other and then you got your uniform and

22 then you were taken to LIF [REDACTED], where you were

23 introduced --

24 Q. That was SNR [REDACTED]?

25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. You were given a talking to to get on

1 wi' it and behave, this, that and the other and after
2 I was in there -- they had built a cottage block for 20
3 people, right, off the main school. Right, and I was --
4 after about three or four months, maybe six months,
5 I got in the cottage block and everything was -- it was
6 like just moving into a house.

7 Q. Right. The cottage block was nicer than the other
8 accommodation, was it?

9 A. Yeah, yeah. You were in three-bed dormitories. If you
10 were lucky you got a single to yourself.

11 Q. Right. Okay. Did you get a single or --

12 A. No, I preferred the dormitory, the three-bed dormitory.

13 Q. Okay. You tell us about running away and that if you
14 ran away, you got strapped with a belt six times on the
15 bare backside.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did that ever happen to you, 'Greg'?

18 A. No, no. I never ran away from Balgowan.

19 Q. So is this something you heard about from other boys?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, well, if you ran away, you got kept in for
21 six weeks. It was called 'snibbed'. You were snibbed
22 in for six weeks, and if you ran away, you got taken to
23 the matron's room and you got the -- what was called the
24 'scranned', what we called the scanned.

25 Q. Was that a strap?

1 A. A strap, yeah, just an ordinary school strapper.
2 Q. Did anyone ever call it the 'tawse' when you were there
3 or was it always the scranned?
4 A. No, no, it was the scranned when I was there.
5 Q. Okay. What did boys tell you about getting scranned
6 like that? How did they say it was done?
7 A. It was done lying on the gurney, if you want to call it
8 that.
9 Q. Sorry, did you say the 'gurney'?
10 A. Aye. Well, I'm just going by what they looked like. It
11 was what you lie on when you get in a -- go to
12 a doctor's.
13 Q. So like a trolley or like a couch?
14 A. Just a high couch, yeah, and you got on that.
15 Q. I know we're relying perhaps on other people telling you
16 this, 'Greg', but can you remember what people said
17 about how this was physically done, what was done to
18 them?
19 A. As far as I know, they still had their underpants on --
20 Q. Right.
21 A. Aye.
22 Q. But not trousers?
23 A. But I couldnae tell you if it was bare backside like.
24 It never -- never happened to me.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Aye. But not a lot of people ran away from Balgowan,
2 when I was there.

3 Q. You tell us that on your first night, somebody urinated
4 in your bed?

5 A. Yeah, a boy called [REDACTED].

6 Q. Do you think that was an initiation?

7 A. [REDACTED]. That was the guy's name.

8 Q. Right. You tell us this was an initiation. Did that
9 happen quite a lot?

10 A. It happened to me twice. It happened to me twice, it
11 happened to me in Balgowan and it happened to me in
12 Rossie Farm. If they wanted you out their dorm, or
13 whatever, initiation this, that and the other.

14 Q. What happened to boys that did wet the bed; do you know?

15 A. You got put -- well, in Balgowan you got put to the
16 door, right, maybe the first three or four beds were for
17 bed wetters, right. And in Rossie Farm, you got put
18 into the dorm, the wet bed dorm.

19 Q. There was a special dorm for that in Rossie?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

21 Q. Well, we'll come to that in a bit.

22 Just at Balgowan, thinking about that, how were bed
23 wetters treated?

24 A. Well, normal really, the only thing was you got -- if
25 you wet the bed, they put you in a nightgown, a big --

1 so everybody knew you were a 'wet the bed'.

2 Q. Right, so boys that wet the bed were identified, they

3 were picked out as that?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

5 Q. You tell us, this is page 4, that you were out of

6 Balgowan in under a year?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You say in paragraph 15, the governor was a Mr Dunphy,

9 but am I right in thinking that Mr Dunphy was --

10 A. He was at Oakbank. Mr Dunphy was Oakbank.

11 Q. So it was really Mr LIF who you asked whether you could

12 get out or when you could get out?

13 A. No, no, it was Mr Dunphy in Oakbank.

14 Q. Ah, I see, okay.

15 A. Right. He told me as soon as I was 15 that he would let

16 me go, let me out. And then a couple of weeks later, he

17 told me that he couldnae let me go on my 15th birthday.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. He had to let me go when the schools broke up, but he

20 sent me home anyway and told me to come back, so he sent

21 me home for about two weeks until I was 15 and the

22 schools had broken up in Perth, aye, so that was that.

23 Q. So 'Greg', can we get the order of things right in our

24 heads, please. So you're in Balgowan, that's the first

25 time you're in approved school?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. You tell us, it's paragraph 18, that you were in
3 Balgowan a second time?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You were released initially -- you were out for a period
6 of time and --

7 A. I got recalled.

8 Q. Then you were recalled?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So were you at Oakbank after both periods at Balgowan?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

12 Q. So it's Balgowan, Balgowan --

13 A. Balgowan, Balgowan and then Oakbank.

14 Q. Oakbank and then Rossie?

15 A. And then Rossie, yeah.

16 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 17, the only place you
17 experienced anything sexual was in Dumbarton Remand
18 Home, that was Bellfield House you call it?

19 A. Yeah, that's correct. Yeah.

20 Q. Now, was that between the times at Balgowan or was that
21 after?

22 A. Well, for some reason, if you got remanded to a remand
23 home from Perth you went to Dumbarton, right, even
24 although there was a remand home in Dundee. For some
25 reason they sent you to Dumbarton. It was always on

1 a Friday, after juvenile court. It was always on
2 a Friday in Perth.

3 Q. Right. So can you help us with when that was, was that
4 after you were in Balgowan the first time or after
5 Balgowan the second time?

6 A. No, that was Balgowan the first time.

7 Q. Right, so Balgowan, Bellfield, Balgowan --

8 A. No, Bellfield, Balgowan.

9 Q. Right, okay. So Bellfield was the first of these places
10 that you were in?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

12 Q. Okay, and that would have been about -- we think [REDACTED]
13 1966 maybe?

14 A. Yeah, yeah, roundabout that, yeah.

15 Q. Tell us about that, you say that was the only time you
16 experienced anything sexual. What happened to you at
17 Bellfield?

18 A. Well, when I got into Dumbarton, they gave me their
19 uniform, which was shorts and a BD jacket, and then
20 I was taken through into the assembly room, which was
21 also a dining room, and, er, I was told to go and get
22 a shower by LIG [REDACTED], who come in the shower with me,
23 took his shirt off and started to wash me down, right,
24 everywhere, like. And then KFN [REDACTED] come in and he
25 stopped --

1 Q. Who was KFN ?
2 A. He was maybe SNR . LIG was SNR
3 SNR . Johnson was the superintendent
4 LIG . And KFN walked in and
5 LIG stopped and just told me to carry on.
6 Q. You tell us that LIG was washing you and touching
7 you all over, what did you think when he was doing that?
8 A. Strange. I didnae -- well, that was the first time
9 I'd been in a remand home, uneasy.
10 Q. What did you think might have happened if Mr KFN
11 hadn't come in?
12 A. I don't really know. I wouldnae like to visualise, to
13 tell you the truth right now.
14 Q. Sure, okay, how long were you in Bellfield?
15 A. Two weeks.
16 Q. Two weeks, okay. You were Bellfield and then first time
17 in Balgowan?
18 A. Yeah.
19 Q. You are released from Balgowan and then recalled?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. You were released from Balgowan the second time and at
22 paragraph 18, you tell us that you were caught for
23 shoplifting in Dundee and you were remanded --
24 A. I'd bunked off school -- for years I bunked off school.
25 Q. Right, and this time you were remanded -- you call it

1 'Herstane Remand Home'?

2 A. Herstane Remand Home, yeah.

3 Q. I think we have heard it might be Harestane Remand Home?

4 A. Yeah, Harestane Remand Home.

5 Q. Does that sound right?

6 A. That's in Dundee.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. It's just down the road from Balgowan, walking distance.

9 Q. Yes, indeed.

10 How long were you in Harestane?

11 A. Er, two weeks initially and then possibly another couple

12 of weeks waiting on a vacancy, right, and that was to

13 Oakbank.

14 Q. Okay. Again, thinking about dates, can you remember

15 what sort of date this would have been, thinking about

16 the second time you were released from Balgowan, can you

17 recall?

18 A. Er, I would have been going into -- I think I was going

19 into second year -- I had been in second year. I don't

20 think I was -- I never reached third year in Goodlyburn,

21 so it would be when I was on second year.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Aye, so I'd be 13/14.

24 Q. Okay. We have a record of you being released from

25 Balgowan in [REDACTED] 1969. Would that sound about right?

1 A. Possibly, yeah, yeah. I just can't --

2 Q. Sure. That's all right. It's just to try and place the
3 chronology and order of events.

4 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

5 Q. You tell us actually -- I'm sorry, I should have taken
6 you to this, at paragraph 19, you went to Oakbank during
7 [REDACTED] 1969 and you have involvement of a social
8 worker. And actually you don't say very much about
9 Oakbank. Is that because it perhaps doesn't stick so
10 much in your mind as some of the other places?

11 A. Well, I thought Oakbank was alright, honestly. Like
12 they had banned the belt. They had banned the belt, you
13 could -- I'm not saying you could do whatever you
14 wanted, like, but there was always something to do,
15 there was canoeing, archery, climbing, all that sorts of
16 things and you got home quite regular.

17 Q. You had quite a good experience at Oakbank?

18 A. I've no complaints about Oakbank.

19 Q. Okay. You tell us when you left Oakbank you went back
20 to Perth, you got a job for a little bit?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. I started in [REDACTED] as a fitter in [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED].

23 LADY SMITH: So you were just about 15 then?

24 A. Pardon?

25 LADY SMITH: You were just about 15?

1 A. 15. My mother got me -- my mother had me a job before
2 I got out of Oakbank, aye, yeah.

3 MR SHELTON: You tell us that unfortunately there was some
4 trouble at a football match.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. This was shortly after the Ibrox disaster?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you got sent to -- eventually to Rossie. I think we
9 know the Ibrox disaster was January 1971, so again would
10 that sound about right in terms of the timing?

11 A. Yeah. It was I think [REDACTED], [REDACTED] that I got --
12 Rossie Farm, [REDACTED].

13 Q. Before that you were sent to Harestane again and how
14 long were you at Harestane this time?

15 A. I was there quite a few weeks, right. Er, I got
16 obviously sent to approved school, right, and I had to
17 wait on vacancies, right. And I was actually told,
18 right, I would either be going back to Oakbank or, er,
19 some other place, I think it was at Kibble, but I ended
20 up in Rossie.

21 Q. Okay. So there was maybe some debate about where you
22 should be sent?

23 A. They were the first vacancies, yeah, and Rossie Farm was
24 the first.

25 Q. We'll come to that just in a second.

1 I just want to ask you one thing about Harestane,
2 though. You tell us that someone called LOF [REDACTED] took
3 you from Harestane to Rossie?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. How did you happen to know LOF [REDACTED], what did he have
6 to do with all of this?
7 A. He was always at Harestane and he was actually a bailie
8 and he used to send people to approved school, this,
9 that and the other, and he was always at Harestane.
10 Q. You say he frequented Harestane?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. How did that work? Was he just hanging around? Did he
13 appear to be working there? What was the set-up?
14 A. He was just always there.
15 Q. Right.
16 A. Not every day, but three or four times a week he'd be
17 there.
18 Q. Okay. Did anyone talk to you about him? Did anyone say
19 anything about him to you?
20 A. Well, everybody thought he was gay. Aye.
21 Q. And why did they think that?
22 A. Just an Englishman in New York. He was a flamboyant --
23 he was flamboyant.
24 Q. Right. You tell us that he drove you to Rossie?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Again, why was it him and not your social worker?
2 A. I don't know, but it was him that took me to
3 Rossie Farm. Aye.
4 Q. All right. Did anything happen on that drive with
5 LOF [REDACTED]?
6 A. No, no.
7 Q. He just drove you there and dropped you and that was it?
8 A. Took me there, but he used to frequent Oakbank, er --
9 Rossie Farm also. He was in Rossie Farm a few times
10 a week.
11 Q. I think we know he was part of the Rossie set-up as
12 well.
13 A. Yeah, yeah.
14 Q. He was one of SNR [REDACTED].
15 So we get to Rossie and we think that's some time in
16 [REDACTED] 1971; does that sound right?
17 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, aye. [REDACTED].
18 Q. Okay, so you'd be 15 at that point?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. You tell us a bit about Rossie Farm. You tell us it was
21 a working farm. The main building was massive. I think
22 we've seen some photographs of it already, but maybe
23 just to help jog your memory and ours, we could look at
24 one of the photographs. It's INQ-0000001007, please.
25 That should just come up on the screen in front of you.

1 Is that Rossie?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Is that the Rossie the way that you remember it?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, that's Rossie Farm. I can even point my

5 dormitory out.

6 Q. Okay. Where was that?

7 A. Second one along on -- where the swimming pool is on

8 your right.

9 Q. So we think the swimming pool's on the right of the

10 photograph, the long, low building?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. And your dormitory was?

13 A. Second the top.

14 Q. Right, on the top floor?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Second along, that's where you were?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Was that just a row of dormitories?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, there was maybe eight in a dormitory.

20 Q. Okay. You talk in your statement later about the closed

21 unit?

22 A. The closed unit is that one at the far left.

23 Q. Right. So it's the building at the far left and I think

24 we can see it's linked by a sort of bridge from the main

25 building?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's a walkway and that's a gantry,
2 the gantry at the top led from the TS right into the
3 closed block.

4 Q. Okay. Now, you talk a lot in your statement -- for
5 reasons that we completely understand -- about
6 LLY [REDACTED] and we think he was SNR [REDACTED], is
7 that right?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You say, paragraph 24, you refer to him as LLY [REDACTED]
10 because you:
11 '... don't want to give him respect of calling him
12 Mister, so that I have a small bit of power over him
13 after what he did to [you].'
14 Is that how you feel?

15 A. Yeah, yeah, I still feel that today.

16 Q. You tell us a bit about the facilities, paragraph 25,
17 swimming pool, dining hall and so on.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. But that your communication was through a Mr GZS [REDACTED], who
20 was a welfare officer?

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. How did that work? How were you communicating through
23 Mr GZS [REDACTED]?

24 A. Well, if you wanted anything you had to go through him.
25 If you wanted a visit fae your mother or somebody, you

1 had to go through him. And sometimes he would take
2 people to courts if they had a court appearance and
3 that.

4 LADY SMITH: So GZS was a member of staff at Rossie, was
5 he?

6 A. Yes, he was a member -- he was supposed to be the
7 welfare officer.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MR SHELDON: You tell us at paragraph 26 that it was all
10 boys except for one girl?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. We don't need her name, but you say she was in the
13 closed block?

14 A. She was in the closed block.

15 Q. Were you in the closed block when she was there?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You were?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. How did that work for her, given it was all boys, how
20 was she accommodated?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. She was always with a matron or LLY
22 when she walked about, she was always with the matron
23 and LLY. She had a special room at the bottom of
24 the stairs. She had everything in it.

25 Q. Would she have a toilet and so on in her room?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, she had everything.

2 Q. Was she the only person like that in the closed unit

3 then?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Were there other single rooms as well?

6 A. Er, there was two or three single rooms, right, but they

7 were upstairs.

8 Q. Did she eat with the other --

9 A. No, she ate in her room. She never come into the dining

10 room.

11 Q. Okay. So she really was kept quite separate then?

12 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

13 Q. You say that this girl seemed to have the freedom to do

14 anything she wanted?

15 A. Oh, she did, she did.

16 Q. What do you mean by that?

17 A. Well, she could get out, she could say to the matron,

18 'I want to go into the TS', which was the main training

19 school, it was called the TS, right. She could walk

20 about at her leisure.

21 Q. Do you know if she was allowed out of the school

22 completely, out of the compound as it were?

23 A. I know she was allowed down to Montrose. I know she

24 used to -- she wore her own clothes.

25 Q. She would go on her own or would she be accompanied by

1 people?

2 A. No, at first -- at first, as far as I believe, she used

3 to get escorted and then she used to get out at the

4 weekend, on a Saturday.

5 Q. Okay. You tell us about two cells in the training

6 school and indeed cells in the closed block, but you say

7 that the cells in the training school, you could

8 actually slip the lock and open the door?

9 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, and talk to the boy in the next cell.

10 Q. I see. Okay. But could you get out of the cell

11 completely?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. No, it was another door.

15 Q. I see.

16 A. Leading into a corridor.

17 Q. Okay. You tell us the staff would only come along to

18 feed you, not check on you. So how often would that be?

19 A. Just at feeding time.

20 Q. Twice a day, three times a day?

21 A. Two or three times a day.

22 Q. Okay, if you wanted a drink of water you say --

23 A. Took it out of the cistern.

24 Q. -- you had to take it out of the cistern?

25 A. Honestly, you flushed the toilet to get a drink.

1 Q. So pretty primitive?

2 A. Aye, that's what happened.

3 Q. Okay. You tell us in paragraph 28 that although you
4 were in the cells, you say, in the closed block, but
5 there was a guy called Mr LOH . He was the man in
6 charge of the closed block, is that right?

7 A. Yeah, he was in charge of the closed block.

8 Q. Okay, and you say he was a decent guy:

9 'He took me out of the cells a couple of times when
10 he wasn't supposed to.'

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Why did he do that, do you think?

13 A. Because I wasnae allowed association with anybody.

14 Q. Right. We'll come to that in a minute or two.

15 You talk a bit about the cliques in Rossie Farm.
16 What can you tell us about the cliques? This is
17 paragraph 29 that you're saying that.

18 There were boys from Glasgow, boys from Aberdeen --

19 A. Oh, aye. Yeah, yeah. You had your corners, you had the
20 Glasgow corner, which was 20/30 Glasgow boys, you had
21 the Aberdeen corner, you had the Dundee corner and you
22 had the Perth corner, which was three of us.

23 Q. Okay, so did all the different areas keep themselves to
24 themselves?

25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1 Q. Did that cause trouble?

2 A. Sometimes it did, aye. Sometimes it did.

3 Q. What sort of trouble did it cause?

4 A. Well, a fight.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did that happen often? Was it an everyday thing or just

8 once in a while?

9 A. It actually happened to me once with an Aberdonian boy,

10 aye, who offered me a square go and we went in the

11 toilet and sorted it out.

12 Q. Okay. Was that quite a regular occurrence?

13 A. It did happen.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. There was always a fight or two, either in the boot room

16 or in the toilet bit.

17 Q. So there were known venues for that kind of thing?

18 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

19 Q. Moving on you talk about routine, this is starting at

20 paragraph 30. Can you tell us about -- what you call

21 the battle dress that you had to wear, moleskin --

22 A. It was an RAF uniform.

23 Q. Right. So was this a one piece thing?

24 A. No, it was a wee jerkin and moleskins, kind of

25 moleskins.

1 Q. Okay. What colour was that?

2 A. Grey.

3 Q. Was it grey?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. That's just what you had to wear every day?

6 A. Yeah, and then at night you could change into the kind

7 of jeans.

8 Q. Okay, so would those be clothes that you brought with

9 you --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- or did they give you those?

12 A. No, issued by Rossie.

13 Q. You tell us about the routine during the day, that there

14 were about ten boys in a room, at paragraph 32. You say

15 the boys were the same age as you. Was there ever any

16 trouble in the dorm?

17 A. No.

18 Q. That was alright?

19 A. No. I think the only time there was a fight was when

20 somebody's cigarette lighter went missing. That was

21 actually in my dorm and I got accused of it and then it

22 turned out it was the boy in the next bed to me that

23 took the boy's fags and lighter. Yeah. I cannae mind

24 his name.

25 Q. We don't need his name, 'Greg'. It's alright.

1 I'm really sorry, I know this is sometimes quite
2 hard, but if you could sit a wee bit closer to the
3 microphone --

4 A. Oh, sorry.

5 Q. -- that would really help us, just so we can pick up --
6 we really want to hear what you're saying, so that would
7 really help us. Thank you.

8 At paragraph 35 you talk about food. What was the
9 food like at Rossie?

10 A. The food was good, but you never got enough. Never.
11 And then extras, not once did I -- well maybe once I got
12 extras. That was kept at the top of the -- although my
13 number was number [REDACTED], I should have been sitting near the
14 entrance to the cook house, right, but LLY [REDACTED] had me
15 up at the door near his office.

