

1 Tuesday, 13 May 2025

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to the third week of
4 our hearings in relation to the provision of residential
5 care for children in healthcare, additional support
6 needs and disability institutions, in the section on
7 which we're focusing particularly on healthcare.

8 We have oral evidence today, partly by witnesses
9 here and this afternoon by Webex. I understand that the
10 first witness is ready; is that right?

11 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady.

12 The first witness is Nuala Haller. She spent
13 a short period at St Joseph's in 1969 as a relief
14 worker. She then spent a further month there in
15 July 1970 in the same role. Then between 1971 and 1974,
16 she undertook nurse training there. She also tells us
17 in her statement that she went back there, I think
18 towards the end of 1975/the beginning of 1976, where she
19 helped out in the school.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 Nuala Haller (affirmed)

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you for coming along this morning to help
23 us with your evidence and also for having provided such
24 a good statement beforehand. It's been really helpful
25 to me to be able to read that in advance, to see what

1 you've already provided to us.

2 As you're probably aware, we'd like to focus on some

3 particular parts of it today, we are not going to go

4 through it all --

5 A. Sorry, can I -- I'm struggling --

6 LADY SMITH: Can you not hear?

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: Right. Can you hear better now?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Let me start with this then.

11 Easy question, would you like me to use your first

12 name or your second name? I'm happy to use either.

13 A. My first name, Nuala.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Nuala.

15 I was explaining that I was very grateful to you for

16 coming here today and reassuring you that I have already

17 been able to see your written evidence and I'm grateful

18 to you for having provided that, by engaging with us as

19 you have done. That's been really useful.

20 We'll focus on some particular parts of it today.

21 Don't worry, we're not going to go through it all word

22 for word, but if at any time you've got any questions,

23 or there's anything you think we should be asking you

24 that we're not asking you, do speak up. Or if you've

25 got any concerns about anything at any time, just let me

1 know.

2 If you want a break, that's absolutely fine. I do
3 break anyway at about 11.30 am and we may well have
4 finished your evidence by then, but you can bear that in
5 mind and if before then you'd like a breather, just say,
6 all right.

7 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
8 she'll take it from there.

9 Ms Innes.

10 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

11 Questions by Ms Innes

12 MS INNES: Nuala, if I can do something formal to begin with
13 and refer to your statement, which is at
14 WIT.001.002.2744. We can see that this is your
15 statement and that you were born in 1953.

16 If we go to the final page of that statement,
17 please, page 20, and paragraph 127, we see that it says
18 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 We can see that you signed your statement on 23
24 November 2018; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We're going to go through some aspects of your statement
2 and I think, having reviewed your statement, there were
3 some things that you thought maybe weren't quite right
4 in your statement. But we'll cover them as we go
5 through your evidence, okay?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If we go back to the beginning of your statement, you
8 tell us at paragraph 2 that you grew up in Belfast.
9 Then if we go on to page 2, and paragraph 9, you tell us
10 that you went to a secondary school run by the
11 Daughters of Charity?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Then at paragraph 10, you say:

14 'At the various Daughters of Charity convents, the
15 nuns would go on retreat for three weeks in the summer.
16 After this, they would go on holiday. The girls at the
17 schools who were aged between 15 or 16 would go to the
18 convents to do paid work in place of the nuns. We were
19 called relief workers.'

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is that something that you did?

22 A. Yes, I did it twice.

23 Q. I think both of those times were at St Joseph's in
24 Rosewell?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. If we go on to the next page, please, to paragraph 11.
2 You say that when you were at school, you always said
3 that you wanted to work with children with special
4 needs?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Why was that?
7 A. Erm, I just enjoyed -- just the idea of it and there was
8 a child with Down's Syndrome that lived in the same
9 street as, erm, us and he just thought I was great and
10 I thought I could do more and my mother thought it was
11 kind of a good idea, I could maybe go after I went to
12 university, but I was going to do what I wanted to do,
13 not what my mother wanted me to do.
14 Q. At paragraph 12, you say that you were supposed to go to
15 St Joseph's in July 1968 but your mother was unwell at
16 the time?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. I think at that time you stayed at home to look after
19 her; is that right?
20 A. I did, but then my mother wanted me to go, 'cause she
21 wanted me to be -- I'd been off school for nearly two
22 months being with her, our sister was there as well
23 every day, but she -- my mother wanted me to go so
24 I would be with girls my own age, rather than being at
25 home with them.

1 Q. Then I think that you went to St Joseph's as a relief
2 worker on two occasions?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The first time that you went, am I right in saying that
5 you were only there for a short period, because you
6 ended up going back to Belfast?

7 A. Yes, [REDACTED] PFZ came for me --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- which I wasn't expecting, it wasn't planned.

10 Q. Why did she come for you unexpectedly on the first
11 occasion you went there?

12 A. She had a conversation with her -- well, they needed her
13 to go to -- somebody to substitute and be at Smyllum and
14 they decided she could do that and she could pick me up.
15 They decided that I didn't know my mother was dying,
16 which of course I did -- it was really [REDACTED] that
17 wasn't aware that she was dying -- and then they thought
18 that she could do her bit in Smyllum and then we could
19 get on a plane together and go back to Belfast and this
20 would be a nice surprise and PFZ would inform me that my
21 mother -- [REDACTED] was dying, but I already knew,
22 obviously.

23 Q. On the first occasion that you went to St Joseph's as
24 a relief worker, that time period that you would have
25 been expected to be there, was that cut short because

1 you went back to Belfast?

2 A. Yes, yes. Yes.

3 Q. Then did your mother die after you went back home to

4 Belfast?

5 A. She died in September.

6 Q. What year was that?

7 A. Sorry, she died in September -- no, she died September

8 '69, so I'm back to school from there, yeah.

9 Q. Then the following year in 1970, did you go back to

10 St Joseph's again?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. As a relief worker?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How long did you stay on that occasion?

15 A. A month, the month of July.

16 LADY SMITH: You were just 16 when your mother died, is that

17 right?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: And just 15 when you first started doing the

20 relief work?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: You were really very young?

23 A. I was, yes. But I thought I was very grown up doing

24 that.

25 MS INNES: Can you tell us a bit more about the first time

1 that you went to St Joseph's then as a relief worker,
2 when you were just 15? What job were you going to do
3 when you were at St Joseph's?

4 A. So there was myself, another girl from my school and
5 there was a girl, a Scottish girl, who was in -- she had
6 just -- was waiting to go to Moray House to train to be
7 a teacher, so she was 17, so there was nobody but us, we
8 were in a men's ward, she was in charge. There were no
9 nuns at all and it was just really good fun and we
10 thought we'd just play at -- Scottish music records all
11 day long and talked in Scottish accents, did Scottish
12 dancing and took them out for walks. And basically we
13 were three girls -- two little girls together with one
14 bigger girl in charge of us, but we had to do everything
15 else. We had to bath them. Go to the kitchen, get
16 their food. Er, see that they had clean clothes. Make
17 beds. All these kind of things, which the girl that was
18 going to train to be a teacher, she taught us how to do
19 all these things and we genuinely believed we were
20 trainee nurses.

21 I mean, if you'd had a heart attack in front of me,
22 I probably would have tried to do something. Kill you
23 probably.

24 Q. Were there any nurses on the wards? You said there were
25 no nuns, but were there any nurses there?

1 A. No, no, no.

2 Q. On the ward with you?

3 A. No, none at all.

4 Q. What about more generally at St Joseph's when you went

5 that first time, were there any nuns?

6 A. None at all. Each ward was the same, so all the girls

7 that were there, they were from schools in Ireland,

8 England, no Scottish ones at all, erm, except there was

9 a few Scottish ones whose parents or mothers or

10 something had been working at St Joseph's. So they

11 would get them summer jobs, but they knew St Joseph's,

12 so they could say where their children were going to

13 work. Our parents didn't know. They thought it was all

14 children. We thought it was going to be all children.

15 Q. You thought you were going to be working with children?

16 A. Yes, because some of the girls that came, I think there

17 was about maybe eight of us that all arrived together

18 from the same school and I think four of them went home

19 again immediately, because they weren't working with

20 children. They were too scared. It was a very big, old

21 house. It was very scary.

22 Q. Were there any trained staff or nurses more widely in

23 the hospital at the time?

24 A. I think the most trained ones were on night duty and the

25 only time we saw that person was when she wakened us up

1 in the morning and that was it.

2 Q. You were living on site?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. The second time that you went to St Joseph's, the

5 following year, were you on the same ward or a different

6 ward?

7 A. I was in a different ward. I was in with geriatrics,

8 erm, which was scary and different and that was more --

9 but it was the same set up. It was all just schoolgirls

10 and no nuns.

11 Q. So no nuns the second time that you went?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. Can you remember who was in charge of the ward that you

14 were working on?

15 A. No, it wasn't -- the girl who'd done -- was waiting to

16 go to Moray House, she was in the same ward that I'd

17 been in before. She was still there on her holidays

18 from Moray House. And, no, I don't remember who did the

19 geriatric, who was there, but I was with the same girl

20 from school, so it was the two of us, the same again

21 together.

22 Q. Then we understand that you went on to do nurse training

23 at St Joseph's?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you started that in January 1971, is that right?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. If we move on to page 8 of your statement, and

3 paragraph 44, you talk about going back to St Joseph's

4 when you did your training.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say at paragraph 44:

7 'It was totally different ...'

8 To when you had been there before?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What was totally different?

11 A. There were nuns everywhere. That was a big shock, just

12 all these nuns, who, because of [REDACTED], all knew me,

13 knew who I was and knew my name et cetera, et cetera,

14 and were very touchy-feely and I didn't like it at all,

15 at all.

16 Q. You go on to say just a little bit about the building at

17 St Joseph's at paragraph 45, you describe it as being

18 a large building and you think there were probably about

19 200 patients at the time?

20 A. I think, I'm not sure.

21 Q. You say that a brand new unit had been purpose built by

22 the time --

23 A. It was being built. There was always something being

24 built. When we -- when I first went, we were told it

25 was going to be a swimming pool. Then it was changed

1 and it was going to be a babies ward. And then it
2 changed and it was going to be a house just for the
3 nuns, for them, like a -- bedrooms and things for them,
4 which gradually, apart from the swimming pool,
5 everything did happen. The baby unit was built.

6 Q. At paragraph 47, you say:

7 'It was just accepted that I had been there before.
8 I was shown what ward I would be starting in.'

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was there any kind of induction or initial --

11 A. No, nothing. It just went up on a list, on the notice
12 board -- just where -- in the corridor leading over to
13 the nurses' unit, just a list of everybody and where you
14 were going to be and what ward it was and that was it.
15 Then you started at 8 o'clock in the morning, like
16 everybody else.

17 Q. How many students started at the same time as you, can
18 you remember?

19 A. In my study block, there were three of us -- sorry four,
20 one left, then three of us.

21 Q. We understand that the School of Nursing was
22 specialising in what was then called mental
23 deficiency --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- nursing, is that right?

1 A. In Scotland, yes.

2 Q. What ward was it that you were placed on initially?

3 A. Montini, hyperactive children.

4 Q. Was that boys or girls?

5 A. Boys.

6 Q. What sort of age were they?

7 A. Erm, I would say maybe the youngest was 6 -- 5/6, and

8 the oldest probably 14, maybe older.

9 Q. How many boys were on that ward?

10 A. Oh, erm ... at a really rough guess I would say maybe

11 20.

12 Q. How long did you work on that ward for?

13 A. Just a matter of months. The nun in charge of that ward

14 didn't like me and would -- would far rather have chosen

15 who she wanted to work with. She had very much got

16 people that were her favourites and they'd happily work

17 together for a long time and they were very -- a little

18 family and these were her girls and they thought she was

19 great and she did everything. She taught me nothing,

20 nothing. She barely spoke to me, so I just had to guess

21 at everything. I just used to follow her around and

22 copy what she did.

23 Q. Was she a trained nurse?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Were there trained nurses on the ward?

1 A. Er, I think there was one who was in her first year of
2 being an SEN and I wasn't -- I hadn't started my
3 training, I was a cadet.

4 Q. So there was the nun who was in charge of the ward?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. The SEN that you have referred to, and yourself. Were
7 there other students or assistants on the ward?

8 A. Maybe two others, but just sort of -- yeah, assistants.

9 Q. Okay. Not students?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Now, if we move on to the next page, please, page 9, and
12 paragraph 49, you talk about the accommodation. Where
13 was it that you stayed when you were training to be
14 a nurse?

15 A. Up in the attic. Way up at the top of the house, down
16 long, dark corridors in the attic, myself and the girl
17 I came with, Pauline. Freezing cold, scary as anything.
18 Rattly pipes, just nobody there but us, which
19 occasionally a nun would just come in to the room, our
20 bedroom, she would just walk in.

21 Q. For what purpose?

22 A. I think just to see what we were doing, see what we're
23 up to, just sort of try to make general chit-chat with
24 us, which just wasn't happening. She was older.
25 I mean, I was 17, Pauline was 17, there was no way we

1 were going to have chit-chat with a 50-year-old.

2 I mean, that was way beyond us, plus we'd great

3 difficulty understanding what she was saying, erm, and

4 that was it.

5 Q. Did you stay in this room throughout your training or

6 did you move somewhere else?

7 A. I moved. Pauline left and when she left, then we got

8 moved to a room around the corner from that room, which

9 was a bit better because it had a proper window in it,

10 this only had a sky -- that only had a skylight. We

11 were moved round the corner where we had a proper window

12 and a little balcony, which ... that was fine and then,

13 as I say, Pauline left and when Pauline left, I got

14 a room in the nurses' home.

15 Q. Was that in a separate building?

16 A. Was that a?

17 Q. Was the nurses' home in a separate building?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Nuala, you said that when you were in the

20 attic, sometimes a nun would come in and one of the

21 problems was you had great difficulty understanding what

22 she was saying. Why was that?

23 A. Her Scottish accent.

24 LADY SMITH: So your north of Ireland accent met a Scottish

25 accent and they weren't blending very well?

1 A. It's just things that she said, like she referred to the
2 bin as a 'bucket', when did we put the buckets out and
3 we were just:
4 'We haven't got a bucket, do you mean a "bin"?'
5 And we didn't understand why we would put this --
6 where would we put it? And then she asked what were
7 these -- just Scottish words that she would use.
8 I would understand them now obviously, but then we
9 didn't.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes. You probably were brought up with
11 different words than people here?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: It's a different language, people here using
14 different words for ordinary everyday things.

15 A. But having said that, there was a few of the nuns who
16 were from Cork in Ireland, and that was difficult to
17 understand as well.

18 LADY SMITH: So you were freezing, people were speaking to
19 you in a different language and not paying regard to the
20 fact you really were not far out of childhood, is that
21 about it?

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: But you wanted to learn how to be a nurse?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS INNES: Moving down on page 9, at paragraph 51 you talk
2 about the groups that the children were in, in the
3 hospital. You say more generally there were both males
4 and females in the hospital and from what you have
5 already told us, there were both adults and children in
6 the hospital.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You say at paragraph 52 that children were split up into
9 different groups?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you understand how these groups were arranged?

12 A. You could say by -- the children in the Montini ward, it
13 was 24 hour, you had to always be with them, always
14 looking after them. The children over in other wards,
15 the other side of the house, where it was all girls,
16 they were more capable of doing things for themselves.
17 You know, they could go to the bathroom themselves.

18 In the Montini ward, they really -- you would have
19 to take them, or they would be wearing a nappy and the
20 children in the other side -- the girls and boys, they
21 went to school, you know, when we had eventually got the
22 school, they went to the school.

23 Q. At paragraph 53, you say:

24 'I thought that a lot of the children didn't need to
25 be in the hospital.'

1 Can you explain that, please?

2 A. I would say, looking back on it now, it would be more
3 sort of as we have now like attention deficit,
4 Asperger's, they probably would be diagnosed as having
5 that, but at the time I couldn't really see a reason for
6 them and some of them you were just told that they were
7 there because their family couldn't look after them, so
8 it was sort of -- and then when you'd say, 'Well, why
9 aren't they in a different kind of home?', or stuff like
10 that. But it was just they were happy where they were
11 and they were all in the one group together, away from
12 the rest of the hospital, sort of, you know.

13 It was very -- a very clear divide, you know, that
14 when you would come in, you could go this way and it was
15 girls and then up above was women and then at this side,
16 it was men and boys, and then the geriatric ward further
17 away from public view.

18 Q. When you say that there were children that shouldn't be
19 in the hospital, were you suggesting that all of these
20 children were in a particular unit together?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. What was the name of that unit, can you remember?

23 A. Emmanuel, I think, I think, but that could be the name
24 of the nun that was in charge.

25 Q. If we could move on please, to page 10 and paragraph 58.

1 You talk again about the boys that were in the ward that
2 you were working in?

3 A. That was Montini. That was the hyperactive children:
4 that was my first ward, with Sister KVB .

5 Q. You say at paragraph 58 that you would get the boys up
6 in the morning and make sure that they were washed?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was that the first thing that you would do when you
9 started your shift?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Then after that, what would you do with the boys during
12 the day?

13 A. They were all lined up and some of them you needed sort
14 of to take them to the bathroom and then you would take
15 them downstairs to where their breakfast was or else you
16 would stay behind with somebody and make the beds.
17 Mostly I would stay behind, because the nun would go off
18 ... who didn't like me. She would go off with them and
19 give them -- and do breakfast with them and then, if
20 I stayed upstairs, I was out of her sight.

21 Q. At the end of this paragraph, paragraph 58, you talk
22 about the handover from the nightshift.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. What sort of information would you be given at handover?

25 A. Just that the children had slept okay, that there was

1 a few that were extremely hyperactive and could get up
2 in the middle of the night and run about and they would
3 just tell us whether they'd done that or whether they
4 hadn't, or if anybody had been sick during the day, they
5 would say, yes, they were still ill or they were better
6 or nothing, you know, they'd been okay.

7 Q. Then at paragraph 59, you refer to the young boys being
8 hyperactive and you say:

9 'The older boys were medicated so they weren't as
10 bad.'

11 A. That was just to keep them less hyper.

12 Q. Do you know what sort of medication they were being
13 given?

14 A. Offhand -- I remember a lot of them were on like
15 Largactil, which was meant to be if you had epileptic
16 fits and that's what I remember most of them sort of
17 being on. At this stage, I wouldn't -- they would all
18 be in a drugs trolley, which I wouldn't, and shouldn't,
19 have gone near and the nun would deal with that, but
20 I don't -- she wasn't really comfortable doing it
21 either, so it was kinda hit and miss whether that was
22 done on a regular basis, compared to the other places,
23 other wards. Sometimes yes and sometimes no, and then
24 other things she would have little remedies or drugs of
25 her own that she would give out.

1 Q. When you say it was hit or miss or it was yes or no, do
2 you mean that sometimes medication would be given out
3 and sometimes it wouldn't?
4 A. Yes, yes.
5 Q. When you refer to remedies of her own, are you referring
6 to sort of things that weren't drugs, that were maybe
7 herbal remedies?
8 A. No, not herbal. She would maybe just decide to give
9 somebody paracetamol, other painkillers, and then they
10 would fall asleep.
11 LADY SMITH: When you said that you shouldn't have gone near
12 the drug trolley, are you telling me that sometimes you
13 did give out the drugs?
14 A. Yes.
15 LADY SMITH: That was because the nun wasn't keen on doing
16 it either?
17 A. Because -- I would do it because I was told to do it,
18 you know?
19 LADY SMITH: Yes.
20 MS INNES: If we go down to paragraph 62, you talk about
21 this and you say:
22 'When I was in the first year, the nun in charge,
23 Sister Collette, asked me to give the patients their
24 drugs.'
25 A. Yes. This -- I had started my training at this stage.

