

1

Tuesday, 10 June 2025

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(10.00 am)

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LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to our oral

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hearings in Phase 9 of our case study hearings. This is

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the section in which we're looking into the provision of

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residential care for children with healthcare needs, for

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children with additional support needs and for disabled

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children, and we're sitting for two days this week, to

9

finish the section that we were on last week and the

10

week before.

11

We start this morning, I think, with witnesses who

12

are going to give evidence together; is that correct,

13

Ms Innes?

14

MS INNES: Yes, my Lady.

15

The witnesses are anonymous and have the pseudonyms

16

'Francis' and 'Sharon'.

17

They speak about the experiences of their brother at

18

Corsbie Hall in Fife. Their brother was born on [REDACTED]

19

1962 and he died on [REDACTED] 1972, when he was aged 9,

20

nearly 10.

21

From the statements of 'Francis' and 'Sharon', their

22

brother attended Corsbie Hall from [REDACTED] 1972, possibly

23

in [REDACTED], until he died.

24

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

So this is the period in which Corsbie Hall had

1           moved from its original base in Newton Stewart up to  
2           Fife; have I got that right?

3   MS INNES:   It had opened an additional base.

4   LADY SMITH:   An additional base in Fife, which was larger,  
5           I think, than the Newton Stewart base?

6   MS INNES:   I think possibly, yes, it was.

7   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.   Very well.

8                               'Sharon' (sworn)

9                               'Francis' (sworn)

10   LADY SMITH:   First of all, I want to thank you both for  
11           coming along to assist us this morning and that's  
12           assistance in addition to the written statements that  
13           you have already provided, which are evidence before me.  
14           It's been really helpful to be able to read that in  
15           advance and, as you probably understand, we'd like to  
16           explore some aspects of it in more detail, if we can,  
17           this morning.   We're not going to go through every part  
18           of it line by line, don't worry.   But we'll hopefully  
19           get more help from both of you, if we may.

20           I know that you're both here to tell us about what  
21           you understand and know happened to your brother when he  
22           was in Corsbie Hall, a long time ago now.   But I also  
23           know that asking people to go back and think back to  
24           their own childhoods and the childhoods of their  
25           families, family members, can be really difficult and,

1       however prepared you think you are and organised you  
2       think you are to face this, it might be upsetting.

3             That's not a problem. If you need a break or  
4       a pause, and please don't be embarrassed if that does  
5       happen. It's to be expected.

6             If you want a break, as I say, at any time, just let  
7       me know, if for any reason. I do break at 11.30 in any  
8       event in the morning. I think we'll probably be  
9       finished your evidence by then but before that's okay if  
10      you need it.

11            Otherwise, if you've got any questions, do speak up.  
12      We'll do our best to answer them or if we're not making  
13      sense in what we're asking you, that's our fault not  
14      yours, so you tell us.

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

17                      Questions by Ms Innes

18   MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

19            Can I start with your statements, please.

20      'Francis', if I can ask you please to look on to page 20  
21      of your statement and, at paragraph 73, I think we see  
22      that you say:

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

25      I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1           true.'

2           And we can see that you signed your statement on 10

3           October 2022; is that correct?

4   'FRANCIS': Yes.

5   MS INNES: Now, 'Sharon', if we can turn to your statement,

6           and -- sorry, I didn't give the references. 'Francis',

7           your statement is WIT-1-000001101. And 'Sharon', your

8           statement is at WIT-1-000001215.

9           Again, if we can look on to the final page of your

10          statement, 'Sharon', page 12 in paragraph 48, we can see

11          that you say there:

12          'I have no objection to my witness statement being

13          published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

14          I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

15          true.'

16          And we can see that you signed your statement on 3

17          March 2023; is that right?

18   'SHARON': Yes.

19   MS INNES: Thank you.

20          Now, if we can go back to your statement, 'Francis',

21          and use this as a basis for asking you both questions to

22          begin with.

23          So, you tell us, 'Francis', that at paragraph 2, you

24          were one of ten siblings?

25   'FRANCIS': Yes.



1 MS INNES: Your brother, who we're going to be speaking  
2 about today, was just over a year younger than you?  
3 'FRANCIS': That's correct.  
4 MS INNES: And, 'Sharon', I think you're younger than that;  
5 is that correct?  
6 'SHARON': Yes.  
7 MS INNES: And if we go on to page 2 of your statement,  
8 'Francis', at paragraph 4, you say it was chaos in the  
9 family home, is that right?  
10 'FRANCIS': Yeah, yeah. It was pretty -- pretty full on.  
11 MS INNES: 'Sharon', I think you tell us in your statement  
12 that you had a happy childhood at that time and you have  
13 fond memories?  
14 'SHARON': Yes, I do.  
15 MS INNES: If we look down to paragraph 5, we see there,  
16 'Francis', that you say that your brother was in the  
17 year below you. He was dyslexic?  
18 'FRANCIS': He was, yeah. He was never diagnosed, but that  
19 was the only conclusion I could come to now. We  
20 wouldnae have known that at the time.  
21 MS INNES: What sort of things make you think that that  
22 would be the outcome now?  
23 'FRANCIS': He got words and phrases and everything back to  
24 front and muddled up. He would write down words that  
25 were totally illegible to us, but to him they made

1           sense.

2   MS INNES:  You say, at paragraph 6, that he'd absolutely no

3           problems with numerical stuff --

4   'FRANCIS':  None at all.

5   MS INNES:  -- and he was a smart boy?

6   'FRANCIS':  He was clever.

7   MS INNES:  If we look down to paragraph 7, you say that you

8           remember that he started to get the belt quite

9           frequently at school?

10  'FRANCIS':  Every day at least once.

11  MS INNES:  And do you know why that was happening?

12  'FRANCIS':  Because the way he was writing things down in

13           classes and just -- he got belted.

14  MS INNES:  You say at the time the belt existed to

15           concentrate your mind?

16  'FRANCIS':  It did, yeah.

17  MS INNES:  And then, going over the page, you say that that

18           then had an impact on your brother's view of school?

19  'FRANCIS':  He hated it.  He didn't want to go because he

20           was getting -- no matter how well he tried to do, it

21           wasnae good enough because there were words that was

22           wrong and things and it was pretty strict, the school,

23           at that time.

24  MS INNES:  At paragraph 9, you say that you can't remember

25           any other additional support being given to your brother

1       at school?

2   'FRANCIS': None at all. He didn't get any. No help.

3   MS INNES: And at paragraph 10, you say that there came

4       a point where he refused to go to school completely?

5   'FRANCIS': He just would go there in the morning, get

6       walked to school and then go out -- it was a big school,

7       and out the back gate or across to the other school that

8       was next to it and disappear.

9   MS INNES: You then say that a social worker became

10       involved?

11   'FRANCIS': Aye, Miss KYO from Stirling Social Work:

12       I think she might have been senior social worker. She

13       was certainly quite high up. She became involved and

14       she was involved with PYI for quite a wee while.

15   MS INNES: Do you know if she then tried to help him return

16       to the school that he'd been going to, the same school

17       that you were at?

18   'FRANCIS': I don't think she did actually. I think the

19       school were quite happy -- sorry.

20   LADY SMITH: There was one thing I was going to ask you to

21       confirm. Your wee brother was sent to a different

22       school from you at some point; is that right?

23   'FRANCIS': He was sent to a residential school.

24   LADY SMITH: No, I know he was eventually sent to

25       a residential school, we'll be coming to that, but the

1           primary school he was at before, was that the same one  
2           that you were at?

3   'FRANCIS': It was the same one that I was at, yeah.

4   LADY SMITH: I see.

5   'FRANCIS': He was a year below me at the same school.

6   LADY SMITH: So you knew the teachers he was talking about?

7   'FRANCIS': I knew every one of the teachers well.

8   LADY SMITH: When he was telling you about getting belted  
9           every day, did that ring true with you, from what you  
10          knew of the school?

11   'FRANCIS': Absolutely, 'cause kids got belted in my class  
12          as well, but not as often as he did. He was -- he got  
13          put into a school -- into a class with a teacher who  
14          was -- she wasnae a teacher, she was a thug.

15   LADY SMITH: That's pretty clear. Thank you. Ms Innes.

16   MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

17           So you told us that the social worker became  
18          involved and then at paragraph 13, on page 4 of your  
19          statement, you tell us -- sorry, paragraph 12 first of  
20          all, you say that your brother was taken into care in  
21          1971?

22   'FRANCIS': Yeah.

23   MS INNES: And you say that shocked you?

24   'FRANCIS': It did, yeah.

25   MS INNES: What can you remember about it?

1 'FRANCIS': I can remember him getting -- the social worker  
2 that I'm talking about, this Miss KYO, she came and  
3 took him away in her car. He really didnae want to go.  
4 He was hiding. But he just got taken from the house and  
5 never seen him for weeks after that.

6 MS INNES: Do you know why he had been taken away?

7 'FRANCIS': At that time, no, absolutely not. He just -- he  
8 was a trouble, he was trouble for the school and I don't  
9 know, my mother and my father never really spoke much  
10 about it, but -- he might have been trouble for them,  
11 but he wasnae trouble for us. You know, he was just one  
12 of the kids.

13 LADY SMITH: So if it was 1971, your brother would be maybe  
14 still 8-years, not quite 9-years; would that be right?

15 'FRANCIS': No, he was 9, I think, when he got take -- [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED] in 1971.

17 LADY SMITH: Oh right. So he would have been 9 by then?

18 'FRANCIS': I remember him going away for a wee while and  
19 then coming back [REDACTED], so it probably would have  
20 been round about the end of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] because he  
21 wasnae away for a great deal of time.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS INNES: Now, can I ask you, 'Sharon', about your  
24 reflections on this period of time? Looking at your  
25 statement, at paragraph -- page 2, rather, and

1 paragraph 7, you tell us that you think that your  
2 brother's troubles started at school and you say that  
3 your mum later told you that they tested his IQ and it  
4 was 140.

5 'SHARON': That's correct.

6 MS INNES: What did she tell you about your brother's  
7 experiences at school?

8 'SHARON': Well, I know that he didn't get on very well at  
9 school. The education system didn't fit people that  
10 were slightly different and, as my brother says, he had  
11 dyslexia, but as far as I -- I was only 6 when he died,  
12 so as far as I remember, he was having trouble, but he  
13 was quite a bright boy. He was a bit mischievous. He'd  
14 got wi' a couple of older boys and one of them had burnt  
15 a haystack in the market in Stirling and I think that  
16 was a catalyst to my dad, sort of, working alongside the  
17 social workers, sort of, as I said, yeah, my dad maybe  
18 wasn't as tolerant as my mum and these guys were  
19 offering this private school which -- it's not a school,  
20 it's a home. They were led to believe that this was the  
21 answer to PYI's education and really it was the answer  
22 to the end.

23 So, yeah. They didn't even view it. They werenae  
24 allowed to view it.

25 MS INNES: We'll come on to that just in a moment.

1           So you tell us in your statement, at page 3, in  
2       paragraph 9, about the incident that you have just told  
3       us about, about this fire and then you say, at  
4       paragraph 10, as you've just mentioned, that you were 6  
5       when your brother went into care and all you can  
6       remember is the angst of it all, so you've got a memory  
7       of the feeling that you had at the time?

8       'SHARON': Yeah. It was like a -- sorry.

9       MS INNES: It's okay.

10       'SHARON': It went from a happy time, maybe not for him,  
11       but -- do you mean when he died or when he was taken  
12       away?

13       MS INNES: Just when he was taken away into care.

14       'SHARON': Well, when he was taken away, we -- we wouldn't  
15       have liked it, I know that was -- we didn't want him to  
16       be taken away, I don't think, any of the other kids.  
17       I mean, the boys fought and things like that, just like  
18       any other siblings, you know, all of them, but when push  
19       came to shove, we were a family. So, yeah, when he went  
20       away it wasn't a happy time.

21       MS INNES: If I can go back to your statement, 'Francis',  
22       and at page 6, and this moves to the time that he went  
23       to -- that your brother went to Corsbie Hall.

24       So initially, as you've said, he went to a home. He  
25       was there [REDACTED] -- or you remember him

1        maybe going away in [REDACTED] 1971, it [REDACTED] and  
2        then, in [REDACTED] 1972, he went to Corsbie Hall?  
3        'FRANCIS': Yeah.  
4        MS INNES: And you tell us at the bottom of page 6, at  
5        paragraph 22, that you remember that your dad told you  
6        that he wasn't allowed to see inside Corsbie Hall?  
7        'FRANCIS': He never even got up the drive. They stopped  
8        him fae -- fae getting anywhere near the building. He  
9        had to drop him off at the bottom of the drive. One of  
10       the -- not teachers but one of the staff in the place  
11       came down and got him and took him up to the -- into the  
12       place. My dad never got to see the place. My mother  
13       never got to see the place.  
14       MS INNES: I think that's also your understanding from  
15       a friend of your father's who went with him?  
16       'FRANCIS': A wee guy -- my dad didnae drive, so he got  
17       a lift up there with PYI [REDACTED]. When they put him in the  
18       first time from there, when he came back from  
19       Cultenhove, my dad and his friend drove him up to that  
20       place, not the social worker at that time, and this guy,  
21       a guy called [REDACTED] told me years later, he says,  
22       'I drove your dad up and I told him that no kid of mine  
23       would be getting left in there unless I got to look at  
24       the place'. Now, his kid was a troubled guy. He was in  
25       and out of prison and he says, 'I would never have left



1 him anywhere without having a look', and -- but my dad  
2 was quite frightened fae authority. He was frightened  
3 to question anything. He just assumed that somebody had  
4 scrutinised the place or looked at it and -- but not,  
5 absolutely not.

6 MS INNES: And then you tell us a bit about what your  
7 brother told you about Corsbie Hall.

8 At paragraph 23, you say that he told you there were  
9 about nine boys sleeping in a big open room?

10 'FRANCIS': Yeah.

11 MS INNES: And what did he tell you about the people who  
12 were looking after him?

13 'FRANCIS': He was quite frightened fae the people looking  
14 after him. He didnae -- didn't like them. They werenae  
15 nice to him. And they never got sufficient food or they  
16 never got looked after, they never got any compassion.  
17 They got made to shower in cold showers and things like  
18 that, so they werenae nice people, and I wasnae there,  
19 but that was absolutely what he told me.

20 MS INNES: And in this paragraph you mention that he told  
21 you about being locked in a cupboard?

22 'FRANCIS': He got locked in a cupboard almost every night  
23 with just a pair of -- absolutely naked probably, but he  
24 says he was -- a pair of pants on, no covers, anything,  
25 to stop him fae running away.

1 MS INNES: And at paragraph 24, you say that he told you  
2 that he wasn't getting fed?  
3 'FRANCIS': He told me that the last time I met him, they  
4 werenae feeding him at all. He was getting starved.  
5 MS INNES: And do you remember anything about his appearance  
6 when you saw him?  
7 'FRANCIS': He went fae being quite big and quite robust to  
8 being really quite thin and grey looking and no healthy  
9 looking at all, and absolutely filthy when he came home.  
10 MS INNES: And when he came home, had he run away or was he  
11 coming home on a sort of organised visit?  
12 'FRANCIS': No, he was -- that time, that was the Easter,  
13 because they closed the place at the Easter so they sent  
14 him home wi' rags on and looking pretty well  
15 undernourished.  
16 MS INNES: And, 'Sharon', do you also have memories of your  
17 brother coming home at that time or not?  
18 'SHARON': I remember him coming home, but I don't really  
19 remember -- I think I was too young to remember.  
20 I remember what my older siblings were saying about him  
21 at that time, but I do remember that he had smoked. He  
22 didn't smoke regularly. I remember that somebody had --  
23 I don't know how -- they'd had a sneaky ciggie  
24 somewhere. I don't know the others were involved, but  
25 I was a little tell-tale, so I told my mum.