16 Q. So the food was good, but essentially I think you are
17 telling us you were hungry a lot of the time?

18 A. You were hungry all the time.

19 Q. Over the page, page 9, you talk a bit about work and in
20 paragraph 39, I'm just going to ask you about this
21 first, you tell us there was no schooling at
22 Rossie Farm?

23 A. No.

24 Q. So no maths, no English?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Nothing like that?

2 A. Not a thing, no.

3 Q. You say that after assembly you'd go to jobs?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. What did that involve?

6 A. Making things, chairs, benches. That was in the

7 joiner's shop and then I got, after the joiner's shop,

8 Mr BFV He lost his [REDACTED] on a planer, [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED], and after that I got put into the cobblers.

10 Q. Right, so that was just what it sounds like, a

11 shoemaker, right?

12 A. Well, yeah, polish shoes, stitch shoes.

13 Q. Were you making shoes or just repairing them?

14 A. No, you weren't making shoes, no, you were just

15 repairing shoes.

16 Q. There was also -- you say you worked on the farm. Was

17 the farm part of the school at that stage --

18 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

19 Q. -- or was it a separate farm?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, it was part of the school.

21 Q. But it was run by a farmer --

22 A. Farmer Brown.

23 Q. -- who you name. You say you were thrown off the farm

24 because you took some eggs?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You have just told us --
2 A. I got caught boiling eggs.
3 Q. Is that because you were hungry?
4 A. Yeah. We used to do that every day, like, but I got
5 caught.
6 LADY SMITH: Where did you go to boil them? How did you get
7 facilities?
8 A. There was a wee copse, there was a little copse, right
9 near the farm, and we used to make a wee fire and boil
10 the eggs.
11 LADY SMITH: You managed to get a pan, had you?
12 A. Eh? No, it was just tins.
13 LADY SMITH: So resourceful.
14 A. Yeah.
15 MR SHELTON: You tell us you got caught and LLY gave
16 you six of the belt and you got put back into the
17 cobblers' section?
18 A. Yeah.
19 Q. Tell us about getting the belt. How did LLY do
20 that?
21 A. Well, the first time I got the belt there was in the
22 closed block, when I ran away. The only reason I ran
23 away was the treatment from LLY, er, which I got
24 in the cells in the closed block and it was done by
25 LLZ, and I was held down by LLY and

1 LMV .

2 Q. You were held down? Okay.

3 A. Yeah, yeah, and I've never felt pain like that in my

4 life, by the way. He could -- LLZ was a very big

5 man.

6 Q. Was the belting done with your trousers on or with your

7 trousers off?

8 A. No, bare arse.

9 Q. Bare arse, okay. You say that you've never felt pain

10 like it?

11 A. Not even to this day.

12 Q. It's alright. Take your time.

13 A. I begged LLY to stop.

14 Q. And did he?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Just kept going?

17 A. Yeah. Yeah. I was kept in the cells quite a while.

18 Aye.

19 Q. Can you just tell us again the order of things, 'Greg'.

20 You found yourself in the closed block?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. How did you find yourself in the closed block?

23 A. We were at a walk, we were at a walk, right, and I had

24 an altercation with somebody in Dumbarton Remand Home,

25 when I was in Dumbarton Remand Home, and we were walking

1 and I was wi' a couple of pals from Perth and the next
2 thing, I got hit in the head wi' a stone, a big stone.
3 Right, but I didn't know who'd done it at the time.

4 But one of the teachers, who had seen it, when we
5 got back to the training school, he told LLY,
6 right, and LLY pulled me out to the corridor and
7 he asked me who'd done it and I didn't know, truthfully
8 I didn't know at that time, right, so I got a backhander
9 from him, right, which I moved and he hit me smack in
10 the face. Then he hit my head off the corner of the
11 door.

12 Q. This was just because you hadn't told him who had thrown
13 the stone?

14 A. Yeah, yeah. Running away, that was one of the reasons
15 I ran away, was ... even the first day when LOF took me
16 to Rossie, I was told to stand outside, right, just when
17 they're going for their dinner and a member of staff
18 told me to go for my dinner, right, so I was eating my
19 dinner when LLY come along and started shouting at
20 me, why did I leave. I said I was told to come for my
21 dinner and luckily enough the teacher did say that,
22 right. But we got off to a bad start right away, from
23 day one.

24 And then that happened, we went oot on a walk and
25 the next time we went in a walk, my mate, , he just

1 jump up and took off and I followed suit. I wouldnae
2 ran away if I wasnae getting treated the way I was
3 getting treated, 'cause I never ran away from anywhere.
4 Never got a bad mark against me at any of them schools,
5 apart from Rossie Farm.

6 Q. You talk about an incident at paragraph 63 -- I'm sorry
7 I'm jumping around a wee bit -- but there's an incident
8 where someone urinates on your bed. This is the
9 initiation thing and the night watchman asks you, do you
10 wet the bed?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And said that you had to go to the -- what you called
13 the 'piss bedroom'. Is that what they called it, the
14 piss bedroom?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. This was a separate room for people that wet the bed?

17 A. Yeah, it was a dormitory. I refused to go.

18 Q. You refused to go and you tell us at paragraph 65, that
19 was your first encounter with LLY [REDACTED]?

20 A. First real encounter, aye, apart from the dining room.

21 Q. Right, yes, I was wondering about the order of that.

22 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

23 Q. LLY [REDACTED], paragraph 65, basically said you were going
24 to the piss bed dorm, end of story. You tried to say to
25 him, look, I hadn't wet the bed, but he wouldn't listen?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. What happened then?

3 A. I got a dig, I got a dig fae him.

4 Q. A dig?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What does that mean?

7 A. A slap.

8 Q. In the face or on the body?

9 A. No, on the body.

10 Q. Was that the first time that LLY hit you?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. But I think we understand that things went from perhaps

15 bad to worse; is that fair to say?

16 A. Aye, really bad.

17 Q. You describe LLY as an evil, sadistic bully. Do

18 you stick to that description?

19 A. Yeah, yeah. I still curse him to this day, every night.

20 Q. You have talked about an incident where -- this is the

21 incident where you wouldn't tell him who threw the rock?

22 A. Yeah, well, I didn't know who the rock -- who the boy --

23 Q. Sure. In a way we're not really concerned about the

24 rock. But it was LLY's excuse perhaps to hit you;

25 is that right?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

2 Q. Was that after you'd been forced to go to the piss bed
3 dorm or was that later?

4 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that was after, yeah.

5 Q. Okay. So when you were talking about that, you said
6 that LLY gave you a back-hander?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you gestured to your face?

9 A. Yeah, yeah, he slackened my two teeth off.

10 Q. Sorry?

11 A. He slackened my two teeth.

12 Q. Right, so it must have been a --

13 A. Yeah, oh, it drew blood. It drew blood.

14 Q. -- heck of a blow. Okay.

15 As well as doing that, you tell us he hit your head
16 against the --

17 A. The corner of the door.

18 Q. Okay, so the edge of it --

19 A. The edge of the door. The edge of the door.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. The plaster bit.

22 Q. That must have hurt a lot as well?

23 A. It did hurt. It did hurt.

24 And when I went to the dentist, the dentist used to
25 appear maybe twice a month, and I was standing in the

1 queue for him -- for my teeth and LLY took me out
2 the queue twice, telling me there was nothing up with
3 me, although he knew what he had done, aye, and kept on
4 taking me out the queue. So I couldn't see -- I never
5 seen a dentist until I went to borstal.

6 Q. I think you still have problems with your teeth?

7 A. Aye. I eventually lost the two of them. I lost -- they
8 took one out in Polmont, right, and I got a falser in
9 Polmont and they put a cap, trying to save my left-hand
10 one. But that eventually come out.

11 Q. Right. You've told us that LLY would pull you out
12 of the queue for the dentist. Why do you think he did
13 that?

14 A. Say that again?

15 Q. You've told us that LLY pulled you out of the
16 queue for the dentist.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Why do you think he did that?

19 A. Well, I take it he wasnae wanting me -- if the dentist
20 asked me what had happened or -- but that is what he
21 did, took me out the queue twice. 'There's nothing up
22 with you'. Not just the dentist. I'd been in the queue
23 to see the matron and the doctor and he was still taking
24 me out the queue. But the twice I went to the dentist,
25 he took me out the queue.

1 Q. He didn't want people asking you how you had come by
2 your --

3 A. No. It was just the same, right, anybody that got a hit
4 from him, it was never done in the assembly room. It
5 was done out in the corridor or in his office or in the
6 cells.

7 Q. You tell us, this is page 15 of your statement, that you
8 ran away. Is this after the incident where you are hit
9 in the teeth?

10 A. Yeah. The first time I ran away.

11 Q. You told us that's because you were being --

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. -- badly treated by -- being abused by LLY [REDACTED]?
14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 Q. You tell us that you got caught -- you headed to Perth
16 but you got caught the next day and then two members of
17 staff, LLY [REDACTED] and LLZ [REDACTED], came to pick you up, back
18 to Rossie and you went directly into the closed block?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Can you take up the story from there and tell us what
21 happened then?

22 A. Well, actually when they come to pick me up at the
23 police station, Tay Street Police Station in Perth,
24 right, I was 15 at the time and they weren't allowed to
25 put you in the cells. You had to sit in like a waiting

1 room, an office. Anyway, LLY come, put handcuffs
2 on me, and the duty sergeant says to him, 'You can't do
3 that', right. And LLY told him, 'He's in my
4 custody and I can do whatever I want'. And then got in
5 the car and every so often he would either elbow me,
6 give me an elbow, a punch. If I fidgeted, right, you
7 must remember I was handcuffed --
8 Q. You are still handcuffed at this point?
9 A. Yeah, and taken right to the closed block and that was
10 where I got my first time of the jump-ups.
11 Q. What are the jump-ups?
12 A. Well, when they hit you, you jumped up.
13 Q. Right.
14 A. Aye, and LLZ could lay a belt. I mean, really put
15 it on, yeah.
16 Q. Was that the first time that happened?
17 A. It was the first time ever.
18 Q. Did it happen again while you were in the closed block?
19 A. I got two sets -- I got two sets of six in the closed
20 block. I got a set of six in his office. LLY
21 gave me it in his office. LLZ gave it me twice in
22 the closed block.
23 Q. Right. How long were you held in the closed block for?
24 A. Well, at first I asked him when, I actually asked him
25 and he's told me not until [REDACTED], my mate, got

1 caught, that I was getting held in the closed block.

2 Q. Right. So he was still on the run?

3 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] was still on the run.

4 Q. So I suppose a kind of open-ended sentence to keep you

5 in the closed block?

6 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

7 Q. You didn't know when you'd be out.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You are put into the cell in the closed block, this is

10 still paragraph 70 of your statement, how long were you

11 kept in the cell?

12 A. I was in them cells a good ten days, a good ten days.

13 Q. Okay, and during that time, did people come to visit

14 you, to speak to you?

15 A. No, no. LLY [REDACTED] fed me.

16 Q. LLY [REDACTED]?

17 A. LLY [REDACTED] brought my food to me every day. Nobody fae

18 the closed block fed me.

19 Q. Why was it LLY [REDACTED] that brought you --

20 A. It was always LLY [REDACTED] that come. The same at night,

21 when -- after I got moved upstairs, right, to a single

22 room upstairs, right, it was still -- well, they let you

23 oot for the toilet, right, and it was always LLY [REDACTED]

24 and GQE, GQE [REDACTED], the night watchman, it was always them

25 two that come and let me oot to go to the toilet.

1 Q. Right. Paragraph 71, I want to ask you about something
2 you say there. You didn't get out for social
3 activities?
4 A. No.
5 Q. There was just a dry bread -- I'm sorry, a dry bed --
6 A. A dry bed, I had to -- you only got the mattress -- you
7 only got the mattress at night. You had to sit on the
8 chair during the day.
9 Q. But sometimes you would just lie on the springs and try
10 to doze?
11 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
12 Q. Was that not uncomfortable?
13 A. Oh, it was very uncomfortable.
14 Q. You tell us that you would be aware sometimes of
15 [REDACTED] standing at the window?
16 A. [REDACTED] would stand at the observation window and just
17 stare. He would stand there for ages, just stare at
18 you. And if you looked up --
19 Q. Minutes, hours?
20 A. Ten minutes, sometimes longer. He would just stand and
21 stare. If you looked up, he'd come in and you got
22 beaten.
23 Q. How did that make you feel?
24 A. Frightening.
25 Q. You say that --

1 A. I mean, I was 15. They were adults. Right. They were
2 men. 15-year-old. It would be alright face to face
3 with a 15/16-year-old, but him and LLZ ...

4 Q. You say that if you stared back at him that would set
5 him off?

6 A. Aye, that would set him off.

7 Q. He would come in and give you a punch or a slap; is that
8 right?

9 A. Yeah, slap, punch, elbow. Same in the toilet. Just
10 stand and look. He would stand and just watch you in
11 the toilet, aye. And then he'd say, 'Are you going to
12 hurry up?' I mean, it's not -- somebody sitting
13 watching you doing the toilet, you just cannae do it.
14 He would just stand and stare.

15 Q. That must have seemed really odd to you?

16 A. Aye, well, it was.

17 Q. You tell us in paragraph 72 that you think you were kept
18 in the cells so long because you had bruising from being
19 belted?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And that you were in solitary for ten days. You tell
22 us:

23 'LLY let me out to eat my breakfast and dinner
24 downstairs, but I was on non-association for ages.'

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Again, can I just unpick that a wee bit, please. You
2 are in solitary for ten days in total?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Is that right?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. During that time are you allowed out?
7 A. No, no.
8 Q. No, okay.
9 A. It was only when I got moved upstairs.
10 Q. So the solitary really is that, you're in the cell
11 24 hours a day?
12 A. Yeah, yeah.
13 Q. And this is with LLY coming to bring the food?
14 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
15 Q. Then after that, is that when you're on non-association?
16 A. I got moved upstairs and I wasn't allowed to go to
17 recreation or anything like that.
18 Q. Sorry, you weren't allowed to go?
19 A. For recreation.
20 Q. Right.
21 A. Go where they had table tennis and that. Never got out
22 for that. Never. Then eventually I got put back into
23 the training school.
24 Q. Right. So I suppose non-association is still a kind of
25 solitary, because you're not --

1 A. Yeah, it was. Aye. I mean you could speak to them
2 through -- anybody you knew through the observation
3 window, but you never -- you only got let out for the
4 toilet.

5 Q. Right. But when you're in solitary, your friend is
6 found, he's brought back?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. That's when you got out of solitary; is that right?

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. Paragraph 73, you tell us that LLY [REDACTED] and two
11 policemen came back with your friend and --

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. -- that's when you realised you'd be able to get out?

14 A. Yeah, eventually, yeah.

15 Q. But you denied that it was your friend and did that
16 cause more problems for you?

17 A. Well, yeah, it did. [REDACTED] had pure blond hair, right,
18 and when I was in the cells downstairs in the closed
19 block, when the door opened and LLY [REDACTED] told me to
20 come out and in the next cell was two police officers
21 standing wi' [REDACTED], right, and, er, he asked me if that
22 was [REDACTED], right and I says, 'No', because he had dyed
23 hair.

24 I think they realised that I knew it was [REDACTED] right
25 away, but I had to say 'No', even although LLY [REDACTED]

1 grabbed his hand and he had [REDACTED] on
2 his two hands.

3 Q. A distinctive tattoo, I suppose?

4 A. Yeah, yeah. And I denied I'd ever seen him, so they
5 took him away and LLY [REDACTED] gave me another few digs.

6 Q. Right. If we can move on to a slightly different topic,
7 it's paragraph 81 of your statement. You tell us bad
8 boys who were being disciplined would stand at the top
9 of the stairs with their backs to the wall?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What happened on those occasions?

12 A. Well, it was, I think, at bedtime, 9 o'clock, but if you
13 were on default or anything, you were told to stand at
14 the top of the stairs against the wall and you'd only be
15 in your underpants, bare feet. And you'd stand there
16 until they told you you can go in, but there was
17 cleaning toilets, cleaning stairs, cleaning the mile,
18 which was a long corridor, before you ever got to --
19 told to go to your bed. Sometimes you were there for
20 a couple of hours, sometimes longer.

21 Q. What time then did you have to get up in the morning?

22 A. 7 o'clock, I think, it was, yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: I think I know what the answer to this is, but
24 would this be a time of day that there was no heating at
25 all in the building?

1 A. Could you say that again, ma'am?

2 LADY SMITH: Would this be a time of the day, from bedtime
3 until whenever these jobs were finished, that there was
4 no heating in the building?

5 A. Er, I couldn't really say, but you were standing on
6 a marble floor.

7 LADY SMITH: In your bare feet dressed in your underpants?

8 A. Yeah, dressed in your underpants, yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Right. Was it cold?

10 A. It was. Sometimes it was very cold. Er, just along you
11 had the changing rooms where you had the pigeon boxes
12 where you put your clothes, right, and you kept your
13 underpants on. Er, that was it. People on default were
14 told to stand at the top of the stairs until GQE or
15 LLY -- LLY was always there, always.
16 I don't think -- he must have had insomnia, or
17 something, 'cause every time you looked up he was there.
18 Never slept. He was always there.

19 Even in the toilets in the closed block, he'd maybe
20 come for you to open the door at 1 o'clock and go to the
21 toilet. LLY was always there.

22 Q. He was always hanging around?

23 A. He was always. He was always.

24 Q. Just still on LLY then, at paragraph 85, you tell
25 us that before you went to Rossie, three or four guys

1 had tried to get out by going through the closed block.
2 They got caught and given a severe beating using --
3 A. Night sticks.
4 Q. Night sticks?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. Was this something that you heard from other boys?
7 A. It just happened about a week before, two weeks before
8 I went in, aye, but in his office you could see the
9 sticks. You could see them, big truncheons like that
10 (indicating).
11 Q. You are signalling something that's maybe two feet long?
12 A. Maybe even more. Big riot sticks, what you see the
13 police with.
14 Q. Okay. What sort of thickness were they?
15 A. They were proper batons, the proper --
16 Q. You thought they might actually be police batons,
17 truncheons?
18 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Definitely. I mean, you'd see
19 them in the office.
20 Q. Where did you hear about this particular beating? Who
21 told you about that?
22 A. Oh, it was all about the school when I went there, aye.
23 LADY SMITH: Why were they called 'night sticks'?
24 A. I'm only calling them because, er, that's what they call
25 them, the night sticks, in the police programmes.

1 LADY SMITH: I'm with you, right, okay. Thank you.

2 A. Big batons, big truncheons.

3 LADY SMITH: I have the picture.

4 MR SHELTON: You tell us, paragraph 88, that you told your

5 social worker when she visited you what was happening.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did that have any effect?

8 A. No, I think she told LLY [REDACTED] what I had told her, aye,

9 because after that kinda -- things got a wee bit worse.

10 Q. They got worse?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. What happened?

13 A. Well, anything -- right, at night you used to

14 recreation, right. The football line, television line,

15 walking line, nobody ever went to walking. They either

16 went to football, gymnasium, snooker and that. And

17 LLY [REDACTED] always -- if I went into the TV queue, he'd

18 take me out of the TV queue, right. If I went in the

19 football queue, he'd take me off the football queue. If

20 I went to the recreation, he'd take me off of that. So

21 that all that was left was walking, aye, so he would

22 always put me in that.

23 Q. Right. So you were being persecuted even more?

24 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

25 Q. Your social worker had really done perhaps the least

1 helpful thing?

2 A. Oh, I know she did. I know she did.

3 Q. You talk about leaving Rossie Farm and at paragraph 90,
4 about being in court again and the Sheriff was going to
5 return you to Rossie, but I think you protested about
6 that, is that right?

7 A. Me and [REDACTED].

8 Q. What happened?

9 A. Well, Sheriff Cormack, er, we had done borstal reports,
10 right. We'd done borstal reports in Perth Prison and he
11 wasnae -- he actually wasnae wanting to send us to
12 borstal, aye, but he has says to GZS [REDACTED] what was
13 happening when we got back and I was going back to the
14 closed block and [REDACTED] was going back to TS and I kind of
15 reared up -- I shouted, 'I'll barricade mysel' in', and
16 this, that and the other and GZS [REDACTED] stood up and that's
17 when I hear 'we're expelling him from Rossie Farm',
18 because I reared up and, er, got borstal, which was
19 a walkover compared to Rossie Farm.