1 She wasn't qualified and she never did -- she left in
2 fact, this nun, and -- but she sort of was saying to me,
3 now this was girls who really, they weren't on very
4 serious medication, but some of them did need it because
5 they had epileptic fits and she just said to me, 'Do the
6 medications', and I said, 'Well, I'm not supposed to do
7 this', and she said, 'Well, somebody has to do it'.

8 So then -- so there was a chart that would be in the
9 drug trolley and you would look at each child in the
10 chart and go down and see they get this, they can be --
11 they'd been prescribed this or ... mind you, having said
12 that, I don't really know who prescribed them and then
13 you would give them out accordingly, but in that ward,
14 at that time, I only remember them -- medication being
15 given out in the morning to one child and that was the
16 only one and that was regularly in the morning.

17 LADY SMITH: Had you by then been given any training to help
18 you understand what the drugs were, what the risks were,
19 what the dosages should be?

20 A. The training -- sorry, to interrupt.

21 LADY SMITH: Go on.

22 A. The training I eventually was given in the first year
23 was that until you were in third year, there was -- you
24 could assist a third year nurse or a staff nurse giving
25 drugs. You would be called the runner, so she would

1 give them out and you'd take the thing and run and give
2 it to the kid.

3 Up until then, you should not have been near -- you
4 should not even have the key to the drugs trolley.

5 LADY SMITH: Until then, had you been given any training
6 about the nature of the drugs --

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: -- what their effect on the patient would be or
9 anything like that?

10 A. No, absolutely none, and it says there the nun that
11 taught me was because -- we used to go to an evening
12 class in Dalkeith and it was -- it would be we would be
13 driving, just her and I in the car. I would say to
14 her -- she was in charge of the School of Nursing,
15 I would ask her questions like: what is this for? What
16 is that for? When do you do this? Why do you do this?

17 And she would just answer me and -- but she was
18 adamant always, always, you shouldn't be near the drugs
19 trolley. You shouldn't go near the drugs trolley. And
20 I would repeat this back and they would just ignore me,
21 and they were the nuns, they were in charge. So if they
22 said you do it, you did it.

23 MS INNES: You mentioned that this was -- that you were
24 asked to do this when you were on a ward with girls, is
25 that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. This was after you'd moved from the Montini ward that
3 you mentioned?

4 A. Yes. So basically from my first year, the uniform
5 changed from a blue one to a white, where you had your
6 white, I was a first year. I had the drug keys
7 whenever. There was no big -- within the drug trolley,
8 there was a little box and that was the DDA drugs,
9 that's Dangerous Drug Act, they were dangerous drugs,
10 erm, and that was just left lying in the trolley,
11 anybody could have opened it or taken it. That was
12 just -- but the trolley was always, always under -- some
13 nurse would have the key to the trolley. No children
14 could get near it.

15 But having said that, actually, over where Montini
16 was, it was like all open and there were grown men who
17 would do things around the grounds and stuff like that.
18 Occasionally the oldest man there, and the person who
19 had been there the longest, he would do the drugs.

20 Q. So he was one of the residents or patients?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. Would he do that under supervision of someone?

23 A. No, just -- they didn't really have anybody looking
24 after them, just this nun would go in occasionally and
25 see that everything was okay, I suppose.

1 Q. He would do the drugs for the older patients, is that
2 what you mean?

3 A. His group. His group, yes.

4 Q. His group. Okay.

5 If we go to the top of page 11, paragraph 63 of your
6 statement, you talk there about the Sister who was in
7 charge of the School of Nursing?

8 A. Yes, this is the one I did the classes with.

9 Q. You describe her as a very clever person?

10 A. She was.

11 Q. You say:

12 'I found out that she was doing the same training as
13 the nurses.'

14 A. Yes. She had come from -- she had entered the convent
15 as an older person. So she was already a state
16 registered nurse. She had done that herself before she
17 entered the convent and then finally St Joseph's was
18 moving on. It had got their funding from the school --
19 from the General Nursing Council for Scotland and --
20 which meant they were doing exams, an acknowledgement of
21 state-registered courses for children with special needs
22 had been acknowledged and was set up, so there were
23 exams that you could take and qualifications that you
24 could achieve. And she was in charge of that at
25 St Joseph's. But she needed to have -- also have that

1 certificate herself, so while she was teaching us, she
2 was doing the course herself.

3 Q. Did she sit the exams alongside you essentially?

4 A. Not with us, no, but she had sat them -- she sat them
5 separately, away from us.

6 Q. But at the same time as you?

7 A. No, she didn't. I honestly don't know exactly when she
8 did, but she did sit them separately. I liked her very
9 much actually. Very much. She taught me a lot.

10 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 63 that eventually
11 a clinical nurse was appointed to deal with the
12 prescribed drugs?

13 A. Sorry, can you ask that --

14 Q. At the end of paragraph 63, you say:

15 'Eventually a clinical nurse was appointed to deal
16 with the prescribed drugs.'

17 A. She did -- that was in the wards that she started to say
18 it had to be a staff nurse, a third year nurse. There
19 weren't too many staff nurses at the time, but that
20 a registered nurse, somebody in third year had to and it
21 didn't always happen, you know. You got sort of people
22 that -- there would be nuns that wouldn't know, but nuns
23 never admitted they didn't know anything, so they would
24 just say 'Go', or you would say, you would remind them
25 that the children or whoever hadn't had their medication

1 that day and they would go, 'Oh, go and do it,
2 I'm busy'.

3 Or say nothing. They could just tell you what to
4 do.

5 Q. Did you ever say to this Sister in charge of the School
6 of Nursing that you were being asked to hand out
7 medication?

8 A. Yes. When I would get in the car with her, I would tell
9 her everything, like a little clype, and she would go,
10 'That's not right. That's not right'. And then she
11 just said to me, 'Just don't do it. Just don't do it'.

12 And then I would say to her who had asked me and,
13 you know. Eventually another nun came and I'm not
14 really sure what her job title was, but she was meant to
15 be -- each ward then started to have every Monday, she
16 was meant to dish out the medication that you were meant
17 to take ... a senior member of staff was meant to go
18 over and bring with them the drug chart and then she was
19 meant to go through it and go: 'You need so many of
20 these and so many of these'. She was meant to dish it
21 out that way.

22 She did it for a while, but then gradually she got
23 myself and another nurse to do it.

24 Q. If we move down this page to paragraph 68, you talk
25 about -- I think you were asked some questions about the

1 admission process.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You talk about an example of a child being brought into
4 the hospital and that the records seem to completely
5 disappear?

6 A. There were no records for him. I mean, there were --
7 I think Dr Pilkington had them, but there were no
8 records -- because part of my training was I was
9 supposed to do a case study on a child and that was one
10 of the things asking: where are the notes. Each ward
11 should have had like a filing cabinet and the notes of
12 exactly why -- when the child was there, where they came
13 from, what their condition was. But they were never,
14 ever there. And they were under lock and key. Anything
15 that was. And you needed to -- I think you would have
16 needed to contact God to get the key to that to find out
17 what was in those files. That was the nuns' territory
18 and nobody was going near it.

19 Even the nun that I did like, 'Why can't we?', and
20 her response to me at that time was that I would do
21 a placement at the Deaconess Hospital, it's a general,
22 and I could do a case study there, that all their files
23 would be freely available. There was too much private
24 information on the files at St Joseph's, which I didn't
25 understand.

1 Q. When you say they were under lock and key, do you know
2 where they were kept under lock and key?

3 A. In the -- well, she wasn't matron, Sister Roselee, that
4 was the head nun, in her office.

5 Q. I would like to go back and ask you about some aspects
6 of day-to-day care, going back to page 9 and
7 paragraph 55. You talk about the children lining up at
8 the sinks and waiting to be washed. You say:
9 'There was one face cloth and one toothbrush.'

10 A. Yes. This was every ward, exactly the same. They lined
11 up and there would be usually either one of you or two
12 of you, one at one sink and one at the other sink and
13 each kid came and you just wiped their face, wiped their
14 hands, quickly brush, no toothpaste, and off they would
15 go.

16 LADY SMITH: How many children would there usually be?

17 A. It would vary from ward to ward. I would say maybe
18 again 20 per ward or maybe more.

19 LADY SMITH: One face cloth for 20 children?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 LADY SMITH: And no toothpaste?

22 A. And no towels. No towel. When they had a bath, we had
23 towels, but no towels. Face washed and not dried.
24 There were times when we would be told that there was no
25 hot water, so you would just fill the sink and it was

1 the same, just wet the cloth in the sink, wash their
2 face, wash their hands, off they would go.

3 MS INNES: What about bath time? How often did that happen?

4 A. Once a week, and that was like -- so one day you would
5 maybe ... say on a Wednesday, that would be a certain
6 group, one side of the dormitory, they would have their
7 bath and then maybe on the Saturday, the other half
8 would have a bath.

9 Q. Was the bath in a sort of enclosed cubicle where it
10 would be private?

11 A. They were, yes. In each ward it was different. Like in
12 the ward where the children, the girls and the boys,
13 there were two baths in the one cubicle. So side by
14 side. So there'd be two nurses in with a child in each
15 bath.

16 Q. If we go to page 11 again and to the bottom of that
17 page, at paragraph 69, you talk about meal times and you
18 say.

19 'For breakfast, it was a thick gooey porridge and
20 cups of tea. There was never a choice.'

21 A. Never.

22 Q. Then you say if any of the boys didn't eat the porridge,
23 the Sister who was in charge of the ward would strap
24 them to the chair?

25 A. And that was the one -- yes, now, there were some of the

1 children where you had to sort of hold them because they
2 couldn't feed themselves and it would just be the hands
3 into it. There was some -- the one where the children
4 were hyperactive, they were her children, that's how she
5 felt about them. They were her children. She knew how
6 to look after them. Nobody else did. She had done what
7 she did with them from they first came to her, so there
8 was no telling her anything different. There was no,
9 you know -- I know I irritated her because I kept making
10 faces as she kept telling me, 'What are you pulling
11 faces at?' And I just -- the breakfast, the porridge
12 they were served was disgusting and the way she would do
13 it. I mean, I watched her once scoop it off the table
14 and in and then she would put the tea towels round their
15 arms and then shovel it in.

16 Q. Can we scroll up slightly, please, on to page 12. You
17 say there that she would force feed them by holding
18 their mouths open with her hands and putting the food
19 in.

20 '[She] would use tea towels knotted together to tie
21 the boys to the chair.'

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. When you're talking about towels over their arms, is
24 that what you mean?

25 A. Well, she would put one sort of big one round them and

1 then sometimes get -- if they could still get their
2 hands, put them down and then tie them that way, like,
3 through the back.

4 Q. Why was it that she was tying them to the chair?

5 A. Sorry?

6 Q. Why was it that she was tying them to the chair?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Why?

9 A. Oh, why, was she tying -- so that they wouldn't sort
10 of -- just that they were still enough for her to do
11 what she wanted to do, and then she would hold their
12 head like that, at the back. She'd be behind and do it
13 that way.

14 Q. You're indicating that she would be standing behind them
15 and holding their jaw with her hand?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. While she was feeding them from behind essentially?

18 A. Yes, and she felt she had the right to do that, because
19 they were her children and she genuinely did believe
20 that, that she was good to them, that they were her
21 children and that they loved her and if I loved her as
22 much as they loved her and as much as other nurses in --
23 at St Joseph's loved her, I'd be fine. But instead
24 I just sat about and played with them and was lazy and
25 I didn't like her and she didn't like me, so -- and she

1 didn't like the children that liked me. It was --
2 I mean, I was 18 and I would say she was in her 40s. It
3 was very, very childish behaviour. Childish enough for
4 me to be slightly frightened of her.

5 Q. If we go down this page, page 12, to paragraph 74, you
6 mention the school and you mentioned that a moment ago
7 in your evidence. You say:
8 'Once the new school was built, the children started
9 going there after breakfast.'

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. Can you remember the school opening?

12 A. Yes. It opened and it was fantastic and the children
13 would sort of run out the door and run down the road and
14 they were out and it was free and run and I'd run with
15 them and they just -- it was lay teachers then and they
16 just would come from -- be there and be outside to meet
17 them and it was all great, and as I say, like, they just
18 would go in, they would go into their wee classrooms and
19 do various things and -- that was it. On the wards and
20 things like that, they would do the thing of maybe you
21 would see it, constantly with your hands and pulling
22 a piece of string, that's boredom and that was trying to
23 point that out to a nun that that was boredom, that
24 that -- because I was being trained that if they were
25 doing that, that was a sign of absolute boredom and then

1 they rock and that you needed to make sure they had
2 something to stimulate them, stop the rocking and it all
3 just stopped automatically if you got them focused on
4 something else. As is still today, this treatment with
5 children with attention deficit -- you know that they
6 fall in love with an animal, anything like that, that's
7 how it should have been.

8 And the nun -- Sister KWA, was very into ... it
9 was an American system of behaviour modification, where
10 you congratulated a child, you praised them up, you gave
11 them a big hug and a kiss and 'well done', and constant,
12 constant praise, whereas the nuns were very
13 uncomfortable with that, because they weren't trained.
14 They were uncomfortable with that.

15 A lot of people were uncomfortable with that
16 actually. A lot of people would -- you had another
17 system where you could give a token as a reward, like
18 a little round token and then at the end of each week,
19 they could purchase something with the token, but
20 Sister KWA had said it was a more natural method
21 (indistinct) 'cause St Joseph's was meant to be their
22 home, so it was a more natural thing to say, you know,
23 'Well done'. Give them a hug and a kiss as you would do
24 with your own child. 'Well done'. Just praise.

25 Q. At paragraph 74, where you talk about the children going

1 to school, you say that some -- you said that some
2 children loved it but some of the children were
3 terrified?

4 A. Because they had never been outside.

5 Q. How do you know they'd never been outside?

6 A. I was told.

7 Q. By whom?

8 A. There were some people -- there were -- just never, ever
9 been outside the building. They'd come to St Joseph's,
10 were there and had never, ever been taken back out again
11 ever. There was a few in the geriatric ward who -- they
12 had been at St Joseph's and they'd never been outside
13 and to even get them to walk from the dormitory to the
14 bathroom was terrifying. Absolutely terrifying, 'cause
15 they only knew to go from the dormitory over to the
16 sitting room, to go that way, to go another way -- and
17 if they were blind or couldn't see, that was even worse.

18 And it turned out with some of the children that
19 they were actually blind and no one had noticed. These
20 were all things that were slowly beginning -- thanks to
21 the nun, Sister KWA, were beginning to change. She
22 was bringing in physiotherapists, other people who knew
23 more about these things and they were identifying these
24 problems.

25 Q. If we go on over the page to page 13, paragraph 78, you

1 say that the only children that would be allowed
2 outside -- over the page, page 13, paragraph 78:

3 'The only children that would be allowed outside to
4 play were the ones that could speak. They also had to
5 look normal in case anyone from the public saw them.'

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you explain that, please?

8 A. That was -- just that, that they did look normal. So if
9 anybody -- it was a long, winding drive and they liked
10 it to have a nice appearance and the nice appearance was
11 nice, normal looking children, not adults in nappies or
12 not anybody that was doing this with their hands or
13 behaving in any sort of normal way. They didn't get to
14 play outside very often. They didn't really have very
15 many things to play on or with and it was very much
16 a public -- people were frightened. The nuns
17 themselves -- there were parts of the hospital the nuns
18 wouldn't like to go to, because they were frightened.

19 When my own sister came to visit me, she was
20 frightened. She wouldn't --

21 Q. Frightened of what?

22 A. The patients, the people -- people like people to look
23 nice and look normal and if there's anything different
24 in them or they rock or they behave in any way different
25 or just shout out randomly, they don't like it. Even

1 now we don't like it if someone shouts out on the bus,
2 or ... you know?

3 Q. If we go down page 13 and at paragraph 81, you say
4 there:

5 'If one of the children had a cold they weren't
6 allowed to stay in bed. The nuns would sometimes give
7 the child a smack for having a messy nose.'

8 A. Yeah, as if they -- they did it on purpose, caught
9 a cold on purpose, but never, ever, ever were the
10 children allowed to stay in their beds and be ill.

11 Q. When you say 'a smack'; with the nuns' hand or
12 implement?

13 A. With their hands.

14 Q. And whereabouts would the child be --

15 A. Round the head and, you know, vicious, hard.

16 Q. If we move on to page 14 and paragraph 85, you have
17 mentioned this, I think, already in your evidence, that
18 you were moved to another ward. So a geriatric ward at
19 that point?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. This was from the Montini ward to another ward; is that
22 right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You think this was because you were asking too many
25 questions?

1 A. And at this stage, the other nun that had been brought
2 in, that was in charge of all the medications and things
3 like this, she was in charge of allocating where you
4 would go to each ward and where you would work. She did
5 not -- she was in love with me and she was upset that
6 I had met someone and really thought and kept saying to
7 me that I was going to leave and go with him and leave
8 her behind. And so she moved me to the geriatric ward,
9 for her that was -- so there you go, she was there
10 working and she thought to work in the geriatric ward
11 was a punishment. Whereas in fact I quite liked it.

12 I did not reciprocate the love that she was feeling.
13 Absolutely not.

14 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 15, and paragraph 96,
15 you talk about working one Christmas?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you remember when this was during your training?

18 A. Erm, I think this was about second year.

19 Q. What ward were you on at the time, can you remember?

20 A. I was working with the girls, the young girls.

21 Supposedly hyperactive, but they weren't as hyperactive
22 as the boys. I was working with them and there was
23 nothing. Nothing whatsoever that indicated it was
24 Christmas. Nothing at all. And also then there was
25 a few would go home for Christmas and they would come

1 back on Boxing Day. The Celtic Football Club would
2 come -- one of the girls was -- their parent was
3 involved with the Celtic -- they would all come back and
4 bring selection boxes, tea towels, records, things like
5 that and I can remember them arriving and thinking, what
6 is it and then going, 'Oh, my God, it's Christmas'.
7 There was nothing to indicate with the children.
8 I don't think the children actually really knew that it
9 was Christmas.

10 LADY SMITH: So are you saying there was no Christmas tree?

11 A. They did have a Christmas tree, because we went out and
12 cut it down in the forest, which I think the forest
13 actually belonged to Her Majesty, the Queen.

14 LADY SMITH: What about Christmas decorations?

15 A. We bought them ourselves.

16 We did a lot as nurses. We did -- for them, you
17 know, getting the Christmas tree. Buying decorations.
18 Doing little things, because most of the nuns would go
19 away for Christmas or they wouldn't be there, so they
20 didn't really know, you know, what we'd been up to and
21 a few were in the ward and I also worked with other
22 nurses in that ward that I got on well with and -- so we
23 did that ourselves, but the nuns took all the credit for
24 it. You know, when the children brought the Celtic
25 football team and stuff in to see the tree, they

1 of course went, 'Oh, it's magnificent, it looks great.
2 Who did this?', and the nuns went, 'Oh, we were up all
3 night doing it', you know, but --

4 MS INNES: If we move to page 16, paragraph 103, you say
5 there that Sister Patricia told you that if a child
6 didn't understand or make their first communion then
7 there was no need to bother with them.