1 I remember being upset, you know, that I had told,  
2 but he didn't -- didn't batter me or anything, which is  
3 what I was thinking, you know. He was quite kind to me.  
4 MS INNES: At home, can you remember how you were clothed  
5 and fed at home? Were you well looked after?  
6 'SHARON': Very well looked after. There was ten of us and  
7 my mum was just totally dedicated to feeding and  
8 clothing her kids. It was seven boys. I mean, it was  
9 pretty chaotic, as PYF says, with them, but the  
10 girls were all, sort of, doing the housework with my mum  
11 and things like that, so we were a bit, yeah -- the  
12 girls did wee duties and stuff like that and the boys  
13 tended to just play, go out and play and things, eh.  
14 MS INNES: Moving on in your statement, 'Francis', at page 8  
15 and paragraph 27, you say that your brother told you  
16 that there weren't really school lessons, as such?  
17 'FRANCIS': There was no teaching, no writing, no  
18 arithmetic, anything. He never got anything like that.  
19 MS INNES: And what was he doing --  
20 'FRANCIS': He was quite happy about that, but he seemed to  
21 think that was the only upside of being there.  
22 MS INNES: What sort of things was he doing when he was  
23 there?  
24 'FRANCIS': They were -- manual labour outside.  
25 MS INNES: You also mention, I think, that he told you that

1           they were made to clean the place?

2   'FRANCIS': They were made to clean the place, scrub floors

3           and things like that.

4   MS INNES: And at paragraph 28, you say that when he came

5           home, he was really aggressive?

6   'FRANCIS': He was.

7   MS INNES: Was that a complete change to what he had been

8           like before?

9   'FRANCIS': Oh, absolutely. He was never aggressive before

10          he went there and then he came back totally different.

11   MS INNES: You say he was trying to fight with you and

12          things?

13   'FRANCIS': He did, but I was bigger and a bit stronger than

14          him so thank goodness 'cause he was very determined.

15   MS INNES: You say at the end of this paragraph, that he was

16          like a shell of a person?

17   'FRANCIS': Aye. It was just -- it's like he had emptied

18          out. He had really quite -- it was sad. It was sad.

19          He was just a totally different person and frightened

20          fae a lot of stuff.

21   MS INNES: You tell us in the next paragraph that when he

22          did come back over Easter time, he didn't want to go

23          back to the school after that?

24   'FRANCIS': No, he wanted -- he hid under the bed.

25   MS INNES: If we go on over the page, to page 10, and at

1 paragraph 38 -- 36, rather, you refer to him sending  
2 a letter to your mum?

3 'FRANCIS': Yep.

4 MS INNES: What can you remember -- what have you been told  
5 about this letter?

6 'FRANCIS': Well, in that letter he says he wasnae getting  
7 fed, he was getting starved and there was other stuff in  
8 it, I think. He mentioned he was getting beaten and  
9 things like that, but -- and they allowed the letter to  
10 go out, so I don't know -- they couldn't have been  
11 reading the letters.

12 MS INNES: Did your mum ever say to you what her reaction  
13 was to that letter?

14 'FRANCIS': I never really asked her, because I would be  
15 just -- you would think if -- at that time, if we were  
16 starving, we were just barely hungry. You know, we --  
17 you would go to your -- I would go to my granny's house  
18 or my auntie's house and blag some food there, 'cause  
19 that's what we done. But for him to say 'starving', we  
20 probably equated it to slightly hungry like we were, but  
21 he was so thin when I think on it now, that he was  
22 getting deprived of food.

23 MS INNES: What about you, 'Sharon', have you had  
24 conversations with your mum about this letter?

25 'SHARON': Yeah. The letter also had -- that there had been

1       and seemed -- there was, I guess, positives in it that  
2       outweighed the -- you know, like he says, he might have  
3       said 'starving', but we used that word for 'hungry',  
4       so -- and then he'd been to see Paint Your Wagon, the  
5       film and he'd said that was his favourite film and he  
6       also said he'd ran away. He sounded a bit like he  
7       was -- like for a 9-year-old boy to be writing this way,  
8       it was pretty remarkable. He said, 'I've ran away 13  
9       times, not going to' -- no, 12 times -- 'and I'm not  
10      going to run away again'. But he ran away one more time  
11      and that's when he was killed. The letter was shortly  
12      before he died. So all of these things, I guess, would  
13      have been -- maybe if he'd lived, maybe she would have  
14      looked more at the words, but the -- it was like  
15      a precious item in her little -- with all our birth  
16      certificates that she kept.

17             So we read it several times over the years. I mean,  
18      I can see it right now. I can see his handwriting. It  
19      was beautiful. He was really a clever boy. His writing  
20      by -- I don't know if somebody else wrote it for him,  
21      I'll never know that, I guess, but as far as the  
22      dyslexia goes, I mean, I have a son who's dyslexic and  
23      he is a beautiful writer, but he mixed up his letters  
24      and that just didn't fit the education system, I guess,  
25      at that time. Yep.

1 MS INNES: If we look down in your statement, 'Francis', you  
2 talk about your brother running away and, on one  
3 occasion, he came home, having run away. Did somebody  
4 come back and get him from Corsbie Hall?

5 'FRANCIS': Somebody came and got him and dragged him into  
6 a car, but my dad wouldn't, er, let him into the house.  
7 He says he was too frightened. My dad, at that point,  
8 was frightened in case he could fall foul of the law,  
9 and so basically he stood outside the house. We werenae  
10 really allowed to go out and speak to him and then  
11 people fae Corsbie Hall came and got him. It wasnae the  
12 social worker at that time, I can remember that.

13 MS INNES: You talk about overhearing an argument between  
14 your parents about whether your brother could be let in  
15 or not?

16 'FRANCIS': My mum wanted to let him in, but my dad turned  
17 round and says that he wasnae coming in. He says, 'It's  
18 no you that will go to prison, it's me', and that was  
19 his exact words, and he wouldnae allow us to go out and  
20 speak to him either.

21 MS INNES: Do you know if your brother ran away to other  
22 family members? I think, 'Sharon', you mention that he  
23 maybe ran to your grandmother's?

24 'SHARON': He did, yeah.

25 MS INNES: If we move on to page 11, paragraph 39,

1       'Francis', you tell us that your brother tried to get to  
2       Edinburgh a couple of times?

3       'FRANCIS': There was a teacher that he'd -- and I never  
4       knew his name until recently, but there was a teacher  
5       that was quite kind to them and he left the place and  
6       they tried to get to his house. I think they did get  
7       there once, but he tried a couple of times to come in  
8       that direction, 'cause coming to Stirling after that was  
9       probably -- he was just going to get dragged back, so.

10      MS INNES: 'Francis', you've already told us about your  
11      brother telling you about being locked in the cupboard  
12      and not having enough to eat.

13             At paragraph 40, you also tell us that your brother  
14      would say that the staff would hit children with sticks  
15      and things?

16      'FRANCIS': Yep.

17      MS INNES: And that's the sort of thing that he told you  
18      when he came home at Easter time?

19      'FRANCIS': They beat them up with sticks and put them in  
20      cold showers as well, that's -- he told me that.

21      MS INNES: What was your reaction to that at the time?

22      'FRANCIS': Well, I was only 10, 11 years old, you know,  
23      I wasnae -- it wasnae really something that I would have  
24      took on board, getting hit with sticks. I thought he  
25      was -- might have been exaggerating, but, er, I don't



1 know. It was -- it horrified me that anybody was  
2 hitting him with sticks. I mean, we got disciplined  
3 like other kids did in them days, but I don't think we  
4 ever got hit with a stick.

5 MS INNES: 'Sharon', if we can look at your statement,  
6 please, at page 5, and paragraph 19, you tell us that  
7 over the years, you were told by your sister that staff  
8 used to watch -- that your brother had said that staff  
9 used to watch him in the shower?

10 'SHARON': Yeah. My sister actually wrote a letter recently  
11 and put it in writing that he was -- he had told her  
12 that there was male members of staff used to stand and  
13 watch them, and he hated them. He had told her he hated  
14 them. She's a couple of years older than PYF -- than  
15 'Francis'. So, yeah, she remembers that very well. She  
16 lives in Canada, so she hasn't been involved as such,  
17 but yeah.

18 MS INNES: Then, over the next page, in your statement, at  
19 paragraph 21, you also tell us, 'Sharon', that your  
20 mother would tell you that your brother would hold on to  
21 her leg and tell her that he didn't want to go back?

22 'SHARON': Yeah, and my grandmother used to tell us she used  
23 to try and hide him.

24 LADY SMITH: Did your grandmother live far away?

25 'SHARON': No, just about a five-minute walk.

1 LADY SMITH: So it would be quite easy for your brother to  
2 go to her?  
3 'SHARON': Yeah.  
4 MS INNES: Now, if we can go back to your statement,  
5 'Francis', and at page 12, at paragraph 42, you tell us  
6 your memory of when you were told that your brother had  
7 been knocked down.  
8 'FRANCIS': Mm-hmm, yeah, mm.  
9 MS INNES: What can you remember about that?  
10 'FRANCIS': I remember sitting there and my dad came in and  
11 he said, 'PYI s been knocked down', and he must have  
12 known it was pretty bad at that time, 'but he's still  
13 alive', and we were all -- he's been knocked down, you  
14 don't really understand at that age that it might be  
15 a lot worse and he's going to get better, you know, but  
16 there was never any hope of him getting better.  
17 So we were all a bit upset, but not as upset as we  
18 were a week later, you know.  
19 MS INNES: Then you say, I think, that you were then told  
20 a week later that your -- well, your father told you  
21 that your brother was dead and the life support machine  
22 had been turned off?  
23 'FRANCIS': That's what he -- he came in and just told us,  
24 'PYI s dead. We had to turn the life support machine  
25 off'. And we were -- I mean, if you've never

1       experienced death and you get told it like that, at that  
2       time, it was just horrible but he was probably in a bit  
3       of shock hisself, my dad, at that time.

4   MS INNES: Do you remember that, 'Sharon'?

5   'SHARON': I -- I remember him dying. I remember being sad.  
6       I remember his funeral, a big procession going by the  
7       school down to the church and, yeah. I remember it  
8       being quite a sad thing.

9   MS INNES: When you mention the school there, you mean the  
10       local school?

11   'SHARON': Yeah.

12   MS INNES: You tell us in your statement, I think, that  
13       nobody from Corsbie Hall was at the funeral?

14   'SHARON': I was not aware of anybody. I actually was in  
15       school and my little brother, who's 18 months younger,  
16       was in my class for the day, so it was only the older  
17       siblings that got to attend, but we watched them go by,  
18       'cause the church and the school were right next to each  
19       other.

20   MS INNES: Did somebody tell you that nobody from  
21       Corsbie Hall was there?

22   'SHARON': Yeah.

23   MS INNES: Who told you that; can you remember?

24   'SHARON': Everybody, my parents through the years. It was  
25       frowned upon, I guess, you know.

1 MS INNES: Now, 'Francis', just looking at your statement,  
2 you tell us, at paragraphs 43 and following, what you  
3 were told or what you have learned about what happened  
4 that resulted in your brother's death.  
5 What were you told?  
6 'FRANCIS': Well, that he had run away and he was -- he'd  
7 went on to -- they were walking along the motorway and  
8 the police stopped and chased them on to the -- the  
9 on-coming traffic and that he'd been hit with a car.  
10 MS INNES: And at paragraph 44, you say that:  
11 'At best, I would have thought it's highly  
12 irresponsible to chase kids running away from a home.  
13 Why not stop the traffic on the motorway?'  
14 'FRANCIS': That astounds me that any police officer thought  
15 it was okay to chase kids on a motorway, with 70mph  
16 traffic either side of them. You know, they were on the  
17 central reserve. They werenae -- it wasnae like they  
18 were walking along the side of the motorway, so ... and  
19 it was a -- a bit of a bank and so if you start running,  
20 you've got a bit of momentum and you're not going to --  
21 so -- but they'll have their demons about that. I don't  
22 suppose they would do it that way if they got the chance  
23 to do it again, but ...  
24 MS INNES: Over the page, on page 13, at paragraph 46, you  
25 say that your brother's death was in the press at the

1           time?

2   'FRANCIS': Yeah, it was in the papers and there was quite

3           a lot of reporters hanging about the house and we were

4           told not to speak to them, but -- we just done that, we

5           didnae speak to them, we told them to go away, we didnae

6           want to speak to them.

7   LADY SMITH: 'Francis', you said a moment ago something

8           about the central reservation.

9   'FRANCIS': Yeah.

10   LADY SMITH: What was that that you were trying to tell me?

11   'FRANCIS': The middle of the motorway, where he was,

12           there's a bit of a mound either side separating the

13           motorway. Well, that's where they were, on the -- the

14           central reserve. If they'd been at the side, they could

15           have stopped and chased them up the way, but to stop and

16           chase them on a central reserve, I thought pretty --

17           it's not a thing that any sensible person would do.

18           They were only 9-year-old kids.

19   LADY SMITH: Do you know which motorway it was?

20   'FRANCIS': It was the M90 between Fife and Edinburgh.

21   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22   MS INNES: You go on to say in this paragraph that you

23           assumed that there had been some kind of investigation

24           at the time, but you've later discovered that there

25           wasn't?

1 'FRANCIS': There's no evidence of an investigation of any  
2 kind.

3 MS INNES: We'll come to some more documents in relation to  
4 that in a moment, but just staying with your statement,  
5 you go on at paragraph 47 to talk about the impact of  
6 your brother's death.

7 What was the impact on your own life?

8 'FRANCIS': It made me really quite bitter about things and  
9 really a sadness that hasnae left me to this day over  
10 that -- that incident, but you just kinda went -- I went  
11 off the rails myself for a couple of years after it,  
12 'cause I -- I couldnae really understand why he'd been  
13 taken away in the first place and for him to be killed  
14 in them circumstances and the older I got, the more  
15 I understood that it was -- it was all wrong, every bit  
16 of it, fae start to finish.

17 He had no chance. He was up against a pretty  
18 draconian system at that time and he was just  
19 a 9-year-old.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Francis', you talk about a sadness descending  
21 on you. You're quite a large family, did it descend on  
22 the whole family?

23 'FRANCIS': Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: So did that affect family life and how family  
25 life --

1 'FRANCIS': Everyone -- probably my dad more than anybody,  
2 'cause it destroyed his life. He had his own demons  
3 over it. I mean, I would never do things the way that  
4 he done them, but he was a different generation.  
5 I still don't fully excuse what he -- his -- his part in  
6 the whole thing, but he was probably -- he grew up in --  
7 with no father hisself. He was killed in the war and he  
8 just didn't have anybody to look to, to say, 'That's the  
9 way I should act'.  
10 LADY SMITH: And, as you say, he was apt to accept what  
11 authority told him --  
12 'FRANCIS': Absolutely.  
13 LADY SMITH: -- he or his family had to do?  
14 'FRANCIS': He was terrified fae authority.  
15 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.  
16 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.  
17 'Sharon', if we look at your statement, at page 6,  
18 and paragraph 23, you say the impact on your family  
19 following your brother's death was massive:  
20 'It was like a bomb going off.'  
21 And you previously described your happy childhood.  
22 How did your brother's death affect your family from  
23 your recollection?  
24 'SHARON': So, like, the sadness and regrets, I suppose,  
25 that all of us would have had, but our parents in

1 particularly were affected, as in they -- think maybe  
2 blamed each other in a way, 'cause my dad was keen on  
3 having PYI educated in a place that would sort out his  
4 little wild streak, I suppose. And she was like the mum  
5 that would have hid him under her apron, really.

6 So I suppose, from the point of view, they were at  
7 loggerheads about everything to the switching off of the  
8 machine, you know, the decision had been made and they  
9 had to sign. She did that. My dad started depending on  
10 drugs, like Valium and things like that 'cause, like he  
11 says, it's like he felt really guilty and thought he'd  
12 done the best thing, but probably it wasn't. But when  
13 you're being advised by supposed professionals, they  
14 never had a clue the way I would about -- I would always  
15 make sure my children were in a good place of education  
16 and, in fact, that's probably one positive that's come  
17 out of it, our own parenting skills, I guess, have been  
18 good.

19 But, yeah, they two ended up separating and one less  
20 child to look after, but we all stayed with my mum. She  
21 still fed us well and dressed us well and ultimately  
22 educated us well, but, yeah, he was always missing.