20 Q. You tell us that first of all you went to Perth Prison
21 and you were kept in the borstal dormitory there?

22 A. Dormitory, yeah.

23 Q. What sort of age were the boys in the borstal dormitory?

24 A. 16 upwards to thingmy. Right. Kept in the dormitory
25 until you got transported on a Thursday to Polmont.

1 Q. How many boys were in the dormitory?

2 A. In the dorm, five or six.

3 Q. Right. Then you were sent to Polmont?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I think you say essentially that there was some violence

6 there?

7 A. Yeah. On the first six weeks' allocation, right, you

8 maybe got a slap, aye, but you werenae punched, kicked

9 or anything like that. It was strict. You got

10 pushed -- if you were going for a shower, you got pushed

11 into the shower or if you were going for your wages, you

12 got pushed into the governor's office. Yeah.

13 Q. So there was some, but I think, and you tell us in

14 paragraph 93, that Polmont, you thought, was far easier

15 than Rossie Farm, is that right?

16 A. Oh, definitely, definitely.

17 Q. You tell us that you never got a bad report in Polmont?

18 A. I could have walked out of Polmont any time I wanted to,

19 any time I wanted to. I was part of their swimming

20 team. I was part of the first canoe race that they ever

21 done. I was in the painters, outside painting, I could

22 have just walked anywhere.

23 Q. But you didn't?

24 A. No, I had nae reason to.

25 Q. In fact you tell us at paragraph 95 that you actually

1 asked them if you could stay another week or two?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Because you wanted to swim; is that right?

4 A. No. I got out on a Friday and the swimming gala was on

5 and thingmy and it was on at the weekend and I asked if

6 I could stay for the competition, but they wouldnae

7 allow it.

8 Q. They wouldn't let you?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. 'Greg', you tell us then about your life after being in

11 care, that you got back home. You got a job on a cargo

12 ship?

13 A. Yeah, my mum got me a job on a cargo ship.

14 Q. And worked at sea. What were the kind of places you

15 ended up?

16 A. All over Europe, yeah. All over Europe. Yeah. It was

17 a wet ship. Everybody was drunk all the time. Not me,

18 like. Er, but they liked a good drink on that ship.

19 [REDACTED].

20 Q. You do say in paragraph 96 that you went back to

21 Rossie Farm in 1973 with the intention of meeting up

22 with LLY [REDACTED], but you left without seeing him.

23 A. Mm-hmm. Actually, I went back --

24 Q. What --

25 A. I was actually driving past, me and my mate, telt me to

1 pop up there.

2 Q. What do you think you would have said to LLY [REDACTED] if

3 you had seen him?

4 A. I don't know. I don't know. Aye. Anyway, it's --

5 luckily I never seen him.

6 Q. On the last page of your statement, you talk about the

7 impact that all this has had on you and I wonder if you

8 could just tell us how you feel now about your time at

9 Rossie and everything that happened to you?

10 A. I get myself wound up thinking about it. There's not

11 a day goes past when I don't curse at LLY [REDACTED], I don't

12 go to sleep without cursing him. Er, I had perfect

13 teeth. Aye. I ended up losing them, through him.

14 I blame him for my mate's death. Er, it still riles me

15 to this day. Aye.

16 I get annoyed wi' myself with things. What I wish

17 I'd done, aye, but I was only 15 at the time. I used to

18 lie in my bed and say I wished I'd gone and punched him

19 in the face.

20 Q. As you said yourself, 'Greg', you were still only 15,

21 you were only a child?

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. He was a grown man, as you also --

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Greg', experience tells you that punching him

1 wasn't going to make things better, was it?

2 A. No, but it would have made me better.

3 LADY SMITH: For a few minutes.

4 A. For a few minutes and get locked up again, yeah.

5 No, I was glad when I got Polmont. Aye.

6 MR SHELTON: Things got a bit better then.

7 A. I got Polmont on [REDACTED] 1971 and I was out on

8 [REDACTED] 1972, right, and LLY [REDACTED] had told me that

9 he was keeping me to 17 in Rossie, right. If he had

10 kept me to 17, I don't know. Yeah, I'm glad that I did

11 get borstal. I'm glad I reared up in that court and got

12 borstal, aye. And borstal was a canter, as I say.

13 That's all I can say.

14 Q. You were out on the wide, blue sea?

15 A. Eh?

16 Q. And then after that you were out on the wide, blue sea?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, and then jobs in Belfast and Harland &

18 Wolff. I haven't been in a court for over 30-odd years,

19 apart fae here.

20 MR SHELTON: We're very glad you are here and thank you for

21 telling us what you have told us.

22 I don't have any more questions for you, 'Greg'. Is

23 there anything else that you want to add that I haven't

24 asked you about or you haven't had a chance to say?

25 A. No, no. You've covered everything. You've covered

1 everything.

2 MR SHELTON: Okay. Thank you very much.

3 A. No problem.

4 LADY SMITH: 'Greg', let me add my thanks to you for coming
5 here today to give the oral evidence you have. I don't
6 underestimate how difficult it has been to talk about
7 something that even although it concerned events of
8 50-odd years --

9 A. 50-odd years.

10 LADY SMITH: -- ago they are still vivid and resounding in
11 your memory, and not in a good way. I'm so sorry to
12 hear that. I hope in some way it has helped sharing
13 with us.

14 A. This has helped a lot, it's got everything off my chest
15 and I feel more relaxed, if you know what I mean.

16 LADY SMITH: Good.

17 Be assured that what you've told us is of tremendous
18 value to the work we're doing here --

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: -- and has been a really important contribution
21 to the evidence we're gathering about these places.

22 A. Yeah, thank you very much.

23 LADY SMITH: Safe journey home and I hope it's not a too
24 cold one. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the morning break, I'd like
2 to mention some names of people whose identities are
3 protected by my General Restriction Order and mustn't be
4 referred to as mentioned in our evidence outside this
5 room. There's LOF [REDACTED], LLY [REDACTED], Mr GZS [REDACTED]
6 Mr LOH [REDACTED], LMV [REDACTED], Mr LLZ [REDACTED], a boy called
7 [REDACTED], a boy called [REDACTED], and at more than
8 one point 'Greg' made reference to his own
9 identification number when he was at Rossie, and that
10 might otherwise identify him to some people, but his
11 identity of course is also protected.

12 I'll stop now for the morning break and sit again at
13 about 11.45 pm.

14 We'll be going on to some read-ins at 11.45, won't
15 we?

16 MR SHELTON: Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 (11.27 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.46 am)

21 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. Now, Mr Peoples, where next?

22 'Janet' (read)

23 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, we're moving on to a read-in in
24 relation to a person who will be known today as 'Janet',
25 who has provided the Inquiry with a statement which

1 relates to her late father's time in care at Rossie,
2 between around 1929 to 1934, so we're going back quite
3 a long way.

4 LADY SMITH: Wow.

5 MR PEOPLES: So it's very much at the very early stages of
6 our timeframe, but it does, I think -- that and
7 something I'll come to, gives a flavour, I think, of how
8 things were in those days and to what extent they may
9 have differed in subsequent years.

10 So if I could start with the statement from 'Janet',
11 which is WIT-1-000000598.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR PEOPLES: There's been the usual declaration at the end
14 of the signed statement and it has of course been signed
15 on 11 January 2021. I'm not planning to read the whole
16 of it, but I will take parts of it.

17 'Janet' herself was born in 1955 and, as she tells
18 us in her statement at paragraph 1, she wishes to
19 provide a statement on behalf of her late father.

20 Her father died in 1989, and he was born in 1916.

21 She tells us that her father spoke to 'Janet' about
22 his experiences in care at Rossie Farm School, as it was
23 then known, and that after her father died, her mother
24 also told her certain things that he had told 'Janet's'
25 mother, but had not told 'Janet'. She says these things

1 did relate to abuse.

2 She also tells us that many years after being in
3 care, her father wrote about his experiences in
4 childhood, including at Rossie, and that this was
5 something that was published by the family.

6 What I'll do, in light of what's in the statement,
7 is, without dealing with the detail, because it will
8 identify the person, I will take things that are from
9 the book, because we have seen some chapters, at least,
10 which relate to Rossie and I would just like for the
11 record to put these into the transcript, but I'll do
12 that once I've finished 'Janet's' statement, I think
13 that's to avoid confusion of sorts.

14 LADY SMITH: The statement refers to it being published
15 privately, do they mean self-published?

16 MR PEOPLES: I think --

17 LADY SMITH: It would be available to the public?

18 MR PEOPLES: I think it could have been. It's difficult to
19 tell, it may be difficult to find now, but we at least
20 have seen some of the chapters. Whether we have all of
21 them, I'd have to make some checks, but I think what we
22 have is useful and I'll refer to it after completing
23 parts of 'Janet's' statement today.

24 There is a section, life before going into care,
25 starting at paragraph 5, and it begins with:

1 'My father had a difficult childhood.'

2 Basically it's a sad state of affairs, that he had
3 a twin who died. His mother died and then his father
4 and then he lived for a time with his maternal
5 grandmother and then she died and her surviving
6 daughter, which would be --

7 LADY SMITH: An aunt.

8 MR PEOPLES: Her father's mother's sister --

9 LADY SMITH: An aunt of her father.

10 MR PEOPLES: He went to live with a maternal aunt and her
11 husband and they had a daughter and she tells us about
12 this on page 2, paragraph 5, who suffered from
13 tuberculosis in the bones and was an invalid.

14 Then the maternal aunt died and her father was left
15 in the care of the maternal aunt's husband, who was not
16 a blood relative, and his daughter, the invalid
17 daughter.

18 She does refer in the statement to the uncle as
19 'grandpa', but I think I'll just refer to him as uncle.
20 It might avoid confusion so forgive me if it appears to
21 vary from the actual statement.

22 She tells us that because her father was taken in by
23 his maternal aunt, he never felt very connected to the
24 family after she died.

25 She goes on to say that her father started school in

1 Musselburgh and then the uncle -- I assume this was
2 after the death of his wife, I think that is the way it
3 reads -- moved to Edinburgh, and her father went to
4 school locally there, but as she says at paragraph 6, he
5 was a very troubled child and he didn't get a great deal
6 of schooling as he kept running away from home.

7 I think we find, to some extent, she says it wasn't
8 because of one specific incident, but an accumulation of
9 difficulties and perhaps, given what we know already
10 about the family background, one could perhaps
11 understand that.

12 She does tell us that the uncle hired a housekeeper
13 and that the housekeeper, while fond of the uncle's
14 child, female child, didn't like 'Janet's' father and
15 made life difficult for him. Indeed, she says the
16 housekeeper battered her father and that also when uncle
17 came home from work, the housekeeper would bombard him
18 with a list of her father's sins.

19 She says that although his cousin was very close to
20 'Janet's' father, he was the older of the two. She was
21 an invalid and couldn't do much to protect him.

22 Then she explains why he ended up in Rossie. She
23 says when her father was around the age of 14, he stole
24 5 pounds from the uncle to run away to sea. I suppose
25 in those days that would have been quite a lot of money.

1 LADY SMITH: An awful lot of money, yes.

2 MR PEOPLES: She says he managed to get as far as Dunbar
3 before being apprehended and then uncle decided to press
4 charges. Her father was taken to court. He was told
5 that uncle no longer wanted him back and her father was
6 sent to Rossie Farm School. So it's quite a move for
7 him in those days.

8 She says in mitigation of uncle that she thinks that
9 the uncle did care for her father, but it was a very
10 difficult time for him due to losing his own wife and
11 not knowing how to handle her father and so it was all
12 very complicated.

13 Then she has a section specifically dealing with
14 Rossie Farm School in the period of around 1929 to 1934.
15 I'm not sure about the exact dates, but clearly, when
16 I come to the book he wrote, he was clearly there for
17 an appreciable period of time, so he was well able to
18 give an account of his experiences.

19 LADY SMITH: And from early teens, if that date's right,
20 that would be from about age 13.

21 MR PEOPLES: Yes. I think it is suggested it could be as
22 much as five years because I think he certainly said he
23 stayed until he was 18. I mean we are not dealing
24 perhaps with the regulations and regime or statutory
25 regime that we have now, or even in later decades.

1 Of course, we have to remember I think at that stage
2 Rossie was not a secure unit. It was just a school,
3 a farm school or reformatory, when he started at least,
4 if he started in 1929 it would be a reformatory, it
5 would have become an approved school maybe at or around
6 the time he left and, of course, it wouldn't have been
7 subject to -- even, if I remember, Professor Norrie and
8 the 1933 Regulations. So there would be quite a lot of
9 differences in terms of the framework and of course
10 there wouldn't be the sort of professional support that
11 would come in later in the day for the school.

12 She says at paragraph 8, and this is I think -- one
13 of the major themes of what she says, that her father
14 was very ashamed and embarrassed at being sent to
15 Rossie. It was an approved school for bad boys.

16 She says she doesn't know how he travelled to
17 Rossie. He actually travelled by train, I think, but we
18 can come to that.

19 She says in her statement at paragraph 9, 'Rossie
20 was a big, gloomy old place and was run as a farm school
21 in those days. The kids worked outdoors and the school
22 would sell the produce. It was pretty spartan.' When
23 her father arrived, he met SNR [REDACTED], Mr HBT [REDACTED],
24 who was [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]. That was HBT [REDACTED].

25 She says her father was allocated to a team. She

1 says her father told 'Janet' that he tried to engage
2 Mr HBT in conversation, but it was clear the staff
3 didn't form personal relationships with the children.
4 She tells us that her father was told to stay quiet
5 and do what he was told. It was a quasi-military set-up
6 and very regimented.
7 She goes on:
8 'The idea was that boys were there because they were
9 bad kids and they needed to be punished rather than
10 rehabilitated. It was more of a punitive regime rather
11 than a military regime. I remember my dad saying it was
12 run along military lines. The boys would have to line
13 up for inspection.'
14 She goes on:
15 'My dad hated that military aspect of the place.'
16 She says at 11:
17 'I remember my dad telling me that the way the
18 authorities at Rossie controlled the boys, who could be
19 up to 18 or 19, was to infantilise them.'
20 She mentioned something called the Marshall
21 discipline --
22 LADY SMITH: I think she means M-A-R-T-I-A-L, doesn't she?
23 MR PEOPLES: I am not sure about that from other parts,
24 because there is a person who has a theory, Marshall
25 discipline, which involves giving young people

1 responsibility but without coercive control and as we'll
2 see in her statement, the theme is that the regime in
3 those days gave them no responsibility. Everything was
4 done for them, and I'll come to that later. So I think
5 it might be a deliberate reference to it, but Marshall
6 wasn't around in those days, if it is.

7 LADY SMITH: It wasn't Marshall Plan time.

8 MR PEOPLES: No, no. I think that might be the reference,
9 it's hard to say, so I'm not going to press that too
10 far, but she goes on, I think, to explain how she
11 remembers her father speaking about the way the boys
12 were controlled. She goes on:

13 'The boys had no autonomy. They weren't allowed to
14 make decisions. That's why the boys weren't prepared
15 for life outside Rossie. They weren't encouraged to
16 take responsibility for themselves. They were treated
17 like children and then expected to go out into the world
18 and make their way.'

19 She says that the boys slept in dormitories, which
20 I think would be typical of the time. And then she goes
21 on to deal with a section on washing and bathing, and
22 what she learned was that the bathroom was a big room
23 with lots of baths. The matron would make all the boys
24 line up naked at bath time and this was done once
25 a week. They had communal baths. They were not left

1 with a shred of dignity:

2 'My father would never have expected to do that
3 before he went to Rossie.'

4 She goes on:

5 'It was my father's theory that this was all part of
6 what the staff thought they were there to do, to rob the
7 children of dignity and treat them like infants in order
8 to control them.

9 'As far as I remember, my dad said it was a big room
10 with baths and everyone was herded in together. I don't
11 know if the boys had to share a bath, I can't remember
12 if my dad mentioned if the water was hot or cold.'

13 She then goes on to deal with uniform and said:

14 'The boys did have to wear a uniform and it was
15 quite distinctive. It would make the boys stand out if
16 they tried to run away. They would immediately be
17 spotted.

18 'I can't recall the details of what my dad said the
19 uniform was, but I think it was militaristic.'

20 Passing on to school, she tells us at paragraph 16:

21 'There was some education at Rossie, but it was
22 pretty basic. There were workshops where the boys
23 learned carpentry and things like that. My dad was
24 interested in engineering and science.'

25 She recalls being told that:

1 'When Mr HBT realised that my father was a bit
2 different from some of the boys, a bit brighter, he
3 tried to help my dad.

4 'When it came close to leaving Rossie and my dad was
5 trying to work out what he was going to do in life, he
6 asked Mr HBT for help in relation to science and
7 engineering. Mr HBT bought some books for my dad.
8 As far as I can work out, my dad was the only boy at
9 Rossie who Mr HBT helped in that way. I think the
10 staff just expected that the boys would go out and do
11 manual labouring jobs.'

12 She goes on at paragraph 18:

13 'One of the things my dad said was that the
14 structure of life at Rossie Farm completely failed to
15 prepare the boys for life outside. They were treated
16 like children. There wasn't any attempt to make them
17 take responsibility for themselves. They were just
18 thrown out into the outside world and expected to make
19 their way.'

20 On the matters of chores at paragraph 20, she tells
21 us:

22 'The boys had to work in the farm attached to the
23 school. People were expected to go out and work from
24 the age of 14 in those days.'

25 Just taking it short, she says in the final sentence

1 there:

2 'Expectations for boys after leaving Rossie weren't

3 high, but if they had experience of farm work, that

4 would be something.'

5 As far as religious instruction, she said the kids

6 would be taken to the local village on Sundays for

7 church service and then she tells us:

8 'My parents weren't religious, they were humanists.'

9 She goes on:

10 'My dad told me that the boys would be frogmarched

11 to church on a Sunday in single file, and he said that

12 he found this humiliating. They were all wearing the

13 uniform of Rossie Farm School and it meant they were

14 singled out. The people from the villages around Rossie

15 could easily identify them as the bad boys.'

16 She says:

17 'My dad did get home leave. [She says] I believe he

18 got the train back and forth to Rossie.'

19 Probably quite a difficult journey in those days,

20 but anyway, I think she's right about that that would be

21 the mode of transport if you wanted to get to the

22 capital, if he was going back.

23 LADY SMITH: It would just take a while.

24 MR PEOPLES: Yes, absolutely. Then she says -- some of this

25 will perhaps be coloured by what I take from the book

1 later on, but what she tells us is:

2 'I don't know if my dad had any visitors at
3 Rossie Farm School. Almost everybody in his family had
4 died.'

5 She goes on in relation to a section headed
6 'Healthcare':

7 'There was a matron and she was the only woman at
8 Rossie Farm School. From what I gather, she was a bit
9 of a sadist. She used to like to humiliate the boys.
10 They would have to get stripped off for shared baths and
11 be lined up for inspection. My dad didn't elaborate
12 further about the inspection.'

13 She goes on:

14 'My dad did try to run away from Rossie Farm School.
15 I can't remember any specific reason for him running
16 away, it was just the accumulation of his experiences.'

17 She has nothing to add on the bed wetting side from
18 what she recalls of conversations with her father.

19 She then has a heading, 'Abuse at Rossie Farm
20 School', starting at paragraph 28. She says:

21 'From what I've been told, by my mother after my
22 father's death [this isn't the direct conversation]
23 there was a lot of physical and sexual abuse of younger
24 boys by the older boys. It was a very harsh
25 environment. I don't recall any mention of teachers or

1 staff being responsible for any sexual abuse. My dad
2 was physically quite a small person. I can imagine him
3 getting picked on. There was plenty of physical abuse.
4 Mr HBT caned the boys. Staff members would refer
5 boys to Mr HBT for corporal punishment and the boys
6 would go to Mr HBT's office. I think my dad did
7 receive corporal punishment from Mr HBT. Boys could
8 be punished for even the slightest deviation from the
9 strict regime, talking after lights out, for example.
10 [She says] I can't recall any other reasons for boys
11 being beaten. I got the impression it could be for next
12 to nothing.'

13 Some of these things echo what we hear in later
14 decades, so it's not just all about a completely
15 different period.