8 A. Yes, 'cause in the eyes of God they wouldn't really --
9 they would end up the rest of their lives in purgatory,
10 never seeing God Almighty.

11 Q. Were the children in the hospital not moving forward to
12 their first communion?

13 A. No, no. I think the final -- the child that was
14 there -- that had Down's Syndrome, a wee boy, [REDACTED], he
15 was the first that was there with Sister KWA [REDACTED] and he
16 was really -- I wouldn't say experiment, but he was
17 certainly -- she was using treatments with him that had
18 come from America, where you would look at
19 Down's Syndrome, you'd put tin foil on their bed so
20 they're constantly, constantly stimulated, because they
21 needed it. He eventually was -- that was the plan, you
22 know, and that's what she said to me, maybe one day
23 he'll get to make his first communion, but the Catholic
24 Church believed that if a child -- they're known in
25 Irish, I don't know the word, but it translates as

1 'God's handicapped' and they're sent to test us from
2 God, to test us and how we care for them.

3 But in the Catholic Church itself, they would not
4 baptise them. They wouldn't let them make their first
5 communion or confirmation, things like that, and that
6 was the answer, that they would spend the rest of their
7 lives in purgatory. Away from God. Which doesn't make
8 sense really if you think about it, saying they're
9 'God's handicapped', you think they would be more likely
10 to get to spend time with him than we would.

11 Q. If we move down page 16, to page 104, you talk here
12 about some things that happened. You say at
13 paragraph 104:

14 'The nuns would lash out at the children and hit
15 them.'

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Can you tell us what you saw?

18 A. This was the nun that was in charge of the school. She
19 was quite new. She was very young and I think being
20 down there in the school, she was just sort of
21 establishing. I think that was the thing as well, that
22 you were aware that they were women like we were, but
23 they didn't have the same ... whereas we were with ...
24 we had each other, we had friendships, we could trust
25 each other. We could learn things from each other.

1 They didn't really, although she was young. She didn't
2 really -- they were all older. She was expected to know
3 all these things. She was not expected to have sort of
4 questions regarding -- the meaning of life for her was
5 that she was there to serve God and do God's work and it
6 was just down at the school and just coming across her
7 just really smacking and smacking this kid.

8 These children were so used to these sort of things
9 with a nun that that was it. You know, in sign language
10 that is good and that is bad (indicating) and if a nun
11 did that or anybody did that to a child, they would
12 immediately go down (indicating) and know what was
13 coming.

14 Q. You are saying that the nuns would make a sign to the
15 children that they were bad?

16 A. That's the sign, bold, bold (indicating) which is very
17 Irish, 'bold' meaning 'bad', so don't do that to
18 a hard-of-hearing person, it's not good.

19 LADY SMITH: Then the child would cower, I think that's what
20 you were showing us, is that right?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Expecting to be hit?

23 A. Yes.

24 MS INNES: At paragraph 105, you talk about one occasion
25 when you were helping a little boy and he had red marks

1 on his bottom.

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. One of the other staff said it was made by the bristles
4 of her brush?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What did you then realise had happened, did you think?

7 A. Well, it was the nun that we thought that did it, she
8 was new and she was older, but she just couldn't cope
9 with anything and she just kept saying, you know, so
10 Janet who I mentioned, this is now the nun, Sister,
11 KVB had gone from Montini and Janet was in
12 charge, big, big improvement and the children loved her
13 and I loved her. She was great.

14 And she felt that the marks on this child had come
15 from a hairbrush, but the nun kept saying to her, 'You
16 should just do this. You should smack him. You should
17 do this', and she said, 'We don't do that. We don't do
18 that'.

19 And we think that secretly she had gone off to get
20 control. That's what they thought, to get control, they
21 would -- but that was their condition. This is what was
22 wrong, you know? They were going to jump off and off
23 the beds. You just made sure it was safe for them to
24 jump off and on the beds. That's all you did, you know,
25 and that they didn't go swinging from the lights and if

1 they did, that it was safe for them to swing from the
2 lights.

3 Q. At paragraph 106, you say that if you were walking
4 around, you describe if children saw nuns they would run
5 away as fast as they could?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If they were walking around the hospital you would
8 sometimes come across a nun hitting a child when they
9 thought no one was looking?

10 A. Yep, quite right, and that was my biggest disappointment
11 where I --

12 Now, the children, if you were with the children and
13 they saw -- you would know that they'd seen somebody
14 coming, because they would run up -- well, with me and
15 they'd get in behind me and just sort of were rocking
16 and bang their head against me or something like that,
17 or just grab me and you would know and then they would
18 cover their heads.

19 And my biggest disappointment was finding
20 Sister KWA hitting a kid, well, she wasn't a kid,
21 she was older, . That was my biggest
22 disappointment, seeing her, and that's when I wanted to
23 leave. That was like the last straw for me really, you
24 know, this was one person that I never, ever -- that I
25 depended on so much to teach me the right things to do,

1 but fortunately then I had Janet, who was just
2 a wonderful, wonderful ward sister and who did leave
3 St Joseph's and go and continue to work with children
4 with special needs.

5 Q. If we go to the top of the next page, paragraph 107, you
6 talk there about the incident that you have just
7 mentioned?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say that she was walloping her again and again on
10 the face. You mentioned she was a bit older. Was she
11 under 18 or was she over 18?

12 A. Oh, she was under 18, yes.

13 Q. What was Sister KWA's reaction when she saw you?

14 A. Horror, and then she just turned it round and she said,
15 'Why is she out wandering the corridors?'. Things like
16 this, you know, but then that was sort of part -- her
17 training was giving sort of something to do,
18 making her feel like a big girl to go to another ward
19 and ask somebody a question or would be to do things
20 like would get them to go and get tea towels, which they
21 thought was great and that's where she was going, but
22 Sister KWA turned it round and said, 'Aye, you've
23 left her wandering the corridors. Anything could have
24 happened'.
25 You know, so it was wrong and it was my fault.

1 Q. Then in the next paragraph, you talk about punishment
2 for wetting the bed --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- and you give an example of that. Can you tell us
5 about that?
6 A. Yes. This was Sister KVB and that boy absolutely
7 idolised her, idolised her, and he had wet the bed and
8 she would regularly, on a regular basis, humiliate him.
9 He was about 14, 15, and knew that something sexual was
10 happening to him, but not able to sort of really
11 understand what an erection was and she would just
12 absolutely humiliate him and, you know, and he would
13 just want to hug her and kiss her all the time and
14 that's what she did to him, you know. But then when she
15 did leave and Janet took over, it all changed for him.
16 He was just so much happier, really, really was.
17 Q. If we go down this page, you talk about reporting what
18 was going on and the first person that you say that you
19 spoke to was the local priest?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. You say that you informed him about how the nuns were
22 treating the children?
23 A. Mm-hmm.
24 Q. What was his reaction to that?
25 A. Well, at this stage this is where I was in my third year

1 and I was really just thinking of -- I was getting more
2 and more depressed and thinking I would just leave.

3 I think if my mother had have still been alive
4 I would have left long before this and he just -- he
5 wasn't interested. He really, really wasn't interested,
6 you know, I think -- I think for him he saw white smoke
7 coming out of a chimney with his name on it, you know,
8 the next Pope, and he wasn't really interested in all
9 these silly women at St Joseph's and all this nonsense.

10 So he just come out with a very classic thing that
11 they tend to do like, 'Pray harder', like, my mother
12 would have lived if I'd have prayed harder, that was
13 sort of some of the teaching of some of them in the
14 Catholic Church, easy way to dismiss you. And he only
15 came up to the hospital to say Mass, to see the nuns and
16 that was sort of his lot, as I say, he was heading to
17 the Vatican if he had his way, which I think he did,
18 actually.

19 Q. At paragraph 111, you talk about speaking to a medical
20 tutor called Frank?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say this person came in to St Joseph's to do study
23 blocks?

24 A. Frank?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Yes. I was definitely ready to leave then and he just
2 kept saying: 'Stay, stay, stay, please stay, you're
3 going to pass your exams. You'll be qualified. You'll
4 be able to leave then', and that was sort of it. Then
5 I just thought, well, I'll get my qualifications and
6 leave, and I did.

7 Q. Did you tell him what --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- was happening?

10 A. Oh, yes. And I even suggested to him that he came to
11 a ward, just go to the ward, surprise element, you know,
12 or just wander the corridors and see what happens when
13 you're not expected, but he wasn't -- he was there, he
14 was a tutor and that was it. He didn't really want to
15 get involved in other things.

16 And then at that stage I just thought, okay, I have
17 a couple of months, sitting my exams, which is what
18 I did, and I was the only one that passed.

19 Q. Then if we go on, over the page, you tell us that once
20 you had your qualification, you left St Joseph's?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But then you say that you went back again?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. This time, at paragraph 114, to a job in the school?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say that, at paragraph 115, when you went back,
2 I think it should be 'Sister PUW'?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Rather than 'Sister PUW'?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Sister PUW was in charge, was that of the school or
9 generally at St Joseph's, do you know?

10 A. Yes, she was, and she was very young, but she was there
11 and then that was it.

12 I was only there for -- I was pregnant then with my
13 daughter and she was there. Again, she was, as I said,
14 new, had arrived, but at first -- and was still -- but
15 she had moved on. That was the big thing that I saw.
16 She was now going like that (indicating) and slapping
17 them round the head and stuff like that and didn't mix.
18 It was all lay teachers and she didn't mix with them.
19 She was -- I don't think she was qualified to do the
20 job, so she was intimidated by the other lay teachers
21 that were there, you know, because they would have been
22 aware that what she was doing could have been better and
23 she just didn't have the confidence to speak out, so it
24 came out in the wrong way, you know.

25 But the other lay teachers were there and the school

1 still had quite a nice atmosphere and the kids still
2 liked it, you know.

3 Q. Okay, so she was in charge of the school?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Was Sister KWA still there?

6 A. She was.

7 Q. Was she still in charge of the School of Nursing?

8 A. The School of Nursing, yes.

9 Q. Did you go back into the wards at all when you were
10 there?

11 A. No, I didn't go back. The only time I went up to
12 St Joseph's was to have lunch and that was the only
13 time, and I was happy enough with that, because I didn't
14 even have to acknowledge them, because I was working for
15 the Scottish education authorities. They had no say
16 over me. They had nothing to do with me. And then I
17 could more or less get the feeling that it was all sort
18 of much the same. There was new people there. I was --
19 and I was just glad I was only there for a matter of
20 months and I'd be leaving again and I'd be having my
21 first child, my only child.

22 Q. Just to give us a timescale in relation to this, when
23 was your daughter born?

24 A. 1976.

25 Q. You were there for a few months in the run-up to that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. We obviously know that you had a nursing qualification.

3 Why was it that you were working in a school?

4 A. Once I left St Joseph's, I did not want to continue on

5 in nursing. I had -- I had then, and I think still do,

6 have severe trust issues, because every person I was

7 getting attached to, trusting, believing in, was just

8 being -- wasn't working, you know, it wasn't the truth

9 and I kept thinking, you know, did they used to be

10 a nun?

11 Because so many had left and [REDACTED] had left,

12 but it was still there, within them. They were still

13 the same people, you know, and I think you can remove

14 the habit, and they're not wearing what they used to

15 wear, but they're still there and they're still nuns and

16 they're still living that institutional -- they

17 themselves, very institutionalised, and were still

18 institutionalised, you know, so it was given authority,

19 abused it, and I think would continue to do so.

20 Q. If we go on over the page, at page 19, paragraph 123,

21 you refer to some lessons to be learned from your

22 experience at St Joseph's and you say:

23 'I think that there should have been more training

24 for the nuns.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You talk about them not having qualifications?

2 A. I think also they should be given a choice in what they
3 would like to train as. You know, erm, [REDACTED] taught
4 in a school in London for years and then all of a sudden
5 she was moved to Edinburgh, to work with children that
6 were with mental deficiency. Still using the same old
7 words. She had no clue about it. She was shocked when
8 she arrived, that she went for a job and she was told
9 that she needed to have a Scottish Higher to work as
10 a teacher in schools here and she kept saying,
11 'Don't you know the Daughters of Charity? I worked for
12 them. I was a headmistress'.

13 She couldn't accept that -- and that's why they had
14 to clearly write her a letter and tell her that the
15 Daughters of Charity were not in charge of the education
16 system in Scotland and that she needed to get proper
17 training and qualifications. She felt she had them.

18 And I think when they -- if they're going to give up
19 their lives and enter a convent and want to do things,
20 the Daughters of Charity is giving to the poor, looking
21 after the poor, then they should be allowed to choose
22 where they want to go and be willing to do the
23 appropriate training and give their wages or whatever to
24 the convent, but to say to somebody, 'You're going to
25 work here and you're going to work here', it doesn't

1 work. It just fosters abuse and unhappiness, and
2 unhappiness, I think, just leads to sadness and secrets
3 and once you've got secrets, it's -- it just continues
4 and it comes out in a violent way, you know?

5 Q. You say at paragraph 124 that there should have been
6 more openness to allow checks?

7 A. Yes, yes. I would like to think that would happen now.
8 I hope it does. I definitely hope it does now, that
9 anybody can walk in at any time. I remember when I then
10 went to choose a nursery for my own daughter, it was --
11 I went to so many nurseries and walked in at the oddest
12 times, just to do a random check on them. I was so
13 suspicious, so suspicious. But fortunately they were
14 very nice to me. They tolerated me.

15 Q. Did you ever go back to -- or use your nursing training
16 after you left St Joseph's?

17 A. For a short while at Dingleton and then I didn't --
18 I worked with old people in the -- up at Bruntsfield,
19 around there, which I liked. I did like it. Big houses
20 again. There's a lot of big, scary houses in Scotland,
21 especially around Bruntsfield. But I did like that up
22 there and that was good and I enjoyed their company as
23 well.

24 MS INNES: I have got no more questions for you, Nuala,
25 unless Lady Smith does.

1 LADY SMITH: Nuala, I have no more questions either.

2 Thank you so much for engaging with us as willingly

3 and openly as you have done. It's really enabled me to

4 get a new, clearer picture of St Joseph's, which will

5 feed into our work. I have to say as something of

6 considerable value, having listened to you.

7 A. Thank you.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

9 I'm now able to let you go and you don't have to go

10 out to Bruntsfield and the scary houses, I can assure

11 you of that.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: Just before I rise, there are three names of

14 people whose identities are protected by my General

15 Restriction Order. Sister KVB, Sister KWA

16 and a person who was a child in care called, and

17 they mustn't be identified as referred to in our

18 evidence outside this room.

19 Now, if we stop for the break now, that should work

20 well, with the next witness ready to give evidence at

21 about 11.45 am or thereabouts, would that be correct?

22 MS INNES: Yes, thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 (11.27 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.45 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms McMillan, the next witness?

3 MS MCMILLAN: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The next witness

4 is Graham Stewart, my Lady. He was involved in the care

5 of the former residents of Algrade when they moved to

6 Wedderburn.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Graham Stewart (sworn)

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you for coming along this morning to help

10 us with your evidence. Is it all right if I call you

11 Graham?

12 A. Yeah, that's fine. Thanks.

13 LADY SMITH: If you prefer Mr Stewart that's fine by me.

14 Graham?

15 A. Graham's fine.

16 LADY SMITH: Well, Graham, there is a red folder on the desk

17 there and that contains your written statement.

18 I'm grateful to you for providing that in advance,

19 that's been really helpful to me. That, of course,

20 already sits as evidence to the Inquiry.

21 As has probably been explained to you, there are

22 some particular aspects of it we'd like to explore with

23 you this morning and that's what we're going to do next.

24 If at any time you have got any questions, please

25 don't hesitate to ask or if there are things you feel we

1 should be asking you that we're not doing, just say. If
2 you need a break, that's fine by me. I'm hopeful we'll
3 finish your evidence by the lunch break at 1 o'clock in
4 any event, but if you want a break before then, just say
5 or any other queries, don't hesitate to speak up.

6 A. Okay.

7 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms McMillan and she'll take
8 it from there, if that's all right? Thank you.

9 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

10 Questions by Ms McMillan

11 MS MCMILLAN: Good morning, Graham. Just before we start
12 your evidence fully, I do have some formalities to run
13 through.

14 Firstly, do you remember providing a statement to
15 the Inquiry?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. I think we have that at reference WIT-1-000001578, and
18 that should be on the screen in front of you and your
19 red folder.

20 Can I ask you firstly to look at the back page of
21 that statement. It is page 20. We can see that it's
22 dated 3 April this year and do you remember signing
23 that?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. Going back to the start of your statement then, you talk

1 in paragraphs 2 to 6 about your background. I think we
2 understand that you initially did an apprenticeship in
3 car mechanics?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. Then in 1982, you began as a nursing assistant at
6 Gogarburn Hospital?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. We understand that Gogarburn Hospital, was that a mental
9 institution, as what it would have been referred to back
10 then?

11 A. I think it was -- at the time it was people with mental
12 handicap was the term that was used. It's now learning
13 disabilities.

14 Q. That would have housed, I think, patients with
15 disabilities?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Did you work with any children there?

18 A. No, it was adults.

19 Q. Then in 1989, you tell us that you were seconded to work
20 with the Church of Scotland to start a residential
21 service for adults at Hawthornbrae?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. When you were seconded, I understand that you were still
24 employed by the Health Board at that time?

25 A. I was, yeah.

1 Q. Then in 1991, you became a Church of Scotland employee
2 on the Board of Social Responsibility, initially as
3 a support worker?
4 A. That's correct.
5 Q. Before going on to become a senior care worker?
6 A. That's correct, yeah.
7 Q. I think ultimately you were then promoted to an acting
8 manager at Wolfson House. I understand that that was
9 also a residential service for adults?
10 A. It was a residential service, yeah.
11 Q. Was it mostly for adults?
12 A. It was 14 adults, yeah.
13 Q. Then I think in 1996 you went on to manage the day
14 service at Wedderburn?
15 A. That's correct.
16 Q. It would be round that time that eight former residents
17 of Algrade, or Humble as it is also known, came to
18 Wedderburn?
19 A. That's correct, yeah. Yeah, they were external service
20 users that came from families. They were also -- you
21 know, they were included also with the actual service
22 users at Wedderburn, so they were kind of external.
23 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what do you mean by that?
24 A. Yeah, we had the 19 service users -- I think there was
25 22 service users at Wedderburn, but there was

1 an additional eight people came from families that were
2 also part of the service at Humble, but they just came
3 for a day service.

4 LADY SMITH: I see, thank you.

5 MS MCMILLAN: I think in your statement you still, at this
6 point, tell us that you -- you are now the Managing
7 Co-ordinator for People with Learning Disabilities in
8 Edinburgh and East Lothian.

9 A. That's correct, yeah.

10 Q. Moving on to page 2 of your statement, at paragraph 7,
11 you summarise there the qualifications that you have
12 gained since 1995, and the most recent being
13 a postgraduate degree in social service leadership?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Moving on to page 3 of your statement, you go on to tell
16 us at paragraph 8 that you initially had no experience
17 or qualifications in working with people with
18 disabilities, but you received further training from the
19 Church of Scotland.