23 MS INNES: I want to move on to look at some documents,  
24 because I think that you carried out some research into  
25 finding out what you could about your brother's death.



1           How did that come about? Who was it that instigated  
2           that?

3   'FRANCIS': It was my daughter -- well, when my dad died,  
4           I got all the stuff that he had and it was the letter  
5           from Willie Hamilton mentioned Corsbie Hall and my  
6           daughter read it all and my wife read it and then there  
7           was an article in -- somewhere in a newspaper, there was  
8           another kid that had been in one of these -- one of the  
9           two -- it might have been the Newton Stewart one, but  
10          they mentioned it and my daughter got the bit between  
11          her teeth and she started reading into everything and it  
12          was actually her who was the catalyst for everything.  
13          Because by then, I had been -- my dad had been banging  
14          his head against a brick wall trying to get information  
15          about all the different things. And I was close to my  
16          dad, I was the only one that really stayed close to him,  
17          er, and all the stuff that he had, I got a look at.

18          But my daughter went and then we all went to the  
19          records office and we dug out all the stuff that was  
20          there and it was a wee bit more horrific than I expected  
21          and it's all there in plain sight, you know.

22   MS INNES: You mentioned Willie Hamilton there. Is he the  
23          local MP?

24   'FRANCIS': He was the local MP for that area of Fife,  
25          Thornton and -- I think it was just Thornton.

1 MS INNES: Had your father -- from what you say, your father  
2 had been in communication with him?

3 'FRANCIS': For years he wrote to him. He wrote to both my  
4 mother and my father, 'cause initially they were still  
5 together, but this broke them up. They separated about  
6 two or three years later. Both blaming each other and  
7 both probably -- one more partially right than the  
8 other, but they would have their demons and they just  
9 couldnae live together after it happened. Especially my  
10 dad. He was under psychiatrists and everything.

11 MS INNES: So I'm going to look at some of the entries in  
12 the National Records of Scotland.

13 If we can look please at SGV-001033713 and to page 3  
14 of this document.

15 This is a document which I understand you saw when  
16 you looked at the national records and it says:  
17 'Corsbie Hall diary of events.'

18 It refers, on [REDACTED] 1972, to final registration  
19 being given to the school. From the records that you  
20 looked at, do you have some understanding of what that  
21 means?

22 'FRANCIS': It means they gave a registration for a school  
23 that, in my opinion, was totally unfit to be even  
24 classified as a school. It's -- you know, looking at  
25 everything that they had, all the information that they

1        had at that time, it astounds me that they gave that  
2        registration document to that establishment, not school.  
3        It's not a school.

4    MS INNES: And then if we look down, on the -- it's [REDACTED]  
5        1972, we know, it says there:  
6        'Four boys absconded. One knocked down on a  
7        motorway later died. No blame attached to school.'  
8        What was your reaction on seeing that entry in the  
9        national records?

10   'FRANCIS': Astonishment. 'No blame attached to the  
11        school.' He ran away from there. I thought it was  
12        nine, my sister thinks it was 13, so -- but on a number  
13        of occasions -- you don't run away fae a place because  
14        you're happy or it's a nice place. So for them to say  
15        'no blame attached to the school' -- very --  
16        a 9-year-old boy shouldnae be able to run away fae  
17        a school, at the very least.

18   MS INNES: 'Sharon', what was your reaction to this entry?  
19   'SHARON': I was just astounded. I just thought this is  
20        them writing this. Who else is investigating it? 'No  
21        blame attached to a school' just made us all cry that  
22        day.

23   MS INNES: Now, I'm going to ask you to look at another  
24        document from the national records. This is  
25        SGV-001033715.

1           If we can first of all look at page 34, this is  
2           an internal memo between various inspectors and the  
3           Registrar of Independent Schools, and you'll see it  
4           begins:

5           'I visited Corsbie Hall School with HMI Mr Wallis on  
6           [REDACTED]... '

7           We understand this is [REDACTED] 1972, so we know that  
8           your brother had died on [REDACTED].

9           So they say they visited on [REDACTED]:

10          '... and spent most of the day consulting SNR  
11          SNR [REDACTED] and members of the teaching staff. We did not  
12          have time to speak to the house staff, the visit arose  
13          from a verbal report from [an inspector] Mr Petrie of  
14          a deteriorating situation.'

15          Then it goes on into the next paragraph to say:

16          'There have been several abscondings in the last  
17          month. Four boys got as far as the M90 motorway. When  
18          they were approached by the police, one boy ran into the  
19          road and was killed. SNR [REDACTED] thought that three  
20          of them had been beguiled into running away by the  
21          fourth, who was a new arrival at the school, but there  
22          had also been some complaint about school (in his  
23          opinion unjustified).'

24          I think we understand at the time that SNR [REDACTED]  
25          was Mr GUL [REDACTED]?

1 'FRANCIS': Yeah.

2 MS INNES: And then the inspector goes on:

3 'On the other hand, [REDACTED] [who we

4 understand to be an [REDACTED] at the time] he said

5 that [your brother] had previously made a remark to him

6 about being starved or threatened with being starved by

7 matron.'

8 Now, I don't know if either of you can remember

9 seeing this entry when you looked at the national

10 records?

11 'FRANCIS': I don't actually recall looking at that one, but

12 I might have done. I probably would have remembered

13 that, the starved bit, so I've probably -- that's

14 probably the first time I've laid eyes on that document;

15 but it ties in pretty well with what he told me hisself,

16 that he was getting starved.

17 MS INNES: What's your reaction to seeing that [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] had --

19 'FRANCIS': He knew that there was something going on,

20 I think it's pretty damning, eh? It's like he doesnae

21 really care. You know, if a kid told me he was getting

22 starved, I would at least make some investigations into

23 it and find out, especially if you're in charge of that

24 establishment.

25 MS INNES: What about you, 'Sharon', what's your reaction to

1           this?

2   'SHARON': Well, I haven't seen this one, but when we were

3           there, we had a handwritten letter, report, from

4   Mr KUR who was the -- one of the teachers. That's

5           the teacher that they had absconded to in Edinburgh and

6           there was -- in his handwritten letter was the fact that

7           he'd given the boys biscuits when they arrived at his

8           place and he had to take them back. They didn't want to

9           go back and he had said in this report that he had

10          written -- and we have a copy of that -- that PYI had

11          told him that he was starving and that matron was

12          starving him. So that was -- this backs that up, that

13          there was starvation, and also, while I'm remembering,

14          in these reports that we were reading, there was written

15          evidence to say that they were laughing -- if the boys

16          laughed at the dinner table or spoke, they would have to

17          stand up.

18               Now, you have to correct me if I'm wrong, I believe

19               they had to have their trousers at their ankles and they

20               had to stand like this (indicating) for half an hour --

21 MS INNES: With their hands out in front of them.

22   'SHARON': -- and not put them down and if they put them

23               down, they got smacked with a cane or a stick.

24 MS INNES: If we look at the letter from Mr KUR, this is

25               in the same document, at page 20, and I think this is

1       the letter that you've seen before; is that right?

2       'FRANCIS': Yeah.

3       MS INNES: It's dated 26 May 1972 and he says, in the first  
4       paragraph there, that he arrived there as a teacher in  
5       November 1970 and at the end of the first term, some  
6       boys from Manchester returned home with several  
7       complaints about the school.

8       He says there were -- basically there were these  
9       complaints: unsatisfactory food; excessive corporal  
10      punishment; too little to do leading to boredom and too  
11      many domestic duties.

12      And then he goes down in the next -- he refers to  
13      the food and then he says at point 2:

14      'There was indeed excessive corporal punishment.  
15      For example, boys were slippered, often hard, for  
16      speaking at the table; there was regular beating of the  
17      boys, usually with the slipper for relatively minor  
18      offences, such as talking out of turn. One housefather  
19      threw a boy through a window shattering the glass,  
20      merely as punishment for giving him cheek.'

21      Then he goes on:

22      'Reports from a reliable source allege that before  
23      I came, the matron used to pull down the boys' trousers  
24      in public and slipper their bottoms until sometimes they  
25      were bleeding. Almost all the time the boys wore

1 nothing but shirts and jerseys and, clad like this, it  
2 was common for them to be kept standing in the cold of  
3 winter for periods of 20-minutes to half an hour  
4 "dressing off", lining up or merely just standing with  
5 their arms stretched out in front of them. Often these  
6 punishments for all boys would begin because one boy  
7 refused to get into line.'

8 I think that's what you were maybe just referring to  
9 in your evidence, 'Sharon'?

10 'SHARON': Yeah. Yep.

11 MS INNES: Then he goes on, if we look at page 31, he goes  
12 through each of the terms he was there, I think.

13 If we go on to page 31, there is a paragraph  
14 beginning '5', he talks about excessive and ridiculous  
15 punishments are to be found. For example, a boy forced  
16 to stand at the table for about two weeks because he  
17 didn't use his fork in the right way and then, at  
18 paragraph 7, he says there:

19 'Often there is not enough food for boys or staff.'

20 And 8:

21 'Frequently there has been no heating for more than  
22 a week.'

23 So I think this is all consistent with what you were  
24 told by your brother about lack of food and cold  
25 showers, for example.



1 'FRANCIS': Yep.

2 MS INNES: Then at paragraph 32, at paragraph 18, he refers  
3 to your brother and says -- he claimed before leaving  
4 that he was being starved by matron which is the same as  
5 we've seen from the other documents?

6 'FRANCIS': Yeah. Mm-hmm.

7 MS INNES: And if we go on to page 33, and the final  
8 paragraph of this, he says:  
9 'But the situation now allied to the previous  
10 history, leads one to question how much the interests of  
11 the boys are taken into account by those at the top and  
12 some of those working beneath him.'

13 So this teacher seemed to be raising a whole number  
14 of issues about the running of the school?

15 'FRANCIS': Yeah.

16 MS INNES: And I know this was obviously a letter that you  
17 read. What was your reaction to this letter?

18 'FRANCIS': I was horrified at all the stuff that was in it,  
19 but glad that somebody had cast a light onto it, because  
20 there's nothing anywhere else. Every avenue you turned  
21 to, you don't get any information. There's nothing  
22 there. No police inquiry, no school reports. No social  
23 work reports. Nothing. My brother has been -- apart  
24 from that letter, really, and other stuff from  
25 Willie Hamilton, he's been air brushed out of existence.

1       He doesnae -- doesnae have any right to exist. They  
2       don't want him there.

3   MS INNES: Another issue you noticed in the national  
4       records, and I think you speak about this, 'Sharon', is  
5       that you noted that one of the housefathers had  
6       previously been charged with sexual offences and if we  
7       can look, please, at page 10 of this document.

8       We can see here a memo, I think this is from 22 June  
9       1972, and it refers to a phone call from the DHSS in  
10      London about a staff member who had been a housefather,  
11      both in Newton Stewart and also at Thornton and he'd  
12      also asked about possibly registering a school himself.

13      It then goes on to say:

14      'Mr Murray has been informed that there was a court  
15      case involving [this housefather] in 1966 and he was  
16      charged with inciting boys of 8 to gross indecency.'

17      And this is material again that you saw when you  
18      were reading about Corsbie Hall; what was your reaction  
19      when you saw this, 'Sharon'?

20   'SHARON': I just felt devastated 'cause I thought how will  
21      we ever know? And with him saying that people were  
22      looking at him in the shower and stuff like that, it  
23      just messed with my mind. He's just a little boy.  
24      I just wanted to look after him.

25      I believe there was more than one of them who -- you

1 know, I'm just assuming in a way, but he wasn't there  
2 hiding in a school that size, was he? I mean, he was --  
3 there wasn't Interpol. There was no communication with  
4 London. They could just move about. It was -- they did  
5 it all the time, these types, these sex offenders, just  
6 get in a little school like that that isn't even  
7 registered. It's not even a school. It's  
8 an institution that is prime target for people like  
9 that.

10 MS INNES: I think you mentioned just there in your evidence  
11 that you think this person wasn't the only one that had  
12 issues with sexual offences?

13 'SHARON': Because he said there was more than one man.

14 MS INNES: Who said?

15 'SHARON': PYI said there was more than one man looking at  
16 him and my sister, who's two years older than 'Francis',  
17 she said that he had told her that and she's like seven  
18 years older than me, so she was 13, and she was  
19 concerned about him. She didn't want him to go. She  
20 cried.

21 Yeah, so they didnae want him to go back. I suppose  
22 it's not -- it's difficult not to blame my dad because  
23 he -- yeah, he was scared of the repercussions and  
24 stuff, but I'm sure that my brother, as a father,  
25 learned fae that. You would never let anybody take your

1 kids, but they trusted. They trusted the system and the  
2 system was flawed, without a doubt.

3 Yeah, I'm sure he was petrified. My dad was  
4 a really strict parent and he himself wasn't -- you  
5 know, the boys were really punished when they did  
6 something bad. So he's running away to my dad. There  
7 was no sexual abuse in our family. There was -- the  
8 boys were hit. So I'm thinking the only way I can  
9 balance up him running back to my dad's regime is that  
10 there was more -- there was a different type of abuse  
11 going on there, it's just -- there's no records or  
12 anything. This is what's driving us crazy. It's like  
13 his primary school records, his medical. There's no --  
14 nothing. We've looked everywhere. My niece works with  
15 the social work. She is amazing at researching things.  
16 We can uncover nothing but this stuff that's here in  
17 Edinburgh, and I cannot help but feel that it's been  
18 covered up.

19 MS INNES: Can I ask you, please, to look at some documents  
20 which come from Parliament. So you mentioned  
21 Willie Hamilton earlier and I think you're aware that he  
22 was asking questions in Parliament about Corsbie Hall.

23 The first document I'd like to look at is  
24 INQ-0000001042 and this is an answer to a written  
25 question, which I think it's [REDACTED] 1972, so just after

1       your brother's death.

2               We see here that Mr William Hamilton asked the  
3       Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make  
4       a statement on the recent absconding of boys from the  
5       Corsbie Hall School in Fife and whether he will  
6       institute an inquiry into the matter and Mr Gordon  
7       Campbell responds:

8               'On [REDACTED], four boys left Corsbie Hall School  
9       without permission at about 11.30 am. Within an hour,  
10      and after an unsuccessful search by the school staff,  
11      the matter was reported to the police. The boys were  
12      located by the police on the central reservation of the  
13      motorway north of the Forth Road Bridge at about  
14      4.00 pm. They ran away across the road and  
15      unfortunately one boy [your brother] was struck and  
16      seriously injured by a passing car. I should like to  
17      express my sympathy with the boy's parents at this  
18      unhappy outcome of what was apparently no more than  
19      a boyish escapade. I do not think that any blame can  
20      attach to the school which, of course, does not and  
21      should not keep its pupils under lock and key. Nor do I  
22      consider that any further inquiry into the affair is  
23      needed.'

24              Now, I don't think that this is a document that  
25      you've seen until today, is that right?

1 'FRANCIS': No, the first time I've seen that is today.  
2 And I'm no surprised but I'm astonished that anybody  
3 could think:  
4 'Nor do I think any further inquiry into this affair  
5 is needed.'  
6 The last sentence of that is disgusting. I mean,  
7 Mr Gordon Campbell complicit, ignorant of the facts?  
8 I don't think so. Secretary of State for Scotland.  
9 Friend of the man who was SNR, so  
10 that is shocking.  
11 MS INNES: 'Sharon', what's your reaction to it?  
12 'SHARON': I honestly just think a 9-year-old child dies  
13 under the care of a school. It's their absolute duty to  
14 investigate the reason why that child died. Children --  
15 LADY SMITH: PYF --  
16 'SHARON': Sorry -- I beg your pardon.  
17 LADY SMITH: Sorry, don't let me interrupt you, do finish.  
18 'SHARON': I'm just thinking children at 9 do need to be  
19 kept under lock and key, to keep them safe. I mean,  
20 Dunblane, that's the reason a man got into Dunblane  
21 Primary School, because it wasn't under lock and key.  
22 The system's changed. Now we have key pads. We have  
23 locks and keys and our children are safe. My children  
24 were kept under lock and key when they were 9 years old.  
25 They weren't allowed to run out of the front door and

1 run in the road. So, yeah, he's wrong. Children should  
2 be.