16 Going on, she says:

17 'My dad talked several times about something that
18 happened to one of his friends who was at Rossie Farm
19 School at the same time as my dad. That boy had been
20 apprenticed off to a nearby farm. The farmer beat the
21 boy, abused him and starved him. I can't remember if my
22 dad mentioned the name of the farmer, eventually the
23 farmer threw the boy into a pig trough in the middle of
24 winter and the boy developed pneumonia and died. That
25 made a huge impression on my dad, the terrible lack of

1 humanity.'

2 She says:

3 'I don't think my dad was given any preparation for
4 leaving Rossie Farm School. No one told him what he was
5 expected to do.'

6 Other than obviously -- unlike most boys, he got
7 some books from SNR .

8 I think the inference, and I think it's confirmed
9 later on from the book, that he was rather different
10 perhaps from the typical Rossie boy at that time.

11 She says on page 8, at paragraph 31:

12 'Although I understand that Mr HBT was very
13 strict as SNR , my dad didn't hold that against
14 him. My dad respected that Mr HBT had a job to do
15 and was doing the best he could. He had no bitterness
16 towards Mr HBT .

17 'My dad was quite an introverted person, he didn't
18 have many friends. He said he found it quite lonely
19 living back in Edinburgh with uncle, because he didn't
20 have any friends of his own age. In terms of
21 socialising with his peers, he was quite badly
22 emotionally scarred by his experiences in Rossie Farm
23 School. He was left with the feeling that he was marked
24 as being a bad person. It was a huge social stigma to
25 have been in an approved school.'

1 That seems to have been a constant theme for him,
2 the stigma aspect, not just being in care, but also the
3 further stigma of being in a particular care setting.

4 LADY SMITH: That has been a constant feature throughout the
5 decades, hasn't it?

6 MR PEOPLES: It's like the stigma perhaps attached to
7 children who were born out of wedlock for a long period
8 of time and it's something they find very difficult to
9 come to terms with, because they grew up with that
10 stigma or feeling that they were stigmatised.

11 So there is obviously -- I think that captures
12 perhaps the thinking at that time and how it affected
13 them -- this particular boy, but no doubt many others as
14 well.

15 She deals with life after care and she says he was
16 released when he was 18. I'm not going to go through
17 the detail of what happened afterwards. He eventually
18 joined a family business after having some difficulty
19 getting work and it was during the Depression, she says,
20 at least part of the time that he would be searching for
21 work and she says, however, at paragraph 36 that her dad
22 joined the army as an engineer and he did very well in
23 the army:

24 'He always said that it was the army that made him,
25 because it gave him confidence.'

1 I think this is him contrasting what Rossie gave him
2 with what the army gave him.

3 She goes on to deal with his life thereafter and how
4 he met 'Janet's' mother, at paragraph 36 in 1954, and
5 they met at 'Janet's' aunt's house.

6 She does say that around the time that he met up
7 with 'Janet's' mother, the former housekeeper contacted
8 her father for help and that she actually came to live
9 with them and she said her father:

10 '... did the best he could to help her. My mum
11 could never understand how my dad could be so forgiving,
12 but that's the kind of person he was.'

13 Then she says in later life in the 1960s he was
14 involved in helping to set up a children's home.
15 I think the home subsequently closed, but it continued
16 to provide sort of services for people who had been
17 I think in care.

18 She says at paragraph 39:

19 'My dad worked with boys who were disturbed, because
20 he felt he had an insight into their circumstances.'

21 She then tells us towards the end that he died in
22 1989. So any discussions were quite some time before
23 this statement, plainly. To some extent there may be
24 difference between that and what he's written in his own
25 private publication.

1 She goes on at 'Impact' to say:

2 'My dad's time in care at Rossie Farm School had
3 a huge impact on my father. He was scarred by it. He
4 carried that stigma of being in an approved school all
5 his life. It wasn't just that he was in care. He was
6 marked out as being bad. The idea of locking someone up
7 for five years for stealing five pounds seems incredible
8 really.'

9 Then she says:

10 'I'm not aware of my father making any report about
11 the abuse at Rossie Farm.'

12 Then at 'Lessons', she says at 45:

13 'I don't know how my dad would feel about the
14 Inquiry. As far as he was concerned, it was all a long
15 time ago. He wouldn't have been interested in any
16 feeling of revenge about his time in care, he wasn't the
17 least bit vindictive or angry about what had happened to
18 him.'

19 It's very commendable, but clearly it stayed with
20 him.

21 That's the statement and now, without going to the
22 detail of the publication and who wrote it, can I just
23 pick out some things that are said in that publication
24 or book.

25 He went to Rossie around 1929, when it was still,

1 I think, considered to be a reformatory school rather
2 than an approved school.

3 His first impression of Mr HBT [REDACTED], whom he met
4 at the station when he came off the train, was that he
5 was a very tough and formidable character. He later
6 says that every boy, when he appeared at the school in
7 front of them, cowed or were afraid of him.

8 Can I just say this as well: Mr HBT [REDACTED], it appears
9 had been SNR [REDACTED] of the school by then for [REDACTED] years.

10 He also tells us that when he was taken to Rossie,
11 he was taken by a police officer and the officer was
12 holding him using a leather strap. But, in fairness,
13 Mr HBT [REDACTED], apparently, when he saw it, told the officer
14 to take it off.

15 It's just that there are echoes of things that we
16 hear later on about use of cuffs and things, which seems
17 to have been something that -- well, weren't entirely
18 a thing of the past.

19 In the autobiography, we're told that if a boy
20 wanted to speak, he had to say 'please, sir' and wait
21 for permission to speak. That was, I think, something
22 he was told early on by SNR [REDACTED] himself,
23 I believe.

24 What he tells us -- and this maybe underlines the
25 use of 'infantilise' which we saw in the statement -- is

1 that boys were between the ages of 14 and 18 that the
2 time and he said that they all wore identical wolf cub
3 uniforms, not scout uniforms. So the junior version.
4 He said these are the sort of things that in his day
5 were worn by boys from the ages of 8 to 12, but at
6 Rossie they were worn by boys of the age of 14 to 18 and
7 they wore shorts and they were quite short shorts. So
8 I think this was his interpretation of what they were
9 trying to do and how they were trying to mould them in
10 a certain way, but treat them as children, as infants,
11 rather than 14-year-olds or growing adolescent
12 teenagers.

13 He also says that when he first came, he saw them
14 paraded in lines in readiness to be marched to the
15 dining hall. He referred to the dining hall having
16 tables of eight boys.

17 Then from what he says, and I think this maybe sums
18 up about the uniform issue and why it was a wolf cub
19 uniform. He says, and I quote:

20 'These lads in ridiculous little uniforms looked
21 like a collection of small boys and behaved as such.'

22 What he tells us is that there were senior boys
23 called patrol leaders, or PL, that was apparently how
24 they were addressed by the other boys, and that there
25 were eight of them at the time and that they evidently,

1 in his experience, possessed considerable authority and
2 the boys had to address them as PL.

3 That again is not something unique to the 1920s and
4 1930s and that's the way it was and he tells us there
5 was maybe something around 64 boys at Rossie at the
6 time. Because it would just be a school, a reformatory
7 school.

8 Then --

9 LADY SMITH: That was the sort of thing that was happening
10 at boarding schools like Keil, which were in effect run
11 by senior boys who were called 'chiefs'.

12 MR PEOPLES: Yes. They seem to have quite a bit of
13 authority and they almost made up for any shortfall in
14 staff as well. I'll come to that.

15 He says that officially smoking was a punishable
16 offence, but he then goes on to tell us that basically
17 everyone smoked when they got the chance in the toilets,
18 and to an extent, a blind eye was turned to that, as
19 long as it was in a particular area out of sight that
20 the staff would be well aware, but it wasn't -- if you
21 were caught smoking or in the wrong place, it was
22 a punishable offence, but it wasn't that they sought out
23 smokers behind the bike sheds or in the toilets. That
24 seems to be the picture he's portraying.

25 What he says interestingly is that there was

1 a complete lack of official rules. He says the regime
2 operated on a system of unofficial, unspoken rules,
3 which a new boy had to learn quickly. He says a new boy
4 had to learn with no clear definition of what was
5 permissible. He had to learn that each master tended to
6 interpret the unspoken rules in his own way, so that he
7 said it would be difficult for you to know precisely how
8 a particular master would react in a particular
9 situation. So there was no consistency necessarily,
10 which would have made it difficult, I suspect.

11 He does say that authority, at whatever level, was
12 supreme and he goes on to say, and this echoes something
13 I think which is a theme of at least the chapters
14 I've seen, that boys behaved like a flock of sheep.

15 He said that as far as recreation went, there was
16 a recreation hut, which was a typical wooden ex-army
17 hut, which was a relic of the First World War. There
18 was little in the way of recreation. There was two ping
19 pong tables, he says, draughts on tables, no radio or
20 gramophone, yesterday's newspapers and a pile of
21 magazines which was 'of little interest to teenage
22 working boys'.

23 As examples he gives Field magazine and Country
24 Life.

25 LADY SMITH: They were no doubt way out of date in any

1 event.

2 MR PEOPLES: They could have been, but I think they were
3 perhaps the only contribution that the managers at the
4 time gave to the boys, because I think he makes clear
5 there was no direct communication between managers and
6 boys at that time.

7 As for bathing, this is maybe slightly different to
8 what his daughter says. He refers to a large
9 rectangular bath, capable of holding eight boys at
10 a time. It seemed to have some sort of shower-type
11 arrangement along, presumably, one edge of the bath, so
12 that you could accommodate a number of boys at the same
13 time, about eight in number, which I think accorded with
14 groups. Because a group, which was headed by a patrol
15 leader, consisted of eight boys and if there were eight
16 patrol leaders, that makes the 64 boys at the school.
17 I think that's how it works out.

18 He describes the whole ritual of bathing involving
19 the matron and, I think, in the presence sometimes of
20 SNR as a degrading and humiliating
21 experience, from his point of view, which I think echoes
22 what his daughter took from the discussions many years
23 later.

24 He tells us in the book that every boy was
25 dominated, and I think this was including the PLs, by

1 the fear of corporal punishment. He refers to a tongued
2 leather belt used by SNR [REDACTED] as a fearsome
3 instrument of torture, capable of reducing 18-year old
4 boys to tears and leaving weals lasting a fortnight or
5 so to heal and of having boys screaming.

6 He also refers to the use of a cane. It looks as
7 though SNR [REDACTED] carried a cane about. He had a
8 belt in his office, but he had a cane which he would use
9 liberally if he -- for any -- it was described as lesser
10 offences, which was applied sometimes to the bare
11 bottom. He says that the expectation was that boys were
12 to treat all authority deferentially and submissively.

13 He mentions the dorm, although there were 64 boys,
14 his dorm appears to have had 24 beds in it. There's
15 probably around three dorms maybe at that time. Bedtime
16 was 8.30 pm, lights out at 9.30 pm.

17 He discusses the sort of way in which or the ethos
18 of these places and how they were perceived at the time
19 and he says places like Rossie were seen in those days
20 as punitive institutions by everyone, I think, really.

21 Despite what I'm describing there, he has a section
22 in his book that explains how it was certainly a lot
23 more enlightened than around the turn of the century
24 when it was a lot worse and, indeed, Mr HBT [REDACTED] might
25 have been thought at the time to have been introducing

1 a new type of approach to reformatory regimes, a more
2 enlightened approach, based on Baden-Powell's scouting
3 approach, although he turned into wolf cubs, and the
4 idea that in that way you could produce no doubt a good
5 citizen with a strong work ethic, but maybe one who came
6 out of the school with no skills in life and very much
7 someone that simply did what they were told and had no
8 responsibilities and were not allowed initiative.

9 LADY SMITH: And the physical and emotional scars of having
10 been beaten with canes and straps?

11 MR PEOPLES: And that too. Yes.

12 He has a bit about the history of it before then, so
13 in a sense in his time it was a change from before,
14 but -- well, we can see how when things change, they
15 don't necessarily get better.

16 He goes on and, of course, we must remember it
17 wasn't a secure place, but he also says, and he makes
18 this clear in his publication, that in those days drugs
19 and underage drinking was unknown, so it didn't have the
20 complications that maybe we have found with dealing with
21 young people at places like Rossie in later decades,
22 when these became first drinking and then, I think we
23 heard yesterday, the use of sniffing products and then
24 finally we get into maybe controlled drugs.

25 So that wasn't a feature obviously of Rossie or

1 perhaps society in those days. I'm sure there was
2 drink -- well, maybe not, it was the era of prohibition
3 in America and it was maybe difficult to have lots of
4 drinking even in the UK, I don't know.

5 So he's making some contrast and obviously, even
6 when he wrote the book, felt that things had changed and
7 was very different and people would see that time,
8 albeit it might have been enlightened by the standards,
9 might be seen when he wrote this as cruel punishments,
10 mental torture and so forth.

11 He was trying, I think, to at least put it in its
12 proper context and he thought that Mr HBT genuinely
13 believed that he was doing the right thing and even when
14 he spoke to him afterwards, many years later, I think he
15 would find it difficult to see anything wrong with
16 the place. So it wasn't as if he was suggesting
17 he necessarily thought he was being either sadistic or
18 cruel, he thought he was doing what he viewed to be
19 a good thing, if you like.

20 As for the regime, how he puts it is that the
21 regime, so far as boys in its care were concerned, had
22 a pronounced retarding effect. He said there was no
23 opportunity to become streetwise. You were rarely
24 allowed out. It was a very closed institution. You
25 stopped growing psychologically or emotionally and when

1 you were released, aged 18, you were institutionalised.

2 He also makes the point -- I think this is
3 a recurring theme for Rossie and other places -- the
4 issue of finance. He says obviously Rossie wasn't run
5 by the state in those days or, indeed, at any point, but
6 he says Rossie then was run on a shoestring, starved of
7 finance, staff and facilities for handling 64 boys.

8 There were only six male staff and the matron.

9 Often he says there was only one man on duty and there
10 were no night staff after 8.30 pm.

11 LADY SMITH: That's an incredible deficiency, if he's right
12 about the figures of how many boys that were there. 64
13 boys, one member of staff.

14 MR PEOPLES: He seems to have quite a detailed recall of the
15 time. I would be surprised if he was -- he's talked
16 about the eight leaders, he's talked about the groups of
17 eight and he's talked about ... I think he ... and he
18 was there for a long time, so he would have been well
19 positioned to know. Of course, he makes the point that
20 in those days, there was no professional support. There
21 were no social workers on the scene, external or,
22 indeed, internal welfare officers, no psychologists or
23 anything of that kind.

24 There was a flavour that obviously at night to
25 an extent the PLs were in charge, because they were in

1 the dorms. He was in a dorm with PLs as well as others.

2 He says that there were two main objectives. One
3 was maintenance of a strict disciplinary regime and,
4 secondly, enforcing a process of re-education to make
5 you presumably a responsible citizen with a good work
6 ethic.

7 He says of the management that the board would
8 rubber stamp the decisions of SNR [REDACTED].

9 Of course, he had been there [REDACTED] years. The way he puts
10 it, and I quote, was:

11 'There was an annual general meeting and all the
12 people that were part, who were represented by the
13 managers on the board, would be invited to attend, see
14 the school once a year.'

15 He said that those who attended were 'well conned'
16 during their annual visit, that's how he put it, because
17 it was all -- everything was done to put on a show for
18 that day. So he's saying that wasn't what it was
19 normally and he said that they accepted without question
20 what they saw that one day was the normal state of
21 affairs on every day.

22 He said, in pursuance of instilling the work ethic,
23 boys were worked to the limit of their capabilities. He
24 says if there were statutory rules, the boys were not
25 aware of them and he says the power of the school

1 authorities was supreme:

2 'We had no rights whatsoever. None of the rights or
3 entitlements of the ordinary citizen ...'

4 Indeed, he said parents were deprived of any usual
5 parental rights.

6 What he does say, interestingly, is that the school
7 had a closed policy and visiting was not permitted at
8 any time.

9 Clearly, he describes it for him it was a traumatic
10 experience. He goes on to say there were morning
11 inspection parades, so it did have a military-type
12 regime. I know his daughter maybe said it was punitive,
13 but it had a military aspect to it. He says there was
14 much lining up, standing to attention.

15 He said -- and I think this was a contrast with his
16 own situation -- that nearly all the approved school
17 boys were from poor families. They were mostly
18 undersized, even by the standards of the time. Because
19 he said there wouldn't be that many really tall people
20 or big people in the school, but the boys were perhaps
21 undersized, maybe undernourished.

22 What he does say is the bigger the boy, the harder
23 he was worked and the more vigorously he was beaten. He
24 says, and this might resonate with something we heard
25 this morning, in SNR [REDACTED] office, on his wall,

1 there was a policeman's baton, a pair of handcuffs and
2 as he puts it:
3 'The most vicious looking leather tawse that
4 I'd ever seen.'
5 He says it was much heavier and thicker than the
6 type used in his former schools. He reckoned it was
7 about three feet long, with two tongues at the business
8 end, each about one inch wide. So SNR has
9 got the cane and his tawse for the real leatherings, but
10 the cane's used as he goes out and about.
11 LADY SMITH: Every day, and handcuffs?
12 MR PEOPLES: And cuffs. Well, he's got them on the wall.
13 Obviously -- although there is the paradox that he told
14 the policeman to take the leather strap off the boy when
15 he arrived. So whether this was a legacy of a bygone
16 age, because in fairness, I have to say, I've just
17 noticed that I didn't note down that 'Janet's' father
18 didn't actually see the handcuffs being used in his
19 time, or the baton for that matter, but then he adds,
20 maybe this is the explanation:
21 'But then no boy ever refused an order during my
22 stay.'
23 So there was maybe no occasion to take them off the
24 wall if you were, for example, going to the office for
25 six of the best.

1 LADY SMITH: Or the threat they represented was enough to
2 command behaviour of the sort that the school wanted.

3 MR PEOPLES: Absolutely, yes.

4 He tells us about each Saturday, around eight or
5 nine boys, would be allowed to go to Montrose, they
6 walked five miles there and back in the afternoon for
7 their monthly town leave. It looks as if they did it on
8 a sort of rotational basis, but you weren't eligible for
9 that privilege for the first six months.

10 He says Saturday afternoon was half day generally,
11 work finishing at 12.30 pm. So they were working on the
12 Saturday as well.

13 He then says though when they weren't working, there
14 were no small groups in Rossie. Everyone was kept
15 together like sheep, because if you didn't do that, it
16 would render constant and close supervision impractical.
17 It certainly would if you only had six staff, I suppose.

18 They were tended to be corralled into either the
19 recreation hut or in the square at the school, on
20 a grassy area which was referred to as a park beside
21 farm buildings at the school.

22 He said that the bathing was supervised by the
23 matron. If it was once a week -- he certainly says at
24 weekends that SNR [REDACTED] was in attendance. It's
25 not maybe clear whether that happened always, but he

1 said eight boys stood in line in the bath. So they were
2 in the bath as a group of eight boys, having lined up
3 naked to go in.

4 Then he tells us, and this is something he found
5 particularly humiliating, is that the boys were ordered
6 to pull back their foreskins for inspection by the
7 matron. He says they were told it was an essential part
8 of personal hygiene, but he says the boys firmly
9 believed that the practice was to enable matron to see
10 whether there was any trace of semen to indicate
11 an addiction to masturbation. So he found that
12 particularly degrading and not something he'd ever had
13 to experience before.

14 Sundays were essentially a day of religious
15 solemnity. He describes choir practice, singing at the
16 local church, but marched there four abreast and in
17 uniform, so it was pretty obvious where they'd come
18 from.

19 He says it was the only occasion, generally
20 speaking, that boys came into contact with ordinary
21 members of the public, but then he adds that the
22 congregation didn't speak to them.

23 He says at one point that when they went to Montrose
24 the policy of the school was that not more than two boys
25 could enter a shop at any one time. Presumably

1 therefore the boys weren't necessarily welcomed with
2 open arms in the town either. So it was quite a tricky
3 one.

4 As he puts it, and this is a quote:

5 'The uncooked good had no time for polite niceties
6 with social outcasts such as reformatory boys.'

7 That's how he put it.

8 Then he talks about, this is going back to his theme
9 of being treated like infants or very young children:

10 'Personal initiative was not merely frowned upon,
11 but actually dangerous if it meant diverging from the
12 expected sheep-like adherence to normal routine and
13 behaviour.'