20 When you say working with groups of people, you
21 say -- no experience with working with people with
22 disabilities, what sort of disabilities did the people
23 that you were working with have at that point?

24 A. They had learning disabilities and some, I think, may
25 have had some degree of physical disability as well, but

1 the main one was learning disabilities.

2 Q. Then you say at the end of that paragraph that you went
3 on courses 'on leadership, supervision and working with
4 groups of people'. Was there any particular focus for
5 people with learning disabilities or physical
6 disabilities at that point in the training?

7 A. Yeah, there was -- well, there was actually two --
8 I think if that was the start, when we started
9 Hawthornbrae, there was two weeks of training that we
10 had.

11 One was conducted by the Board of Social
12 Responsibility, their training department, and that was
13 really focused on kind of an introduction to the church,
14 some of the church values and the kind of church
15 processes and structures and things like that.

16 The second week was conducted by the health service.
17 I think it was a Pauline Kemp and Alistair Littlejohn
18 were the two key people and a lot of that was more
19 focused on, you know, kind of the health aspects, erm,
20 associated with some of the people that we were going to
21 be working with. Again, a lot of the focus on learning
22 disabilities, things maybe like epilepsy, things like
23 that, that, you know, were important for that -- those
24 particular group of people.

25 Q. Skipping on then to when you became involved with the

1 Humbie care home, or Algrade as it's also known, at
2 page 4 of your statement, you initially say that
3 Heather Lennox asked you to assist by seconding some of
4 your staff to work at Humbie to sort out some of the
5 issues there. Do you remember what those issues were?
6 A. I think it was -- I think the challenge was actually
7 providing -- because they had a lack of staff and they
8 needed some, you know, kind of staff, experienced staff,
9 to, you know, kind of really just to go in and start --
10 take over the service at that point. At that point, we
11 really didn't know really an awful lot about I suppose
12 the issues that were -- that become -- became apparent,
13 but it was really just about resource and making sure
14 that we had some sort of staff to take over and provide
15 a service at the Humbie service.
16 Q. When you were asked to provide a staff, were you aware
17 of the staffing levels at Humbie?
18 A. Only, I think, that there was very few staff. I think.
19 Heather at the time had said: look, you know, we're
20 taking over this service and there is very few kind of
21 Algrade or, you know, kind of Humbie staff there and
22 that we need to provide experienced staffing. I know --
23 I was aware I think that at that point they'd started to
24 recruit new staff, but it was staff with experience, you
25 know, that they could actually kind of -- they could go

1 to Humble fairly quickly and start to kind of try and
2 take over and stabilise the service there.

3 Q. When you say 'stabilise the service', was there
4 an element of urgency in you providing the staff?

5 A. I think, yeah, at that point there was an urgency, yeah.

6 Q. You go on in that paragraph to say that apparently the
7 registration and inspection services were reviewing
8 their position and were considering closing it. Were
9 you aware of why they wanted to close it?

10 A. Erm, I think -- probably -- at that point, no, probably
11 not, but then probably, as kind of time came on,
12 I probably became more aware of some of the issues
13 around Humble, but I think at that point when I first
14 got the phone call from Heather Lennox, I think probably
15 I wasn't aware that there was, you know -- about why,
16 that there was a threat of closure or any of the reasons
17 around that, but certainly I did become aware of that,
18 you know, as the time progressed.

19 Q. At this point, what was Heather Lennox's role?

20 A. Heather Lennox was an area manager, or, I think, her
21 title was Area Manager at the time, I think, for the
22 Board of Social Responsibility, so she was my direct
23 line manager.

24 Q. Turning over, we are moving on to page 5 of your
25 statement, you say at paragraph 16 that your

1 understanding is that Muriel Rainey and Heather Lennox
2 had realised that Humbie was in trouble and contacted
3 the trustees for Algrade Trust, probably because of
4 their connections to the local church. Was this, as far
5 as you were aware, a sort of voluntary reach out by
6 Muriel and Heather to Algrade?

7 A. Yes, I think they both -- erm, er, it was a case of them
8 reaching out. They understood I think that the service
9 at Humbie was under threat and, you know, it was about
10 reaching out to them. I think that there was quite
11 close links between the churches and I think that was
12 the initial reason for why they kind of contacted them
13 to do that.

14 Q. And what was Muriel Rainey's role?

15 A. Muriel Rainey had been -- she had worked for the Board
16 of Social Responsibility as -- she was responsible for
17 training. She's a training manager, training officer,
18 lead training officer for the church, but I think she
19 had retired or was in the process of retiring at that
20 point.

21 Q. But she and Heather stepped in to assist the
22 Algrade Trust then?

23 A. They contacted -- I believe that they had contacted the
24 Algrade Trust.

25 Q. Were you aware of who the trustees were when they were

1 offering to assist?

2 A. At that point, no. No, no.

3 Q. You say towards the end of that paragraph that you think
4 that the offer was welcomed initially:

5 '... but once the Church of Scotland staff were in
6 place and realised how bad the conditions were, I think
7 the relationship ... changed.'

8 Can you tell us more about that?

9 A. I just -- I believe that I think that, yeah, the
10 initial -- you know the approach and that reaching out
11 was very, you know, was, I think, was received very well
12 by Algrade, the trustees and I think that as Heather and
13 Muriel started to work and they got the experience from,
14 you know, in the service that, particularly around the
15 environment, I think, was a kind of a main issue, very
16 poor conditions. There was the lack of heating. There
17 was an issue, I believe, of things like dampness. There
18 was also an issue about food as well. There was a lot
19 of EEC surplus food that was resourced and was, you
20 know, tended to be used quite widely, you know, in terms
21 of giving people kind of food.

22 These sort of issues, I think, that they challenged
23 and I think those sort of challenges weren't taken very
24 well by the trust.

25 Q. Did they feed back to you at any point any concerns --

1 this is Heather and Muriel, sorry -- did they feed back
2 to you any concerns that they had about the conditions
3 that they had seen there?

4 A. Probably Heather would have in conversation with me.

5 Q. What about the staff that you provided to assist, did
6 you have any feedback from them about the conditions
7 they discovered?

8 A. I think the only thing that I can remember, you know,
9 I think was maybe conversations with staff about the --
10 I think maybe about the heat. The heating and also,
11 I think, I remember kind of stories about television,
12 you know not allowed to watch television, and if the
13 televisions were on, they were kind of -- they were
14 broadcasting satellite ministry work from America, but
15 that was I remember really the only kind of stories from
16 staff that came back. A lot of it was about the TV
17 issue, that people couldn't watch TV or terrestrial
18 television.

19 Q. It was prescribed programmes that were chosen for the
20 residents?

21 A. Yes. Yes.

22 Q. You talk about, at paragraph 18, of your statement, the
23 board of trustees changing. Were you aware of anything
24 to do with that process at all?

25 A. No. I think that -- I just knew that that had happened,

1 that there had been a change in trustees.

2 Q. Did you know why?

3 A. I believe that -- again, this is -- I believe that the

4 Charities Commission had reviewed the situation. There

5 was -- I think there was questions raised in Parliament

6 and the Charities Commission became involved and looked

7 at the finances and I think at that point I believe that

8 it was an outcome of the Charities Commission, a report

9 or recommendation that led to the change in trustees.

10 Again, that was just really -- I wasn't involved. I

11 mean, just I was aware that those sort of things were

12 happening.

13 Q. You mentioned I think in that paragraph someone by the

14 name of Betty Waugh and Mina. Did you understand those

15 two individuals to be trustees that had then been

16 removed or changed?

17 A. They were -- I mean, I'd heard them, you know, from both

18 Heather and staff and certainly service users, when

19 I actually started to work there and I met and became

20 involved with service users directly, I mean both --

21 Betty Waugh was the most talked about person and

22 I understood that she was a principal trustee or the

23 kind of major significant trustee for Algrade.

24 Q. We'll come on to talk about Betty Waugh in a bit more

25 detail later on in your evidence, but I think, just

1 moving on to page 6 of your statement, you tell us at
2 this point about your interactions with some of the
3 service users from Humble.

4 You talk about, at paragraph 21, doing
5 a person-centred planning when the residents had moved
6 over to Wedderburn?

7 A. Wedderburn.

8 Q. Could you tell us what that involved?

9 A. Yeah. We had commissioned a company called Scottish
10 Human Services and Scottish Human Services were key in
11 developing new, kinda, person-centred planning for
12 people with -- particularly with people with learning
13 disabilities, erm, and all our staff were trained in the
14 person-centred planning, you know, kind of process.

15 That involved, I think, two key things that we
16 looked at in terms of service users and managing the
17 transition from kinda Wedderburn House to their new
18 lives at -- which is the Eskmills service now and we
19 looked at the process of mapping and also paths. The
20 maps -- the mapping involved -- it was very kind of ...
21 quite innovative and different kind of type of, you
22 know, kind of support planning where we used large,
23 large, you know, kind of, sets, you know, kind of these
24 big, you know, kind of pieces of newsprint and we would
25 have them up against a wall and we would use graphics as

1 a way of describing, so we would not use kind of things
2 like text and words and paper and normal kind, you know,
3 techniques but we used a very graphical pictorial type
4 of approach.

5 The map would tell you a lot about the person, about
6 their history, things like their dreams, nightmares,
7 some of their aspirations and goals, whereas a path
8 would be -- it would be a kind of a technique that would
9 be used to move somebody, you know, to help them with
10 that transition to say where they were now, where they
11 wanted to be, where they wanted to be in five years'
12 time, how we were going to get them there. So that was
13 more about kind of the transition.

14 So it was two things and it was Scottish Human
15 Services, you know, kind of -- they conducted training
16 and all our staff to be able to take us through those,
17 to be able to kind of -- to start those -- to do that
18 planning with each of the service users that we had at
19 Wedderburn. And we did plans for each person in that
20 time.

21 Q. As part of those plans and paths or mapping, were the
22 residents involved in that?

23 A. Yes. They were central to every part, every plan that
24 we did and their families and significant people, family
25 members, you know, kind of friends, people that were

1 significant to them would be involved in that process as
2 well, and we did it -- a lot of the plans took place
3 either at Wedderburn or actually in some cases we
4 actually took that planning process to the family home
5 and we did that around the family.

6 LADY SMITH: When you say you took the planning process to
7 the family home, were you taking the documentary work
8 that you have been putting together or the pictorial
9 work?

10 A. Yeah, we did, we sat and I remember there was a family
11 in Barrhead. We went and we were out in the living room
12 floor with our pens and things and doing all that kind
13 of planning on the floor with the family and it was --
14 yeah, it was very enjoyable and very inclusive.
15 Everybody was really part of that, but primarily the
16 person themselves, the service user, was really the
17 person that was -- really it was all about that, and
18 I think that we found it a very good approach. Again,
19 it was very person-centred, very focused on the
20 individual and they felt part of that and the families
21 did as well so ...

22 LADY SMITH: That must have helped the families understand
23 where their relative was at that particular point of
24 time?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: In terms of, as you say, their thoughts, their
2 aspirations, their capabilities?
3 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.
4 LADY SMITH: Ms McMillan.
5 MS MCMILLAN: Now, in order to compose the planning paths
6 and the mapping for the former residents of Algrade, did
7 you have any information about the residents, such as
8 files, records, medical histories?
9 A. Very little. Very -- I didn't see any assessment work
10 or any kind of, you know, really, you know, planning
11 work at all for really -- for any of really the service
12 users that we had. They would maybe have things like
13 their birth certificates, passports, personal
14 information like that, but there was very few -- there
15 was very little clinical kind of, you know, assessment
16 work or, you know, that we had for anybody really from
17 Humble.
18 Q. I take it there was no care plans --
19 A. I was never aware of any care plans.
20 Q. The residents that came to Wedderburn from Algrade, what
21 ages were they, do you remember?
22 A. They were from -- I think mid-30s up to 40s and, you
23 know, in general, yeah, maybe early 50s, but I think
24 kind of like mid-30s to kind of, you know, kind of late
25 40s.

1 Q. Did you have any information about when they first went
2 to Algrade?

3 A. No. I think -- well, individually I think -- I was
4 aware that quite a few went as children, because I had
5 seen, you know, kind of photographs and I had seen them
6 as children running around Humble village, 'cause it was
7 originally, I think, there was a school and then there
8 was -- or there was a holiday village, I think, and then
9 it became a school and then it became a residential
10 service. So there was, I think -- I was aware that
11 I think quite a significant amount of the service users
12 actually came from the west of Scotland. They'd come
13 from Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and originally
14 came for holidays and some of that, you know, that
15 mapping that we did, with the families told us those
16 sort of stories, you know, how they actually came to the
17 service. But I wasn't really sure about exact ages, but
18 I was aware that people were very young.

19 Q. When you say that a lot of the residents came from the
20 Glasgow side, I understand that the Humble village is
21 Midlothian, so the opposite side almost of the country?

22 A. I think it's actually East Lothian, I think, yeah.

23 Q. East Lothian. We've got that beside -- so the opposite
24 side of the country, where some of the residents came
25 from?

1 A. Aye. People would come from the west of Scotland to go
2 to the east on holiday, and vice versa, so that was
3 I think, you know, why so many people from the west.

4 Q. You move on in your statement, on page 6, to talk about
5 the living conditions at Humbie. In fairness, you do
6 say that you have gained all of your knowledge from the
7 routine from service users and from the staff that had
8 been placed there.

9 At paragraph 24, you talk about the temperature in
10 the houses and indicate that there may have been
11 an electric fire with one bar, but every room was cold
12 and damp. I think you were talking about that earlier.
13 Was that the impression you got of the accommodation?

14 A. Yeah, that's what, I think, the service users said about
15 it and I think that was number one and if you asked them
16 what Humbie was like, they would say it was cold.

17 Q. Did you get the impression from the residents in that
18 response that they were often cold?

19 A. Yeah, they would say it was very cold, always cold.

20 Q. What about the furnishings in their houses, were you
21 aware of what furniture was there, did they ever talk
22 about that?

23 A. Erm, no. And because I hadn't actually worked there,
24 I didn't actually see, experience that, but I don't
25 think -- I think some people took a lot of personal

1 items, some of their personal items, maybe some
2 furnishings, to Wedderburn, to their bedrooms in
3 Wedderburn, but I wasn't aware really about how Humbie
4 was furnished at all.

5 I did hear about the one-bar electric fires that
6 were in the houses. Staff or service users would tell
7 me that, about the heating.

8 Q. What would they say?

9 A. They would say, I think, that there was -- I think these
10 small electric fires that they had. That's all they had
11 to heat their houses and I think as well, I think that
12 apparently that Betty's -- Betty Waugh's house had --
13 was the only house that had central heating, that they
14 would tell me that, yeah.

15 Q. Then I think you go on at paragraph 25 to talk about the
16 television that the residents were allowed to watch. We
17 covered that earlier, but was it your understanding that
18 the residents didn't have any choice over what they
19 watched on the television?

20 A. I think that was from staff -- I think that was -- yeah,
21 from the staff, when the first staff went up to work
22 there, that's what they said, they came back with that
23 about they weren't able to watch TV and if it was TV
24 there, it was just these ministry broadcasts that they
25 were watching.

1 Q. Moving on, you talk about the daily routine and you
2 mention at paragraph 26 that the male service users
3 spent a lot of time outside doing different activities.
4 Do you know what those activities were?

5 A. Erm, I don't. I think they did some gardening. I think
6 there was gardening work that was done. And there was
7 walks. I'm not sure about any other one specific to
8 that. There was, I think, art. I think there was art
9 activities that were as well, that were available there
10 as well. There was an artist that was involved there.

11 Q. Was there art activities for both male and female
12 residents?

13 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure on that.

14 Q. Again, you talk about the female service users typically
15 spending more time inside doing craft activities?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did the residents that you were dealing with, did they
18 ever tell you what sort of activities those were?

19 A. Laundry. Some of the (indistinct) and the female, you
20 know, service users, would tell me about the laundry
21 regime and who would be involved in the laundry.

22 Q. Can you remember what she told you?

23 A. It was -- there was [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and
24 [REDACTED] were the three who were involved in the laundry,
25 and they would often talk about that, about doing, you

1 know, kind of -- fluffing towels and, you know, kind of
2 doing clothes, you know, kind of sorting out the clothes
3 and things. They were quite proud of that, that
4 actually they worked in the laundry.

5 Q. Was this the clothes and towels for the full of Algrade?

6 A. I don't know. I'm not sure whether they actually had
7 individual laundry areas in each of the houses or
8 whether there was a central laundry, I'm not sure, but
9 they did talk about a laundry.

10 Q. Did they ever talk about if they got any sort of wages
11 for doing the laundry?

12 A. No. They -- I didn't hear about any wages, although
13 some of the females worked in the cafe at Pathhead and
14 I think they did -- they were paid or they talked about
15 getting a payment.

16 Q. Do you know how much they were paid or anything more
17 about that?

18 A. The only thing -- again, this is one of the things
19 that -- from Humble to Wedderburn, that there was a £5
20 or service users got £5 on a Thursday. This was quite
21 a thing that they liked having a £5, and it had to be
22 a £5 note, every Thursday and people would line up at
23 the office to get their £5 notes and I think that was
24 a practice that was inherited from Humble, and it had
25 been going on for some time, so whether that was the

1 payment, I don't know, but this went on for quite
2 a while at Wedderburn and I remember we tried to kind of
3 introduce different things and, you know, you can get
4 more money than £5, but no, it had to be a £5 note.

5 Q. You say that was £5 every Thursday?

6 A. Every Thursday, yeah.

7 Q. Did you get the impression from these discussions that
8 the residents of Humble were required to help out on the
9 site?

10 A. Maybe some -- the outdoor, because there was, I think --
11 they did quite a lot of work with [REDACTED], who was
12 a kind of handyman/gardener and he did some sort of
13 work, you know, wee gardening work and I know that some
14 people were involved in that and that continued as well
15 when we came to Wedderburn as well, that kind of outside
16 work.

17 There was maybe -- I think maybe [REDACTED] or
18 [REDACTED] would be involved, I can remember those
19 people, you know, kind of doing that kind of work with
20 [REDACTED].

21 Q. You talked about obviously the ladies being quite proud
22 of their work in the laundry. Did you get that same
23 impression from those people that were talking about the
24 outside work?

25 A. I think -- [REDACTED], I think he enjoyed working with [REDACTED].

1 I think he enjoyed that work out in the garden. I'm not
2 sure about [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] tended to be -- he kind of
3 liked to be, you know, kind of outside anyway, but he
4 tended to be on his own. He was one -- as a person that
5 would always be around, but he would be, you know, kind
6 of like, you know, out in the field and be looking --
7 he'd be watching to see what everybody was doing but he
8 would be apart. So I don't actually know how involved
9 he was in the activities.

10 Q. You talked about the cafe at Pathhead and that some
11 people worked in there. Were you aware of how they came
12 to get that role?

13 A. No. The only thing that they were probably more able
14 I think in terms of the very kind of very mild
15 disabilities and they would probably be more able to
16 kind of carry out the tasks of working in a cafe.

17 Q. Did you perhaps get the impression that they were
18 selected to do that because they appeared to be more
19 able?

20 A. Yes, yeah. There was only a certain -- it was only
21 specific people that were allowed to do that.

22 Q. Did any of those people who had worked in the cafe, did
23 they pass any comments about what their experiences were
24 like there?