3 LADY SMITH: Are you saying at least it shouldn't be assumed  
4 that there was nothing the school could have done to  
5 prevent this?

6 'SHARON': Mm-hmm; yeah, yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Francis', you have referred to the Secretary  
8 of State, Gordon Campbell, being a friend of the man who  
9 was SNR [REDACTED], would that be  
10 Mr GUL [REDACTED] you have in mind?

11 'FRANCIS': Yes, him and GUL [REDACTED] were friends.

12 LADY SMITH: How do you know --

13 'FRANCIS': That comes across in all the documentation, and  
14 in Hansard and -- a very decent, honourable man.  
15 I mean, it's all there, so it's no something I've just  
16 assumed, it's --

17 LADY SMITH: I see. So you are getting the impression from  
18 everything you have read that these two men were  
19 friends?

20 'FRANCIS': They were friends.

21 'SHARON': Could I just interject slightly there, because,  
22 yeah, there is a memo that says when they were  
23 negotiating the registration of the school, that they  
24 wouldn't -- they would keep Willie Hamilton out of the  
25 correspondence of -- their correspondence. So

1 Willie Hamilton wasn't to be told. There's actual  
2 discussion going on in those documents about that.

3 LADY SMITH: I think it's plain, for example, from debates  
4 in parliament that there was no love lost between them  
5 and Willie Hamilton.

6 'FRANCIS': No, exactly.

7 MS INNES: Can I ask you, please, to look at -- this is  
8 actually an earlier debate. If we look at  
9 INQ-0000001059.

10 This is a debate on 13 July 1971 and if we can go up  
11 to the top of the page and the first paragraph. It  
12 says, Mr Hamilton says:

13 'I make no apology for initiating a debate on the  
14 school in Fife at this hour of the morning.'

15 We can see, just above it, that this is at 3.19 am,  
16 in the morning.

17 'The school was first drawn to my attention in the  
18 early part of this year by a young lady investigator  
19 from Granada Television.'

20 I think you're aware from the documents that you  
21 have read that there was an investigation by Granada  
22 into children from England that were being placed in  
23 Corsbie Hall?

24 'FRANCIS': Yeah, yep.

25 MS INNES: I think you also know that there were --



1 Mrs Thatcher, who was the relevant Secretary of State at  
2 the time, had stopped children from England going there  
3 in 1971?

4 'FRANCIS': Yeah.

5 MS INNES: If we scroll down a little, it's opposite where  
6 it says 'column 453', there's a paragraph where it says:  
7 'I have never said anything personally against  
8 Mr GUL [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. I believe that he is  
9 interested in childcare work and I understood him to say  
10 that he had done ten years' childcare work, mostly in  
11 Devon and Cambridge, that he has no qualifications  
12 whatever for the work, either academic or otherwise, and  
13 indeed he made no claim to them when I spoke to him. He  
14 said that he was [REDACTED] of the business and  
15 his plan SNR [REDACTED] as a private, fee-paying  
16 school for mentally and socially disturbed children.'

17 So do you have any comment on what Mr Hamilton is  
18 saying there about the qualifications and experience of  
19 the --

20 'FRANCIS': I think he's totally unsuitable SNR [REDACTED]  
21 that kind of establishment with no qualifications  
22 whatsoever. [REDACTED] to take the most difficult -- by  
23 their words, the most difficult children in a place and  
24 try and educate them? I think not, eh. I think it's  
25 a financial -- he's interested in the financial gain [REDACTED]

1       [REDACTED]. Nothing to do with children.

2   MS INNES: Then if we scroll down just to -- just below

3       where it says 'column 454' on the right-hand side,

4       there's a paragraph beginning:

5       'I was given no clear indication of how the boys

6       were selected or graded for the school. I was told that

7       at least two boys were there following court orders.

8       I do not know whether they were mentally retarded,

9       socially maladjusted or what, but they were there.

10      There was a mixture of all kinds of children with IQs

11      ranging from 60 to 100.'

12      I think that you've already both said in your

13      evidence that you weren't clear as to why your brother

14      went to this place?

15   'FRANCIS': It was -- when I look at them IQs, no, it's even

16      more astonishing. But that was in 1971, so maybe they

17      wanted to start introducing some cleverer kids to bring

18      the lower IQ ones on a bit. I think the financial

19      aspect is why he opened the school. It's nothing to do

20      with helping kids.

21   MS INNES: If we scroll down to where it says 'column 459'

22      and Mr Hamilton is saying:

23      'I believe that Scottish local authorities ... '

24      Yes:

25      'I believe that the Scottish local education

1       authorities have failed to discharge their proper  
2       responsibilities in dealing with an underprivileged,  
3       inarticulate minority in the community. I am firmly of  
4       the view that the education of mentally handicapped  
5       children must never be left in the hands of private  
6       persons who are accountable to no one. The profit  
7       motive cannot be absent from the mind of a proprietor,  
8       even though it may not be paramount. This is in the  
9       nature of a major education scandal which cannot for  
10      much longer escape the horror and disgust of the  
11      majority of Scottish people.'

12             So that seems to be Mr Hamilton's --

13    'FRANCIS': Conclusions, on it, aye.

14    MS INNES: Conclusions. They're broader than just looking  
15      at Corsbie Hall there?

16    'FRANCIS': No, no. I do understand that he's looked into  
17      more places than that.

18    'SHARON': Difficult to understand why nobody was really  
19      listening. It's like, down south, they were listening.  
20      Margaret Thatcher was listening. It just seems to me  
21      like a little cohort of people who knew each other were  
22      covering things up.

23             It just is crazy to think that was going on and we  
24      all -- we were all there.

25    MS INNES: If we can move to another document,

1        INQ-0000001048, so this is 12 April 1972, and if we can  
2        look at the, sort of, shaded in purple:

3            'Mr Hamilton is asking that for 18 months  
4        Corsbie Hall School has been occupied by 50 or more  
5        children who are handicapped in one way or another and  
6        that some of the staff, if not all, are unqualified  
7        academically in any way whatever. Does he not recall  
8        that the English Secretary of State for Education [that  
9        was Mrs Thatcher] advised English local education  
10       authorities to withdraw their children because it was  
11       thought that the school was inadequate and that that  
12       recommendation was based on a report made by the  
13       Scottish Education Department. It's an extremely  
14       unsatisfactory situation. Can the honourable gentleman  
15       indicate what was the result of the latest inspection?'

16            And the answer to that was that the latest  
17       inspection was that he hadn't studied the report.  
18       Mr Hamilton asks why, and Mr Munro says:

19            'It's no use giving answers about a report before  
20       one has studied it. I shall study it and when I have  
21       studied it and in good time, I will make  
22       an announcement. I think the honourable gentleman is  
23       being a little hard on the school at the present time.  
24       A school must be allowed to settle down and time allowed  
25       for the carrying out of improvements which have been

1 suggested. It does not follow, however, that conditions  
2 during that period are intolerable. Indeed, if they  
3 were, I would not allow them to go on.'.

4 'FRANCIS': And he knows that why?

5 LADY SMITH: I think the school had been established in  
6 1970, when it got its provisional registration. So it  
7 seems maybe a little rich to talk about the settling  
8 down period still subsisting two years later.

9 'FRANCIS': Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Francis', what were you about to say?

11 'FRANCIS': I just find it astonishing that a man who is in  
12 charge of the country can say that about -- I mean, he's  
13 never studied the report. Why not? Why not have a look  
14 at it? It's been there three weeks. Surely he's not  
15 that busy, especially where -- not even a teaching  
16 establishment. I think we can dismiss that completely.  
17 They taught nobody nothing. But why is he in  
18 parliament? Do your job.

19 MS INNES: Then if we look at one final document  
20 INQ-0000001036.

21 This is a debate on Wednesday, 19 July 1972 and  
22 Mr Hamilton asks the Secretary of State for Scotland if  
23 he will initiate a public inquiry into Corsbie Hall  
24 School in Fife and Mr Campbell says:

25 'I do not think an inquiry would serve any useful

1        purpose. I can deal with the situation on the  
2        information I already have and can obtain through visits  
3        by HM Inspectors.'

4        So again, what's your reaction to that?

5        'FRANCIS': My reaction is, cover up. I mean, why not just  
6        airbrush everything out of existence and it will no come  
7        back to haunt them but ... And the sad thing is, he's  
8        no longer there to answer for any of them statements  
9        that he's made in the House of Commons. That is just  
10       horrible. A 9-year-old boy dies in their care, taken  
11       fae his family, as far as I'm aware, against the wishes  
12       of his family, put into a place, kept there, and run  
13       away all those times and nobody has got any information  
14       about that at all, apart fae what, thank goodness it  
15       exists in the registers department and Hansard, we would  
16       know nothing. And he's trying to make sure we werenae  
17       going to know anything at all.

18       LADY SMITH: Of course, in addition to your brother, three  
19       other boys were put at serious risk of harm as well;  
20       isn't that right?

21       'FRANCIS': Mm-hmm. Yeah. Every kid that was in there, in  
22       my opinion, will be scarred for life.

23       LADY SMITH: But I'm thinking particularly of the ones that  
24       were the runaways --

25       'FRANCIS': Mm-hmm.

1 'SHARON': Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: -- and got away, being habitual runaways,  
3 certainly your brother, and I think there's a suggestion  
4 that at least one of them -- one of the others had been  
5 doing this before.

6 'FRANCIS': There was another kid that we know he ran away  
7 a lot of times, but unfortunately he died before I could  
8 get a chance to speak to him. But his sister -- my wife  
9 spoke to his sister and she was pretty scathing on that  
10 place as well. She reckons that all his problems later  
11 on in life sprung back to that.

12 'SHARON': Could I just touch on Her Majesty's inspectors?  
13 In an earlier extract -- whatever, piece -- quote, you  
14 said they had spoken to SNR and SNR, but  
15 hadn't got a chance to speak to the other members of  
16 staff.

17 So to just say: 'Oh, we won't have an inquiry, but  
18 we'll rely on those reliable people that go in', and  
19 they can't even speak to the cook or the matron or the  
20 cleaners, surely that -- those people were a wrap-around  
21 supposed family for these kids.

22 So they're not inspecting anything. They're going  
23 and speaking to the man that's running around with 200  
24 suits on while the kids have no underwear or anything  
25 clean to wear and they're doing the gardening. That was

1       their weekend duties, moving rocks. They were 9 and  
2       younger, obviously.

3       So, yeah, it was a pretty inconclusive thing to do,  
4       wasn't it, especially since a child had died? There  
5       should have been an inquiry about it and I think we'll  
6       all agree with that.

7   MS INNES: You mentioned there that SNR was running  
8       around in expensive suits, and I think you've seen that  
9       in the documents from the National Records of Scotland.

10   'SHARON': Yeah.

11   MS INNES: That there are comments about what he was  
12       spending money on?

13   'SHARON': Yeah.

14   MS INNES: And what his office looked like and suchlike?

15   'SHARON': Yeah, that's right.

16   MS INNES: 'Francis', are there any particular reflections  
17       or lessons to be -- that we should learn from this, that  
18       you want to share?

19   'FRANCIS': I don't think it could ever happen again.  
20       I'm not saying it absolutely couldnae, but there's more  
21       scrutiny now and things like that. And people like  
22       that, I don't think exist in the same numbers as they  
23       did then and they were brutal -- brutal times. Things  
24       were slightly different and I hope it could never happen  
25       again.



1           I hope somebody would shine a light on something  
2           like that. Willie Hamilton tried.

3   MS INNES: What about you, 'Sharon', what are your  
4           reflections overall?

5   'SHARON': You can never get him back, but there are many  
6           more checks and rigorous checks on schools these days,  
7           so I wish we could go back to 1972 and I could tell you  
8           in the head I've got now what reflections, as in ideas  
9           I would have, to check on children and have people  
10          individually speak to kids and take them seriously and  
11          it's really important to take our kids' words seriously.  
12          I guess, that's the thing that, as parents ourselves, we  
13          learned and just to be kind.

14          You know, I don't think they were kind people.

15   MS INNES: Thank you very much for your evidence 'Francis'  
16           and 'Sharon'. I don't have any more questions for you.  
17          Thank you.

18   LADY SMITH: 'Francis', 'Sharon', let me add my thanks.  
19          It's been so good in respect of the learning you've  
20          added to my learning already to have you here and hear  
21          you talk so frankly and openly. It's very moving, if  
22          I can say that.

23          You'll probably be exhausted now after all you've  
24          given the Inquiry this morning, but thank you for that  
25          and I'm now able to let you go. Safe journey back.

1 'FRANCIS': Thank you.

2 'SHARON': Thank you.

3 (The witnesses withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: I'm about to rise for the morning break, but  
5 before I do that, there are a couple of names I want to  
6 mention. The witnesses themselves at one point used the  
7 name of 'Francis'. 'Francis' is his pseudonym and he's  
8 not to be identified as having given evidence to us  
9 outside this room.

10 The witnesses also both used the name of their  
11 brother, their brother who died on the motorway on the  
12 M90. His identity is also protected by my General  
13 Restriction Order and he's not to be identified as  
14 referred to in our evidence outside this room.

15 Thank you. I'll sit again after the break in about  
16 15 minutes or so.

17 (11.30 am)

18 (A short break)

19 (11.45 am)

20 LADY SMITH: Welcome back.

21 We turn to the next witness now, I think,  
22 Ms McMillan, who should be ready, yes?

23 MS MCMILLAN: Yes, my Lady.

24 The next witness wishes to remain anonymous and is  
25 known as 'Megan'.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS MCMILLAN: 'Megan' spent time in Woodfield Ladymary. She  
3 says from her statement that she went there when she was  
4 9 and left when she was around 12 years old.

5 From the records that we do have, we have been able  
6 to establish that she did go in [REDACTED] 1973, when she  
7 was 9 years old. Unfortunately, we don't have a date  
8 when she left.

9 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

10 'Megan' (affirmed)

11 LADY SMITH: 'Megan', thank you so much for coming along  
12 today to help us with your evidence.

13 As you know, I already have your written evidence in  
14 front of me and you've got it ready in the red folder  
15 there and it's been really helpful to be able to study  
16 that in advance, but there are some aspects of it that  
17 we'd like to focus on in particular today, if that's all  
18 right with you?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Megan', can I say at the outset that I know  
21 it's difficult to come into a public place and talk  
22 about yourself, particularly talk about yourself when  
23 you were a child and at times when things were upsetting  
24 and difficult and you may be caught unawares by your own  
25 emotions. Please don't worry about that.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: Please don't be embarrassed. I quite  
3 understand that can happen. If you want a break at any  
4 time, just say.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: That's not a problem.  
7 If you've got any questions at any time, please  
8 speak up, because we won't know that you've got  
9 a nagging question in your head if you don't tell us.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms McMillan  
12 and she'll take it from there, all right?

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms McMillan.

15 Questions by Ms McMillan

16 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.  
17 Good morning, 'Megan'.

18 A. Good morning.

19 Q. Just to deal with a matter of formalities first. Can  
20 I ask you to look at the final page of your witness  
21 statement, which is WIT-1-000001255, so the very, very  
22 last page.

23 We can see there at paragraph 190, it says:  
24 'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
25 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

3 It's been signed and it is dated 20 May 2023. Do  
4 you see that there?

5 A. Yes, I do, and I'm happy with it.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 If I can just take you back to the start of your  
8 statement then, where you talk firstly about life before  
9 going into care.

10 You say that you were born in Glasgow in 1963?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you initially lived in Dumbarton with your family?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I understand that you had a brother who is about one  
15 year and nine months older than you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say that your dad was a teacher in technical  
18 subjects in Beirut?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that you went to live there for a while before you  
21 came back to Scotland?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You go on to say that your mum was a radiographer, but  
24 she stayed at home a bit when you were younger?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Now, you go on to talk about some of the health  
2 conditions that you had when you were younger. I think  
3 the first one you tell us about is that you had an issue  
4 with your stomach when you were around four weeks old?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. I think you had treatment for that?  
7 A. Mm-hmm, and an operation.  
8 Q. And then you said that when you were in Beirut, you  
9 unfortunately got an infection that caused swelling in  
10 your brain?  
11 A. Yes, uh-huh, encephalitis or something, however you  
12 pronounce it.  
13 Q. I think you say that when you moved back to Scotland and  
14 to Aberdeen, that you were treated for that and it  
15 appeared that the swelling had caused damage to your  
16 brain?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. You go on to say that you think that this is what, sort  
19 of, affected parts of your learning and your speech at  
20 the time when you were younger?  
21 A. Yeah.  
22 Q. But I take it from your statement that this wasn't  
23 something that you really knew too much about then?  
24 A. No.  
25 Q. It's been more since you've been able to access your

1 medical records as you got older?