14 He said, as he put it:

15 'The retardation technique being employed cut off
16 natural increase in self-confidence and maturing
17 self-respect that normal boys experience as they pass
18 through their teenage years.'

19 In effect there's no opportunity to mature in the
20 normal way, no doubt making your mistakes but doing
21 this, that and the next thing but getting
22 responsibilities and so forth. So it was a very, very
23 controlled environment.

24 As for schooling, he said, as he was a junior boy
25 when he began, he attended the schoolroom twice a week

1 for the first 18 months. He said there were two
2 classes, a senior and junior class, attending on
3 different days, but both provided a basic primary school
4 level education, which was well below the level he had
5 been used to.

6 He says there was a gymnasium in one of the huts in
7 the square and SNR appears to have been in
8 his youth to have been quite a good athlete or gymnast
9 or something, but he says:

10 'Gym sessions constituted a devastating
11 demonstration of SNR power and authority.'

12 He seemed to have liberally caned boys if they
13 failed to do some sort of vault or handspring and he
14 says to some extent he felt that that was almost
15 deliberately engineered, because the janitor was
16 assisting them to do the handspring and might do things
17 that would cause them to get caned. He says that seemed
18 to be the way to the boys, but it was also
19 an opportunity to dish out the cane on a liberal basis.

20 He did say that I think he had been warned that
21 absconding wasn't a good idea, but he did abscond on at
22 least one occasion and he says that when boys absconded,
23 SNR would go in search of them in his car,
24 taking two senior boys with him.

25 Again, I quote:

1 'Absconding was top of the crime list and resulted
2 in a really ferocious leathering with the belt.'

3 He says that normally overt bullying or
4 tormenting -- I think this must be by the boys -- if
5 caught was suppressed, but, he says, in the case of
6 an absconder, staff would turn a blind eye for a few
7 weeks so no doubt he could get what he deserved, because
8 he had maybe caused a bit of upset to the regime at the
9 school.

10 He says when he ran away himself, he was caught,
11 quite quickly, I think, and as he says, this was seen as
12 a defiance of authority and for running away, as he puts
13 it, he got a vicious thrashing from SNR [REDACTED] with
14 the tawse and he said before it ended:

15 '... I was sobbing so convulsively that I couldn't
16 breathe properly.'

17 This was shortly before his 15th birthday, and he
18 had weals, he said, for several weeks and that that
19 experience put the fear of death in him.

20 I think that maybe captures perhaps -- it gives the
21 colour to some of the things that I think 'Janet' has
22 perhaps a vaguer memory of from her father, maybe he
23 didn't go into such graphic detail with her at that
24 stage, but he certainly put it in part of his childhood
25 autobiography, so it's quite revealing.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, it is indeed.

2 Thank you very much, Mr Peoples.

3 MR PEOPLES: That ends my contribution. I think Ms Forbes

4 has something that she can do at this stage.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Ms Forbes, whenever you're ready.

7 MS FORBES: My Lady.

8 'Jimmy' (read)

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

10 anonymous and is known as 'Jimmy'. The reference for

11 'Jimmy's' statement is WIT-1-000001037.

12 'Jimmy' is the last statement we have from

13 Wellington. We are going backwards a little bit.

14 'Jimmy' tells us he was born in 1977 and then talks

15 about his life before going into care between

16 paragraphs 2 and 12. He lived with his parents in

17 Loanhead and he tells us he later found out he had

18 a half sister but he didn't know about her until he was

19 about 12. 'Jimmy' describes living with his parents and

20 having a beautiful house and that family life was fine

21 and that both his parents were in full-time employment.

22 He went to primary school in Loanhead and it was

23 from about that age he started getting into trouble. He

24 wasn't concentrating at school. He wasn't understanding

25 things. He says they seemed to be way over his head and

1 things spiralled from there and he ended up just not
2 going to school. He says he also started doing a bit of
3 stealing.

4 At paragraph 5, he tells us that he thinks he puts
5 much of that down to ADHD and has self-diagnosed himself
6 later in relation to that, but says they didn't really
7 know about ADHD back in that time and how big it was.

8 He tells us at paragraph 6 that his dad really
9 didn't have much to do with him. 'Jimmy' says he was
10 a keen footballer and loved fishing, but when his dad
11 was off work, he drove a taxi and never spent any time
12 with him and he felt alone and he was with his parents
13 and never really got any attention, they were always
14 busy doing things.

15 He doesn't know now, looking back, if his behaviour
16 was a cry for help or attention or if it was to do with
17 the ADHD. He says he started smoking when he was about
18 11 or 12 and he has a vague memory of going to hospital
19 in Edinburgh when he was about 11 or 12 and speaking to
20 somebody about his behaviour. I think he later gets his
21 medical records and has discovered that that was
22 a psychiatrist he saw. He doesn't know what came out of
23 that or what really was said to the psychiatrist.

24 He tells us he went on to high school, but that they
25 couldn't deal with him and he was then sent to another

1 high school, where it was exactly the same. He was
2 always getting into trouble, detention and playing
3 truant.

4 He remembers going to meetings at school with his
5 mum and the guidance teacher and he just kept getting
6 warnings, but he would keep getting detention and when
7 he was asked to do things he couldn't understand and
8 there was never any additional help and so he would just
9 think, 'What's the point?', and walk out.

10 He doesn't know if there was social work involvement
11 at that stage, but he does remember attending
12 Children's Panels, but doesn't have a clear memory of
13 what happened there.

14 'Jimmy' says at paragraph 12 that when he was 13,
15 there was an incident at home where he smashed
16 a greenhouse window and locked his parents out of the
17 house. Then he says it was then he was put down as
18 being beyond parental control and he says he was shipped
19 out to a young person's centre in Edinburgh.

20 He tells us about his time at that centre between
21 paragraphs 13 and 55

Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Thereafter, 'Jimmy' tells us that he was taken from
2 that centre to Wellington Farm and he gives us a date
3 for that in [REDACTED] 1992. He says he wasn't involved in
4 any of the decisions that were made that led to him
5 going to Wellington Farm and he tells us that that was
6 to be the place where he experienced the worst abuse.

7 My Lady, the records that we have show that he had
8 an admission date as a residential pupil of
9 [REDACTED] 1992, but it may be that he was initially there
10 as a day pupil and then after a few months he became
11 residential because he does talk about moving from day
12 pupil to staying over.

13 He then tells us about Wellington Farm between
14 paragraphs 57 and 112. He tells us that Wellington Farm
15 was in the middle of nowhere and he describes the
16 building and the various outbuildings and residential
17 units that were there. He talks about there being the
18 four residential units that we have heard of.

19 At paragraph 58, 'Jimmy' says:

20 'To start it was fine at Wellington Farm. There was
21 a bit of structure. You knew what time you were getting
22 up in the morning and what you were doing Monday to
23 Friday. Being there residential and being there as
24 a day pupil was like night and day though. Things
25 drastically changed when I went there residential.'

1 He says that the kids there were all about the same
2 age, secondary school age, and there were about 15 to 20
3 in total, and that was both pupils and residential.

4 He then gives us a description of the layout of the
5 building at paragraph 60 and says that all four
6 residential units really were exactly the same. There
7 would be an assembly in the main building in the morning
8 and then they would get split up to go wherever they
9 were for that day.

10 He tells us at paragraph 62 that there were staff in
11 the unit and teachers, but sometimes at the weekend the
12 teachers would cover shifts to help staff.

13 At paragraph 63, 'Jimmy' says:

14 'When I first went it was an Andrew McCracken that
15 was the headmaster. He had ginger hair. I didn't have
16 many dealings with him. Throughout my time there
17 another member of staff, HWG [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]. His nickname was HWG. His wife
19 Christine also worked there. They lived in West Linton.
20 They were decent. He was tough but fair, but he could
21 be kind of dismissive if you went to him about something
22 that had happened. There was also SNR [REDACTED]
23 called HMM [REDACTED], I can't remember his surname.'

24 At paragraph 64, 'Jimmy' says that there was a team
25 leader in each residential unit, so four team leaders in

1 total. In his unit there was GLW , somebody called
2 Ambi, who an Asian girl, a GLY and then there were two
3 guys who did night shifts. He can't remember their name
4 and he says that GLY was his key worker.

5 He then gives us some more information about the
6 staff. He says at paragraph 65:

7 'Some staff didn't hit you and would talk to you.
8 That tended to be the newer ones and they would usually
9 sit and talk to you. Billy, HWG and Christine were kind
10 staff and HMM , but he maybe had an ulterior motive.
11 They showed care and kindness, but that was about it at
12 Wellington Farm.'

13 He tells us there was no preparation or settling-in
14 process for him when he arrived at Wellington and indeed
15 there wasn't any bedding on his bed when he first
16 arrived and he had to sleep with his jacket that night
17 and he says it was freezing.

18 He goes on to tell us a little bit more about the
19 routine from paragraph 68 and says that it was more
20 structured at Wellington. The staff made sure you got
21 up in the morning, because they knew you were going to
22 school.

23 He says at paragraph 68:

24 'Sometimes you'd get tipped out of your bed if you
25 weren't getting up on time, but it wasn't that bad in

1 the morning.'

2 At paragraph 69, 'Jimmy' says:

3 'Bedtime was 10 o'clock and when I first went to
4 Wellington Farm, I could never just go to bed, close my
5 eyes and go to sleep. There were two night shift guys
6 on duty every night and they used to give me Benylin to
7 help me sleep. I just thought they were trying to help
8 me, but looking back, the Benylin back then had some
9 other agent in it that made you sleep. I don't think
10 that was something they should have been doing. I don't
11 remember their names.'

12 In relation to food, from paragraph 70 'Jimmy' says
13 that there was no choice. You just ate what was put in
14 front of you and if you didn't like it, that was it,
15 there was nothing else. He says that sometimes they
16 sneaked out the back door and made their way to Penicuik
17 to get some food.

18 He describes the situation about washing and bathing
19 at paragraph 72, and says:

20 'We had these shower cubicles that we used to wash.
21 It was open plan, no locks, and if you were taking too
22 long, the staff would take your towel away. You would
23 then have to run up to your room holding your bits and
24 pieces, trying to get yourself sorted. That was really
25 humiliating and I'd say nearly all the staff did that.

1 It was such a shit way to deal with us.'

2 He tells us then about leisure from paragraph 73 and
3 he says there was an outbuilding with go-karts that they
4 would use around the football pitch. There was also a
5 brick building where they played five-a-side football
6 and that most of the time he just played football and
7 they had games against other establishments that were
8 like Wellington Farm.

9 At paragraph 74, he says:

10 'It was maybe some kind of bad boys' school league.
11 I'm not sure, but it was certainly all organised.'

12 He says at paragraph 75 they had a TV room, but he
13 can't picture ever sitting watching TV and he says that
14 at the weekends, HMM , SNR , would
15 sometimes take them for a Chinese takeaway or to the
16 shops and that would depend on staff that were working.

17 He mentions there being minibuses at Wellington Farm
18 that were used to go to football matches and to
19 swimming, but he can't remember any other trips.

20 He then talks about the schooling from paragraph 77
21 and says that after assembly they were split up to do
22 things for the day. There was woodwork, bricklaying,
23 mechanics, sign writing but no English or maths.

24 'Jimmy' says at paragraph 79 that during the school
25 holidays, they would get extra money for cutting the

1 grass and trimming the hedges around the grounds. That
2 would mean they got some extra pocket money and they got
3 a wee brown packet with money in it from staff every
4 week.

5 He talks about the culture and bullying from
6 paragraph 81 and says:

7 'When I first went into Wellington Farm, there was
8 a pecking order. You probably always have that wherever
9 you go. Some of the unit staff would also encourage
10 some of the stuff that went on, some of the fighting.
11 There would be fights between kids from different units.

12 'Staff would ask the older boys to have a word with
13 someone in another unit because of what he was saying or
14 doing, so the staff were definitely encouraging it.'

15 He names two people he says that did that sort of
16 thing and he says it would usually end up with two boys
17 having a fight.

18 Paragraph 83:

19 'It got to a stage for me that I just couldn't stand
20 it any more and as time went by and all the nonsense
21 that went on, I learnt to look after myself. I was
22 pretty much left alone then, so nobody bothered me and
23 I was fine.'

24 He talks about having to get permission from his
25 parents to smoke and he said he did get money from home

1 that was used for cigarettes, after getting parental
2 consent.

3 He tells us that family contact became non-existent,
4 because his mum just kept getting bad reports and she
5 stopped coming to visit him.

6 He says at paragraph 87 about running away that
7 sometimes they sneaked out and made their way to
8 Penicuik, but that was a long road that took them over
9 an hour to walk.

10 He says at paragraph 89 that he did have meetings
11 with social workers, but he says:

12 'But there's only so many times you can say to
13 people that things are happening and nothing gets done
14 about it. Quite a lot of the time I would just be
15 staring at the wall. That more or less happened all the
16 way through my time in care.'

17 In relation to discipline, he tells us from
18 paragraph 90:

19 'I did enjoy the football matches we played against
20 other schools. The only problem was that team selection
21 was used as part of the punishments they had. We would
22 all go to the assembly room every day and that's when
23 the team would be announced.

24 'You wouldn't know until that day if you were
25 playing football that afternoon and it depended on what

1 you'd been doing that week. Things like if you'd been
2 good or how many slaps you'd had, things like that. The
3 team would get shouted out in front of everyone, but
4 some teachers used that to their advantage and wouldn't
5 let you go because you'd done this or that. You would
6 be listening to them shouting out the team and you
7 wouldn't know if you were going to be in it.

8 'That could be really annoying, because it was
9 usually the teachers that had started it. That happened
10 four or five times to me and I used to feel angry about
11 it because I was missing the football and I hadn't done
12 anything to deserve it.

13 'The staff would also get in touch with your parents
14 and tell them their side of what happened, so the
15 chances were that if you had weekend leave, you wouldn't
16 be going home that weekend either.'

17 'Jimmy' talks about abuse from paragraph 94 and
18 says:

19 'It was different in the residential units to what
20 it was like in the classes. If you were mucking about
21 in the building class, you could get hit with a long
22 metal spirit level or kicked with a steel toe cap shoe.
23 That was by the guy that took the building classes. He
24 never took any crap. It was his way or you were getting
25 hit. His name was HKM, something like that,

1 and he was really quick tempered. He hit me and other
2 boys on the back, arms or back of the legs with the
3 spirit level or kicked us on the legs. If you were
4 quick enough, you could see the toe cap coming and dodge
5 it. The spirit level was a big bricklayers' thing, so
6 it was sore and left marks on our arms and back. It
7 wasn't just the spirit level. He would hit us with
8 whatever he had to hand, so it could be the spirit
9 level, a trowel or whatever, or a kick with his boots.

10 'No one ever had any medical treatment and nobody
11 ever asked about it. It was more or less laughed off
12 when we went back to the unit and spoke about it. It
13 was never, ever his fault though. The staff were always
14 asking what we had done to deserve it. That's just how
15 it was.

16 'The staff would make a joke out of slapping or
17 hitting you, but sometimes you would react and go into
18 defence mode. They were bad for trying to noise you up
19 and get a reaction from you. They would just come along
20 and hit you. Then you would defend yourself and then
21 they would set about you. I broke my wrist, a finger
22 and dislocated my shoulder, all from the staff hitting
23 me for no reason, me then retaliating and the staff
24 restraining me.

25 'The time I broke my wrist and finger, I was just

1 hit for no reason. Then, when I defended myself, I was
2 held down over a table. Other staff came in and tables
3 and chairs went flying and I was put face down into the
4 ground. There were five members of staff holding me.
5 They had my arms and legs and were pushing down on my
6 neck and legs, which were crossed over. That was
7 GLW, GLY, GMA, GLX and someone else. There were
8 knees on my arms and my wrists were being twisted back.
9 I was struggling and shouting and screaming and they
10 just held me until I stopped. I was screaming in pain
11 and they just kept hurting me. They never let up.
12 I couldn't really move and eventually they gradually
13 released their grips and took me to an office to speak
14 to me about it. I never wanted to talk to them. I just
15 wanted away from them for a fag.

16 'It wasn't until two days after that incident that
17 I was taken to the hospital. I kept on telling them my
18 wrist was sore and I was just told it would be fine and
19 to take some painkillers. Eventually I did get taken by
20 GLY my key worker, and I had an x-ray and got a stooky
21 on it as it was broken. That must be recorded
22 somewhere, but it happened all the time to me and to
23 other boys and I don't think anything was recorded
24 officially at Wellington Farm.

25 'Going through my social work records, there's

1 nothing that says anything about me having to be
2 restrained, nothing at all.

3 'I remember another time I broke two fingers. It
4 was just the same. Me defending myself and a group of
5 staff restraining me. I ended up in hospital for that
6 as well. I remember they taped my fingers together, so
7 that will surely be recorded somewhere.

8 'I can't remember what the doctors and nurses asked
9 or were told about what had happened.

10 'Things like that could happen once every couple of
11 weeks or sometimes twice in a day. That's just how it
12 was and it happened to all of the boys. If you had
13 a short fuse, you might have it happening more than some
14 of the others. Once you calmed down, you could still be
15 punished further by not getting to play in the football
16 team.

17 'I remember another time when I was being restrained
18 by staff, I kicked out and I hit GLW in the mouth.
19 I kicked one of his teeth out doing that and he always
20 had a grudge against me after that. I was moved to
21 Ferniehill later and his brother-in-law was a stand in
22 or relief worker for the units.'

23 Paragraph 103, he then says:

24 'Another thing that happened to me with GLW at
25 Wellington Farm, which was no accident, was during

1 a football match. He went in for a tackle with me and
2 dislocated my shoulder. That was another time I needed
3 medical treatment, so that should be recorded as well.
4 It may or may not have been intentional, but I don't
5 think it was an accident.

6 'I once gave a boy a cigarette at Wellington Farm
7 and got a slapping for it. I remember the staff, it was
8 GLW, asking me why I'd given the boy the cigarette
9 because he didn't have parental consent to smoke. I got
10 slapped on the back of the head for that by GLW. I
11 forget GLW's surname.

12 'HMM, SNR, was openly gay. He was
13 always very touchy-feely with the boys. He would come
14 into the unit and massage boys round the back of their
15 shoulders. He did it to me and to a few of the others
16 boys as well. It was always put down to being a bit of
17 a laugh and that was it.'

18 He then goes on to tell us at paragraph 106 that he
19 received a visit from the police later in life about
20 that member of staff, HMM, and they were asking
21 questions about his experience of him at
22 Wellington Farm. He does say that looking back, he
23 wonders if he was grooming him and some of the other
24 boys with the massaging and the takeaways.

25 He then says at paragraph 109 that he did go to HWG

1 SNR, and tell him about the hitting that was
2 going on with the spirit levels and toecaps and can't
3 remember what made him do that. And that HGW SNR
4 SNR, was just dismissive so nothing happened with
5 that.

6 'Jimmy' says that he was running away with guys from
7 Wellington Farm and getting involved in serious stuff
8 and was then threatened with being placed in a secure
9 unit. He thinks the threat was to go to Rossie and he
10 was being told he was very close to be getting sent to
11 Rossie. He doesn't know if the reason for him being
12 moved from Wellington to Ferniehill was to do with
13 running away or because there was more fighting and
14 restraining going on and more hospital visits.

15 But a decision was made for him to be moved and he
16 then went to Ferniehill, after going for a meeting and
17 being shown round the place. He says that was in 1992,
18 when he was 14.

19 He says he then stayed at Ferniehill but was
20 attending Wellington as a day pupil.

21 He says at paragraph 112:

22 'Wellington Farm was a hellhole and I was quite
23 happy to go back to being a day person, living in
24 another home.'

25 He then talks about his time at the young person's

1 centre in Edinburgh from paragraphs 113 to 130. Secondary Institu
2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3
4 Thereafter, he says he finished up school at
5 Wellington Farm, this is at paragraph 137, and he says
6 nobody gave him any guidance about how to apply for
7 a job or anything like that.

8 He then tells us about life after being in care from
9 paragraph 138 and says he was offered a flat in the
10 Moredun area. He wasn't happy about going there, but he
11 had no choice. He stayed there for about two or three
12 months and he says that he was living on his own then at
13 16 and had very little contact with his family.

14 The flat, he tells us at 142, was nearly empty and
15 he tried to get grants for furnishing and carpets and he
16 says then that trouble ended up at his door and he had
17 to do a midnight flit from that flat and leave all of
18 his personal possessions and his football medals and
19 trophies behind.