25 A. They enjoyed it. I think they enjoyed the work. They

1 enjoyed -- as I said, they said they got paid and they
2 enjoyed dressing ... they had a kind of uniform,
3 tartans, I think they wore tartan -- the females wore
4 tartan skirts, an outfit, and the men wore kind of
5 a tartan tie and they just -- they liked, you know, kind
6 of -- they saw that as a job, you know. And I think
7 they were -- I think the people that worked in the cafe
8 had a higher degree of responsibility in the service.
9 So they enjoyed their kind of status.

10 Q. When you say a higher degree of responsibility, what
11 sort of things would they do?

12 A. Well, I think when the staff first went to -- I believe
13 when the staff first went to Humble, the people that had
14 the keys weren't staff. The keys were held by some of
15 the more able service users that were working at
16 Humble -- working in the cafe.

17 Q. When you say the keys, what were the keys for?

18 A. Keys for the houses, keys for anything that was locked.
19 They would have control of the keys.

20 Q. They would have control of the keys but the staff didn't
21 have control of the keys?

22 A. Yep, that's correct, yeah.

23 Q. Were they quite proud of the ability or were they proud
24 of the fact that they had the keys, staff didn't and
25 this sort of higher status?

1 A. Yes, yes, they did, they were proud of that. Some
2 people as well made -- certainly feedback from some
3 service users found that they were quite bossy as well,
4 that they saw themselves as staff members.

5 Q. Was there any more detail provided with that feedback?

6 A. I just remember really kind of conversations with some
7 service users about some of the people. I mean, there
8 was like [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
9 I think [REDACTED] were the four people that were
10 involved in the cafe and, yeah, and I think people saw
11 them as kind of, you know, as having a higher level, you
12 know, authority, you know, and would -- there was a bit
13 of respect I think, you know, between the rest of the
14 service user group and them, there was a distinction
15 really.

16 Q. Moving on in your statement away from work and towards
17 education, at paragraph 31 you talk about someone called
18 Jean Macrae who developed the school and, I think,
19 taught some of the classes in there.

20 You say that everybody talked fondly of her and that
21 she was obviously a positive influence for a lot of
22 people. How did you come to that impression?

23 A. That came out in the person-centred plans, when people
24 talked about their kind of journeys, their kind of --
25 their histories, I think quite -- I mean, quite a lot of

1 the plans actually Jean's name was mentioned, you know,
2 and about people's experience at school and the
3 difference that she made and just I think that there was
4 a kind of an understanding that I think when she died
5 very suddenly, that things changed, you know, that the
6 professionalism, you know, kind of was lost, or the same
7 level of professionalism, and the vision as well changed
8 as well, from one which was a very teaching,
9 professional, you know, kind of vision from one which
10 was more aligned to the evangelical mission of the
11 trustees.

12 Q. Did you get from the service users in composing the
13 plans that they had a sort of good educational basis
14 with Jean Macrae, that had gone when she passed away?

15 A. Yes, aye, yep.

16 Q. Did the residents ever talk about what happened at
17 school or schooling at all?

18 A. Erm, they may have done, I can't remember.

19 Q. We've touched on the houses during the course of this
20 morning, but how many separate houses were there at
21 Humbie, were you aware of that at all?

22 A. I can't -- I don't think I can really -- 'cause I was
23 never actually on site but I'm familiar with, you know,
24 the material that I read prior to actually being
25 interviewed as part of this process, so I was aware of

1 them. There was maybe about five houses. I'm not sure.
2 I can remember Sharon and Harmony and there was a Rose
3 Cottage as well, I can't remember. Sorry.
4 LADY SMITH: Graham, I think you have seen the video --
5 A. I have.
6 LADY SMITH: -- about Humble as well?
7 A. Yes. I saw that at the time when it was actually
8 broadcast, and then obviously --
9 LADY SMITH: That was before you got involved?
10 A. Yes.
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
12 MS MCMILLAN: Was it your understanding that the female
13 residents and the male residents were living in separate
14 accommodation?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. And that the staff stayed on site as well with the
17 residents?
18 A. I believe they did, yeah.
19 Q. Moving on to paragraph 37 of your statement, at page 9,
20 you indicate that you were aware that external
21 inspections had taken place. Are you able to tell us
22 anything more about the inspections?
23 A. Not actually so much about the inspections at Humble,
24 but certainly I worked with Judy Moss and
25 Sandra Jamieson at Wedderburn, they were very much about

1 making sure that we were working to the right standards
2 when we started the service and were very supportive in
3 helping us to kind of manage that, 'cause it was such
4 a kind of traumatic transition for people moving from
5 Humbie to Wedderburn and the very kind of emergency,
6 temporary nature as well of Wedderburn. It wasn't
7 ideal.

8 And they were very much supportive and, you know,
9 worked with us, but I wasn't really kind of aware of,
10 you know, the inspections that they carried out at
11 Humbie, although I kind of -- I think I got the feeling
12 that the environmental issues were -- that the board had
13 raised, you know, were actually acknowledged by the
14 registration officers.

15 Q. The registration officers that you have mentioned there,
16 were they people that had gone to Humbie to carry out
17 those inspections?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. They were keen that when the residents moved from Humbie
20 to Wedderburn, there was a high standard of care?

21 A. Yes, they did, yeah.

22 Q. If we can turn now to paragraphs 39 to 41 of your
23 statement, on page 10. We can see there that you tell
24 us that there were about 32 residents when the Church of
25 Scotland took over Humbie and when you moved out, 22 or

1 23 of the residents came to Wedderburn.

2 You indicate that I think some of the residents went
3 back to their families. Did you know why that was?

4 A. I don't know whether that was -- just kind of maybe --
5 there was quite of kind of a controversy at the time,
6 a lot of controversy around, especially after the
7 Frontline Scotland programme and whether there was --
8 you know, that was a reaction to that, but I knew that
9 there was some families were very angry as well ...
10 well, obviously that was highlighted as well in the
11 programme, they were very angry about the trust and what
12 had happened at Humble and I assumed that maybe some
13 other families were -- took the same sort of view as
14 well.

15 Q. Were you aware directly of any of the families' anger?

16 A. Not personally. We did get, when we did the planning --
17 we did ... you know, there was a lot and I must say,
18 probably when we looked at histories and, you know, some
19 families had regained contact at that point for some
20 time and there was a lot of -- I would have said
21 probably a lot of sharing of guilt from family members.
22 Maybe some anger.

23 Q. When you were again engaging with the families, was the
24 Frontline documentary ever mentioned?

25 A. Maybe a couple of times, yeah. I mean, at that point it

1 was quite -- I think quite recent and it -- it was --
2 there was a lot of talk around that programme, so they
3 may well have mentioned that. I know staff generally
4 and people did mention the programme quite a lot.

5 Q. When you say there was a lot of talk around the
6 programme, was that in a more negative light?

7 A. Well, certainly it put the Humble in a very negative
8 light.

9 Q. What were the staff's impression of the documentary?

10 A. I think -- the staff themselves were quite supportive.
11 I think that there was some staff that had come over
12 from the Humble, that were Humble -- Algrade employees,
13 maybe were a bit more defensive, you know, and again
14 some of the service users as well were also quite --
15 were a wee bit, you know, defensive as well and, you
16 know, keen to kind of say: 'Look, it wasn't all bad. We
17 had really good -- there were some good experiences, you
18 know, life wasn't all bad'. You know, so there was --
19 sometimes people were keen to kind of put a bit of
20 balance into the -- when they were confronted with the
21 programme.

22 Q. You mentioned there about some of the staff that had
23 moved from Humble as well over to Wedderburn and you go
24 on to talk about this in your statement at paragraph 43.
25 You mention someone called Anne Fleming, who became

1 your co-ordinator and you say that she was aware of some
2 of the issues at Humbie and was very open about the poor
3 conditions and although she worked at Humbie, she knew
4 it was outdated.

5 Are you able to go into a bit more detail about
6 that?

7 A. I think I worked with Anne for, you know, quite a number
8 of years actually since really I came in 1996, so I had
9 quite a lot of conversations with Anne and I think Anne
10 and her family lived at Humbie but a lot of the other
11 staff -- I believe they kind -- the staff at Humbie
12 were -- they came to work there. They weren't local, so
13 Anne was kind of local.

14 And, I think, Anne, I think -- I don't know whether
15 maybe, you know -- I don't know, maybe felt a bit guilty
16 or embarrassed about, you know, because she felt she had
17 been part of that, you know, kind of process, but
18 I think I had always found Anne to be very in terms
19 of -- she was, you know, professionalism's a high
20 standard really and, you know, she had the value -- you
21 know, she had the right attitudes and values in terms
22 of, you know, service users and always, you know,
23 I think worked really hard to try to promote choice and,
24 you know, kind of, you know, inclusion and things like
25 that.

1 But I just think she did feel maybe a wee bit kind
2 of, you know, guilt about her past association with the
3 service there.

4 Q. Did you get the impression from her that the caring
5 model that they had employed in Humble was perhaps
6 outdated?

7 A. Outdated, yeah. I mean Anne would, I think, she would
8 say that -- I think, again -- I think Anne was maybe
9 aware that when -- there was a shift that I think things
10 had started off with a very positive, you know, kind of
11 vision for the service at Humble and things had got out
12 of control and I think maybe, you know, again pointing
13 to the loss of Jean Macrae.

14 Q. The staff in general that worked at Humble, I understand
15 that there were paid employees but also it ran on the
16 basis of a number of volunteers as well?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You go on in your statement then to talk about moving
19 out of Humble at page 12, paragraph 47. I think we have
20 already talked about that being quite a quick move,
21 because the conditions --

22 A. The conditions.

23 Q. -- weren't satisfactory or in fact very poor?

24 A. It was just before Christmas and people were free -- you
25 know, it was so cold. Dampness was a real issue and

1 they were really -- they had to move very quickly and
2 Wedderburn became available, so --

3 Q. You go on to talk about an advocacy group that was
4 involved around that time called People First. What was
5 their role?

6 A. I think we had -- I know that [REDACTED] and
7 [REDACTED] were involved in that group, maybe
8 [REDACTED] as well. But they were focused on
9 I think, you know, supporting ex-service users and again
10 in terms of -- not directly involved with people, you
11 know, in terms of what they had discussed, but it was --
12 I believe it was a forum to look to -- for people to
13 share their experiences and to talk about some of their
14 feelings around the kind of move and around Humble.

15 Q. Were these people that were running that advocacy group,
16 were they external to the Church of Scotland?

17 A. They were external. People First was an external group.

18 Q. How often did they come into Wedderburn?

19 A. They were external. I don't remember them actually
20 coming into Wedderburn. I think they met externally to
21 that. I can remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] going to
22 People First groups, but I don't -- I can't -- if they
23 did, I can't remember them coming to Wedderburn.

24 Q. Was your understanding that they were providing support
25 then due to the upheaval of the move?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You go on at paragraph 50 of your statement, on page 13,
3 to say that by the time that you were posted at
4 Wedderburn, the service users from Humble had been there
5 for around six months. You say that the morale seemed
6 to be very good by then because of the activities they
7 were doing in the community, having money, shopping and
8 the links to colleges, the atmosphere was good.

9 Can you provide a bit more detail about that?

10 A. Yeah, I think that we did have a lot of -- there was
11 a lot of an emphasis in actually getting people involved
12 in the community. I think we acknowledged, I think,
13 that Humble, while it was a community, it was isolated,
14 everybody came to the service, so things like GPs and
15 chiropodists and things like that came, and people
16 didn't get the opportunity to go, you know, to kind of
17 access -- you know activities and things like, you know,
18 going shopping, that they didn't have that opportunity.

19 So we tried to reverse that and give them the
20 opportunity to kind of, you know, to go out and things
21 like food shopping, you know, buying personal clothing,
22 go on holidays, getting involved in things like the
23 Jewel and Esk Valley College, at the Milton campus and
24 also at Eskbank as well. We managed to get various kind
25 of classes and educational opportunities for them there.

1 In terms of -- I think fitness as well. We had worked
2 with Queen Margaret University, or College it was at the
3 time, and people went over to the Cramond campus and we
4 did, you know, kind of swimming and things like that.

5 We had -- we had a drama group that was set up at
6 Wedderburn and we put on things like pantomimes,
7 different productions and things. They relocated the
8 art group from Humble to Wedderburn and they were able
9 to continue that, so a lot of these things that people
10 were involved in.

11 It was just, you know, it was just really trying to
12 kind of, you know, kind of -- to give people choice,
13 opportunity and some of the things that they didn't have
14 that at Humble. We tried to reverse that, so it was
15 a lot of that -- although it was kind of an emergency
16 and it wasn't ideal, you know, I think we took up,
17 I think, one wing of the Wedderburn House, one wing was
18 kind of condemned, but -- and we had things like games
19 days as well, where Colin Robertson, our artist, put
20 on -- we had games events and barbecues and things like
21 that, that people were involved in. So it was a good
22 time, you know, in terms of morale and people, you know,
23 enjoyed really, you know, kind of those sort of
24 opportunities.

25 Q. How did the residents respond?

1 A. They did. They really -- I think -- yeah, they -- they
2 responded to that really well, I think, yeah. I think
3 some people maybe had a wee bit of reluctance,
4 especially maybe initially when the church kind of came
5 over. I think, you know, they certainly, you know, when
6 they kind of saw what we were doing and the kind of
7 things we offered and we supported them and they really
8 embraced that.

9 Q. You had mentioned there about choice and in particular
10 about buying clothes. What did you understand the
11 residents to be wearing when they were at Humble, was it
12 their own clothes, personal clothes?

13 A. Probably because I never actually saw them at Humble,
14 I didn't really kind of know what they were wearing, but
15 I understand that maybe some of the kind of fashions or
16 the clothes that they had were, you know, quite
17 traditional, older -- old-fashioned sort of clothing.
18 I don't know whether they had -- if there was communal
19 clothing at all.

20 I mean, as far as I was aware, people had their own
21 clothing, but of more of a traditional -- certainly
22 going by as well the kind of uniforms that they had at
23 the cafe at Pathhead were very kind of traditional.

24 LADY SMITH: Graham, you spoke of how much the service users
25 appreciated the £5 on a Thursday. I think they got that

1 certainly once they moved to Wedderburn. Do you know
2 where the money came from to give them the £5 on
3 a Thursday?

4 A. Well, they would have had -- certainly at Wedderburn,
5 they would have had their benefits.

6 LADY SMITH: I wondered about that.

7 A. They would have had their benefits certainly at
8 Wedderburn. As I say I don't know -- they would have --
9 I know that the DWP would have been paying people
10 benefits at Humbie. I'm not sure where the money at
11 Humbie came from.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MCMILLAN: You move on to talk about, at paragraph 55 of
14 your statement, you say it was an innovative method when
15 you were looking at those person-centred files and that
16 is the sort of thing that we were talking about earlier,
17 about looking for the path and the maps.

18 Was it the intention at Wedderburn that perhaps some
19 of the residents would be able to live on their own,
20 outwith a residential setting?

21 A. Erm, yes, there was some people that were able to do
22 that and actually did that. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were
23 able to move into their own shared tenancy. Minimal
24 support package, I think they both had a very small
25 package of care, more or less about sort of like

1 providing tenancy support to them, whereas other people
2 had full, you know, kind of more substantial packages of
3 care.

4 But I think part of that kind of planning as well,
5 because people were largely -- the accommodation that
6 they moved to was shared accommodation so there was
7 a lot about that planning work that we were looking at,
8 you know, people, you know, that were going to be living
9 that were compatible in terms of living with each other.
10 So we looked at kind of who was going into each sort of
11 house and sometimes that was largely defined by --
12 because if people lived together at Humble, then, you
13 know, that quite followed that they would want to kind
14 of live together in the new service. That wasn't always
15 the case, but, you know, kind of -- we did that kind of
16 work there.

17 Q. Were you sort of managing the personal relationships of
18 the residents to ensure that they were placed beside the
19 people that they wanted to --

20 A. Yes, uh-huh, that was key, I think actually when we were
21 at that kind of transition, you know, that people were
22 moving to live with people that they wanted to live with
23 and they were happy living and they were compatible
24 with.

25 Q. Moving on, you talk about the awareness of abuse at

1 Humbie. At paragraphs 56 to 59 of your statement, were
2 you aware at all of investigations into sexual abuse?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did your awareness come from the residents?

5 A. No, it would probably come from staff or the manager.

6 Q. I think you had mentioned at this point in your
7 statement that you were careful not to discuss some of
8 those things with the residents. Why was that?

9 A. I think because I think emotions are quite high at the
10 time. There was -- you know, we were aware that
11 a number of people had made, you know, disclosures of
12 abuse and that there was an assessment process going on,
13 that -- you know, to kind of decide who could
14 potentially give evidence. Some people weren't, you
15 know, assessed as being able to, you know --
16 testamentary capacity or had testamentary capacity, some
17 people were. So there was difference in kind of -- we
18 were aware that there was a kind of a tension around
19 that, I think, around particularly the male service
20 users.

21 There was a lot of, I think, anticipation as well,
22 because people were being prepared to give evidence and
23 coached. There was a lot of coaching going on, even
24 actually where some of our service users were actually
25 taken up to court and given -- familiarised with the

1 environment and they were, you know, they were ready to
2 give evidence and they didn't get that opportunity and
3 that was a huge -- I think for some people was kind of
4 very, very difficult, you know, that they didn't get
5 their chance to -- in court to say their say, sort of
6 thing. So there was a lot of that going on and we were
7 aware that there was a lot of, I think, professional
8 support for those individuals. So we didn't want to
9 kind of -- and, you know, I -- you know, I was very
10 careful not to be intruding on that and to be leading
11 anyone.

12 I think maybe sometimes maybe some service -- would
13 share with me their frustrations, but I can't remember
14 individual situations about that, but it was very
15 difficult.

16 LADY SMITH: Of course, the reason they didn't give evidence
17 was that there was a plea of guilty --

18 A. That's correct, I believe that was the case.

19 LADY SMITH: -- to multiple charges.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: It meant on one view they were relieved of the
22 stress of giving evidence --

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 LADY SMITH: -- and the uncertainty as to whether they would
25 be believed or not.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: But the person who was blamed was accepting
3 that the things that were said to have happened had
4 happened?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Was that explained to them, do you know?

7 A. I wasn't involved in any of these discussions, but
8 I believe that they were. That was explained to them.
9 There was a lot of care and support around that from
10 professionals, clinical psychologists, I think, at the
11 time, to do that and to look at that -- you know, to
12 deal with that result.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

14 MS MCMILLAN: Other than the sexual abuse at Humbie, you go
15 on to talk at paragraph 58 about a particular user that
16 you think got a bit of a hard time. You say at
17 paragraph 58 that you believe he would have had
18 a difficult time at Humbie. You mention that he was
19 a jovial character and would have no doubt rebelled
20 against Betty Waugh and the regime.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. What gave you the impression that he would have got
23 a bit of a hard time?

24 A. I think feedback from people that knew him, from some of
25 the staff that knew [REDACTED] and I think his general

1 character as well that he was, you know, at Wedderburn
2 he was, you know, he was quite a character and he would
3 be somebody that would actually challenge if there was
4 anything that he felt was unfair, you know, he would
5 challenge that and I think he did -- I think the
6 incident with the fish -- the rotten fish he did tell
7 people, you know, that that had happened.