2 A. Yes, definitely.

3 Q. You go on to tell us that you went to, is it, Cults

4 Primary School?

5 A. Yes, Cults Primary.

6 Q. It was quite a big class there, about 30 children in the

7 class, so you struggled with that?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Because you felt like you needed more time and attention

10 from the teacher?

11 A. Yes, yes, I struggled big time.

12 Q. You indicated, I think, during your time at that school,

13 that the teacher would lose patience with you because of

14 how you were struggling?

15 A. Yes. And I was taken through to SNR and he

16 would hit me with a cane and hit me with a belt and one

17 time threw me across his room, and I actually have a wee

18 scar on my lip, from a bust lip.

19 Q. I think you say you were about 5 or 6 when that

20 happened?

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. And then you go on to tell us that things weren't great

23 at home either and, as a result, you ended up spending

24 some time in the Sick Kids Hospital in Aberdeen?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say at paragraph 7 that you were 8 years old and you  
2 stayed there for about six months?

3 A. Something like that, yeah, yeah.

4 Q. Do you remember if they were treating you for anything  
5 at the hospital?

6 A. I don't remember being treated for anything other than  
7 maybe counselling or psychology or I would speak to --  
8 I think, the lady was Mrs Sheldon or somebody like that,  
9 erm, but I didn't really know what it was all about.

10 Q. And I think you say that they had a school at the  
11 hospital, but did you remember anything about your  
12 schooling there? Not very much. I mean, it wasn't like  
13 a formal school setting, but I cannot even remember  
14 visually what the room looked like, but it was some kind  
15 of thing, but it would be very limited. I'm, kind of,  
16 a bit blurry on that one.

17 Q. Then you go on to say that after a period of about  
18 six months, you started at Ladymary School?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you say at paragraph 14 of your statement that you  
21 were 9 years old when you started at Ladymary School?

22 A. Yes, uh-huh.

23 Q. And you say:

24 'I don't know who decided I was to go to this school  
25 or why it was picked.'



1           Then you go on and say:  
2           'I wasn't happy about going because it was new  
3           territory and I was scared.'  
4   A.   Yeah.  
5   Q.   Are you able to tell us a bit more about why you were  
6           feeling like that, if you can remember?  
7   A.   I just felt -- well, I didn't trust my parents'  
8           decisions at that time, because I really felt I didn't  
9           have any support and then I just felt I was being  
10          stuffed away in a school and, er, I didn't know anything  
11          about it. It was -- just told I'm going and then I'd be  
12          there and nobody I'd know. So it was like put in  
13          a place that I didn't know anybody.  
14          So, yeah, I was scared, you know, and with my  
15          mother, you know, she wasn't very, you know, she didn't  
16          really -- she did say, oh, because of me and my behaving  
17          badly or something like that, you know, I was made to  
18          feel like I was the problem. So it was a very negative  
19          experience all round.  
20   Q.   I think you go on to say that you remember that your mum  
21          took you there on the first day, to Ladymary, and you  
22          say that you remember driving up this long drive with  
23          lots of trees:  
24          '... and I was seeing spooky faces in the trees.'  
25   A.   Uh-huh.

1 Q. What is it you specifically remember about that drive?

2 A. It felt a very long drive. I did years later go and try  
3 and see the building again, but it had gone by that time  
4 so I was quite annoyed about that. But the drive just  
5 seemed to go forever. Whether that's a kid's  
6 imagination or not, but there was really, old big trees  
7 and I really just felt -- it just seemed spooky 'cause  
8 it was like dark and thingmy and then eventually you  
9 come into the grounds. Yes, the building looked nice,  
10 it was quite an old-style sandstone building, from  
11 memory, but yeah, the trees did spook me, yeah. There  
12 were faces on the trees, you know, where there are big  
13 holes and carbuncles on the tree, a sight that always  
14 stuck with me, that.

15 Q. And the building, itself, and when you went into the  
16 building, what were your first impressions?

17 A. Well, I do remember, I think Sister MHT -- I never  
18 said her name right, I knew that later on -- and I think  
19 Sister Josephine, you know, and I thought, 'Oh, my  
20 goodness, this place is run by Roman Catholics or nuns',  
21 I think I said to myself at that time, but in the first  
22 area of the building, which was a bit we often didn't  
23 see, and I remember seeing a mirror and I'm thinking,  
24 'What's that about?' It was a one-way mirror and I did  
25 think that was bizarre.

1           Then I think, 'What's this place about', you know?  
2           A bit strange. And so after that I was just taken  
3           through to the unit. There's a sort of a bit of a blank  
4           space in between that. I think the bit we came in the  
5           first time was something we didn't see a lot of. It was  
6           like -- that's a formal entrance and -- but -- and then  
7           we were taken to the unit. It was the first unit and  
8           then I did think, 'Oh my goodness, is this where  
9           I'm going to be now?' And then shown the dorm -- well,  
10          I got a single room because I was the only girl in that  
11          unit and I thought, 'Oh, okay, I've got a single room'  
12          but -- and then suddenly I realised that was when my  
13          mother was just going to leave, you know, not that she  
14          was very loving to me anyway. But I suddenly thought,  
15          'Oh, I'm on my own now'.  
16   Q.   So your mum went with you into the building, was  
17          shown -- was she shown about, shown to your room?  
18   A.   I think she was shown to my room. I can't remember too  
19          much about it, but she didn't hang about. She didn't  
20          hang about for any length of time.  
21   Q.   You described when you had seen the nuns and almost got  
22          a bit of a shock?  
23   A.   I did, 'cause I wasn't at all Roman Catholic and now  
24          I'm totally non-religious because where's the religion  
25          been nice to me? So I kind of think it's nothing to --

1 I don't need to be involved with religion to be a nice  
2 person and I know that with the friends I've got now.

3 Q. And when you speak of the other staff that were there,  
4 so you mentioned two nuns and then you said that staff  
5 were showing you to your room. Were these staff members  
6 nuns?

7 A. No. Well, they didn't dress like any. So in the units  
8 themselves it was just like staff, like people in civvy  
9 clothing, you know, there wasn't uniforms. I don't  
10 remember any uniforms. I think they just wore their  
11 civvy clothes 'cause it was just like ...

12 Q. You go on at paragraph 18 of your statement to say that:  
13 'The place was mixed, girls and boys, aged from 9 to  
14 12 years when I was there ... There was about 25 kids  
15 in the school.'

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Would you say it was an even split of girls and boys,  
18 from what you remember?

19 A. I feel it was more boys. Well, certainly in the first  
20 unit I was the only girl. But I think the second  
21 unit -- mm -- it was more level there, but still more  
22 boys, if I'm thinking about -- no, there was definitely  
23 more boys than girls. But the first unit, you know, one  
24 of me and about six boys, or -- I can't remember exactly  
25 the quantity and the second unit, probably like

1       two-thirds boys and one-third girls. 'Cause I remember,  
2       I think it was either in a dormitory of three, but  
3       I was -- there was another girl which, bless her cotton  
4       socks, now, as a mature adult, I realised that she was  
5       probably autistic which I didn't know what that was  
6       about and she lived in a cupboard, which I thought was  
7       shocking, and so she -- so there was four girls in the  
8       second unit.

9   Q.   We'll touch on your time at the second unit shortly, but  
10       insofar as the first unit was concerned, so where you  
11       first went, what was your room like? Was there any  
12       space for your personal belongings, anything?

13  A.   I just remember a bed and a table and a chair. I don't  
14       remember much else and I really didn't have anything  
15       other than my clothing.

16  Q.   What about staff members? Was there anyone -- any staff  
17       members' rooms beside you at that point from what you  
18       remember?

19  A.   Yes. Well, my room was on the right and there was  
20       a staff member right at the end of the room -- sorry,  
21       her door was at the end of the corridor, so basically  
22       her walls shared -- were backed on to mine.

23  Q.   You say that -- when you describe the building in the  
24       unit, at paragraph 20, that you say there was a kitchen  
25       and bathrooms within the unit as well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So is it right -- am I right in saying that each unit  
3 had its own kitchen and bathroom?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Then you go on at paragraph 21 to talk about being moved  
6 to the next unit and you say that that was after about  
7 a year when you were 10 years old?

8 A. Yeah. I had just -- I had probably -- actually I think  
9 I was still -- well, I think -- I don't think I was  
10 fully a year in the unit. It was a few -- just around  
11 that time, just short of a year. I think I was still 9  
12 when I moved in there, but if not, I was just going on  
13 10. I don't exactly know, but, you know, give or take  
14 a few months, but certainly it wasn't a full year I was  
15 in the first unit, I know that, because I turned 9  
16 before I started, because my birthday's in [REDACTED]. So  
17 I started in [REDACTED]. I only found that out the exact  
18 date after going to the High Court.

19 Q. So the second unit, when you were sharing with the other  
20 girls, I think you go on and say that you shared a room  
21 with two other girls there. Were those girls the same  
22 age as you, from what you remember?

23 A. I think so, roughly. Because the second unit was like  
24 kids who was a bit older. The first unit was like the  
25 younger ones.

1 Q. Then you say that you think there were about eight boys  
2 and, at the end of the corridor, was another staff  
3 member's room and that was the staff member,  
4 Brian Dailey?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Then you go on at paragraph 23 to talk about what you've  
7 been telling us, which is the girl who was sleeping --  
8 who had a bed in a cupboard?

9 A. Aye -- well, I was going to say her name, I'd better not  
10 say her name. Yeah, she spent -- you know, she just was  
11 put in there and I was, like, surprised at that, but,  
12 I mean, she probably would have disturbed a lot in the  
13 dormitory because she was quite badly autistic.

14 Q. You say that now -- you're describing her now as  
15 autistic, but at the time what sort of things -- what is  
16 it that now gives you that impression that she was  
17 autistic?

18 A. Well, she would, kind of, go round the place with flags  
19 and go, 'gollity flag', 'gollity flag'. And she just --  
20 it's something that stuck with me and I don't know what  
21 that was about. But she had an obsession about flags  
22 and, you know, the one item I had, I mean, I had a charm  
23 bracelet round my teddy bear. I mean, I didn't really  
24 sleep with a teddy bear, but it was something my nana  
25 gave me and it meant a lot to me, but the charm bracelet

1 I had round it like a necklace. Well, she seemed to  
2 keep taking that and I didn't like the fact that she  
3 took it, and she was always playing with her privates as  
4 well, which was a bit unsettling, but I mean ...

5 Q. When you say that she was -- her bed was in a cupboard,  
6 was that the staff's choice or was it anything that  
7 you'd heard her say she wanted to sleep in the  
8 cupboard --

9 A. I have absolutely no idea. I mean, there wasn't a spare  
10 bed in our dormitory. There was three beds --  
11 I'm pretty sure now when I think who was in the room,  
12 three beds in our room and her bed was in the cupboard  
13 and the rest of the place was boys.

14 So there wasn't an -- it was like there was not  
15 a space in our room and then discovered that she would  
16 be better off in a separate room and I -- speaking about  
17 separate room, I know -- kind of -- if you want me to  
18 not say anything -- okay, I did have issues with wetting  
19 my bed and I had one of these gadgets that are supposed  
20 to train you and it did work, and, eventually, they  
21 train you not to, but it was embarrassing having to deal  
22 with that in front of other girls and I asked why can't  
23 I have a room to myself. And I do remember a staff  
24 member saying, 'Oh, it's 'cause he's in there', and it  
25 was like -- you know, about Brian Dailey 'cause he had



1 the only room that was a single room otherwise. And  
2 I had a feeling that that room wasn't usually used by  
3 a staff member. I kind of thought that was a bit -- the  
4 response I got, 'cause I did feel quite awkward about,  
5 you know, I'd have to wake up and change my bed and  
6 I had two other girls wondering what's going on.

7 I found that really quite upsetting.

8 Q. You do cover it later on in your statement, but while  
9 we're talking about wetting the bed, I think you tell us  
10 that the staff then left you out new bedclothes because  
11 they knew that that was something that might happen?

12 A. Yeah, and I had to go and change my bed during the night  
13 and I'm trying to do it without drawing attention to it  
14 and the buzzer thing when it goes off, it's, like, very  
15 loud, is the understatement. So it's inevitably going  
16 to wake other folk up in the room.

17 Q. From your conversation that you were telling us about  
18 with that staff member, was it -- did you get the  
19 impression then that the room that Brian Dailey was  
20 sleeping in should have been used as a single room for  
21 someone in the unit?

22 A. Yes, I did. I did. Definitely by the response and  
23 I had a feeling that -- looking back on it, I had a  
24 feeling that staff member knew stuff was going on that  
25 shouldn't have been and that's probably why her response

1       was like that. I could be filling in the gaps, but  
2       I don't know.

3   Q. Now, we will touch on Brian Dailey specifically later on  
4       in your evidence but, before we do that, I just want to  
5       get some more details about the school in general.

6   A. Uh-huh.

7   Q. Other than the two nuns that you had seen the day that  
8       you arrived, I think you say, at paragraph 24, that the  
9       place was run by civilian staff?

10  A. Yes.

11  Q. What sort of things would the civilian staff be doing?

12  A. Well, I suppose -- well, what -- well, they would get  
13       you up, you know -- you would go to bed at particular  
14       times and they would get you up in the morning and get  
15       your breakfast, 'Make sure you get ready, we're going to  
16       school', and stuff like that. I suppose it's just like  
17       being houseparents, but, erm, yeah, kind of normal  
18       day-to-day and then, of course, when we have our  
19       breakfast and all that, you know, and we finished it, we  
20       were all involved in clearing up and things like that,  
21       you know.

22       Then we were made to go -- you know, sent to school,  
23       taken -- either taken down or just told to go or  
24       something. I can't remember there but I think we were  
25       taken down or something.

1 Q. You go on, at paragraph 26 of your statement, to talk  
2 about the daily routine and you say that the staff would  
3 wake you up and, 'Tell us to get washed and ready'.  
4 When you were getting washed and ready, did you have  
5 your own privacy to do that?

6 A. Not to the -- well, in the first unit you had a one  
7 bathroom set-up, toilet, bath and thingmy, so, yeah,  
8 kind of -- you know, you could shut the door and get  
9 a bit of privacy. In the second unit, it wasn't quite  
10 so private. You know, if you were having a shower,  
11 somebody could easy open the door and -- sorry, no, pull  
12 the curtain back, but the sinks, the wash basins, you  
13 were literally just washing in front of everybody.  
14 Toilets obviously you went in and shut the door.

15 Q. When you were getting washed, were you supervised by  
16 staff?

17 A. I don't really remember that. No, I don't think so.  
18 No.

19 Q. You go on in your statement then to talk about meal  
20 times and you say that you all had your own places, this  
21 was in the unit, at the dining table and 'our own  
22 personalised things there, like drinking cups and egg  
23 cups'.

24 A. The school would, kind of, get -- each time somebody new  
25 came, they would get a mug and an egg cup that was for

1       them, yeah. That's about the only thing that was  
2       individual.

3   Q. So the school gave that to anyone who arrived?

4   A. Yeah. I'm assuming it was the school. Everybody got  
5       one, whether it was the school paid for it or whether  
6       mum and dad had to cough up for it, I don't know.

7   Q. You go on and say at paragraph 32 that the -- you talk  
8       about the food and you mention that you had a good  
9       breakfast. You say that you didn't have a choice about  
10      what to eat, but the food was generally good, if you  
11      liked it. What happened if you didn't like the food?