20 He tells us then that he travelled around with the
21 fairground for a while and he had some contact with his
22 grandparents. His own parents had moved abroad at that
23 time. He then says the relationship with them started
24 to get better and he ended up going abroad and living
25 with them and working in pubs and clubs. He came back

1 to Edinburgh in his late teens and was working in pubs
2 and clubs there. He did that for years and that that's
3 his background.

4 'Jimmy' says he's never been in jail and he wonders
5 how he managed to get away with that, thinking of the
6 company he kept. He talks about the fact that the
7 people he grew up with in the units, he says, are either
8 junkies, rapists, murderers or dead and he feels he's
9 one of the lucky ones and managed to get things sorted
10 before it really went downhill.

11 At paragraph 150, 'Jimmy' says:

12 'All the stuff I'd learnt when I was growing up, the
13 crime and the shoplifting stuff, I turned that around
14 and it became me catching them but doing it as a job.'

15 He tells us he works for a company on the
16 investigations team dealing with fraud, organised retail
17 crime gangs and the like and he's also a part-time
18 security consultant. He says he's been in
19 a relationship and has three children as well.

20 In relation to impact, 'Jimmy' talks about that
21 between paragraphs 154 and 163 and he says he feels he
22 was quite driven to turn things round, get a job and not
23 go to jail and he used his bad experiences and turned
24 them into good.

25 He says that he's been diagnosed with post-traumatic

1 stress disorder and he's been put on anti-depressants.

2 He's had problems with drinking in the past and he
3 talks about his relationship breaking down some years
4 ago, but that he is protective over his three children
5 and has a good relationship with them.

6 Something we have heard before, 'Jimmy' says there
7 has definitely been an impact on his education, in that
8 there was no education.

9 He talks about waiting to start a therapy group at
10 paragraph 162, and he says that he does CBD and goes to
11 the gym and exercises and walks and does cold water
12 therapy, which he feels helps him.

13 I think thereafter 'Jimmy' talks about lessons to be
14 learned from paragraph 171. We have that there and
15 that's about his whole time in care, and so I'm not
16 going to read that out, my Lady, apart from
17 paragraph 174. He says about Wellington:

18 'When you were being restrained at Wellington Farm,
19 you would be taken into the team leader's room once
20 you'd calmed down, the staff would talk to you and be
21 nice and act as if they were your friend, it was such
22 a two-faced thing.'

23 He says there wasn't any phone number or contact
24 that you could use to get in touch with someone to
25 report anything or speak to anyone. He tells us what

1 his feelings are about that.

2 He says in relation to hopes for the Inquiry at
3 paragraph 178:

4 'I hope nobody else has to go through the
5 restraints, injuries and mental issues I went through.
6 I wouldn't want anyone going through any of that of what
7 I had to go through at the age I was and having the
8 brain wart that I'm now going through and trying to get
9 rid of.'

10 'Jimmy' has made the usual declaration and he has
11 signed the statement dated 19 July 2022.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

13 We'll stop there for the lunch break.

14 I appreciate we're not absolutely clear as to what
15 is happening at 2 o'clock, but no doubt somebody will
16 keep me informed.

17 Thank you.

18 (1.05 pm)

19 (The luncheon adjournment)

20 (2.00 pm)

21 (Proceedings delayed)

22 (2.10 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: I understand that there is a problem, that the
24 witness who was to be coming at 2.00 pm isn't now
25 apparently able to do so?

1 MS FORBES: Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: So we're back to some more read-ins?

3 MS FORBES: We are, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Can I begin by apologising to those who are in
5 this room, that I know, curiously, it's too warm. We're
6 doing our best to try and make it a little bit more
7 comfortable.

8 Ms Forbes, when you're ready and take your time.

9 MS FORBES: My Lady.

10 'Bill' (read)

11 MS FORBES: The next statement is from an applicant who is
12 anonymous and is known as 'Bill'. The reference for his
13 statement is WIT.001.001.7373.

14 'Bill' was born in 1951 and talks about his life
15 before care between paragraphs 2 and 4. He says his
16 mother was from Dundee, but when she got pregnant, she
17 went to London and gave birth to him there, but when he
18 was a few months old, he was brought back to Dundee and
19 he stayed with his grandparents.

20 After about six months his mother left him with his
21 grandparents and went down back to London and he was
22 with his grandparents until he was about 4. His
23 grandmother died and his grandfather couldn't cope. His
24 mother by then had married his stepfather and had had
25 two other children.

1 Thereafter, he talks about his life in and out of
2 care, between paragraphs 5 and 23 of his statement.

3 From the age of 4, 'Bill' says he spent his entire
4 childhood in and out of care. In between, he would be
5 at the so-called family home. He says he never had any
6 problems in care initially. He felt that being in care
7 was better than being at home. His stepfather was, he
8 says, a cruel, sadistic animal and he was subjected to
9 regular beatings, would have to stand in the corner all
10 night whilst they were sleeping and was made to drink
11 urine. If he was sleeping, his stepfather would come
12 and pour water in his ear and he felt that his mother
13 hated him and never wanted him.

14 He was in care, he says, in lots of different places
15 and back and forward many times.

16 'Bill' tells us that the care order was revoked at
17 one point, but there came a time he was accused of
18 stealing on various occasions by his mother and
19 stepfather and he himself asked social work to place him
20 somewhere.

21 He was in a hostel and stayed there until
22 March 1967, when he started visiting his parents again.
23 By that time he was working. He was paint spraying and
24 panel beating as an apprentice, then he was a butcher's
25 apprentice.

1 He was back at one point staying with his mother
2 again and in [REDACTED] 1967, his mother accused him of
3 not paying his board one week and as a consequence, his
4 stepfather gave him another beating.

5 He had been told by social work that if he had
6 problems at home, he should get in touch with them again
7 and if the office was closed, he was to go to the local
8 police station, so that's what he did. The police then
9 contacted social work and they asked the police to find
10 him a bed for the night.

11 'Bill' says it was 11.00 pm at night that he was
12 taken to a place he knows as Harestane Remand Centre and
13 believes this was actually Burnside House
14 Assessment Centre at Harestane Road in Dundee. But
15 'Bill' says it would have been better if they'd just put
16 him in a cell for a night.

17 'Bill' then tells us about Burnside, I think from
18 paragraph 24. However, that evidence was read in to the
19 Inquiry on 15 February last year, which was Day 418 of
20 the Inquiry.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: He says he was there for about six weeks. There
23 was physical abuse by staff and an older boy and he
24 decided himself one day that he didn't need to be there
25 and he left, went to the dole office and they arranged

1 for an interview at a factory, but when he went for the
2 interview the police were waiting and took him back to
3 Burnside.

4 He was taken to court the following week. 'Bill'
5 says his mother was there crying and told the judge that
6 he was out of control and he was sent to Rossie,
7 although he says the term used was for his care and
8 protection.

9 The records that we have, my Lady, say that he was
10 admitted to Rossie on [REDACTED] 1967, when he would have
11 been 16 years old.

12 Then he tells us about Rossie from paragraph 41 to
13 80.

14 At paragraph 41, 'Bill' says:

15 'Funnily enough, I remember saying I was quite happy
16 to be going to Rossie Farm, because anything would be
17 better than staying at the so-called family home. I did
18 not realise what Rossie Farm was all about.

19 'The "sentence", which was the term that was used,
20 that I was given was a year to three years. When you're
21 that age you only think a couple of weeks in front and
22 so I wasn't unduly worried. It was only when I became
23 aware of the regime that I started to worry.

24 'Everyone was sent to Rossie Farm for that
25 indefinite period. The way it worked was that everyone

1 was in different grades. You started on grade 4 and did
2 four months on that grade. You then moved to grade 3
3 for three months, grade 2 for two months and then
4 grade 1 for a month. After that, you got out. There
5 were different means of punishment, but if you were
6 punished for anything it would invariably mean you
7 didn't get to move up the grades. That in turn extended
8 your sentence. Not many people did more than
9 a year-and-a-half, but the average was a year and three
10 months.

11 'Rossie Farm was full of hoodlums and criminals at
12 that time, although it's now completely different. When
13 I was there, there were 74 inmates, 25 staff and one
14 night porter. I went to an open day a couple of years
15 back and I was told there were 12 to 15 inmates there
16 then and 125 staff.

17 'The buildings were locked up, although the front
18 door was unlocked for visitors to come and go. There
19 were regular checks to confirm everyone was present if
20 we were outside working. There would be a parade and
21 they would call out your number or name.

22 'On the ground floor of the building was a large
23 dining room and the kitchens. Off to the right when you
24 went in was a big, long corridor and to the left were
25 offices and what was called the boardroom. Straight

1 ahead from the front vestibule was the gymnasium and
2 stairs to the upper floor. All the floors were covered
3 in quarry tiles.

4 'Down the corridor to the left of the stairs was
5 a room where everyone congregated. There were benches
6 all around and that's where we all sat and smoked.
7 Through the back were toilets and to the left was the
8 room where we kept our boots. Upstairs were more
9 toilets with shower cubicles and to the right and left
10 were three or four dormitories.'

11 He then talks about the routine at Rossie from
12 paragraph 48 and says he has flashbacks of arriving, but
13 doesn't specifically remember anything apart from being
14 shown round the main areas and getting handed a uniform.

15 He tells us about the dormitories at paragraph 49
16 and says they had about 10 to 15 beds in each, with
17 a locker next to each bed where they could keep some
18 personal stuff. 'Bill' tells us that the dormitory
19 doors were locked at night and there was only one porter
20 in charge. He says:

21 'You had to ring a bell if you wanted to go to the
22 toilet.'

23 He talks about being woken in the morning by a bell
24 to wash and brush teeth and says at paragraph 50:

25 'We would all stand in line, dip our brush in powder

1 and head off to clean them. We did that at night time
2 as well. They would occasionally check that we had
3 washed properly and sometimes we got sent back if we
4 hadn't done it right.'

5 He then talks about getting dressed and going for
6 breakfast and saying that the showers took place in the
7 evening.

8 He describes the routine and regime at Rossie Farm
9 as being a hard regime and said that after breakfast,
10 they would go on parade in the room with the benches in
11 it. Then they would be put to work in their work teams
12 and told what their tasks were going to be for the day.
13 They would have a lunch break and then go back to work
14 about 2 o'clock.

15 He talks about Rossie Farm being self-sufficient at
16 paragraph 52, just prior to his arrival, and says that
17 they bred their own cows and grew their own vegetables,
18 but that farming was no longer done by the time he
19 arrived, but they had lots of tasks to do. He lists
20 a number of things like forestry, engineering, joinery,
21 and he says there was also a tailor's shop as well as
22 gardening.

23 There was also, he says, a team of cleaners, which
24 was more of a punishment task, and there was also tasks
25 to do in winter, such as clearing snow away.

1 He tells us at paragraph 53 that Saturday and Sunday
2 were days off and on the Sunday, everybody went for
3 a ten-mile march. He says at paragraph 53 there was no
4 choice:

5 'If you refused, you were put on report.'

6 He goes on:

7 'In the winter we were hired out to various farms to
8 pick potatoes, there were no "ifs or buts", if you
9 refused to do it you were disciplined.'

10 He tells us then about meal times and says that
11 there was a dining room and they could sit where they
12 wanted. He talks about a cook called Clarty Flo, who he
13 says was an old battle axe, and describes the food as
14 being pretty poor, but because of all the work, they had
15 an appetite and ate it all.

16 He says at paragraph 57:

17 'There would be members of staff watching over us as
18 we ate, but there were no punishments for not eating.'

19 He talks about the washing and bathing situation at
20 paragraph 58 and says that there were big troughs where
21 everyone washed their hands and that the shower room and
22 the cubicles-- there were no doors on either the shower
23 cubicles or the toilets. There was no privacy. And
24 there was no choice in the evening: you had to shower.

25 He talks about a uniform, at paragraph 59, as being

1 an ex-RAF-type uniform and he says that outside they
2 wore boots which had to be spick and span, polished as
3 if they were in the army, but they wore plastic sandals
4 inside. 'Bill' also says in the evening they could
5 change into a more casual pair of trousers.

6 Once he got to grade 2, 'Bill' says at paragraph 60
7 they were allowed out on a Saturday afternoon into
8 Montrose and they were given civvies clothing for that,
9 which was a jacket, a pair of trousers and shoes.

10 He then goes on to tell us about leisure time from
11 paragraph 61 onwards and says that there was leisure
12 time in the evening. They would hang around in the room
13 with benches in it. There was a TV, but there wasn't
14 much leisure time, because by 8 o'clock they were
15 getting washed and by 9.00 pm it was lights out.

16 They were allowed to smoke, but only if they had
17 cigarettes sent in.

18 At paragraph 63, 'Bill' says:

19 'When you got to grade 1 you were seen as having
20 done most of your sentence and needed to be prepared for
21 the outside world. There was what was called the
22 grade 1 hut, where you could go and where there were no
23 warders. There was a pool table in there and darts and
24 various games.'

25 Again, he talks about being able to go to Montrose

1 from grade 2 on a Saturday afternoon. He says that
2 everybody in Montrose knew they were Rossie boys,
3 because of the cut of their hair and because of their
4 clothes.

5 There were various places, cafes et cetera, that
6 they weren't allowed to go. 'Bill' says that if they
7 were being punished, they weren't allowed to go into
8 Montrose either.

9 'Bill' talks about a swimming pool having been built
10 at Rossie just before he arrived and they would get to
11 use that on certain days.

12 He talks about the fact that people could get home
13 for a fortnight at Christmas, but he didn't. He says
14 that he got sent to a bed and breakfast in Dundee for
15 a week. He didn't want to go home.

16 'Bill' tells us about pocket monies you would
17 receive once you had gone up the grades but comments
18 that even though they were hired out to pick potatoes,
19 they never got paid for it. The school got the money.

20 In relation to visits, from paragraph 68 'Bill'
21 tells us that eventually his stepfather would come up to
22 Rossie to see him when he got to grade 2. Not often,
23 maybe every two months, he would get back to Dundee for
24 the weekend with him and he was grateful to be getting
25 out. But nobody else came to see him.

1 He says at paragraph 69:

2 'Once I was sent to Rossie Farm I was no longer the
3 responsibility of the social work. In [REDACTED] 1967 my
4 committal order was discharged. I was officially "out
5 of care but to remain restrained in Rossie Farm Approved
6 School until [REDACTED] 1969". In effect, when I went to
7 Rossie Farm, social services washed their hands of me.
8 Nobody had told me this at the time. I just know this
9 from my records.'

10 He talks about there being a sick bay within Rossie
11 from paragraph 70 and tells us at paragraph 71 that one
12 day, a very cold day when they were picking leeks
13 outside, he decided to feign being ill and told them he
14 was spitting up blood. He was then put to bed and
15 a doctor was summoned and then he remembered when his
16 sister had appendicitis, so when his stomach was prodded
17 he feigned pain and as a result he was taken to hospital
18 and had his appendix taken out. Although he was told,
19 at paragraph 72 he tells us, he was told afterwards he
20 was lucky because they'd just caught it in time.

21 He says thereafter that when you reached grade 2,
22 you could get home for Christmas, but the social work
23 would fix him up somewhere and he says there was also
24 a summer camp to Glen Prosen for two weeks, where they
25 would stay in a hostel and that was only for grade 3

1 inmates and upwards. He describes that they did
2 hillwalking and swimming while they were there.

3 In relation to running away, 'Bill' says at
4 paragraph 75 that the building was about six miles from
5 Montrose, but people used to abscond regularly but they
6 had to go over the countryside. He says he never ran
7 away from there, even though he had every reason to.

8 He says that he probably never did, because it was
9 an automatic penalty. He knew it was an automatic
10 penalty of two months added on to his sentence if he did
11 that.

12 At paragraph 76, 'Bill' says the punishment that
13 staff used was known as defaulters. If a member of
14 staff considered you were doing something wrong they
15 would tell you that you were going on report. That
16 report would go to Mr LLY and could eventually
17 mean that you went on a defaulter. If it was classed as
18 serious, you could go straight on a defaulter or be sent
19 to Mr LLY for further punishment. He doesn't
20 think those punishments were recorded.

21 He then tells us about abuse from paragraph 77. He
22 says:

23 'The brutal thing at Rossie Farm was that if you
24 absconded or did something seriously wrong, like
25 fighting, you were put on report and sent to the

1 boardroom by a member of staff and got what was known as
2 "jump-ups". You had to drop your trousers and bend over
3 the boardroom table. You would then get six of the belt
4 by SNR [REDACTED], Mr LLY [REDACTED], on your bare backside.
5 It was always him with [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] present. I don't
6 remember SNR [REDACTED] name. This happened to me five or
7 six times while I was there, invariably for fighting or
8 being insubordinate.

9 'If you were put on a defaulter you might be given
10 a toothbrush when everybody else was in bed to clean the
11 tiled hall floor or the toilets or the showers. There
12 were no privileges when you were on a defaulter. That
13 meant you couldn't buy anything in the tuck shop, which
14 you could once you made grade 3, or you didn't get out
15 on a Saturday afternoon.

16 'There were about three other chaps in there that
17 were also under care and protection orders and
18 unfortunately they were a lot weaker than I was. There
19 was a bit of bullying going on from other boys and
20 I would stick up for them. That was one of the main
21 reasons I would get into fights. The staff would revel
22 in taking the mickey out of the weaker ones as well,
23 preying on their weaknesses.

24 'There was one warder who was widely known to steal.
25 He was called Mr BFV [REDACTED], although we seldom called him

1 that, instead we called him "BFV [REDACTED]". It was
2 ironic, because most of the lads were in there for
3 stealing. He was in charge of the parcels and one time
4 I was expecting a parcel of menthol cigarettes. It
5 never arrived and over the next few days BFV [REDACTED] was
6 smoking menthol cigarettes. I don't know how he managed
7 to get away with it.'

8 He then says that he left Rossie just before he
9 turned 18, after he'd progressed to grade 1 and was
10 deemed to have served his sentence. He was given a flat
11 in Dundee at first and given social security for about
12 a month. He then says that two guys he knew were
13 talking about going to London and he wanted to get far
14 away, and so he went too. It was difficult, but he got
15 by. He says he had nobody, so he just made the most of
16 it.

17 At paragraph 82, 'Bill' says:

18 'I begged, I stole, I borrowed and I became
19 a non-person.'

20 He then tells us about his life after care, between
21 paragraphs 83 and 86. He says he became a bit of a
22 'jack the lad', worked on building sites, he ended up
23 running hostels and a couple of nightclubs for people he
24 met who had property. He met his partner and they
25 decided to move from London and buy a guest house in

1 Scotland and he tells us he had a son, who has
2 unfortunately been unwell.

3 In relation to impact, he talks about that from
4 paragraph 87 to 94. He says he used to resent
5 authority. He resented life in general and he's been
6 carrying this baggage on his back. He says not just
7 abuse at home or in the care system, the streets of
8 London were not a nice place to be and he talks about
9 the lack of education and says he went to 13 schools
10 over his childhood and he had no education and left with
11 nothing.

12 He tells us at paragraph 95 that he did report the
13 abuse by his stepfather and he says there was
14 a prosecution and a conviction for that.

15 He then talks about lessons to be learned. If I can
16 go forward to paragraph 101 of his statement, he tells
17 us that the care system is a difficult world now and has
18 vastly improved, but he says:

19 'It is crucial that children are listened to. I do
20 think more should be done for the people that were in
21 care.'

22 He talks about tracking his natural father down at
23 paragraph 103 and says they met, although that didn't
24 come to much, he then found a sister and that they have
25 a bit of a relationship.

1 At paragraph 105, he says:

2 'I have not forgiven the social work for my
3 incarceration. I want the Social Work Department to be
4 held to account for my getting incarcerated for
5 18 months beside hardened criminals, even though they
6 were only 15 or 16. Their classification of me as being
7 "in need of care and protection" meant to me that I was
8 locked up for no just cause. I could understand if
9 I was a bad guy, but I was not.'

10 Then 'Bill' has made the usual declaration and he's
11 signed his statement and it's dated 7 March 2018.

12 My Lady, Mr Sheldon, I think now has a read-in.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 Mr Sheldon.

15 'Ray' (read)

16 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is the statement of 'Ray'.