8 Q. When you say the incident with the rotten fish, I think
9 we see in paragraph 59 that he confirmed that he had
10 been made to stand outside in his underwear in a tub of
11 rotten fish because he had been heard to say the Rosary?

12 A. Yeah, he did tell people that, that that had happened to
13 him. I think as well he had spoken to me about that as
14 well.

15 Q. Did he say how often that happened?

16 A. I think it was only the one occasion, I think,
17 I believe.

18 LADY SMITH: He said who had made him do that?

19 A. Betty Waugh.

20 LADY SMITH: Did he tell you that?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS MCMILLAN: Did he say what age he was when this happened?

24 A. Erm, no, he didn't, no.

25 Q. In paragraph 59 you say a lot of service users cowered

1 and were obviously fearful of Betty Waugh when they
2 heard any mention of her name. What response did you
3 get from the service users about Betty Waugh?

4 A. There was a lot of, I think, fear and apprehension when
5 you mentioned Betty Waugh's name, generally, you know,
6 in terms of the service user group. Some people, you
7 know, had a more balanced view, but I think generally
8 I think, you know, she was somebody that was -- I think
9 carried a lot of I think kind of fear. Some were
10 very -- if you kind of said Betty Waugh's name, people
11 kind of cowered down, were very fearful of her.

12 Q. Did they ever say why they were fearful?

13 A. Erm ... I can't remember any individual situation to be
14 fair, to be honest, about any individual situation
15 really. I think it's just, I think that she was known
16 to be the boss and she was, you know -- in terms of she
17 ran, you know, the service there and I think people
18 were, you know, were quite fearful of her.

19 Q. Other than the incident with the rotten fish, the
20 service user being asked to stand in a tub of rotten
21 fish, were you aware of any other forms of punishment
22 that happened at Humble?

23 A. No, I think that was the only situation that I remember.

24 Q. You go on in your statement to talk about the criminal
25 proceedings that we have been mentioning this afternoon.

1 At paragraph 64, you talk about the conversation
2 that you had with Anne Fleming and I think she indicated
3 to you that she believed that the service users could
4 possibly have influenced behaviours and relationships
5 and blurred lines between what was acceptable and what
6 wasn't, and what was normal friendship and what crossed
7 the line into inappropriate behaviour.

8 Did she tell you anything more about that or how she
9 came to that impression?

10 A. No, I think that was just a recollection to kind of
11 maybe some discussions that we had had around that kind
12 of issue and I think as a team as well, we were aware at
13 the time at Wedderburn that, you know, kind of I suppose
14 growing up in a single-sex, single-gender kind of
15 environment that, you know, it's very, I think,
16 difficult for people to see, you know, the differences,
17 kind of boundaries between what's acceptable and what's
18 not acceptable in terms of relationships, you know, and
19 whether some people might see as a behaviour as being
20 something that maybe at the time that they had actually
21 enjoyed, and then suddenly finding out that that's
22 something that was bad, you know, we were aware of that,
23 I think. Maybe some people maybe had a kind of a kind
24 of conflict.

25 I think that, you know -- I think that -- I think

1 that was a remark that Anne made about -- particularly
2 about PSB, although she was appalled by, you
3 know -- you know, the abuse, the accusations of abuse,
4 but she said that he was a very vulnerable person. And
5 she knew him, she worked alongside him, and he was very
6 vulnerable and, you know, that he did have, you know,
7 a kind of -- there was mitigating -- in terms of his
8 mental health, there were kind of issues.

9 LADY SMITH: I take it from you having mentioned this, that
10 Anne Fleming was also indicating that there was no
11 guidance being given to the residents as to how to
12 behave differently, and yet there was this risk that
13 they wouldn't behave appropriately?

14 A. Yeah. I think -- I'm not sure how she was involved and
15 whether she actually knew about this or some of the
16 behaviours, I think this was after the event and, you
17 know, I think it's not just maybe about Anne, there was
18 that kind of acknowledgement that after, you know, that
19 some of the -- you know, about these experiences and the
20 difference in, you know, kind of how people experience
21 things, you know, kind of ...

22 LADY SMITH: Would it be fair to say that in the case of the
23 house where the activities were taking place that led to
24 the prosecution and conviction, any responsible person
25 running that place should have known --

1 A. Oh, they should have known.

2 LADY SMITH: -- what was going on and should have addressed

3 it appropriately --

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: -- and urgently.

6 A. Yes.

7 I mean, in defence of Anne, I'm quite sure that Anne

8 did not know that that was happening and I certainly

9 never from any staff member that we employed knew that

10 that was happening. I believe, I think, that a lot of

11 the -- came overnight in the male house, so they

12 wouldn't have known it was, you know, after the

13 disclosures were made.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MCMILLAN: Moving on from the abuse you talk about at

16 paragraph 69, about helping the Inquiry and the lessons

17 to be learned.

18 You say at paragraph 69:

19 'There is no doubt that people with learning

20 disabilities who have been abused in care as a child or

21 in lifelong care, that their human rights have been

22 affected. It affects their outlook and restricts the

23 choices they can make in life. It can be very difficult

24 for them to be seen as an individual.'

25 What did you mean when you said it could be

1 difficult for them to be seen as an individual?

2 A. I think because they're kind of held back by that
3 experience and I think it's probably difficult for them
4 to kind of move forward. I think that was one of the
5 things that we tried to do really was the change, you
6 know, in terms of that kind of transition between
7 that -- the service at Humble to the new lives kind of
8 at Wedderburn and Eskmills was to try to be aware of
9 that, that those sort of experiences didn't, you know,
10 kind of -- that they didn't actually, you know,
11 permanently affect their kind of lives and their
12 opportunities.

13 I think I would probably say that over the years
14 I mean that's 30 years that people I think -- I've seen
15 people -- most of our -- unfortunately we only have four
16 former service users now in the service at Eskmills, but
17 I've seen people, you know, that progressed and
18 developed, you know, as people, you know, over that kind
19 of time. But we were very aware that these experiences
20 didn't really have that, you know -- you know, life-long
21 lasting effect for them, that they're able to move
22 forward.

23 Q. I think finally, Graham, you say at paragraph 74:

24 'The main lessons to be learned to protect children
25 in the future is that there should be no secrecy and

1 children shouldn't be hidden away. If it is suspected
2 a child is being hidden away then red flags should fly.'

3 You go on to say:

4 'Staff sit down with the person and look at the
5 person and their background and experiences. It is
6 reinforcing that empathetic approach.'

7 I can take from that, that that's from your
8 experience, these are some of the things that you should
9 be concerned about, for example, if a child is being
10 hidden away?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. It allows the secrets to flourish?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. When you talk about that empathetic approach, that's
15 very much driven on a person-centred basis?

16 A. Yes.

17 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, Graham. I don't have any further
18 questions for you.

19 LADY SMITH: Graham, I don't have any further questions
20 either, but I'm really grateful to you for having come
21 today to give oral evidence to expand on what you'd
22 already given us in writing. It's been so helpful to
23 have that added to the evidence I have about Algrade.
24 Thank you.

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: You are now free to go.

2 A. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the lunch break, four names
5 which we've used during the evidence which identify
6 people who are protected, whose identities are protected
7 by my General Restriction Order and they are: [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and PSB [REDACTED],
9 they're not to be identified outside this room as having
10 been referred to in our evidence.

11 Otherwise, I'll now rise for the lunch break and
12 I'll sit again at 2 o'clock to take evidence at that
13 stage via a Webex link.

14 Thank you very much.

15 (1.04 pm)

16 (The luncheon adjournment)

17 (2.00 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

19 I think we have the next witness ready on the Webex;
20 is that correct?

21 MS MCMILLAN: Yes, my Lady.

22 Just before I formally call the next witness, it may
23 be helpful for your Ladyship to see briefly two
24 documents in respect of 'Steven's' convictions, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, if we can, yes.

1 MS MCMILLAN: The first document I'll refer to is reference
2 JUS-000000217.

3 LADY SMITH: Each of the charges, 1, 2, 3, 9, 11 have a very
4 obvious spelling mistake in them. Can we just go back?

5 MS MCMILLAN: I think there is a copy of the indictment as
6 well.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, there. It's not 'shamless', it's
8 'shameless'.

9 To which ones did he plead guilty?

10 MS MCMILLAN: My Lady, he pled guilty to charges 1, 3, 4, 5,
11 9 and 11. This all involved conduct at the Humbie
12 village and then two other charges that did not take
13 place on those premises, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Right.

15 MS MCMILLAN: Your Ladyship will see from the indictment
16 that the timeframe from the libel for the Algrade
17 conduct was between 1 September 1993 and
18 27 September 1994. All the offences were aggravated by
19 being in a position of responsibility.

20 LADY SMITH: Were all the complainers residents at Humbie?

21 MS MCMILLAN: Yes, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: But it was two of the charges related to
23 conduct outside the premises?

24 MS MCMILLAN: No, my Lady, sorry.

25 Five of the complainers were residents at Humbie and

1 the two other charges that were outside of Humble,
2 I'm afraid I don't have information on that, but it
3 doesn't appear to be the case that they were residents
4 of Algrade.

5 LADY SMITH: You'll understand why I was asking that,
6 because it would still be relevant to what we're
7 interested in.

8 MS MCMILLAN: Of course, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Very well. That's very helpful. Thank you.

10 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

11 I think, your Ladyship now having seen that, it's my
12 intention to formally call 'Steven' as a witness.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 'Steven', good afternoon.

15 A. Good afternoon.

16 LADY SMITH: Can you see me and can you hear me?

17 A. Yes, thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: Good. Let me introduce myself.

19 I'm Lady Smith and I Chair the Scottish Child Abuse
20 Inquiry here in Edinburgh.

21 First of all, I want to thank you for joining us
22 over the Webex link this afternoon to give evidence.

23 'Steven' (sworn)

24 (Via videolink)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', thank you for that.

1 You know that I've already got your written
2 statement, which is evidence before me, and it's been
3 really helpful to be able to prepare for today by
4 studying that in advance. Thank you very much for the
5 assistance you gave to us in providing that statement.

6 We won't go through it word for word today. Don't
7 worry about that. There's just some particular matters
8 that we'd like to explore with you, to help us get as
9 full a picture as we can of Algrade and what happened
10 there insofar as you can help us, because I know you do
11 know quite a bit about Algrade and that's why we're
12 interested in talking to you.

13 'Steven', if at any time you have any questions
14 please don't hesitate to ask them. If you don't
15 understand what we're asking, that's our fault, not
16 yours, so you just tell us.

17 If you want a break at any time, that's not
18 a problem. But you need to tell me if you need a break.
19 We may be finished with your evidence by 3 o'clock in
20 any event, I suspect we will. But if we haven't, I will
21 take a break at that point anyway, so you can bear that
22 in mind.

23 A. Okay, thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: Do you have any questions at the moment?

25 A. No, no. I'm fine, thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Okay. Well, I'll hand over to Ms McMillan and
2 she'll take it from there.

3 A. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Ms McMillan.

5 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

6 Questions by Ms McMillan

7 MS MCMILLAN: Good afternoon, 'Steven'.

8 A. Hello.

9 Q. Just before I start to take your evidence from you
10 today, there's just a formality that I need to go
11 through. I think you have your statement before you in
12 a folder?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. We can see just for the record that that is reference
15 WIT-1-000001581.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Could I ask you, 'Steven', to just look at the back page
18 of that statement, please.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. We can see that it's been signed by you and it is dated
21 14 April 2025; can you see that?

22 A. Sorry, I haven't got my other glasses on.

23 Yes, that's right. Thank you.

24 Q. No problem.

25 'Steven', just going through your statement, you

1 firstly tell us that you were born in 1958 and that you
2 left school, you initially worked in electronics where
3 you had an apprenticeship, is that right?

4 A. That's right, yes, uh-huh.

5 Q. Then after that, you began to work with the elderly?

6 A. Yes, yes. I had cleaning jobs in between, but, yes,
7 I worked with the elderly, yeah.

8 Q. Then once you had finished working with the elderly, did
9 you then take up a position working with the
10 Algrade Trust?

11 A. Yes, yes, yeah.

12 Q. That would be at the premises at Humble village?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. You go on in your statement at paragraph 2, to say that
15 the trust looked after vulnerable persons, the majority
16 were adults with learning difficulties, but it started
17 off as a children's village before you worked there?

18 A. Yes, yeah, before I worked there, probably quite a lot
19 of years before, I think they came in younger. By the
20 time I got there, there was some children, but a lot --
21 the biggest majority were coming up to adulthood, and
22 adults.

23 Q. Do you know what year it was that you went to work at
24 Algrade?

25 A. I can't remember. I can't remember. I know it was

1 about -- sorry.

2 Q. Sorry, I think you do say in your statement that it was
3 maybe from about 1986, at paragraph 6?

4 A. Yes, it was roughly that, yes. Roughly that, aye,
5 I just can't fully remember it.

6 Q. When you arrived there, were there any children there at
7 all at that time?

8 A. Yeah, if I remember rightly there was a few that the
9 headmistress used to look after and still did some
10 reading and stuff with them. Erm, but a lot of them
11 were in what they called the senior centre for ones that
12 are older.

13 Q. The headmistress, was that someone by the name of
14 Jean Macrae?

15 A. Yes, that was Jean Macrae. She used to be -- I think
16 she was a schoolteacher at one time and then her and the
17 other three ladies came together and started what was
18 called at that time the children's village. And then it
19 got changed to Algrade, once they start to grow up.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', am I right in thinking you must have
21 been in your late 30s when you went there, maybe about
22 38?

23 A. Yeah, yes, yes, uh-huh.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MCMILLAN: Just touching back on the -- you mentioned

1 that there were still children getting taught by the
2 headmistress, was this at a school on the premises?

3 A. No, it was in a prefabricated -- it was just a small,
4 prefabricated building that Jean Macrae used to sit in
5 there and do -- what's it's called, the woodwork, that
6 you write on woodwork, she used to sit and do that.
7 I only saw usually -- if anything, I saw about two of
8 them with her at the time, I didn't see much of that at
9 all, really.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', forgive me, I've just put the wrong
11 age dates to you and I've worked out you were 38 when
12 you finished your time at Algrade but you must have been
13 late 20s, about 28 when you started there, would that
14 fit?

15 A. It doesn't sound right, it doesn't sound -- I thought
16 I was older than that.

17 LADY SMITH: Well, if it was 1986 that you went there, you
18 wouldn't yet have had your 30th birthday.

19 A. Maybe -- sorry, I'm sorry --

20 LADY SMITH: A couple of years before your 30th birthday.

21 A. It would be, aye, yeah, I'm not too sure of the dates,
22 that's to be truthful. I'm not.

23 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, time flies, doesn't it? Thank
24 you.

25 A. Thank you.

1 MS MCMILLAN: You go on, 'Steven', to say that your first
2 impression of the Algrade Trust was a warm welcome at
3 the initial visit, do you remember that initial visit?
4 A. Yeah, what it was, was -- what it was, was, without
5 going into too much, I'd had a marriage break-up, my
6 wife had an affair, right, and a lot of things when
7 I stayed in the house I was in, erm, I got friendly with
8 some people and they ended up, what's the word
9 I'm looking for, damaging my house and I just wasn't in
10 a good state of mind and a couple that used to go to the
11 church that I was in told me about Algrade and they took
12 me to see them and really what happened was they sort of
13 said to me, 'Do you want to come here and stay?'.
14 So that's when -- I went there, but the first day
15 I went there I thought, yeah, at that time in the frame
16 of mind, I was looking for Christian love, ken, the way
17 my head was, erm, it was okay at the beginning, but
18 I didn't start off there to be there for residence,
19 I went to help in what they called the Christian video
20 work that Betty Waugh did, right. Her big thing was
21 Christian video and I did all the editing and stuff
22 there, so yes, yes, sorry to go back to your question,
23 yes, it was -- I did feel it at the beginning, yes, a
24 warmth from the place, yeah.
25 That was a long story. I'm sorry.

1 Q. Please don't apologise. Just then touching on some of
2 the stuff that you have said there, so you didn't apply
3 for a position at Algrade?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You were asked to come along to work on the Christian
6 video?

7 A. I got taken on for that reason and the fact that I was
8 a Christian.

9 Q. Who was it that took you on? Who was it that gave you
10 the job?

11 A. Betty Waugh. Betty, that was one of the ladies.

12 Q. Did she interview you at all?

13 A. No, she just -- I just went there with that couple and
14 I got shown round and then I just got asked if I wanted
15 to come and work in Algrade. That was it.

16 Q. I think you do go on to tell us at paragraph 6 of your
17 statement, very bottom of it, that you didn't have to
18 give any references, that you didn't have a probation
19 period and you didn't have any formal qualifications
20 really required for the role?

21 A. No, no, no. I'd worked with the elderly but I'd never
22 worked with people with learning difficulties, no, no.

23 Q. You said initially there that your first position was
24 editing or Christian videos?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. What were these videos for?

2 A. Well, it was like preachers, you know, messages and
3 music. I played the keyboards, so I used to edit music
4 and we used to give 'em out -- we didn't sell them, but
5 we gave them out to older people and things like that,
6 as charity, but most of my time was spent in a big
7 prefabricated building doing the editing and things like
8 that.

9 Q. When you went to take up the position, where did you
10 stay?

11 A. Well, I actually stayed -- I actually stayed in the
12 cottage, in the male cottage and sometimes I stayed
13 in -- well, that was later on, I stayed in -- the ladies
14 bought four houses in Pathhead, and sometimes -- they
15 said they gave it to me, but they didn't really. It was
16 just somewhere to stay on the odd nights, so I stayed
17 down there.

18 Q. Just breaking that down there, because we lost you
19 a little bit just because of the technology here --

20 A. Oh, sorry.

21 Q. -- you indicated that you'd stayed in a cottage with the
22 male residents and then you said something about the
23 ladies then having another place where you could stay?

24 A. The ladies -- they purchased -- they bought four houses
25 in the village down the road, right, and one of them,

1 they allowed me to go now and again to get a break,
2 because I never, ever had a break. So they let me stay
3 in there now and again. Is that okay?

4 Q. Thank you for that.

5 Just touching on the accommodation in general within
6 Humbie or the village, how many cottages were there, do
7 you remember?

8 A. Yes. There was one, two, three, four, five. Five
9 cottages, there was two male cottages and three female
10 cottages.

11 Q. Did all staff stay at the cottages with the residents?

12 A. Yeah. There was an old couple, an older couple, that
13 stayed with -- in the girls', in one of the girls'
14 cottages.

15 There was a teacher that stayed in the female
16 cottage.

17 The cottage at the bottom was just sometimes
18 a staff -- maybe -- how do I explain it to you now. If
19 a member -- if somebody came to stay, if Betty and that
20 asked them to stay, they would stay in that cottage.

21 And I stayed in the other male cottage.

22 But there was one cottage that was just two of the
23 elder girls stayed on their own.

24 Q. You mentioned that there were male and female cottages,
25 where the residents would stay. What about if there

1 were children, where would they stay?

2 A. Just in the same cottage.

3 Q. So if --

4 A. Same cottages.

5 Q. If there was a girl, they would stay with the females,

6 and if it was a boy, they would stay with the males?