12  A. Well, of course, I don't go cheese very well. I mean,  
13      it usually makes me quite sick and stuff like that and  
14      in the first unit in particular, I remember they had  
15      quiche and it was covered in cheese on the top and my  
16      mum did say that she made them aware that I was not to  
17      be fed cheese items. And macaroni cheese, oh, I just  
18      wouldnae thank you for that. I would not manage to keep  
19      that down.

20           In the first unit I said no, I can't eat that, it's  
21      got cheese on top of it and they just made me. They  
22      were saying, 'You have to eat it', and I had to sit  
23      there for hours looking at this thing and I eventually  
24      ate it, but I just instantly threw up, threw up  
25      everywhere, and then I got really got at for making

1       a mess.

2           But I mean, you know, eventually I managed to avoid

3       eating things with cheese and being made to eat it. But

4       the first unit were very forceful about that. They

5       would make me sit there all evening looking at this

6       thing I don't want to eat, which is just like

7       force-feed, kind of thing.

8   Q.   After the incident where you'd been sick because they'd

9       made you eat the cheese, did they sort of change the

10      food for you, or were you still given cheese?

11  A.   In the first unit, I was still made to eat it, but,

12      I mean, I would try to eat stuff and scrape the cheese

13      off, but, you know, I mean -- but in the second unit,

14      I don't remember being made to eat anything like that.

15      It was a bit mair accepting and I think usually --

16      I might not get a full meal, but I might eat something,

17      more vegetables or something else if it -- aye.

18  Q.   Did you see this happening to any of the other children?

19  A.   I don't remember it as much for other kids. I remember

20      it for me. It probably did happen to other kids, but

21      when I was in the first unit, I didn't seem to see

22      anybody else getting it.

23  Q.   Then you go on and tell us about a time when you were

24      all fed partially cooked and reheated mince?

25  A.   Oh, Jeez.

1 Q. And the whole school was sick and shut down for food  
2 poisoning?

3 A. Aye -- yeah -- sorry, I'm saying 'aye', that's not good.  
4 Yes, I will say I do like my mince and tatties and I did  
5 eat seconds and thirds. I got the chance of seconds and  
6 thirds that day, made a good job of it, and then I was  
7 mighty sick. It was like very sick for fully a week and  
8 they took samples. There were samples taken from us  
9 and, I mean, it had been part cooked, reheated and  
10 obviously not reheated properly. There was only --  
11 there was like about three folk -- three people in the  
12 school who didn't eat mince or something. I think it  
13 was more staff and they were the ones who got off with  
14 it.

15 I mean, with me being, at that time, a bit of a --  
16 one of the older pupils, when the older pupils were  
17 a bit better, we kind of helped in the sluicing out and  
18 cleaning out of the vomit and the sheets and the  
19 diarrhoea. It was horrible and then, of course, I ended  
20 up back ill again.

21 So, yeah, the whole school was shut down for fully  
22 a week anyway. It's not good being sick all that time,  
23 I tell you that.

24 Q. You mentioned there that you would often take the chance  
25 to eat seconds and thirds, like portions, did you feel

1       that you were hungry after you'd had your meal? Did you  
2       feel like you were given enough food?

3   A. I think -- well, I ate seconds and thirds if I really  
4       liked it, and -- but yeah, I probably did have a good  
5       appetite on me, but, I mean, downstairs meals, I would  
6       say on the whole are good. But I absolutely hated it  
7       when I saw semolina or any of that stuff, it looks like  
8       slop in a bowl like porridge or anything, I couldn't do.  
9       Yeah, but I mean, I think we got enough. But I mean  
10      usually the food was good and I remember, going back to  
11      the unit -- oh, no, am I getting mixed up? No, that's  
12      somewhere else.

13         But on the whole the food was good, but I mean it  
14      was like in the units, if you weren't happy with what  
15      you were eating, they would kind of try and bully you  
16      into eating it or -- really -- but in the canteen it  
17      wasn't quite so bad that way.

18   Q. So what would they do in the units that was different  
19      from the canteen?

20   A. Well, like, in the first unit I was made to eat it and,  
21      I mean, I usually managed to get round -- down the  
22      stairs in the canteen, I don't remember being made to  
23      eat anything cheese, but if we got semolina and that,  
24      maybe I just tried it and didn't eat it, I think I got  
25      away with that. But didn't like it.

1 Q. You go on, 'Megan', in your statement, at paragraph 43,  
2 and 44, to talk about schooling. What was the school  
3 like?

4 A. Er, I don't -- I mean, school was okay, but I mean at  
5 the same time I -- it was a bit of a blurry spot, but  
6 I do remember because I really struggled to write. I  
7 mean, my writing, even to this day, is not good, you  
8 know what I mean? And my reading and that was, erm, bad  
9 and there was a particular boy who would keep taking the  
10 mick and make a fool of me about my writing and I found  
11 that quite -- I'm very touchy about that to this day.  
12 I don't like folks criticising my writing 'cause that's  
13 a very sensitive subject.

14 But then, of course, I do remember also the 'Living  
15 and Growing' sex education, which I thought was a bit  
16 weird, and it was very -- kind of, diagrams and  
17 thingies, a programme that was on the telly, but I mean  
18 it was just like they plonked you in front of it and put  
19 the programme on and there was not much else said, you  
20 know, but okay, obviously you know what happens in  
21 classrooms and things like that, 'cause folks say some  
22 funny things and cheeky things, but, erm, that was done  
23 in the big telly room down the stairs. Sorry, I'm  
24 losing my voice.

25 Q. Just going back there to some of the things that you



1       said. You indicated that you struggled with writing and  
2       I think now you've been diagnosed as being dyslexic?

3   A. Yes.

4   Q. Who would teach the classes at the school; do you  
5       remember?

6   A. I honestly don't remember who, but it wasn't the people  
7       in the units. It wasn't not -- I don't recall it being  
8       the staff in the units, unless I have got that wrong.  
9       I mean, 'cause I have had to do -- for survival,  
10      I've done a mental block so, you know -- and it's really  
11      strange, I struggle to remember certain people's names.  
12      But that's 'cause I've obviously wiped it out my mind.

13   Q. Do you remember -- please don't worry if you don't --  
14      anything about the curriculum? Did they follow one?  
15      For example, do you remember having separate lessons?

16   A. I think it was more treated like primary school, you  
17      know. I think you get the same teacher. It wasn't done  
18      like an academy, you would move from classroom to  
19      classroom. I think you, kind of, went to the same  
20      classroom and they would do maths and English and, kind  
21      of, just basics. You didn't get all the fancy subjects  
22      that you do as you get older. I think a lot of the  
23      kids -- and I certainly including myself -- would have  
24      struggled with anything more than that, you know. I  
25      struggled with that at the time anyway.

1 Q. And you spoke about a boy that would pick on you with  
2 your handwriting. Was there anyone that you could tell  
3 about that? Could you report that to the teacher?

4 A. I did, but nothing was done about it. I mean, she saw  
5 it happen -- the teacher would see it happening and just  
6 do nothing about it and then, of course, when you're out  
7 in the playground, you know, they carry on doing it and  
8 I felt very alone, 'cause nobody was listening to my  
9 side or doing anything about it.

10 Q. You go on in your statement to talk about some of the  
11 activities that you would do when you weren't at school  
12 and you say that, at paragraph 48, that you were made to  
13 do ballet on a Tuesday after tea. Can you tell us a bit  
14 more about the ballet?

15 A. I hated that. I absolutely hated it and I hated zPRU  
16 that did it. My feet don't go into the position like  
17 what a proper ballet teacher would expect, 'cause  
18 obviously I think we've got a bit of a hip thing in our  
19 family, but I didn't know at the time. I was always  
20 taken the mick and called 'pigeon feet' by the teacher  
21 and if I couldn't get my feet positioned the way he  
22 wanted, like apart, like that or something (indicating)  
23 and he'd whack the living daylights out of my ankles  
24 with a big thick, wooden old-style NHS walking stick  
25 and, boy, did that hurt. You know, he would do that --

1 I would get that every lesson, every time, and I  
2 absolutely -- I got to the point I started refusing to  
3 go and I was made to go to bed. I would rather go to  
4 bed than go to ballet.

5 You know, I wasn't the person that wanted to go to  
6 bed early because I was a bit, kind of, active and --  
7 but there was one day -- he did that to me and  
8 I absolutely lost it, absolutely lost my temper, because  
9 I'd just had enough, grabbed the stick and I whacked him  
10 one with it. Oh, my God, did I not get punished for  
11 that, oh!

12 Q. What happened?

13 A. Well, I was dragged up -- dragged up and shoved in the  
14 quiet room and that was with three members of staff and  
15 Brian Dailey being one of them and I mean I literally  
16 lost it, lost my temper, and it takes a lot to get me to  
17 that stage, but I mean to have three adults on a little  
18 girl. I mean, when I left school at 16, I was  
19 six-and-a-half stone, so there was nothing of me then  
20 when I was at that school because I was a lot younger  
21 and I was being sat on, I could hardly breathe, I was  
22 being restrained and then I was made to stay in this  
23 disgusting room for hours. And dare I come out, I would  
24 have been really -- oh, I mean, that was just awful.

25 Q. You said there were three members of staff restraining?

1 A. Three, yeah: one of them being Brian Dailey.

2 Q. And then this was all in a quiet room?

3 A. Yeah, a room that's just like -- well, bigger than

4 a small, very small bathroom, yeah, and it was, like,

5 a dirty, manky carpet on the floor, a stone raised area

6 which I suppose is the bed, like a prison cell.

7 Honestly I've seen prison cells with more luxury, not

8 that I've been to jail, you know, from what I see on the

9 TV.

10 Q. You do go on and describe this particular room, but you

11 say that the carpet -- there was --

12 A. Yeah, there was poop under the corner of the carpet,

13 'cause there was nothing in the room. I was stuck in

14 this room for hours and I noticed a turned-up corner,

15 lifted it up and there was dried up -- somebody had done

16 a toilet in a corner under the carpet. Oh, God! Yeah,

17 it was gross.

18 Q. Were there any windows in this room?

19 A. No, not a bit. It was just like a fluorescent light,

20 just a single light, you know, it was pretty depressing.

21 The colour of the room's dull and nothing -- there was

22 nothing nice about it. Very negative experience.

23 Q. And how long did you have to stay in that room after the

24 ballet incident?

25 A. I think I must have been in there two to three hours,

1 something like that, and naebody came in that time until  
2 they took me out. So I could have -- you know, I mean  
3 they had no idea if I'd done anything in that time.

4 Q. Was the -- did the door have a lock?

5 A. I don't think it had a lock but I was terrified to come  
6 out of it. I mean, I would have -- what do you call it,  
7 a mental lock, if you know what I mean? I mean, you  
8 don't need a physical lock on a door if you're terrified  
9 to come out of a room in that situation. I mean, 'cause  
10 if I came out, what's going to happen to me next? You  
11 know, 'cause I was really, really treated appallingly  
12 and that was the first time I'd ever been in that room  
13 and I don't remember being in it another time. I think  
14 I kinda just was a bit timid after that, you know, I was  
15 really scared that would happen to me again.

16 Q. This all came as a result of, as you say, losing your  
17 temper at the ballet teacher?

18 A. Aye, and swung -- grabbed his stick and whacked him one  
19 with it on his ankle, like he's done to me.

20 Q. Had you told anyone about the ballet teacher hitting you  
21 around the ankles?

22 A. I'd mentioned it to staff and I'd also told my mother  
23 about it. Nothing happened. Nothing done about it.  
24 And being called 'pigeon feet' all the time was  
25 humiliating.

1 Q. You said that at one point, at paragraph 49, still  
2 talking about the ballet class, that there was a move  
3 where you could use the bungee cord with a belt to jump  
4 and do a twist but you weren't allowed to do that?

5 A. Oh, he would -- he had it out for me. He never, ever  
6 was going to let me do that. I really wanted to do that  
7 'cause that was almost like gymnastics and I -- I've  
8 jumped out of two aeroplanes for charity and, I mean,  
9 kinda, you know, like wire lines and things like that.  
10 So I've always liked that sort of thing. And it was  
11 great, you know, jump up and high and he favoured  
12 certain kids and I never, ever got a chance of that,  
13 because he just would hit me because he didn't like the  
14 way my feet were positioned.

15 Yeah, so I knew I was never going to have a nice  
16 time in there, absolutely dreaded going to ballet. It  
17 was -- hated it.

18 LADY SMITH: But from what you told me, you had no choice;  
19 is that right?

20 A. I had absolutely no choice. If I refused to go, I was  
21 made to go to bed and that was like a torture because it  
22 was like 6.00 pm or something, it was quite early  
23 evening, so it's a long time to be shoved in your bed  
24 'til the next day. It was horrible.

25 MS MCMILLAN: I think you say towards the end of that time

1           you actually chose to go to your bed instead?

2   A.   Yeah.   It was better than getting my ankles whacked

3           every week, because it was every week.

4   Q.   Now, moving on, at paragraph 54, you talk about family

5           contact and I know from your statement that sometimes,

6           or at least to begin with, you went home every weekend

7           and then you think it changed to every second weekend?

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   You say that there was a telephone in the cupboard

10          outside of the unit and that you could take a call there

11          and speak to someone if they phoned in to speak to you?

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   What about if you wanted to phone out to speak to

14          family?

15   A.   Never really got that choice, but I sneaked out one

16          night.   Do you want me to talk about that?

17   Q.   Yes, please.   Thank you.

18   A.   I sneaked out -- I sneaked out one night because, you

19          know, I was trying to tell my mum what happened to me

20          with the sexual abuse with Brian Dailey and all that

21          stuff and honestly I was really scared, because I knew

22          if they caught me making this phone call, I'd have got

23          in some trouble --

24               And I sneaked out that night and I asked to do

25          a reverse charge call.   At least I knew you could do

1       such a thing. Got the reverse charge call through and  
2       I was trying to tell my mum and she put the phone down  
3       on me. Didn't want to know. I never felt so alone in  
4       my life. So I went back to my bed thinking, 'I don't  
5       know who to turn to now'.

6   Q. I'm going to move on to talk about Brian Dailey. What  
7       was it you were phoning your mum to report?

8   A. The sexual abuse. Aye, I mean, it was the night  
9       after -- it was the next night after the night it first  
10      happened to me and -- 'cause I thought -- I was ever so  
11      scared that he would come through to the room again.  
12      You know, it seemed to be okay during the day. Hated  
13      the man and -- but didn't like his manner or anything.  
14      I did everything to avoid him, but that was more in the  
15      second unit.

16         But in the first unit, I knew nighttime was the  
17      time, if it was going to happen, it was going to be the  
18      time and he made me perform on an older boy which now  
19      I'm thinking might have been a friend of his, but, I  
20      mean, I thought a late teenager, early 20s, but I was  
21      made to perform on him oral sex and, erm, I had no  
22      choice in the matter. I tried to stop him, you know,  
23      push him back, 'No, don't want to do it'. Made it very  
24      clear I don't want to do it, and he literally punched me  
25      in the nose. Brian punched me in the nose and my nose



1       was bleeding. And a couple of years later, I had to get  
2       my nose cauterized 'cause I always had terrible nose  
3       bleeds after that.

4           And having my nose recently examined, it turned out  
5       my nose had been broken. I didn't know it at the time,  
6       but it was blooming sore. And I asked the lady staff  
7       member in the room at the end of the corridor whose wall  
8       backed on to me, if she could lock me in my room,  
9       because I told her about what happened and she did lock  
10      me in the room. I got a few nights of that.

11          Then of course, obviously, he came through and tried  
12      to get in my room and couldn't, 'cause the door was  
13      locked and of course you're not meant to lock kids in  
14      rooms, I know that, but I would rather be locked in my  
15      room and know that he couldn't get to me. But she must  
16      have got in trouble for that, so that stopped happening  
17      after that, and the abuse carried on.

18          I was made to perform on this boy, or older guy,  
19      later on, and this happened, certainly, at least six to  
20      ten times, but it maybe doesn't sound a lot, but the  
21      fact is every night I went to bed, I was terrified to  
22      shut my eyes and knowing that my mum wasn't there for  
23      me.