17 His statement reference is WIT.001.003.0771.

18 'Ray' has signed and dated his statement and made
19 the usual declaration, the statement was signed in 2019.

20 'Ray's' statement has been read in a number of times
21 for various establishments in his care journey, and
22 I can quickly give my Lady the references for those.

23 Calder House was read in on Day 463, and it's

24 TRN-12-000000096.

25 His evidence about St Ninian's and St Joseph's was

1 read in on Day 408, TRN-12-000000040.

2 In relation to Longriggend, Barlinnie and Glenochil,
3 on Day 390, TRN-12-000000022.

4 Before those placements 'Ray' was in Smyllum
5 Orphanage, where he reports serious physical and
6 emotional abuse in the late 1960s. The read-ins
7 previously have covered aspects of 'Ray's' early life
8 and the impact of the abuse and his experiences on him,
9 as well as material about lessons to be learned.

10 So I can just take my Lady to the part of the
11 statement dealing with his experiences at Rossie. His
12 statement about that starts at page 32.

13 'Ray' says -- I am sorry, my Lady, I should have
14 said that we don't have much in the way of records, but
15 on the timings given by 'Ray', he would have arrived at
16 Rossie in 1974, until about [REDACTED] 1975.

17 He says he was in Rossie for just over a year. 15
18 when he went in, they called --

19 LADY SMITH: He couldn't have been 15 when he went in, if he
20 went in in 1974, but it would be his 15th year.

21 MR SHELTON: Yes, I'm sorry, my Lady, I've misread that,
22 yes, he says he was 15 in the [REDACTED] presumably of
23 1975 and came out that [REDACTED].

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR SHELTON: He says at the time Rossie Farm was the most

1 secure school in Scotland:

2 'It was worse than a prison. The school had steel
3 doors and bars on the windows. The doors had
4 combination locks. Rossie Farm housed boys aged 13 to
5 17 years. The boy who was 17 was an armed robber.

6 'Rossie Farm was like a stately home with
7 a driveway. It had its own grounds, with flowerbeds,
8 fields, a football field and a pine forest at the back.
9 There was an open block and a building joined on to
10 that, which was the closed block. There was a bad
11 atmosphere all the time. There wasn't friction between
12 the lads. I had two fights in the whole time I was at
13 Rossie Farm. I had a fight with a 17-year-old lad and
14 after that the other lads left me alone and were nice to
15 me.

16 'The closed block held 25 people. The building was
17 very small. There was a corridor joining the open and
18 closed buildings.'

19 Of course, we have seen that in the photographs,
20 my Lady:

21 'Upstairs in the closed block there was an office,
22 four dormitories and five cells. Downstairs, there was
23 a dining room, kitchen, a big playroom and a corridor
24 with five cells in a row. There was a big steel cell
25 for punishment. It was called the "strong cell". At

1 the end of the corridor were the toilets, showers and
2 sinks. Outside there was a tiny exercise yard and
3 a woodwork shop.

4 'There were quite a lot of staff, about 12 or 14.
5 Some staff were at Rossie every day. Others worked
6 shifts. The whole of Rossie Farm [REDACTED]
7 SNR [REDACTED], LYY [REDACTED]. Mr [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED].
8 Mr LOH [REDACTED] [I think possibly Mr LOH [REDACTED]] was the
9 headmaster for the closed block. You rarely saw him.
10 He was always well dressed.'

11 He names other members of staff in the closed block.
12 There was a woman who took the cookery class,
13 an American guy, who he says was doing some kind of
14 psychology experiment and wanted to see how things were
15 run in Scotland. He says there were staff who tried
16 their best. The higher-up staff were strictly no
17 nonsense:

18 'I had just turned 14 years old. I didn't know
19 where I was going when Mr McTaggart drove me [I think
20 his social worker] to Rossie Farm. The journey took
21 a few hours ... past Dundee on the road to Aberdeen.
22 I asked where I was going and Mr McTaggart said he was
23 taking me to another approved school. He didn't say
24 I was going to the most secure unit for juveniles ever
25 built in Scotland.

1 'Rossie Farm was a shock to me. No one told me how
2 long I'd be there for, but I knew I wasn't getting out
3 of there for a long time. No one said if I kept my nose
4 clean I could be out in so much time. There were no
5 targets, no goals to aim for.

6 'We drove up the driveway. I thought this could be
7 a civilised, decent place without monks. I didn't see
8 one person from a religious order. We arrived and got
9 out of the car. The deputy headmaster of the open block
10 was at the top of the stairs waiting for us.
11 Mr McTaggart had the paperwork for my detention in his
12 hand, to hand to the deputy. We went in through the
13 open block and up the corridor, down the stairs and
14 along a corridor. The locked steel door opened and
15 I was practically thrown into the closed block. There
16 were 25 boys looking at me. As soon as you went through
17 that steel door it was like going in a different world.

18 'The deputy head for the closed block met me.
19 I wondered who he was. The deputy and Mr McTaggart went
20 into an office. They obviously discussed the reason
21 I was at Rossie Farm. They took me in and explained the
22 rules. I was to be doing one lesson a day in class.
23 I met the other lads and played football.'

24 He says he knew one of them from a previous
25 placement.

1 He says that he was in a single cell for the first
2 week or two:

3 'There was a bed and a little cupboard. The window
4 opened about an inch. There were thick bars on the
5 other side of the window. All I could see ... was
6 a tiny exercise yard. If you settled down, you were put
7 in a dormitory with three or four other lads. After the
8 first week or two, I was put into a dormitory and I got
9 to know the lads. You could have a laugh with them. In
10 the dormitory, you each had a wardrobe and coat hangers
11 to keep your clothes in. You wore your own clothes.'

12 And some clothes were sent to him by his
13 grandmother:

14 'In the morning, the staff would unlock the door.
15 You went down to the toilet, washed and brushed your
16 teeth. Then you got dressed.'

17 He says there was a room inspection to make sure you
18 had tidied up and folded your clothes and then you went
19 for breakfast. He says that after breakfast the younger
20 lads went to the playroom and played football with a
21 tennis ball. The older lads, who were old enough to
22 smoke, sat and had a cigarette and were allowed four
23 cigarettes a day, but he was 14 and not allowed to
24 smoke.

25 He says something about the showering arrangements.

1 At paragraph 174 says:

2 'I started writing diaries, until I discovered that,
3 during the day, the staff were reading them. I packed
4 that in straightaway. I had mentioned something in the
5 diary about one of the staff. I can't remember exactly
6 what, it was something about a member of staff smacking
7 a lad in the head. I can't remember the staff member's
8 name. The staff member said to me I'd better not put
9 anything like that in my diary. They said they had seen
10 my diary. The staff member told me to take it out ...
11 I felt betrayed, they had read my private stuff.
12 Nothing in Rossie Farm was private. We lived on top of
13 each other.'

14 In the next paragraph he talks about the food, which
15 he said was good quality.

16 At 176, he says:

17 'There wasn't a nurse at Rossie ... I never saw any
18 lad see a nurse or doctor in the time I was there.

19 'There was one classroom. The teacher didn't give
20 a shit. He came in from outside a couple of mornings
21 a week to give us a couple of lessons. I never learned
22 anything ... In school, you were allowed to do what you
23 wanted. One guy used to cut up bits of paper, get glue,
24 stick it together and make a big mess. It was stupid.
25 The only thing I did was write a letter to my

1 grandmother every week. My grandmother sent letters
2 back every two or three weeks.

3 'The younger lads didn't have chores to do. The
4 older lads were allocated a corridor and they had to
5 clean the toilets.

6 'We didn't get pocket money. There was no tuck
7 shop.'

8 He repeats that the older lads got to smoke
9 cigarettes.

10 Paragraph 180:

11 'We would get a tennis ball and play football with
12 it in the playroom. That was the only real activity in
13 the place. We made goals out of the milk churns. One
14 of my uncles gave me a guitar that needed repaired.
15 I repaired it in the woodwork shop. I would play music
16 on my guitar in the room where the boys played football.
17 In all the time I was in Rossie ... we played one
18 football match. It was against the open block of
19 Rossie Farm.

20 'The school started to do arts and crafts in the
21 afternoon in a room upstairs. You were encouraged to do
22 painting, making little trinkets with plastic and to do
23 hobbies with balsa wood. There were staff who tried to
24 find things to occupy us. There was a television room.
25 But there wasn't a library with books.

1 'The exercise yard was tiny and it had a barbed wire
2 fence around it. There wasn't enough room to swing
3 a cat ...

4 'Once four of us went to Forfar to the pictures ...
5 It was all right, I can't remember what film we saw.'

6 He says that he spent a Christmas at Rossie Farm:

7 'Christmas Day was basically the same as other days.
8 There wasn't any effort made to make it feel like
9 Christmas. There wasn't any decorations or a Christmas
10 tree. We got the turkey and trimmings.'

11 He says his grandmother sent him a present:

12 'I had a birthday in Rossie Farm ...'

13 And his grandmother came to visit, but the staff
14 didn't do anything for his birthday.

15 Paragraph 186, he says:

16 'I didn't see Mr McTaggart for a long time. Then he
17 took me to Arbroath for the day with a woman. He asked
18 me how I was getting on. I couldn't speak to him about
19 the abuse at Rossie Farm. I had known him for quite
20 a while by then. He had taken me to Calder House,
21 St Philip's, St Joseph's and Rossie Farm. When I had
22 run away, he had taken me back to St Ninian's and to
23 St Joseph's.

24 'I never got on with Mr McTaggart. He never tried
25 to speak to me. It was more like Mr McTaggart was

1 miserable because I had run off and he had to take me
2 back. It was like I was a burden to him. The time that
3 Mr McTaggart took me to Arbroath was the only time he
4 tried to be sociable with me.

5 'Nothing was ever discussed with Mr McTaggart about
6 why I was at Rossie Farm, why I had to go to a secure
7 unit in amongst murderers and armed robbers or how long
8 I was going to be there.

9 'I didn't have a key worker in Rossie. The person
10 I got closest to was [one of the staff members].'

11 He says they became good friends:

12 'I had been at Rossie for about nine months when
13 [this staff member] took him out for the day to give me
14 a break out of Rossie ... I met his family and it was
15 brilliant. I had been in that little complex, which was
16 the closed block all of the time until [the staff
17 member] took me out. [He] was one of the best blokes at
18 Rossie Farm.

19 'My grandmother came up to visit once. It was my
20 birthday. It was quite far to travel for an old woman.
21 The staff brought her in through the steel doors. The
22 visit was in the classroom where we normally had school.
23 Me and my gran sat in there. The staff didn't even
24 offer her a cup of tea.

25 'I didn't run away from Rossie Farm. When we played

1 football against the open block any of the lads could
2 have run away across the open fields. Running away
3 never even crossed my mind. I think because of the fear
4 of what would happen if I got caught. I knew I'd be put
5 in the strong cell and battered.

6 '[There was one boy] that escaped from Rossie ...
7 We all used to sit at the fence. It was a chain-link
8 fence that was too high to climb over. [This boy] had
9 cut away at the fence for ages until he made a hole in
10 it. He went through the hole and ran away. He got
11 caught a few days later.

12 'If you did something wrong you'd be physically
13 thrown into the strong cell. You would be put in the
14 cell for fighting or being abusive to a member of staff.
15 The strong cell had a thick steel door. There wasn't
16 a window, just the four walls. All that was in the cell
17 was a built-in wooden bench. You would be in the cell
18 for a day. The staff would let you out at night. The
19 staff would bring you food. You had to ring a buzzer to
20 be allowed out to go to the toilet.

21 'There was nothing to do in the cell. The staff
22 just left you. You just sat there all day. When you're
23 young, time seems to drag. That wouldn't be done in
24 a normal school. Why should it be done anywhere else?

25 'I was put in the strong cell about five or six

1 times in the year I was at Rossie Farm. I don't think
2 the staff kept a record of that. I don't know if that
3 was in the reports when I went to the Children's Panel
4 when I was due to leave Rossie. If Rossie had mentioned
5 all the times I'd been in the cell, supposedly for
6 misbehaving, I don't think the panel would've let me
7 out.

8 'I was given the belt on four or five occasions.'

9 He says:

10 'While I was at Rossie Farm, a young lad killed
11 himself in the open block. The lad worked in the
12 kitchens that made the food that came over to the closed
13 block. That side of the school was strict.

14 Mr LLY had a reputation for having a strict regime
15 and giving out punishments. He was ex-military. After
16 the lad died, I thought I must be lucky being in the
17 closed block. I thought it must be terrible in the open
18 block.

19 'There were no issues of sexual abuse in Rossie ...
20 The abuse was violence and physical abuse. The staff
21 were big people. I cracked up a couple of times. I was
22 lashing out and one time it was over a fried egg.
23 I asked for the egg with a burst yolk. [A member of
24 staff] laughed at me. I smacked him with a glass plate
25 over the head. I didn't do that again. The deputy, who

1 weighed about 25 stones, sat on me. I couldn't breathe.
2 He picked me up by the skin of my stomach and threw me
3 in the punishment cell. Mr GZR got someone to hold
4 me down, I don't know who. Mr GZR had a leather belt
5 with two tongues on it. He gave me six of the best on
6 my bare bum.'

7 Again at 199, he says:

8 '[A staff member] and me were arguing about
9 something. I was in the dormitory and I tipped my bed
10 up. [This] was a full-grown man and I was a 14-year-old
11 kid. [He] came running up and punched me. He knocked
12 me between two beds. He beat me up. He punched me like
13 I was another man. [He] put his thumb in my mouth and
14 grabbed my cheek with his hand. He pushed on the inside
15 of my cheek with his thumb. [He] had me by the throat.

16 'The other lads in my dorm were there and saw it all
17 happen ... I can't remember the names of the [boys who
18 were there]. They were frightened, cowering back. Two
19 members of staff had to drag [this member of staff] off
20 me. I can't remember their names. One of them had
21 curly hair and glasses. He was tall. He was a decent
22 bloke. We nicknamed him "Speedy". The other staff
23 member was a weird-looking bloke. He was English and
24 spoke posh. He wore a pinstripe suit and glasses. He
25 was unkempt. I would know that staff member if I saw

1 a picture of him. I was left in the dormitory, I wasn't
2 seen by a medical officer.

3 'In the exercise yard the next day, one of the lads
4 said he had heard the ruckus last night and asked me
5 what had happened. He said I was a mess. I showed him
6 what ... had [been] done to my mouth. All inside my
7 mouth was black and ripped open where his thumb was
8 pressing inside my cheek. My face was swollen. I had
9 black eyes and a broken nose. I had marks around my
10 throat and my mouth was burst open.'

11 The member of staff that had assaulted him:

12 '... called me over. He asked me what I was saying
13 to the lad and why I was showing the lad the inside of
14 my mouth. I said I was showing the lad what he ... had
15 done. [He] gave me a cigarette and said not to tell the
16 lad anything. After [he] beat me up, he let me smoke
17 secretly.

18 'I never thought about reporting [him] for
19 assaulting me. None of the other staff even mentioned
20 it. They'd obviously been told not to mention it. The
21 other staff didn't like what had happened, they weren't
22 bullies and they knew it was wrong, but [their
23 colleague] would have lost his job if it all came out
24 and so would they. The staff who came on the next day
25 were probably told some story, like I was fighting in

1 the dormitory.

2 'Not too long after I'd been beaten up [in that way]

3 and the staff started to be nice to me, I was taken out

4 of class to do painting with the older ones. I was

5 given cigarettes and cups of tea. Life was brilliant.

6 The next thing I know I'm at the panel in Airdrie ...

7 'At the panel, my grandmother was there and

8 Mr McTaggart. They spoke and the panel said they

9 thought I should go home that day. There was no mention

10 of how I'd been at Rossie ... or of anything that had

11 happened. The panel let me go and that was it.'

12 He goes on then to talk about life after care and

13 impact and, as I say, my Lady, that's already been dealt

14 with in previous read-ins.

15 Unless there is any particular passages my Lady

16 wishes then I can leave it there.

17 LADY SMITH: No, I think that is quite clear, thank you very

18 much.

19 MR SHELTON: My Lady, I have another read-in which I think

20 would fit, I hope reasonably neatly, into the time

21 before the break.

22 LADY SMITH: Let's try that then.

23 Norman Sinnet (read)

24 MR SHELTON: This is the statement of an applicant who has

25 waived anonymity, Norman Sinnet.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR SHELTON: His witness statement is WIT-1-000001158.

3 Again, the statement has been signed and dated and
4 the usual declaration made.

5 Norman's evidence in relation to Loaningdale was
6 read in on Day 450, that's TRN-12-000000083.

7 Again, my Lady, material about Norman's early life
8 and about impact has been read in, but perhaps just to
9 recap a little, he says he was brought up in West
10 Lothian with his parents and five siblings. He started
11 to get into trouble when he went to secondary school and
12 was ultimately placed into care aged 12 or 13.

13 The first placement was Howdenhall
14 Assessment Centre. The records that we have suggest
15 that he was admitted there in [REDACTED] 1979,
16 [REDACTED] 1979.

17 There was, it seems, another admission before he was
18 sent to Rossie, the second admission being
19 [REDACTED] 1980.

20 Just for completeness, my Lady, admission to Rossie
21 was [REDACTED] 1981, while I'm on the subject of dates.

22 In relation to Howdenhall, paragraph 7, he says:

23 'I won't ever forget the day I went in, I would have
24 been around 12 or 13. It was a horrible experience. It
25 was like going into a children's jail. The doors were

1 all kept locked. I was locked away and treated
2 basically like an animal. The people who worked there
3 were animals. Some of the things they did to some of
4 the children was shocking. The assessment centre is not
5 there now. It's been knocked down and is a police
6 station. It's ironic given what happened in there was
7 criminal.

8 'It was an assessment centre, so you went there
9 before they moved you on somewhere else. They just put
10 me there to decide where to send me. However, at the
11 time I didn't know that. There was a place called
12 St Katharine's, which was right beside it.

13 'The bedrooms were upstairs. I think there were
14 four in the dorm. The girls were in another part of the
15 building. I think on the other side. There were 20
16 boys. It might have been more.'

17 He says:

18 'I don't know why the older boys were there.
19 I think they misbehaved or their families didn't want
20 them.

21 'I can't really remember a lot about it, but I can
22 remember the beatings. Every single bit of it. I can
23 remember we went for breakfast and a shower. Everything
24 was open plan, so there wasn't even privacy to have
25 a shower. I didn't actually have schooling in there.

1 We didn't go to classes or anything like that. I just
2 tried to survive and tried to escape and did anything to
3 get out of there. We did some chores like mopping
4 floors.

5 'I can't remember anything about the food in the
6 place. I was a child, so I suppose food was food.'

7 He says his social worker came to visit him. His
8 family didn't come, because it wasn't an easy journey to
9 make. They would have had to get three buses:

10 'If you were good you got to go out on a day trip
11 somewhere. I think they took us out in a bus on
12 a Saturday or Sunday and drove us around to places like
13 Seton Sands. We were kept on the bus. We didn't get
14 off ... I wasn't in the assessment centre at Christmas
15 time, because I had moved into St Katharine's next door
16 by then. It was basically the same regime there. The
17 staff members were the same in St Katharine's.

18 'Once we went on holiday to Loch Doon in Ayrshire.
19 It was a big house at the end of the loch, like
20 a smallholding. We could go canoeing. It was supposed
21 to be for a week, but four of us ran away ... We broke
22 into a local house in Girvan to get money to get away.
23 The police caught us and took us back to Loch Doon. We
24 got our punishment there, then we were taken back to the
25 assessment centre, where we got it again.

1 'There was a member of staff called Mr EWA '

2 And he says he was an ex-navy man:

3 'He came in smelling of rum all the time. I think
4 he was quite high up. He was a main abuser. I can't
5 remember any of the other staff, but a lot of them were
6 violent.

7 'Mr EWA came into the room at night drunk and he
8 removed some of the boys. I saw it happening. As soon
9 as I got the chance I ran away, because I decided it
10 wasn't happening to me.

11 'I knew that boys were being abused by the looks on
12 their faces. They looked broken. I think they had been
13 told not to tell anyone, so it wasn't discussed. They
14 were only 12 or 13. I feel terrible for running away
15 because I didn't help them. I should have been stronger
16 and helped them. I was stronger minded than they were.
17 I knew it was happening, so I should have tried to do
18 something but I couldn't because if I tried to
19 intervene, I knew what I was getting.