7 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

8 Q. Just going back to your statement there, you had

9 mentioned, on page 1 of your statement, at paragraph 4:

10 'The culture of the Algrade Trust was that it was

11 very organised with a strong emphasis on Christian

12 values, which was over the top.'

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Can you tell us what you mean when you say it was over

15 the top?

16 A. Aye. I think what I meant by that, I'm looking at, is

17 it hindsight now, right, looking back on it and I think

18 what I mean by that is I don't think they were living,

19 at times, excuse me for saying it this way, in the real

20 world, right.

21 I think -- one of the things that we've already

22 talked about, was the fact of vetting, there was no

23 vetting or anything. But I think the other thing is, it

24 was like Algrade was like a mini heaven to them, you

25 know. The rest of the world weren't allowed in to do

1 anything, you know, and the residents I think were just
2 left at the stage they were in, because it suited the
3 establishment to do that, you know where I'm coming
4 from, sorry?

5 Q. I do. So when you say that the rest of the world wasn't
6 allowed in, were there regular visitors to the site?

7 A. Sometimes, on the odd occasion there was maybe
8 somebody's parents that came, and other Christians used
9 to come, but normally the Christians came because of the
10 video side, not so much the residents, right. So they
11 came and went all the time, you know, but there was
12 nobody I would say permanent that came all the time, no,
13 apart from, as I say, the parents, if they were taking
14 the residents home for respite, that was about it.

15 Q. You go on in your statement, I think, to expand on what
16 you're saying there at paragraph 5 on page 2, where you
17 say that you would describe the attitude of staff
18 towards the residents as not allowing the residents to
19 grow both physically and emotionally?

20 A. Yeah. You want me to explain that?

21 Q. Yes, please, if you could.

22 A. Right, what I sort of meant by that was the fact that as
23 I say looking back, I think I probably saw it then too,
24 but I was too nervous to say anything at the time, but
25 I would say that when you went into a resident's house,

1 like say the girls' house, all they ever did really was
2 maybe watch a wee bit of video or sit and do sewing and
3 in the male house, the boys' house it was really just
4 sitting watching The Sound of Music or something, right.

5 Whereas I think what I meant by it is the fact
6 I think they should have been able to go on more trips,
7 to see the world, if you know what I mean. I feel that
8 in some ways, I maybe shouldn't (indistinct) but I think
9 in some ways, right, I think that it suited the
10 establishment to keep them the way they were. It sounds
11 terrible, but that's true.

12 And I think what I mean by that is that when I look
13 back on it now, right, I think that the residents could
14 have had a lot more, what's the word I'm looking for,
15 a lot more opportunities to do other things, right. It
16 was the same when it was things like their clothes,
17 right. They often had like the Down's Syndrome, looking
18 like Down's Syndromes right and doing their own -- there
19 was a lady there that used to knit the tops for some of
20 the girls. But they should have been taken away to the
21 shops and to a high street and being able to live
22 a normal life, you know, and that didn't happen. That
23 didn't happen.

24 Q. You talk about some of -- well, I guess the lack of
25 choices that some of the residents had?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

2 Q. Moving to paragraph 7 of your statement, I think you had
3 mentioned the ladies, we've been talking about them this
4 afternoon.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. The ladies, you say, are Betty, Mina, Jean and Rosa. Do
7 I understand that they were the trustees of Algrade?

8 A. Yes, yes, yes.

9 Q. They were your line managers as well?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did they stay in the village as well?

12 A. They stayed in (audio breakdown) in the village, but as
13 you come up -- it's hard to explain the village. You
14 come up a hill and their cottage was the first one and
15 then you went up the hill a wee bit more, then the
16 rest -- it was like a big circle, like in a field, and
17 the cottages were around this circle, but their one was
18 just the first one as you come into the establishment.
19 That's where they stayed.

20 Q. You go on, on the next page of your statement, to talk
21 about the roles of each of these ladies.

22 You say at paragraph 9 that you didn't go to Mina
23 for much, why was that?

24 A. Well, Mina and Rosa, they opened up a coffee lounge in
25 Pathhead, so mostly during the day they were down at the

1 coffee lounge. So I didn't really -- you saw them maybe
2 at night when they come home or on the odd occasion, but
3 most of the time they were away from the school or away
4 from the establishment, so -- and Rosa sort of more
5 concentrated on the girl -- on the women and Mina and
6 Betty, or more Mina, she concentrated on the male
7 residents.

8 Betty was mostly -- Betty really was -- although
9 there was four of them, Betty was the sort of centre
10 one, right, the one that did the video work. But she
11 spent, apart from going down the coffee lounge, she
12 spent most of her time doing the video work and
13 satellite work and whatever, you know.

14 Q. You mentioned that two of the ladies would go to the
15 coffee house to work there and help out there and Betty
16 would work with the video work. Who was really in
17 charge of looking after the residents?

18 A. That's some question. Erm, I was burnt out because
19 there was like, how do I explain -- I wasn't always the
20 only one there, but I was certainly left in a lot of
21 charge, which, looking back, I couldn't cope with, but
22 there was an older woman, I think, if I remember it,
23 worked in the laundry, but I had to keep going to the
24 boys' place and check the woodwork room.

25 There normally was a member of staff in with the

1 girls doing their sewing, but that was it really. That
2 was it.

3 Q. Just touching back on Betty's role, you say in your
4 statement that she was the boss?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. How did you form that impression?

7 A. 'Cause I worked with her, right. Because I did the
8 video work, in a way I was like her number one man at
9 the time, which was a shame, but I was only one at the
10 time, right, so I knew her more than most of the staff
11 knew her, as far as a boss. But I also know the way
12 that the staff and the residents reacted to her and you
13 would know she was the boss, you know.

14 Q. When you say the way the staff and residents reacted to
15 her, were they scared of her?

16 A. The staff sometimes -- I mean, I admit it, she often had
17 me in tears, right, and I remember the older woman that
18 worked, the one I told you about, that was married, the
19 older one, I remember if Betty told her or gave her
20 a row and things like that, she'd be in tears too,
21 right.

22 As far as the residents go, I think they just had
23 a (indistinct) that that was Betty and take a telling
24 and that was it, you know. I never, ever saw Betty
25 being bad to them, but Betty didn't need to be bad to

1 people. She just needed to -- it was more psychological
2 with her, the way she did things.

3 An example, I never knew one day after another what
4 sort of mood she was going to be in. And if -- and if
5 you did something with Betty that she didn't like, then,
6 excuse the language, but you had hell to pay. She made
7 it difficult for you to be able to communicate and there
8 was many a time I went into my room, although I'm a man,
9 there was many a time I went into my bedroom and I burst
10 out crying, because I didn't know what I'd done, you
11 know. So a lot of it, it was mental than more physical.

12 Q. When you say that she made it difficult for you to
13 communicate with her, what sort of things would she do?

14 A. She just wouldn't speak to you, or -- I actually
15 remember a time where I was in the dining room and one
16 of the residents, one of the older men residents, knew
17 that Betty wasn't happy with me and the older resident
18 was nippy with me too because of it. So she had a way
19 of manipulating, that's the only way I can put it, you
20 know, and it had a thingmy effect on everybody, but
21 there's nothing people could do about it, because as
22 I say, she was the one in charge, you know.

23 Q. You have mentioned that you were her kind of like
24 right-hand man and she was almost your line manager, did
25 you feel that you could approach her if you had any

1 difficulties?

2 A. Well, I didn't really have any difficulties -- like, oh,
3 I did. I had difficulties and if it was small things,
4 I could tackle it myself. The only big difficulty I had
5 was -- can I say it -- it was my own offence, that was
6 the only difficulty I had, going to them and them
7 telling me that Jesus would fix it, I couldn't ...
8 that's my -- that was my biggest thingmy and before all
9 that happened, I was ready to leave, but my mind was
10 just so mixed up I didn't know where I was. Sorry,
11 that's the only way I can put it.

12 Q. That's helpful, 'Steven'.

13 Just going further in your statement, you do talk
14 about the leadership styles of the ladies and you say at
15 paragraph 10 that their style was to lead by faith only,
16 no matter what?

17 A. What do I mean by that?

18 Q. Yes, please.

19 A. I think what I meant by that was the fact that all the
20 time that I worked in Algrade, right, that I gave
21 an example, I'll not go into it again, where they said
22 Jesus would fix it. Their whole -- they believed that
23 God gave them Algrade and God gave them these residents,
24 right, and they also believed that nobody could harm
25 Algrade, because God was looking after us, Jesus or God,

1 right.

2 And as I think I've said in my statement before,
3 I remember at times when we knew that the Social Work
4 Department were going to be coming to check, everything
5 got changed quickly, right. And it made it look as if
6 everything was just running lovely and smooth and after
7 they went away, it just went back to the old school run
8 again, right.

9 So the -- they bought the residents about three or
10 four mopeds. I took one of them -- I took two of them
11 out once at one time, but after that, the only time
12 these mo -- mopeds -- sorry, I'm dry here -- the only
13 time these mopeds were brought out was when people like
14 the social workers were coming.

15 LADY SMITH: Are these the vehicles that you refer to in
16 your statement as 'scooters'?

17 A. Little mopeds, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: That's fine. I just wondered if the scooters
19 were in addition to the mopeds. I've got the picture.

20 A. Okay, thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MCMILLAN: Other than bringing out the scooters or the
23 mopeds for the social work visits, is there anything
24 else that really sticks out in your mind about some of
25 the other things they done to prepare for the visit?

1 A. Well, I suppose I think we made sure that the rooms in
2 the houses were tidier than normal, yes. I just always
3 had the feeling that -- I don't know, it was just a
4 feeling, but I always had the feeling that -- again,
5 this is only a feeling, right, that Algrade and the
6 social work, right, didn't agree with things, right.

7 I can see why now, when I look back, the Social Work
8 Department were there for safety, right, and again the
9 ladies -- and I keep saying this, but I don't think the
10 ladies were evil, but I think they were so stuck in
11 their beliefs that they thought that what they thought
12 was 100 per cent right and that was it, you know.

13 Q. You do say that in your statement that they wanted
14 things done their own way and they were adamant about
15 that, that's at paragraph 10.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Was it very much that they had a certain expectation of
18 the way things should be done and if they didn't, there
19 might be upset?

20 A. Well, I think Betty was quite a determined person too
21 and what she thought was right was right and that was
22 it, no matter what. But they really did have this thing
23 about things being -- I don't know if you'll understand,
24 but things being worldly, right.

25 In a way, we all lived like in a cocoon, right, and

1 it was a Christian cocoon, it wasn't -- to be honest
2 with you, hen, it wasn't even Christian at the end of
3 the day, right, as far as I'm concerned, right. It was
4 when I first started, but near the end it weren't, right
5 and as I say I'm not talking about what I did, because
6 that was totally wrong, but even other things that
7 went -- I don't know -- it just wasn't right. Just
8 wasn't right.

9 Q. When you say that there were other things towards the
10 end of your time that you didn't even think were
11 Christian, what sort of things are you talking about?

12 A. Well, I think -- when I say -- well, when I say I don't
13 think they were Christian. I think they were Christian
14 in their eyes, right, but I think, when I look back on
15 it now, right -- well, it's just things like as I say,
16 like the clothes side that I mentioned before.

17 The food -- now the food they got, I wouldn't say it
18 was like Oliver Twist, right, but it wasnae -- how do
19 I put it -- the person that cooked in the kitchen was
20 one of the older girls. She was about 25/30 at the
21 time, I think, and Mina or Betty used to just pop in
22 once the food was cooked, but a lot of the food I think
23 they could have had a lot more variety of food that they
24 got, you know.

25 I mean, when I first started there, I thought --

1 about Oliver, but I thought one of them was going to
2 say, 'Can I have more?', right, 'cause that's what it
3 was like, 'cause Betty used to stand at the bain-marie
4 at the top, right, and I'll tell ya, if Benry -- Benry
5 -- if Betty was in a funny mood, the whole place felt
6 it. That's the way that it was, you know.

7 Sorry, I'm talking too much maybe.

8 Q. No.

9 Moving just on then to where you talk about training
10 in your statement, so that's at page 4, paragraph 15.

11 You say that your training was on a day-to-day basis:

12 '... where I was training myself working in that
13 environment. It's not a very good way, but that's how
14 it was.'

15 I take it from that, that you didn't get any formal
16 training in how to --

17 A. None, none, no. You just -- when I went there, it
18 was -- you were just there, right. You just have to
19 learn as you go on. And to be fair, I think I should
20 have had more training, even me. Even though I worked
21 with the elderly, it's totally different, totally
22 different.

23 But, again, my emotional state and my mental state
24 wasn't great at the time either and when I was left with
25 a lot of things that I had to do myself, I struggled

1 with it. But, no, there was no formal training, no, no.

2 Q. Obviously you have mentioned there you worked with the

3 elderly --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- do I understand that the residents that were in

6 Algrade, some of them obviously had learning

7 disabilities?

8 A. Yes, yes. Yes.

9 Q. Did you feel like you needed more training to deal with

10 the needs of some of these residents?

11 A. Well, I think -- again in hindsight, I think it wouldn't

12 have been a bad thing for me to get training. I would

13 rather have had training before I even started there,

14 but, as I said to you, with my background and the things

15 that happened before, my marriage and everything, I just

16 needed somewhere to go at that time and to get help.

17 And I thought that's what I was going to be getting.

18 At times, the ladies -- like, the ladies, they bought me

19 a car. They bought me a new car, but usually what

20 I found about it was normally, if they gave you

21 something, it was for a reason to get something back.

22 That's the way I got it, you know.

23 You never got nothing -- again, looking in

24 hindsight, looking back on it -- you never really got

25 something ... selfishly, if you know what I mean. It

1 was usually something they wanted either done or
2 something back or something like that.

3 Q. You go on then, 'Steven', to talk about the residents
4 from paragraph 19 of your statement. Were you aware of
5 how the residents came to be placed at Algrade?

6 A. No, no. Because there wasn't a big turnover in Algrade.
7 And I think as far as I'm led to believe, I think a lot
8 of the residents were there when they were younger and
9 grew up. But as far as I know, as I said in my
10 statement, as far as I know, I believe that it would be
11 under -- like through the Social Work Department.

12 I have said in my statement here that, there is a
13 para -- number -- I have said in my statement that it's
14 to do with family, but I'm just guessing that, you know,
15 the family -- they must have something to do with it,
16 unless they worked with the social work.

17 LADY SMITH: I think it's paragraph 19, 'Steven'. Is that
18 the one?

19 A. Thank you. Yeah. Placed by family or social work.
20 I just know that the ordinary staff weren't involved in
21 anything like that, if somebody else was brought in.
22 But I'm guessing that -- well, I do believe the social
23 work would have something to do with it, right, and
24 possibly the family too.

25 MS MCMILLAN: You say that there wasn't a big turnover, was

1 there a lot of people that maybe left during your time?
2 Do you remember residents leaving?

3 A. No, no, no. I can't remember a lot leaving. We got the
4 odd respite care, the odd one where a family's going to
5 come on holidays, but it wasn't very much, it was few
6 and far between. The place was mostly concentrated on
7 the residents that were already there.

8 Q. Again, going further forward in your statement to
9 paragraph 22, I think you break down in that paragraph
10 about the age ranges, so you say that when -- during
11 your time the numbers stayed the same, the age range
12 differed, so the majority were 18 years or more, is that
13 your recollection?

14 A. That's what I remember, yeah, aye.

15 Q. Then you say that, I think referencing what we have been
16 talking about at the start, which is Jean Macrae looking
17 after some children, they were aged 7 to 10 years or
18 maybe older?

19 A. Yeah, yeah. To be honest with you, because it's been
20 that long, I can't remember the exact age, but I think
21 that was roughly what it was, yeah, yeah.

22 Q. In particular, those 7 to 10-year-olds, did they stay in
23 Humbie as well or were they just there during the day?

24 A. Yeah, yes, mm-hmm.

25 Q. Was there anyone who came during the day and went home

1 at night?

2 A. No, no, no. Not that I remember, no, that didn't
3 happen -- oh, sorry, sorry, I just remembered, there
4 was -- I'm just trying to remember now, there was
5 a couple that Betty -- knew them, and they had a young
6 Down's Syndrome child, but they lived as a family and
7 I can't remember if -- but they had their own cottage
8 out of Humble, right, and they came in during the day to
9 help Betty sometimes and brought the child with them,
10 but they went home again at night. That just came to my
11 head now.

12 Q. That family, they were like an exception to the rule in
13 that they would come for the day and then go home at
14 night?

15 A. Betty took a liking for the young child. That was her
16 favourite, so, yes. Yeah. Aye.

17 Q. When you say that that young child was her favourite,
18 did she treat that child differently?

19 A. I don't know. I think it was something to do with the
20 child -- the child had a heart murmur or something, or
21 something like that, I fully can't remember, but I do
22 know that she had a sort of deep thing in her heart for
23 that child and there was another resident, I think her
24 name was [REDACTED], but I can't remember fully, and she was
25 maybe in her 40s but she had heart murmurs as well and

1 Betty took a lot -- there were certain ones Betty took
2 more interest in than the other ones.

3 Q. You go on to say at paragraph 24 that the ratio of staff
4 or adults to resident was one adult to approximately
5 eight residents. Did you think that was enough?

6 A. No, now, looking no, definitely not. Not with that type
7 of resident, right. Like when I worked with the elderly
8 I think you could get away with it then, but when you're
9 working with people that need so much different things
10 in their lives, I think it should have had more
11 definitely.

12 Q. You say that today, looking back, there wasn't enough
13 staff. When you were working there with that number of
14 staff, did you feel it was enough then or could you have
15 had more staff to help?

16 A. Well, it was enough, but again to me it wasn't --
17 I'm trying to get the right words here -- it wasn't
18 letting the residents have full, how do I put it, full
19 capacity in life to do things, if you know what I mean.

20 The staff -- like at night the staff were really
21 just there to sit with them, that was all. Really
22 that's about all they did.

23 There just wasn't much -- there was not much
24 activity. Even in the summer at night, the residents
25 got outside but there was a big grassy bit so they could

1 stand about, they still werenae doing much, you know,
2 they could have been doing a lot more.

3 Q. You move on at paragraph 25 to talk about the food and
4 we have already covered that this afternoon, but you say
5 that there was a sort of older girl that was cooking the
6 food, was she --

7 A. Her name was [REDACTED].

8 Q. Was she treated differently from the other residents?

9 A. Yeah, Betty -- that was another favourite of Betty's,
10 right. I think it was maybe 'cause she worked in the
11 kitchen as well. But sometimes [REDACTED] was given too much
12 authority, you know, whereas she would tell the staff
13 what to do, right, and Betty would allow that to happen,
14 right, and I had a few flings with [REDACTED], just over my
15 authority about anything, you know, and if she went to
16 Betty, Betty would then go on at me and I would end up
17 crying. So that's the way it went there, that's just
18 the way it worked.

19 Q. We have previously heard evidence about some residents
20 having keys but staff not having keys.

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Is that something that in the context of [REDACTED] that
23 you're talking about in the kitchen, was she someone
24 that would have keys?

25 A. There wasn't any keys at all that I remember, right.

1 But [REDACTED] was given the authority just to really do what
2 she wanted in the establishment. But there was no
3 actual keys. You could lock the door from the side, but
4 there was no keys, not in the cottages.