24    Q. You tried to report what had happened to a female member  
25      of staff?

1 A. Yes, but her way of dealing with it was to lock me in  
2 the room. She must have known it was going on, because  
3 she would have heard it, because, I mean, I was  
4 fighting, fighting the guy, pushing him off and  
5 shouting, 'No, no', and all that stuff and then,  
6 of course, he punched me so obviously my nose bleeding,  
7 I'm -- well, crying and screaming and that and  
8 nothing -- the door -- nothing. So, I mean, she must  
9 have been in that room at that time because it was late  
10 at night.

11 Q. And the boy that you say that Brian Dailey brought along  
12 to your room, was this -- was it someone you recognised  
13 from Ladymary?

14 A. I didn't. I didn't. But it could have been an older  
15 boy from another unit or it could have been one of his  
16 friends, 'cause I honestly -- I kinda thought he was  
17 older than 12, so -- and the school limit age was 12,  
18 I knew that at the time I started there. So I don't  
19 know who he was, but it was obviously one of -- I don't  
20 know. I don't know who he was, but I didn't like him.  
21 I didn't even know his name. So I was just made to  
22 perform on him and then, of course, he ejaculates in my  
23 mouth and I just can't even tolerate the idea of that  
24 now.

25 And, I mean, it made me sick and it's awful.

1 Q. And when -- I think you say in your statement that when  
2 Brian Dailey was coming to your room, this was when you  
3 were in the first unit?

4 A. Yes, and I didn't know he was based in the second unit,  
5 not until I moved to the second unit.

6 Q. So when the abuse started, was Brian Dailey someone that  
7 was known to you?

8 A. I didn't know where he came from, 'cause he wasn't based  
9 in the first unit.

10 Q. Did you know if he was a member of staff?

11 A. No. Didn't know who he was.

12 Q. What then happened when you went to the second unit?

13 A. Oh, my goodness me. I was thinking when I first -- when  
14 I heard I was going in a dormitory with more than one  
15 girl, I thought, 'Oh, great, I might be safe now', kind  
16 of hypothetically now.

17 Then I remember when I was taken through to the  
18 first unit, I -- then I saw this man and I just  
19 literally froze and I just felt so sick and terrified,  
20 and I was thinking, 'Oh, God now I'm in a unit that he's  
21 based in', because, I mean, there was him and there was  
22 a lady, I remember a big lady. She seemed to be quite  
23 nice, but she obviously knew what was going on with him,  
24 because she was the one who said, 'Oh, he's in that end  
25 room', and wasn't happy kinda about the idea when I

1       talked about the bed wetting.

2           But I mean he -- I was like instantly -- I just --  
3       I just wanted to go through the bottom of the floor.  
4       I just didn't want to be there. That really threw me.  
5       Then, I thought, well, if he's in this unit, what's  
6       going to happen now? But then I thought, 'Och, well,  
7       maybe I'm okay 'cause I'm in a room with two other  
8       girls', but it wasn't the case, unfortunately.

9   Q.   Are you able to tell us what happened?

10  A.   Yeah. I mean, okay, there might have been a little wee  
11       while that nothing happened and then I would then --  
12       of course my bed -- there was -- one of the girls at the  
13       window and another girl at the wall and the door was --  
14       like, my bed was here and the door was like there  
15       (indicating). So I was at the bed it was most  
16       convenient for him to come and take me out the room and,  
17       'Don't make a noise. Dare make a noise and I'll hurt  
18       you', kind of thing.

19           Then I was taken to the room at the end of the  
20       corridor that I should have got as privacy but then he  
21       abused me in there and he made me -- he had -- he made  
22       me strip off and then trousers down and that, 'cause  
23       I was into pyjamas, nae nighties, and he then took  
24       a great big U-shaped -- it seems really daft, I don't  
25       know what this was about -- great big bracket, probably

1       about 15, 18 inches long, thick, heavy steel, iron, it  
2       would have about there to support the pipes, heating  
3       pipes which were like this wide (indicating) and it was  
4       absolutely burning hot and he took that and had me bend  
5       over the bed, pressing this on my butt -- backside and  
6       it was hurting, hurting me.

7           Then after that, then okay he didn't penetrate me  
8       with his penis but he rubbed his penis on my private  
9       bits and then ejaculated all over me, and I had no  
10      choice over that. Then I was just -- sent back to my  
11      room, all covered in this yuck and, er, wasn't able to  
12      get it cleaned off, 'cause the toilets were locked at  
13      night, which seemed -- the bathroom area was locked at  
14      night, which I think might have been 'cause of him.

15           I don't know, but, I mean -- but when I was --  
16      jumping back to the first unit, when I was in the first  
17      unit when he was abusing me also in the toilet area --  
18      bathroom area there and had me performing on this boy,  
19      straddled him on the toilet and then Brian was urinating  
20      and ejaculating over us in there as well. It was just  
21      gross and I wasn't allowed to freshen up. So I had to  
22      go back to bed stinking of all this stuff, all his cum  
23      and urine. It was disgusting. Absolutely disgusting.

24   Q. And did you feel that you could report what was  
25      happening in the second unit to anyone?

1 A. What was the point? Nobody wanted to know, so I didn't.  
2 I mean, when I had migraines -- bit change -- when  
3 I got tingling down my leg, which now I realise is  
4 connected to what's happened, 'cause unfortunately  
5 I ended up with herpes, genital herpes, which  
6 I'm embarrassed to say, and, erm, the tingling down the  
7 leg, I never knew what that was about, so obviously  
8 I was struggling with it then.

9 And I told that to a member of staff. Well, they  
10 did nothing about it, so why would I tell them anything  
11 else? They don't want to know. They don't deal with  
12 it. So I'd build myself up to tell somebody and then  
13 just be let down. It hurt less not telling anybody at  
14 that stage, 'cause I -- and I couldn't even tell my  
15 mother. She didn't want to know.

16 Q. How long do you think the abuse went on for in the  
17 second unit?

18 A. I think most of the time. Most of the time, until he --  
19 I don't know, I think he left -- I can't remember if he  
20 left before me, but it certainly happened quite a lot  
21 there. But it happened more intensely in the first unit  
22 because he'd obviously better access to me. But,  
23 I mean, the second unit, it happened a couple of times,  
24 I think, but most of it was in the first unit, but the  
25 damage was done, 'cause I could never trust -- when he

1        was on duty -- 'cause they would have single staff  
2        members on at night. I used to absolutely dread it when  
3        he was on, 'cause that would be when it would likely  
4        happen.

5    Q. Now, you describe Brian Dailey at paragraph 72 of your  
6        statement and you say that he was quite a solid, brash  
7        guy with dark hair and you weren't sure of his age?

8    A. Yes.

9    Q. You say that you also forgot his name when you left the  
10       home because you'd been compartmentalising things?

11   A. Yes.

12   Q. If it was at any point suggested that it could be  
13       someone [REDACTED] called RDZ, [REDACTED] RDZ, what would you  
14       say to that?

15   A. No, absolutely not. Because I mean there was only him  
16       and zPRU [REDACTED], was the only two men that was  
17       staff between the units. And I mean -- yeah, I mean --  
18       I mean, I -- I mean, there was no way it could be  
19       anybody else. Absolutely no way, and -- you know -- I  
20       just -- I don't know, ken, how that man could think he  
21       could just get away with it.

22   Q. You go on to say at paragraph 73 that it was years later  
23       that, as an adult, that you found out that he was  
24       abusing other kids at the same time as he was abusing  
25       you?

1 A. Yeah. Honestly while I was there I didn't realise  
2 anybody else was getting it. Yeah. I was really,  
3 really -- that took me by surprise 'cause it was  
4 obviously a lot worse than I thought, but I just thought  
5 it was me. But, I mean, why would I mention it to  
6 a school mate, 'Oh, he's done sick and sick to me, you  
7 know?' 'Cause, you know, I would be laughed at anyway.  
8 I was thinking, you know, if they laugh at me about my  
9 writing, or something, I just shut down. I just didn't  
10 speak to anybody.

11 Q. You go on in your statement as well to -- moving off  
12 Brian Dailey for the moment -- to talk about the other  
13 abuse at the school.

14 You say at paragraph 58, we're just jumping back  
15 slightly, at page 10 --

16 A. Can you roll it back on the screen, please?

17 Q. It's just coming. It's paragraph 58. You say that the  
18 staff would smack you at times?

19 A. Oh yeah. Without a doubt. They would smack you on the  
20 backside, take you across their knee. Thought nothing  
21 of giving you a slap.

22 Q. For what sort of thing?

23 A. Ach, just probably misbehaving as a kid does. Nothing  
24 pretty -- nothing in particular, kind of, just -- but  
25 the worst experience was me being put in a -- completely



1       restrained in the quiet room. That was my absolutely  
2       worst experience of any form of control.

3   Q. I think you talk about that at paragraph 62 of your  
4       statement, and you tell us what you'd been telling us in  
5       your evidence today about staff pinning you down and  
6       sitting on you until -- to calm you down?

7   A. Aye.

8   Q. But you say that it didn't happen to you a lot:  
9       'But I saw it happen to other kids.'

10  A. Yes, it did. There was quite a lot of other kids,  
11       unfortunately, who were the ones who kept ending up in  
12       the quiet room. I kind of remember thinking, 'Oh, okay  
13       I want to avoid that one'. But I did think it was  
14       pretty bad, you know, and it was always the same kids,  
15       particular kids who seemed to be getting that happening  
16       to them and they would get the slap about.

17  Q. How long would those children be left in this room for?

18  A. Similar time to myself, two to three hours, easy. And  
19       you would see them, kind of, opening a door a wee bit  
20       and looking out if you were going past and, I mean, even  
21       though you could open the door, you just did not come  
22       out, unless you were told to come out.

23  Q. 'Megan', moving on a bit in your statement to page 17,  
24       you talk at paragraph 86 that you kind of knew that you  
25       would leave when you reached the age of 12 because your

1       mum had told you that?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   But you don't remember anyone preparing you to leave?

4   A.   No, don't remember that.

5   Q.   What do you mean by that?

6   A.   Well, I'd no idea when I became 12 where I was even

7       going or anything like that, you know. I think I came

8       home at the end of my term there and then suddenly told

9       my mother I'm just going to -- I think at that time it

10      was Cranley, if I remember, yeah. It is Cranley, and I

11      had to go. And that was quite daunting because, you

12      know, it was like traditional private school, Secondary Instituti

13      Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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2 Q. You go on in your statement to tell us a wee bit more,  
3 because I think, after that, you go to Forteviot Royal  
4 Hospital for Sick Children at that point and then to  
5 Cordyce, until you ultimately left school when you were  
6 16?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And at that point, you tell us that you initially went  
9 back and worked at Cordyce Nursery, before you got a job  
10 at the Teacher Resource Centre?

11 A. Yes, I was like on day release at the nursery and it  
12 went well. I enjoyed the job. I remember, there was  
13 this lovely little lad who took to me who had calipers  
14 and he weighed a tonne to lift onto to his little wee  
15 truckie he wanted to go on but, you know, I felt, even  
16 though I was just a kid, I had a good experience there  
17 and I had really good interaction with the children  
18 there and a particular kid really took to me, yeah, and  
19 that was an enjoyable experience and then I went to a  
20 Teacher Resource Centre and that was quite a different  
21 job, but the staff were lovely there, yeah.

22 Q. You got your HNC in photography and now you're  
23 a technician in a school?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. I want to move on to page 31 of your statement and

1 paragraph 161.

2 It's round about here that you talk about the impact  
3 of your time in Ladymary. What do you think, telling us  
4 today, what has been the impact of your time there?

5 A. Well, I've totally -- I really struggle with trust.  
6 Trust is a huge issue and I would say that I've never  
7 ended up with a decent relationship, 'cause sexually  
8 I just don't feel comfortable there. But I have  
9 problems with interpersonal relationships and I struggle  
10 with -- I can't trust if there's cliquiness or there's  
11 this and that -- I'm not getting it to happen at the  
12 minute. But -- and now I'm actually signed off sick  
13 long-term because I've got a new manager who isn't being  
14 understanding to just letting me do stuff in a certain  
15 way, because I experience triggers 'cause of my trauma.

16 I mean, I didn't understand how a lot of it was, why  
17 this was happening and all that. I've been going  
18 through a lot of counselling and a lot of stuff like  
19 that, which is helping me to understand why I react, but  
20 it doesn't stop it. And trust is a huge one I struggle  
21 with. Folk nae listening and believing what I'm saying.  
22 Folk trampling over my conversation, which is exactly  
23 what I struggled with, and not being believed. I really  
24 struggled with that.

25 And of course, I'm now on long-term sick on half

1 pay, and going through the High Court, dealing with this  
2 case with Brian Dailey and Redress as well and I'm doing  
3 this as well, I want to do this, 'cause I want nobody  
4 else to go through what we've gone through.

5 I just feel I've explained it to management, my  
6 work. I'm doing all this, I'm trying to deal with this,  
7 but they're not making any allowances for me. You know,  
8 if I was walking about with a gammy leg, 'Yes, we'll  
9 make sure you have access to a disabled toilet', or  
10 something, but, I mean, in here that's a disability too  
11 and it has -- it has, in many ways, screwed up my life.

12 I would have been a lot further on in my career if  
13 I hadn't gone through this and I'm really quite  
14 disappointed that I'm now on my eighth month of sickness  
15 and I'm a hard worker, I'm a doer and, I mean, I do  
16 a good job. But I don't know, just with this new  
17 manager, I can't deal with her because of what I've gone  
18 through.

19 Q. You mentioned there about something that you did go  
20 through which was the High Court trial for  
21 Brian Dailey --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and you gave evidence in that trial?

24 A. Yes. That was really hard going. It really was hard  
25 going. And particularly, if you think about it, I was

1       abused by men and then when his solicitor or court  
2       person, I always forget the names of these people, but  
3       when the camera moved on to him and all I saw was  
4       a great big hairy face and more hair here than most folk  
5       have in total, a great big man face, and I'm thinking,  
6       'Oh, my God, is he going to start asking me all these  
7       questions about -- the details about what actual  
8       happened to me', and I was just thinking -- I felt very  
9       exposed with that. But he did say he wasn't going to  
10      ask me about that, but he really challenged me about  
11      what age I thought I was when the abuse happened.

12           Well, I'm sorry, I didn't sign in saying, initially,  
13      I knew I started in this school at such and such date,  
14      well, he said I started -- I think it was [REDACTED]  
15      '73, 1973, and I thought, in my police statement, when  
16      I was -- kinda can of worms was starting to open up, I  
17      said I think I was around 10 or 11, but I actually  
18      wasn't and I actually was really quite frustrated with  
19      them saying this 'cause he was picking at my statement  
20      and I says, 'Hang on a minute. I started in that school  
21      and I'd only just turned 9. I left at 12. The abuse  
22      happened during that time'.

23           And I says:

24           'Right, going by what you're saying, it's worse than  
25      what I thought myself. I was 9 when the abuse was

1       happening, not 11. So thanks for letting me know that  
2       the abuse was worse'. I said, 'So I'm really sorry  
3       I didn't keep a diary of what happened exactly 50 years  
4       ago'. And I says, 'Could you tell me ...', I was  
5       really quite -- 'Could you tell me exactly to this day  
6       50 years ago what did you do?' And then within three  
7       minutes, the thing finished, so that's all he could pick  
8       at.

9   Q. I understand that Brian Dailey was convicted in respect  
10       of a charge involving you?

11  A. Yes.

12  Q. And that you went along to the sentencing --

13  A. Yes.

14  Q. -- hearing as well?

15  A. Yes, I did, and the sentence really is -- in America he  
16       would get life for abusing one person, nae like several  
17       folk, the sentence is a joke. But I wanted to see it  
18       for myself and I did actually bump into another guy who  
19       was a kid at the same school and we recognised one  
20       another and he had been through the case in 2017 and  
21       I know he's given evidence, so he shared that with me,  
22       and he wanted to see him get the sentence and we were  
23       all just sitting there looking and, of course, Brian was  
24       making himself look like an invalid in a chair, you  
25       know.