20 'There were girls in the assessment centre too, so
21 I can imagine what was happening to them. There were
22 three or four of the staff taking the boys out of the
23 room. I genuinely don't have the words to describe what
24 it was like. It seemed normal to them.

25 'The staff had no qualms about hitting you in front

1 of everyone during the day. They didn't have a problem
2 coming up and backhanding you and slapping you on the
3 back of the head. That happened to me and others. It
4 happened constantly. They hit you with fists, by
5 punching and slapping. They didn't hit you around the
6 face, but it was your arms and legs.

7 'I can always remember a time when [a particular
8 boy] got some beatings. There would be more than one
9 member of staff hitting him.

10 'There was a locked room beyond the dining room. It
11 was like a punishment room. It was on the right-hand
12 side of the building. It had glass windows so you could
13 see into it and what was happening during the day. It
14 happened in plain sight to a lot of people. A lot of
15 people got beatings in there.

16 'I had bruises. There was violence all the time.
17 It was acceptable back in those days. The staff just
18 wanted you to do as you were told and if you didn't, you
19 got a beating or abused. That was the regime.'

20 He talks about running away from the
21 assessment centre.

22 At paragraph 23, he says:

23 'The police caught me and took me back. I got
24 a beating for it. I only ran away once from there.
25 After that, they kept an eye on me. The police didn't

1 ask me why I was running away. They were only
2 interested in taking me back to the home.'

3 He did report the beatings, but they weren't writing
4 things down. It was probably more than their jobs were
5 worth:

6 'When we ran away from Loch Doon we were punished by
7 the member of staff in charge of the place when the
8 police took us back. It was a proper physical beating.
9 We were kicked, punched and slapped. When we got back
10 to the assessment centre we got it again from another
11 member of staff. I was black and blue on the side of my
12 face, arms, legs and back. I don't remember the names
13 of the staff.'

14 He says that he was at the assessment centre for
15 about three months and then went back to the
16 Children's Panel in Bathgate:

17 'I didn't get a chance to speak. I knew I was being
18 sent somewhere else and that I wasn't going home to my
19 mum and dad.'

20 He says the panel sent him to St Katharine's.

21 Paragraph 26:

22 'St Katharine's was next door to Howdenhall. It was
23 50 to 100 metres away from the assessment centre. It
24 was different, because you could go outside there and
25 enjoy the grounds. I had my own room too. You could

1 have a shower.

2 'You went in the front door and the toilets were on
3 the left-hand side. There were stairs and the rooms
4 were upstairs. It wasn't a bad place but I hated the
5 memories of the staff next door. The staff were
6 different but some of the ones from Howdenhall used to
7 come over because, being next door, they all knew each
8 other. It was more a relaxed, better atmosphere,
9 because you weren't locked up all the time. There was
10 a lot more freedom. There wasn't the same type of
11 violence in there.'

12 He says you had to do chores:

13 'But they just asked you to do it, so you did them
14 because you weren't being attacked or bullied into doing
15 it.'

16 He doesn't remember the routine, just the freedom
17 and he says there were classes but they weren't very
18 good:

19 'Not like proper school.'

20 He says he didn't think any of the staff were
21 actually qualified to teach.

22 Paragraph 29:

23 'I ran away from there too, because I knew the
24 violence was going on right next door. I knew the abuse
25 that was taking place, when the police took me back, the

1 staff told me not to do it again, but there weren't any
2 beatings in there. I told the staff what happened next
3 door. The staff weren't interested in what was going
4 on. I think they already knew, because they weren't
5 stupid. I don't know if the staff kept records.

6 'I think I was only in St Katharine's for around
7 six months because of my absconding, but I can't be
8 sure.'

9 It seems, my Lady, that he was discharged to
10 Loaningdale on [REDACTED] 1980, so he's then at Loaningdale
11 for a period and went back to the Children's Panel, this
12 is page 9.

13 As I've said, my Lady, it seems he had a short
14 period in Howdenhall, no doubt while they found
15 a placement for him or awaited a place perhaps at
16 Rossie, so his admission to Rossie was [REDACTED] 1981.

17 Strikingly, at paragraph 42, he says:

18 '[Rossie Farm] was the horror of my life. It had
19 a big, long road up to it. It sits right up in the
20 hill. You can see it from the road. The building was
21 white. There was a swimming pool on the left-hand side.
22 A lot of the staff stayed on site in wee houses. There
23 was a closed block for child murderers. I think it was
24 the only one in Scotland at the time.'

25 He says his parents weren't able to visit him,

1 because it was too far and he says:

2 'It was pure physical abuse there and it should be
3 burnt to the ground. It shouldn't be open. There were
4 boys being sexually abused there too. The way the staff
5 treated us was unbelievable. They should all be sent to
6 jail.'

7 He talks a bit about the sleeping arrangements. He
8 says he doesn't know who was in charge and thinks there
9 were about 15 to 20 staff.

10 At paragraph 45, he talks about the routine. He
11 says:

12 'The education was non-existent. It was the same
13 routine as the other places, as I don't think any of the
14 teachers were qualified. The art teacher was an old
15 man. He stayed on site with his wife. He was
16 a talented artist. I think he was the only one who was
17 half educated between them all.

18 'There was schooling there. There were art and
19 maths classes. They were very into PE, as there was
20 a swimming pool.'

21 He talks about a particular teacher who taught him
22 canoeing and says that he got awards for canoeing and he
23 was put through a training course and got to go on
24 an expedition to Braemar, and has a fond memory of being
25 there and going past Balmoral Castle and seeing Aberdeen

1 Harbour.

2 He talks about a friend who was there, he says that
3 there wasn't much to do. They just hung around:

4 'I think we went hillwalking ... They didn't
5 celebrate birthdays. It wasn't as though they baked you
6 a cake and made special arrangements. It was just the
7 same scenario, they really didn't care. There were no
8 housemothers at Rossie. I'm sure they were all men.
9 I think there was a woman who worked in the kitchen.'

10 In relation to bed wetting, he says:

11 'There were young laddies wetting their beds in
12 there. The boys were humiliated and beaten. It was
13 crazy. They had to lie in their own urine. They
14 weren't allowed to change their beds. The staff told
15 the other boys what they had done and made them stand
16 outside the dorm in their wet pyjamas.'

17 Talking specifically about abuse at Rossie, he says:

18 'The place was like a minefield. The staff took you
19 into cells. There was a cell just outside the closed
20 block along the left-hand side of the building. They
21 were next to the showers and the toilets. They took you
22 there and made you take your clothes off. They hosed
23 you down in the cell and threw buckets of cold water
24 over us. It was freezing. They did it to me two or
25 three times. You would stand outside your dormitory to

1 get back in.

2 'I told the staff I couldn't swim and I was chucked

3 into the swimming pool once. I can't remember who did

4 it. I was dragged by the hair to get me out. I can

5 remember [his friend] jumping in to get me. I was

6 petrified.'

7 LADY SMITH: That will be the witness we heard from earlier

8 this week, the same incident.

9 MR SHELTON: That may well be right, my Lady, yes.

10 Although that evidence I think suggested that there

11 may have been a deliberate attempt by the boy to take

12 his own life.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR SHELTON: Anyway, Norman says:

15 'I ran away. I went as soon as I got the chance.

16 I took two or three boys with me. We climbed out the

17 window and went along the ledge and down the drainpipes.

18 They caught us in Arbroath. We were battered when we

19 were taken back.

20 'If you misbehaved they took you outside the dorm

21 and made you stand in the corridor all night. It was

22 horrendous. It was any excuse to abuse you.

23 'The two people who were serial abusers were known

24 as HGO and zGBI. HGO came from Montrose,

25 he was an ex-army man ... a big tall man. I think he

1 was about six foot. He had dirty blond hair. I can't
2 remember his name. zGBI [REDACTED] was quite a small guy
3 with long blond hair. If he heard you calling him that
4 he battered you. He stayed on the premises. We were
5 terrified of [them]. You knew you were getting done in.
6 That's why I was running away all the time.

7 I don't know how many staff were in charge.'

8 Although he thinks there were 15:

9 'I felt safer when those two [I think HGO [REDACTED] and
10 zGBI [REDACTED]] weren't there. A lot of the staff were
11 good.

12 'They were interested in just getting you back.
13 When they got you back, you got a beating. I think you
14 were allowed to have a weekend back with your family but
15 not me. They had an old bus. I was allowed home once
16 and I got the train back and was collected at the train
17 station in Montrose.

18 'We had to have showers at certain times. There was
19 no privacy there. The staff used to walk up and down
20 looking at you in the shower. I can remember HGO [REDACTED] and
21 zGBI [REDACTED] doing it. Most of the people who are in
22 there are either alcoholics, drug addicts or dead.
23 I was scared in the assessment centre, but it was ten
24 times worse in Rossie ... I think everyone was
25 terrified.'

1 He refers to the regime with HGO and

2 zGBI :

3 'I got the feeling that boys were sexually abused
4 there. You could see it in their eyes. They didn't
5 want to speak and they were withdrawn. You can tell
6 something is wrong. They were broken. I feel guilty
7 that I didn't do anything about it, but I was just
8 trying to survive. The staff were just interested in
9 abusing kids and collecting their wages.

10 'I wasn't letting them sexually abuse me. That's
11 why I ran away. You could have told anyone about the
12 abuse but they wouldn't believe you.

13 'They practically opened the door and let me out.
14 There was no support in place for me. It was just
15 a case of letting you get on with it. I got the bus
16 from Waverley to Blackridge. I bumped into my mother,
17 who had been in ... hospital.'

18 He says that he saw her at the bus stop just outside
19 the hospital.

20 'She didn't even know I was going home. I felt
21 relieved because I knew that I didn't need to face any
22 of them again.'

23 He goes on then to talk about his life after care,
24 the impact and some of the difficulties that he had,
25 which he has now largely overcome.

1 14 February 2024 for Balgowan, and that's Day 417.

2 22 March 2024 for Larchgrove, that was Day 427.

3 25 April 2024 for Geilsland, that was Day 439.

4 Then 9 October 2024 for Balrossie, Thornly Park and
5 Oakbank, that was Day 483.

6 I think on previous occasions, my Lady, I've been
7 involved in many of those read-ins.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, indeed.

9 MS FORBES: But I should say he is somebody who, as was
10 explained before during being read in, that he has his
11 order of events slightly out of sync. I think we know
12 from his records he went to Larchgrove, Balrossie, then
13 to Balgowan, then to Thornly Park, Barlinnie,
14 Longriggend, Oakbank, Rossie, Geilsland and then
15 Polmont, but I think he gets the kind of order mixed up
16 at times and indeed he thinks he went to Thornly Park
17 before he went to Balgowan, but given that we have the
18 dates, my Lady, we're able to say with some certainty
19 that it is out of order. But given the number of places
20 he's been, it's no wonder.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: 'Scott' was born in 1956 and tells us about his
23 life before going into care between paragraphs 3 and 9.

24 Given the amount of times he has previously been
25 read in, I'll not rehearse all the detail of that, other

1 than to summarise and say that he was brought up in
2 Maryhill in Glasgow and he did live with his parents and
3 sisters. Money was a real issue in the household and he
4 would be sent out to steal. Alcohol was a problem and
5 his mum would be away from the house for weeks or months
6 and then come back full of drink. She would bring men
7 back to the house.

8 He witnessed domestic violence between his parents
9 and his mother also physically assaulted him, he thinks
10 when he was about 7 or 8, and he was screaming and the
11 neighbours intervened and that's how police and social
12 work became involved and he was taken away from the
13 family home at that point.

14 He then tells us about other places he went to
15 between paragraphs 10 and 31 of his statement,
16 a particular children's home he thinks he was there
17 twice

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 He was then sent to Larchgrove and he tells us about
20 that between paragraphs 34 and 43. This was maybe for
21 about five to eight weeks for assessment.

22 Again, there was abuse there that has been read in
23 before and it's sexual abuse, physical abuse.

24 He then went to Balrossie and he was admitted there,
25 from the records we have, on [REDACTED] 1967, when he

1 was aged 11.

2 Again, that was read in previously and in
3 particular, this is where there was sexual abuse by
4 an older male resident as well as abuse by staff, but
5 this older male resident is one that has been talked
6 about previously in the read-ins and he follows him
7 through many of his later placements and, indeed, into
8 young offenders.

9 He was then admitted to Balgowan on [REDACTED] 1969
10 on transfer from Balrossie, so that's where things are
11 out of order in his statement and he wasn't admitted
12 then to Thornly Park until [REDACTED] 1970, when he was aged
13 14. But, again, in relation to Thornly Park, this older
14 male resident was there. He had abused him at
15 Balrossie, sexual abuse, and it continued.

16 He was admitted, I think, thereafter -- I think we
17 talked about Balgowan being out of order, but again
18 there was sexual abuse by a member of staff there.
19 There were bullies. Physical abuse by staff as well.

20 He tells us about Barlinnie and Longriggend between
21 paragraphs 83 and 91.

22 Again, that was read in and he says he was only
23 about 12 to 14 years old when he was sent there and was
24 the youngest boy in Scotland. He was in and out of
25 Longriggend in between approved schools and we have read

1 in the abuse in relation to those places before.

2 In relation to Oakbank, he talks about that between
3 paragraphs 92 and 96. He says that there was bullying
4 there from other inmates but there was no problem with
5 staff. It seems that he ran away from Oakbank and stole
6 a money box and was caught by the police. He was then
7 given the choice to either stay at Oakbank or go to
8 Rossie and he chose Rossie.

9 He tells us about Rossie from paragraph 97 of his
10 statement, so if I could go to paragraph 97. From our
11 records we know that he was admitted to Rossie on
12 [REDACTED] 1970, so he would have been aged 14, and he
13 was there until [REDACTED] 1971 when he would have been 15,
14 when he was returned to Oakbank.

15 LADY SMITH: This was the first time he went to Rossie Farm
16 School as a teenager, the sort of age that most people
17 were going there?

18 MS FORBES: Yes.

19 He talks about Rossie at paragraph 97 and he has the
20 age right being 14 or 15. He talks about there being
21 bars on the windows in the Macdonald wing and
22 combination locks on the doors and says that that wing
23 was impossible to run away from. You were closed in.
24 He says the shortest period of time you could do there
25 was nine months, in the Macdonald wing, and that was how

1 long he was there. I think we know that from the
2 records he was there for about maybe seven months or so,
3 so he's not too far out with his estimation.

4 He talks about a Mr GWC at paragraph 98, who
5 was a member of staff. He says he wasn't in charge, he
6 was a big man. He says that when he was first admitted
7 to Rossie, he was put into a single cell and he was
8 there for maybe two or three months. Then after that he
9 was moved into the dorms, with five boys in each dorm.
10 He doesn't remember having any visits or going to any
11 children's hearings when he was there.

12 At paragraph 101, he says:

13 'There were two cells which had no windows. They
14 were dark. They were different from the other cells.
15 Boys would be put into them as punishment if they did
16 something wrong. The cells were for bad boys.

17 'When I got to Macdonald wing I discovered [he
18 mentions the resident who had followed him to different
19 institutions] was there. He'd arrived there before me.
20 He saw me in the gymnasium. He told me that he was
21 going to get me into his dorm after I left my single
22 cell. He managed to do that. He must have spoken with
23 the staff to get me into the same dorm as him.

24 'At about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning I was woken
25 up. I felt my pyjama bottoms being tugged down.

1 I discovered that it was [him] doing that. He was
2 pulling down my pyjamas bottoms to do dirty things to
3 me. He was trying to interfere with me whilst I was
4 sleeping. He was doing that whilst the other boys in
5 the dorm were sleeping. He took me to the window. We
6 were standing by the radiator. [He] got me to play with
7 him. He made me do dirty things to him.

8 'It became kind of a regular thing. He knew when to
9 pick his moment to get me to do things to him. I knew
10 the other boys in the dorm. One was from Paisley and
11 the other two were from Glasgow. They never woke up at
12 any time whilst [he] was abusing me.'

13 He then names another resident 'who was at
14 Rossie Farm at the same time as me'.

15 He says that that person has passed away now and he
16 says that he saw that boy being physically dragged by
17 Mr GWC from the gym hall right up to the end of one
18 of the hallways. He thinks that another member of staff
19 joined in and he saw that boy being booted and flung
20 into a cell by Mr GWC and this other member of
21 staff. He says:

22 'I don't know why they did that to him. I don't
23 know what happened after he was put into the cell.
24 I think I saw him after [he] got out of the cell. He
25 was not mentally well when he came out.'

1 He says that he never spoke to any of the staff
2 about what was going on in Rossie. He says he was
3 frightened and he was in a closed environment.

4 Then he talks about Oakbank the second time, that
5 was when he was admitted there on [REDACTED] 1971.

6 He says in Oakbank, again, that has previously been
7 read in, that it was different the second time. There
8 was no abuse and the place felt different and he was
9 released home after Oakbank for a time. He went back to
10 his parents, but things were horrendous. His mother and
11 father were still the same way. He says he felt
12 institutionalised by that time. He ran around with
13 older boys and was involved in crime.

14 Then he was in Larchgrove again for a short time and
15 then he went to Geilsland. Again, that was read in. He
16 tells us about that between paragraphs 114 and 129.

17 Again, this older male resident was there and was
18 sexually abusing him again. He was running away because
19 of that. There was also abuse from a member of staff
20 whilst he was there.

21 He says that he was allowed leave from Geilsland, he
22 broke into a bingo hall with two other boys and ended up
23 at Glasgow Sheriff Court and was sent to Polmont. He
24 was there for about nine months and he tells us about
25 that from paragraph 130 to 139. Again, that was read

1 in. He tells us about abuse there as well, which we
2 have previously read in.

3 He does say that he went on to Barlinnie and there
4 were no problems or abuse in Barlinnie.

5 Then he talks about life after care from paragraphs
6 145 to 151. He says that Barlinnie to him was
7 a revolving door up until the age of 21. He was in and
8 out, then he was in the mainstream prison population.
9 He got married though in 1981 from prison. He was
10 allowed to leave Perth Prison to attend his wedding. He
11 had three children, but they later divorced.

12 'Scott' says frankly he was never there for his
13 children and has no contact with them now but he says he
14 had two daughters to a woman, they were both placed in
15 care, and later had a daughter and son to another woman,
16 who he was with for a long time, and she kept him out of
17 jail and he had a great wee life and he still sees both
18 of those children.

19 In relation to impact, he talks about that between
20 paragraphs 152 and 161. He says he was damaged
21 psychologically, physically and sexually, that he is
22 mentally and physically not well. His life has been
23 ruined and the older male resident who abused him is
24 still around and he's reported him to the police.

25 He says he was never visited in the establishments

1 he was in and has been used by people all his life and
2 he's been passed about. He can't hold down
3 a relationship. He can't hold conversations and he has
4 been on his own for a long time. He now locks himself
5 away in his house.

6 He says he was never into drugs but had, at the time
7 of this statement, recently taken crack cocaine but was
8 off of it at the time of giving the statement.

9 He tells us about speaking to the mental health team
10 in Glasgow in 2003, I think this is from paragraph 162.
11 He told them about the abuse and then he reported a lot
12 of the abuse to the police.

13 Lessons to be learned between paragraph 174 and 177,
14 he says:

15 'These places were not nice. Sexual abuse was
16 rife.'

17 He makes the point that if they'd cut out the
18 bullying in these places, it might have been easier to
19 report things.

20 Then 'Scott' has made the usual declaration and he
21 has signed his statement, it's dated 5 September 2018.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think the next one I have is a little
24 bit long, so I don't know if there would be time today.

25 LADY SMITH: I think we should leave it at that for today,

1 after all we've made more progress than perhaps we
2 expected to do in the event.

3 That would take us to 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

4 We should have a witness in person ready then?

5 MS FORBES: Yes, tomorrow we should have three live
6 witnesses, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Very well.

8 Thank you very much. I'll rise now until tomorrow
9 morning, but before I do, a list of names of people
10 whose identities are protected and they mustn't be
11 mentioned as referred to in our evidence outside this
12 room: Mr LLY , Mr BFV , also known as BFV
13 BFV , Mr LOH , also I think referred as LOH or
14 LOH , Mr GZR , Mr EWA , HGO , zGBI and
15 Mr GWC .

16 Thank you all very much.

17 (3.38 pm)

18 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
19 Friday, 10 January 2025)

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