5 Q. Turning to the next page of your statement, at
6 paragraph 27 you mention the washing and showering
7 facilities. You say that there was an open shower that
8 only showered one at a time and a bath.

9 A. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. Was there any privacy for the residents if they were
11 taking a shower or a bath?

12 A. Not really. The residents could just walk in. It was
13 a very, very old, old establishment and old cottages,
14 you know. It wasnae like what we've got now. I'm just
15 trying to picture it when you walked in. There
16 definitely was a bath and there was a shower. That was
17 it. That was all that was there.

18 Q. You go on to talk about sort of trips that the
19 residents -- you say that there was no informal trips
20 and the trips were planned and authorised by the
21 management?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Do you remember what sort of trips there were?

24 A. Yeah. If -- you know how I said to you before I did
25 video work, right, well, sometimes we were sent to other

1 parts of Scotland or England to film speakers for
2 Christian video, and on the odd occasion, a couple of
3 the elderly lads were taken with us, right.

4 But the only trips that I ever know about as far as
5 all the residents was sometimes in the afternoon they
6 would get us to take maybe some of the girls or some of
7 the boys down to the coffee lounge, right, but again
8 they just sat there and that's all they did, right.

9 Then at Christmas time, in Christmas time, there was
10 a place in Biggar that was like a holiday place and we
11 took them there for about two days on Christmas, and
12 that's all I remember them getting out properly, you
13 know, unless their parents came and took them out. That
14 was it.

15 Q. Touching on then the parents, did they often come and
16 take their family out or their child out?

17 A. Not a lot. Not that I remember it. It wasn't a lot.

18 On the odd occasion though they would maybe go away.

19 I think I had one of the male residents and I think he
20 went nearly every second week home to his parents and
21 came back again. Maybe went on the Friday and came back
22 on the Monday. That's all I remember there.

23 Q. Moving on to paragraph 40 of your statement, which is on
24 page 7, we've talked a wee bit about the living
25 arrangements. But you say in that paragraph that in the

1 winter, the management wanted you to use just one bar of
2 the electric fire in the male cottage --

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. -- the girls were allowed to use two bars and the
5 management's cottage was warm with central heating?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. What were the conditions like? Was it cold?

8 A. Cold's not the word, it was like Alaska, is that the
9 right word? It could be freezing there, it could be
10 freezing. There was sometimes we couldn't even get out
11 the village because of the snow, right. Now, they told
12 us to put one bar on, but I didn't do that. I put two
13 bars on, 'cause there was no way -- their bedrooms only
14 had a strip heater on in the bedrooms. They had hot
15 water bottles, but it was freezing, right.

16 So I just -- I used to get a row, but I used to just
17 put two bars on 'cause there's no way the old buildings
18 could heat up at all and I knew that the residents all
19 sat together in the living room, but I lost the head
20 because I thought it was totally wrong that the
21 residents should sit in one bar of a heater.

22 The girls' room was different. For some reason the
23 girls got treated a bit differently. I don't know what
24 it was, but they did.

25 Q. Just going back to the heating then, was this one bar

1 heater, was it in the living room of the cottages?

2 A. It was in the living room, yeah, yeah, yeah. That was
3 in the living room, yeah.

4 Q. What about the residents' bedrooms, what did they
5 have --

6 A. One bar. It was on the wall. There was a bar on the
7 wall.

8 Q. Did you get the impression that the residents were often
9 cold? Did they tell you?

10 A. Well, to be fair, they weren't people that would tell
11 you, you know, the poor souls, some of them just didn't
12 know any better, you know, at the end of the day. That
13 was up to management and staff to have -- sometimes you
14 had to think for them, you know, or guide them through
15 it, but the residents would just go to their bed, right.

16 They did get a hot water bottle, granted, but the
17 rooms themselves were freezing, you know.

18 Q. You then talk about the residents being left sometimes
19 without a member of staff overnight, that's at
20 paragraph 42. How often do you think that happened?

21 A. Not that often. Sometimes, as I said to you before,
22 sometimes I've had to go away for a week or a few days
23 to do the video work and I've got -- if I remember
24 rightly, the older member that used to live in the
25 cottage, the one that sort of looked after them in some

1 ways, he would be there. And sometimes they would have
2 somebody, they'd phone somebody up and ask them to come
3 and stay.

4 The way that the cottages were, the cottage I was in
5 needed somebody there, right. The male cottage at the
6 bottom was meant to be ones that were more independent.
7 They weren't really, but that's what they said and it
8 was the same with the girls' one. There was a girls'
9 one called -- there was a girls' cottage and there were
10 another girls' cottage at the bottom bit and the bottom
11 cottage in the bottom, that elderly couple stayed there
12 most of the time.

13 So it didn't happen an awful lot, but I think it did
14 happen now and again, yeah.

15 Q. The next part of your statement you talk about
16 discipline and punishment. You say that you weren't
17 aware of any physical discipline or punishment of the
18 residents or children, but you said that you might take
19 a resident to the cottage and sit down with them until
20 they calmed down.

21 Can you talk us through that?

22 A. Mm-hmm. Well, the only way I can explain it is if
23 I have been doing my rounds during the day and have
24 a look and maybe go into the woodwork room, it didn't
25 happen very often, right, but there were odd occasions

1 where maybe one resident argued with the other and it
2 came to a wee -- not a fisticuff, not like that, right,
3 but it was getting thingmy, and you never wanted them to
4 feel upset, because with people like that, with the
5 residents like that, it takes them sometimes a long time
6 to get over it, not like us, right.

7 So sometimes I would maybe say, right, come on with
8 me just now and we would maybe just walk about the place
9 and sometimes you didn't even have to talk to them, you
10 just had to be there for them, right. Then they'd go
11 back.

12 I never, ever saw any actual physical restraint.
13 I think most of the restraint in Algrade to be honest
14 was more emotional and mental than what it is physical.
15 Yeah.

16 Q. You go on to say that you didn't know of any formal
17 policy or conduct code in relation to discipline or
18 punishment. Was there anything like that?

19 A. No, I never knew of any books for that, for first aid,
20 for training, for anything. There was nothing like
21 that, that was formal, nothing.

22 Q. Does this mean then that if staff had reason to maybe
23 discipline a resident, that it would all have been done
24 differently, staff members maybe taking a different
25 approach?

1 A. Maybe, yeah, maybe. Aye. As I say, I wasn't there all
2 the time with them, so that's the way I dealt with it.
3 Even if somebody was in the house -- again, there
4 wisnae -- it didn't happen much. It really didn't, you
5 know, the residents ... I think the residents just got
6 to the stage that they would just sit there, you know,
7 and just sit and they talked to each other, but they
8 were like zombies, that's the only way I can put
9 something, 'cause they just sat.

10 As far as discipline goes, there wisnae much
11 discipline needed. You'd maybe get one of the odd ones
12 that like weren't Down's Syndrome, the odd ones that had
13 got a bit high, you know, but you often just had to sit
14 and talk to them or sit with them and they calmed down,
15 you know.

16 Q. On next page of your statement, as you've been telling
17 us this afternoon, you've never seen any physical
18 restraint being used --

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. -- on the children or the residents?

21 A. No.

22 Q. What about medication? Did you ever see that being
23 used?

24 A. No. I never even gave them paracetamol unless
25 I would -- what I would do is I'd normally would maybe

1 go down the hill and see if one of the ladies are there
2 or something and ask them. The only thing I might have
3 done sometimes if they had cut their wee fingers and
4 I gave them a wee plaster, but there was no -- I think
5 they had a wee first aid box in the laundry, but there
6 was no paperwork to say if anything happened to anybody.

7 Again, that was the establishment that would do
8 that, not us.

9 Q. What happened if a resident required medication, for
10 example they were prescribed something by the doctor,
11 who would ensure that they got their medication?

12 A. Well, I never ever gave them medication, but I could
13 imagine, I'm guessing this though, you know the older
14 lady I told you worked in the laundry and she worked in
15 the cottages, 'cause she was older and more mature that
16 way, they would probably get her to administer to
17 anybody that needed medication.

18 MS MCMILLAN: My Lady, I'm just about to start a new chapter
19 of evidence and I wonder if this might be an appropriate
20 point.

21 LADY SMITH: Maybe we should just take a short break.

22 'Steven', you may remember I said at the beginning
23 that I usually take a break around 3 o'clock, just
24 a short one and we're nearly at 3 o'clock now. Would it
25 work for you if we just had a pause now and then we'll

1 come back to the Webex after that?

2 A. That's fine. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 (3.00 pm)

5 (A short break)

6 (3.10 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Steven'. Are you ready for us

8 to carry on?

9 A. Yes, fine thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Ms McMillan.

12 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

13 'Steven', just picking up then from where we left

14 off before that short break. At paragraph 56 you talk

15 about the concerns about Algrade Trust and you say that:

16 'No one said anything ... directly about the

17 establishment being the subject of concern because of

18 the way in which residents were treated. However, I did

19 hear sometimes from other visitors, who knew the

20 establishment, not agreeing with how things were.'

21 Can you tell us what you heard from the other

22 visitors?

23 A. Well, I knew another couple, another Christian couple,

24 that I'd known for years and they sometimes came up to

25 Algrade and when I used to speak to them in their house,

1 if I ever met them in their house again, they just --
2 they disagreed with things. I think it was mostly to do
3 with how the residents weren't given the proper
4 capabilities to do things, so they disagreed with the
5 establishment about things like that.

6 But I have no doubt in my mind there probably would
7 have been others that haven't agreed but they've just
8 not said anything.

9 Q. Do you think that you could have said something if you
10 disagreed?

11 A. Oh, I think they could of, but I know that this
12 couple -- I've got a -- I'm sure they actually did say
13 something, but because Betty didn't like it, when they
14 did come to visit again, Betty gave them the cold
15 shoulder, so they eventually stopped coming to help out
16 with the residents.

17 Q. I think we have spoken about complaints really to Betty
18 earlier, but if the residents were to raise any concerns
19 about what was happening or how they were being treated,
20 how would they be received and who would deal with them?

21 A. I didn't very often hear them complaining to Betty and
22 that, 'cause I think the residents just took it that
23 what they were to do, they were to do, if you know what
24 I mean. I think it also depended on who the resident
25 was. As I say, they had -- Betty and them had

1 favourites, so I think it depended on what resident said
2 something to them.

3 And it was a shame, because some of the residents
4 that were maybe a lower grade, right, they couldn't say
5 very much as far as -- they could talk, I don't mean
6 that, but they didn't have the capability, if they had
7 a problem, to say anything, you know, and Betty just
8 sort of shrugged that aside really if that was to
9 happen, to what I remember.

10 MS MCMILLAN: My Lady, I'm just about to move on to the
11 questions about allegations of abuse. Now, there's no
12 specific allegations to put to this witness --

13 LADY SMITH: I didn't think there were.

14 MS MCMILLAN: -- but given the nature of the conviction and
15 the indictment, I don't know if your Ladyship still
16 wishes to give him a warning in any event.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', this may be more of a reassurance to
18 you. You'll be aware that you are likely to be asked
19 about the matters of which you were convicted and you've
20 referred to those already.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: You are not going to be asked about any other
23 allegations regarding you, all right.

24 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

25 LADY SMITH: But if you think you are being asked about

1 allegations regarding you and it's not something that
2 you were convicted of, you don't have to answer, unless
3 you want to do so.

4 A. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: You don't have to answer anything that would
6 incriminate you of anything of which you have not been
7 convicted, all right?

8 A. Okay. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: It's just simply you have the same protections
10 as you would have in a court, where if you were being
11 questioned on allegations and there had been no
12 conviction, you have a choice as to whether you answer
13 or not.

14 If you have got any doubts as we go through the
15 evidence, just speak up and ask again. Thank you.

16 A. Okay. Thank you.

17 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

18 'Steven', moving on to talk about abuse at Algrade,
19 you talk about this at paragraph 60 onwards in your
20 statement and you say that if something happened that
21 you thought was abuse, you had to tell the ladies who
22 managed Algrade. So I presume that's the ladies we've
23 been talking about?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You say that the women relied on and spoke of religious

1 beliefs and this dominated all principles within
2 Algrade. They couldn't imagine abuse happening because
3 Jesus was protecting Algrade.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Was that their response really if you reported anything
6 to them?

7 A. No, I went to them and I told them that I was
8 frightened -- this is before any abuse -- that I was
9 frightened because I was getting these feelings and
10 thoughts about the male adult residents that was there
11 and basically they just said to me to pray -- they sort
12 of shrugged it off me and said, 'Pray about it, Jesus
13 would not allow that to happen here', and that was the
14 only answer I got off them.

15 Q. When you say in that paragraph:

16 'If something happened that I thought was abuse,
17 I had to tell the ladies who managed Algrade.'

18 Was there anything else that you ever told the
19 ladies that you thought was maybe abuse?

20 A. No, no. It was just to do with the way I was feeling at
21 that time.

22 LADY SMITH: That was about your feelings. What about the
23 way anybody else was behaving?

24 A. Well, you sometimes -- you would maybe sometimes -- how
25 would I put it, I'd maybe check the residents at night.

1 And I actually caught two males kissing, right, but
2 I didn't do nothing about that, because I thought, well,
3 there was nothing -- they weren't forcing each other,
4 they were just kissing and then went to bed, you know,
5 but apart from that, my Lady, there was nothing else
6 that I actually saw.

7 LADY SMITH: Did you tell the ladies about that?

8 A. No, no. Well, I can't remember, to be fair. I can't
9 really remember, but I do believe though if I had told
10 them that about the kissing, they would have just
11 shrugged it off, you know, and not said anything.
12 Because again, it was this sort of thing that nothing
13 like that could happen here, you know, nothing bad could
14 happen here. We're protected by God. That's the way
15 I got -- and I think a lot of people that used to come
16 to Algrade saw this, and that was people that were
17 established in a church, but not everybody agreed with
18 the way they did things.

19 But the ladies being the way they were, it was like
20 power. It was hard to explain. They also had money as
21 well and that often attracted some of the Christian
22 people to the place, you know. Anyway, I'm sorry that's
23 ...

24 LADY SMITH: Just teasing that out a little, you said they
25 had money and that also attracted people to the place.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 LADY SMITH: Can you explain that a little bit more?

3 A. Well, I think that sometimes the way I saw it, sometimes
4 it was like they bought people's friendship, you know,
5 by what they could give.

6 They were very kind to people at the beginning to
7 bring people in, but as soon as people disagreed, they
8 made it difficult for them to be there and they left.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Steven'. That helps me understand.

10 A. Thank you.

11 MS MCMILLAN: Going on, you say at paragraph 63:

12 'If undetected abuse happened, other than [your] own
13 this could be because of staff being untrained and
14 reliance on the fact that everything had to go through
15 the four women managers. If abuse was perpetrated by
16 those women, then this could be covered up, as all
17 allegations had to go to them.'

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. I think we get a flavour from this from what you've been
20 telling us, but if anything was reported to them would
21 they dismiss it or would they investigate it?

22 A. No, I don't think -- with things like that, I don't
23 think they would have. I think they would try and cover
24 it up to be fair, because in a way, when I went to speak
25 to them, it was like they were trying to cover up how

1 I was feeling.

2 They honestly didn't believe that anything like that
3 could ever happen in the establishment and where they
4 were, because they were covered by the power of God.
5 That's what they used to say to me, you know.

6 Q. Moving on to paragraph 68 of your statement, on page 11,
7 you talk about the offences that you ultimately pled
8 guilty to and you indicate that you are accused of
9 sexual assault and sodomy, which you accepted as a plea
10 bargain and:

11 'The judge stated that this was an offence on adults
12 with learning difficulties whilst I was in a position of
13 trust.'

14 I think you say there that you fully agree with the
15 decision made as you were guilty of the offence.

16 Just to confirm, this abuse was against adult
17 residents?

18 A. Yes, uh-huh.

19 Q. You've never been the subject of any allegations of
20 abuse against children?

21 A. No, no, never, no.

22 Q. We know that these offences were prosecuted at the High
23 Court?

24 A. Yes, [REDACTED].

25 LADY SMITH: Just for completeness, you pled guilty?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: And --

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 LADY SMITH: And a sentence of, I think, [REDACTED]
5 imprisonment was imposed?

6 A. Yes. They asked me if I wanted to put it through
7 a jury, but I said no -- I just wanted -- I didn't want
8 people to suffer any more than what they did, so
9 I pleaded guilty, yes, yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you.

12 I just want to move on then in your statement and
13 I think from paragraph 73 to 79, you talk about Betty
14 and how she was running Algrade but I think we've
15 covered that this afternoon so I want to just move on to
16 paragraph 82 on page 14.

17 LADY SMITH: Just as we're getting to that 'Steven', can
18 I confirm one thing with you. You tell me in your
19 written statement that Betty was in her 70s when you
20 first started working at Algrade and in her 80s when you
21 left; is that correct?

22 A. I think that was roughly right, yes, uh-huh, I think so,
23 uh-huh.

24 The four old ladies were about the same ages and one
25 died slowly after the other.

1 LADY SMITH: All of them about the same age?

2 A. Uh-huh. As I say one died after the other there.

3 LADY SMITH: As you said, Betty was definitely the boss?

4 A. Aye, she was definitely the boss, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms McMillan.

6 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

7 Moving on to paragraph 82 of your statement, and you

8 say things for the Inquiry to really learn from that:

9 'All staff need to be fully trained; establishments

10 need to be monitored so that the ratio of staff to

11 residents does not fall lower than two staff members

12 working together and there should be closed-circuit

13 television, CCTV, in establishments.'

14 I think you say the reason for that is anything to

15 protect the people in care?

16 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

17 Q. Did you feel like the residents in Algrade, when you

18 worked there, were protected?

19 A. No, not really. I think because -- again, as I look at

20 my own offence, it was an abuse of trust and I think --

21 I don't think you can trust somebody right away when

22 they first start working in an establishment, right.

23 When I say CCTV, I don't mean everywhere, but

24 definitely I would think they should have more staff and

25 more training and I honestly believe that in any place

1 like that, where there's any kind of care, you can be
2 vetted at the beginning, but I think you should be
3 vetted more often, you know, or checked more often.
4 MS MCMILLAN: 'Steven', I don't have any further questions
5 for you.
6 Thank you.
7 A. Thank you.
8 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', I don't have any other questions
9 either. I just want to thank you again for engaging
10 with us today and by providing a written statement. You
11 have done so very openly and frankly and as clearly as
12 helpfully as you are able. I'm really grateful to you
13 for that. Thank you.
14 A. Thank you.
15 LADY SMITH: I hope you can just go away and enjoy the
16 sunshine for the rest of today.
17 A. Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Thank you.
18 MS MCMILLAN: My Lady, the read-ins that are remaining are
19 rather lengthy and I don't anticipate we'll be able to
20 complete one in time.
21 LADY SMITH: I think we should stop there for today.
22 Then the trailer for tomorrow?
23 MS MCMILLAN: I understand we have a witness from the SSSC
24 tomorrow coming in and then we should hopefully be able
25 to complete those remaining read-ins.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes. That's great.
2 10 o'clock tomorrow as usual.
3 MS MCMILLAN: Yes.
4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.
5 Thank you.
6 (3.26 pm)
7 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock on
8 Wednesday, 14 May 2025)
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