1           Okay, he did fall or something, but he was making it  
2           on and then he just sat there totally disinterested,  
3           couldn't -- he had no -- nothing to do with remorse in  
4           him. He just sat there fidgeting as if to say, 'Oh, God  
5           I've got to sit here and listen to that', which was just  
6           shocking.

7   Q. After those proceedings, the criminal proceedings  
8           finished, you, I think, then applied to Redress?

9   A. Yes.

10   Q. Can I ask you now to have a look at the document that's  
11           referenced WIT-3-0000005811?

12   A. That's the apology letter. It took Redress a long time  
13           to get that. It took a year, year-and-a-half, easy.

14   LADY SMITH: This is the letter from the Good Shepherd  
15           Sisters. It's not from Redress.

16   A. No, sorry, yes, they got -- on my behalf they asked for  
17           an apology. They initially were kind of refusing to  
18           give an apology or just not doing it, but eventually  
19           I was quite surprised they got it.

20   LADY SMITH: Are you saying the Redress Scheme asked for the  
21           apology on your behalf?

22   A. Yeah, on my behalf, yes.

23   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24   MS MCMILLAN: How do you feel about -- so this apology  
25           letter is dated 19 March this year -- how do you feel



1       about the letter that you've received, the apology  
2       letter?

3    A.  It's nice to see it in print.  It is nicely worded.  
4       I'm sure the individual that's written it means well,  
5       but she wasn't there.  It's just a tick box, but  
6       I'm glad I've got it because, there you go, you know,  
7       they've now said they accept they've done -- they've  
8       been responsible for it, but it doesnae change what's  
9       happened, but I'm quite glad I've achieved that.  
10      Getting that, because it's just nice to see them saying  
11      it, than always having to fight your corner and they're  
12      saying, 'No, it's nothing to do with me'.  It's like the  
13      individual saying, 'Oh, no, it's not me, it must be  
14      somebody else', or -- you know.

15             So it's nice to see it in print, but, I mean, it's  
16      not changed things and I'm glad I went forward to  
17      Redress and got some compensation, so I'm -- but, aye,  
18      it doesnae change it, but hopefully helps me, for this  
19      to end.

20   Q.  'Megan' I have just one final question for you.  For the  
21      Inquiry, going forward, what sort of lessons do you  
22      think can be learned from your time in care?

23   A.  Listen and believe is a huge factor, that's including  
24      parents and staff.  In many cases, maybe two members of  
25      staff with a kid, but then that doesn't guarantee the

1 two members of staff is not going to abuse the kid, so  
2 I don't quite -- but I think in cases where there's  
3 going to be like kids with difficulties and that, there  
4 maybe should be camera footage all the time.

5 I must admit I wouldn't have liked being filmed  
6 myself, but I think you would just get used to the  
7 camera being there and forget about it, or have it  
8 disguised, or have it set up in such a way that if there  
9 is something brought up to the attention, it can be  
10 checked on. And the biggest thing is listen. Listen  
11 and believe the kid.

12 I mean, why would I say somebody's making me do --  
13 I wouldn't say the oral sex, like take his willie in my  
14 mouth, kinda thing, or his cock in my mouth or something  
15 like that, why would I say -- say something like that?  
16 I wouldnae say it 'cause I would be wanting to say it?  
17 I mean, listen to the kids, check on how they're  
18 behaving. If they've gone quiet.

19 I mean, I see that myself, if I see kids in the  
20 school that I'm working in that I'm worried about, I --  
21 'cause we're all expected to be aware of these things,  
22 you know, so if you see a kid and you think there's  
23 something wrong, draw attention to the right people so  
24 the kid is looked after.

25 It's not a lot to ask for. Care.

1 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you very much, 'Megan'. I don't have  
2 any further questions for you.

3 A. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: 'Megan', I just want to thank you again for  
5 everything you've done to help us here, and I can see  
6 that it can't have been easy for you to do this, but be  
7 assured you've contributed enormous value to our work  
8 here. Thank you.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Now, you are free to go and I hope the rest of  
11 the day is restful for you.

12 A. Thank you so much. Thank you very much.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 LADY SMITH: Just before I rise for the lunch break, one  
15 name was used of somebody whose identity is protected by  
16 my General Restriction Order, that's Sister MHT, and  
17 she is not to be identified as referred to in our  
18 evidence outside this room.

19 I'll rise now and sit again at 2 o'clock for the  
20 next witness.

21 (1.02 pm)

22 (The luncheon adjournment)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

25 We now return to oral evidence and I see we've got

1 a witness who looks as though they're ready for us; is  
2 that right?

3 MS INNES: That's correct, my Lady.

4 This witness wishes to remain anonymous and has the  
5 pseudonym 'Patricia'.

6 'Patricia' was admitted to Woodfield Ladymary on  
7 [REDACTED] 1974 and discharged on [REDACTED] 1977.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 'Patricia', can you see me and can you hear me? I  
10 think we need to have a microphone on.

11 A. Can you hear me now?

12 LADY SMITH: I can hear you now.

13 Thank you, 'Patricia'.

14 Can you hear me?

15 A. Yes, I can.

16 LADY SMITH: And you can see me all right?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Let me introduce myself. I'm Lady Smith and I  
19 chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry here in  
20 Edinburgh. Thank you for agreeing to join us over the  
21 Webex link this afternoon to provide your evidence,  
22 which, of course, I already have in written form in your  
23 statement, but we'll be going on to ask you a few  
24 questions about that, to help us a bit further.

25 Before we begin, I would like you to promise to tell

1           the truth. Do you want to swear an oath on God or do  
2           just want to just promise?

3   A. On God. On God. I'd like to swear an oath on God.

4                       'Patricia' (sworn)

5                       (Evidence via videolink)

6   LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Patricia'.

7           'Patricia', I'll hand you over to Ms Innes in  
8           a moment but, before I do that, a couple of things  
9           I want to say.

10          I do know that it's not easy giving evidence to  
11          a public inquiry about yourself and your own life,  
12          particularly about your childhood, when things were not  
13          always happy. You may find yourself upset at times.  
14          Please don't worry about that and please don't be  
15          embarrassed.

16          If you need a break, that's absolutely fine. You  
17          just let me know. And if you've got any questions at  
18          any time, do feel free to speak up. We want to know  
19          that you've got questions rather than you feeling you  
20          have to keep them inside your head, all right?

21   A. Yeah. Well, I just want to say thank you for having  
22          an inquiry and hoping that other people don't get  
23          treated bad.

24   LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for that, 'Patricia'.

25   A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes and she'll take it  
2 from there. Ms Innes.

3 Questions by Ms Innes

4 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

5 Good afternoon, 'Patricia'.

6 A. Afternoon.

7 Q. Could I ask you, first of all, to look at your  
8 statement. I think you'll have a copy of it there.  
9 It's got the reference WIT.001.002.7635.

10 If we look at the last page of your statement, at  
11 paragraph 143, we can see -- I think we can see there  
12 that you say:

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

17 We can see that you signed your statement on  
18 7 August 2019; is that correct?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. Going back to the beginning of the statement, you tell  
21 us about the difficulties that you faced in your early  
22 life and how you ended up going into care.

23 If we can just look at page 2 and paragraph 8, you  
24 talk about going to Yorkhill Children's Hospital in  
25 Glasgow and seeing a psychologist there?

1 A. Yes. Yes.

2 Q. Do you know what the purpose of that visit with the  
3 psychologist was?

4 A. Because I witnessed my father murder my mother and kill  
5 hisself in front of me.

6 Q. And so, as follow-up, you had to go and see  
7 a psychologist?

8 A. I was in another children's home and then my mum's mum  
9 took me and my wee brother, but she didn't particularly  
10 like me, because I think -- I don't know why she didn't  
11 like me very much.

12 Q. You say that you were taken into care when you were  
13 about 5 and your gran kept your wee brother with her?

14 A. I was took into care after my mother and father's, erm,  
15 death at Crosslet House in Dumbarton. That was closed  
16 down for cruelty to children. I ended up with  
17 diphtheria and things and didn't get fed and locked in  
18 cupboards and things like that and my gran went to  
19 a convalescent home and took my wee brother and then  
20 I went and stayed with my auntie for a wee while and  
21 then I went into -- then I was in normal school for  
22 a day and then I went to Ladymary.

23 Q. Now, you tell us, at paragraph 9 of your statement,  
24 about being taken to Ladymary. What are your -- can you  
25 remember arriving at Ladymary?

1 A. Yes, there was a big, long, scary drive with lots of  
2 trees each side and bushes and I went -- we went to  
3 Ladymary and it was like a wee castle and that, because  
4 it was God's house, and I thought it was nice.

5 Q. You say that your gran and a social worker took you  
6 there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you know that you were going to be staying there  
9 when your gran took you there?

10 A. No, nobody told me that I was going to be left behind.

11 Q. When you got there, were you shown around the building?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who showed you around?

14 A. Erm, some of the nuns showed us.

15 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 10 of your statement, that  
16 there were classrooms and a living room downstairs on  
17 the ground floor and a room where you had your lunch.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So that was all on the ground floor of the building, was  
20 it?

21 A. Yes, there's a ground floor and then you went up some  
22 steps and there was a place you had your lunch and that  
23 is where we went to have ballet as well.

24 Q. You say that, in the next paragraph, the bedrooms were  
25 upstairs?



1 A. Yes, there was different dormitories and mine was at the  
2 top.  
3 Q. And did you always stay on the top floor of the  
4 building?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. And were you -- you say that you were the only girl in  
7 the unit that you were in. The rest were boys?  
8 A. Yes, yes.  
9 Q. Did you have a room of your own?  
10 A. Yes, I had a room on my own, beside the toilet. It was  
11 just a normal toilet. Didn't have a bath or anything.  
12 Q. Who was in charge of the unit that you were staying in?  
13 A. Sister MHT. She was SNR.  
14 Q. And was there another nun that was in charge of the --  
15 you and the boys that were in the top floor?  
16 A. It was Sister MHT was SNR. There was lots of  
17 different nuns. I can't remember all their names.  
18 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 13, that you remember  
19 a Sister MHV?  
20 A. Yes. She was Irish and I liked her and she used to call  
21 me a wee princess and she was awfully nice to me.  
22 Q. Did she live in a room close to where your room was?  
23 A. Where the toilet was, if you walked down a wee bit,  
24 there was a wee -- just a wee bed and, like, a chair and  
25 cabinet and sometimes Sister MHV stayed there because

1        she was there in a placement or something, but there was  
2        another room down at the other side as well.

3    Q.   Who stayed in that room?

4    A.   Brian Joseph Dailey.

5    Q.   And if we look down in your statement, you tell us about  
6        you remember having to get up and getting ready for  
7        breakfast.

8        And then, if we go on to the next page, you tell us  
9        that at meal times, you sat in an area near the  
10       dormitories?

11  A.   Yes.  There was -- we had, like, four wee tables that we  
12       would have, like, our breakfast and, erm, our dinner and  
13       supper and that was there -- that was just by the dorm  
14       and then if you went down a set of stairs, there was  
15       somebody's bedroom.  Brian Joseph's bedroom and then if  
16       you're down a few stairs, that's where the bath and that  
17       was.

18  Q.   How did you find the food at Ladymary?  What was it  
19       like?

20  A.   It was nice.  You were allowed to pick your favourite  
21       food when you left.

22  Q.   At paragraph 19, you tell us that, one day, you took  
23       a couple of Rich Tea biscuits because you were hungry --

24  A.   Yeah.

25  Q.   -- but then you panicked and took them back?

1 A. Yeah, because I thought, erm, God would have seen me  
2 take 'em without asking, and the Sister used to walk up  
3 and down the hall with the Bible and I thought maybe God  
4 would tell her and so I went out and gave her the Rich  
5 Tea biscuits back and told her I took them without  
6 asking.

7 Q. What was her response to that?

8 A. At least I've got a conscience.

9 Q. Which Sister was that; can you remember?

10 A. I cannae remember which Sister it was, who was walking  
11 up and down.

12 Q. At paragraph 20, you say that you got a bath every  
13 night?

14 A. Yes, because I wet the bed.

15 Q. Who supervised the baths?

16 A. Brian Joseph Dailey. He was the houseparent. He says  
17 that I was his wee angel, I was a good girl.

18 Q. Did Sister MHV ever supervise bathtime; can you  
19 remember?

20 A. Sometimes she did. Sometimes she did, not very often  
21 because there was quite a lot of us, but she was  
22 a teacher, Sister MHV used to teach us down at the  
23 bottom bit.

24 Q. You mentioned wetting the bed there and in your  
25 statement at paragraph 21, you say that you think that

1       you were shouted at by the staff for not telling anyone?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   Can you remember that happening?

4   A.   Yes, I didnae want to tell them I wet the bed because

5       I was scared. So I was sleeping in a bed that was wet,

6       in case I got into trouble.

7   Q.   Going on over the page, to page 5, you talk there about

8       going to school. So, after breakfast, you would go to

9       the classrooms that you've told us about and how did you

10      find school there? How did you find the classes?

11  A.   It was just rooms. I -- I liked writing and things, but

12      I didn't really know. I learnt how to write nice.

13      I used to get wee awards like alphabet books and all

14      that for writing nice and things.

15  Q.   Then, as you've mentioned already, you tell us a bit

16      more on that page about Sister MHV and how you got on

17      well together and you played together and, at

18      paragraph 26, she used to give you cuddles and tell you

19      not to worry if you had nightmares?

20  A.   Yeah. She used to say I was her wee princess and she

21      was my queen and she would give me a cuddle and tell me

22      not to worry.

23  Q.   You tell us, at paragraph 27, that she was there for

24      about a year-and-a-half and then she left?

25  A.   Yeah, she wasn't there that long. She wasn't there that

1       long as some of the other nuns.

2   Q. Did you know that she was leaving or do you know where

3       she went?

4   A. No. I didn't know where Sister MHV went. I know that

5       I was quite sad that she went because she was nice to

6       me.

7   Q. If --

8   A. I wanted to be a nurse when I grew up and she made a wee

9       cabinet thing and put me sweeties in a thing and some of

10      my friends used to pretend they were patients and she'd

11      pretend she was the visitor and I was the nurse looking

12      after them, 'cause that's what I wanted to be, a nurse.

13      But I don't know where she went, but I know she was just

14      there on a placement.

15   Q. Now, if we go on over the page, to page 6, you tell us

16      a bit about what you were able to do after school and

17      you say that sometimes you played outside in the grounds

18      but, at paragraph 30, you say that you weren't allowed

19      outside if you had been naughty?

20   A. No. If I'd been naughty, we weren't allowed outside,

21      because that was a privilege to go out and play.

22   Q. If you weren't allowed outside to play, what would you

23      do?

24   A. Just sit in my room. I would just sit in my room.

25   Q. Did you have anything in your room to play with, any

1 toys or books to read?

2 A. No, just the Bible.

3 Q. Then, at paragraph 31, you mention ballet?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And did you have to do that when you were there?

6 A. Yes. I liked ballet. I liked dancing and we had a wee

7 white dress. The boys used to do ballet too, a wee

8 white dress and I had a wee net and a wee band and my

9 ballet shoes, but I didn't like the nun that took

10 ballet.

11 Q. So this was a nun or a woman who took ballet and --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- why did you not like her?

14 A. Because if you do a certain ballet step you had to have

15 your bum in and because I couldn't do it right, she

16 would hit you with a stick between the legs and it was

17 sore.

18 Q. Was there [REDACTED], can you remember?

19 A. No, I can't remember if it was [REDACTED].

20 Q. So you can just remember the nun who taught you ballet

21 and she had a stick?

22 A. Yeah. She would hit you between the legs for to get it

23 in, and because -- like it was a port de bras or

24 something, the ballet thing that you had to stand up

25 straight with your bum in and your legs bent, but

1 I couldn't do it right.

2 LADY SMITH: Did this teacher ever hit you on your ankles?

3 A. Yeah, sometimes if she missed my legs, if she missed in  
4 between my legs then she used to hit me in the legs and  
5 I used to be very frightened of her. I used to be so  
6 scared, so I kept on practising and practising in my  
7 room to try and get it right so she wouldn't hit me.

8 LADY SMITH: I can understand that. Thank you, 'Patricia'.

9 MS INNES: You then tell us on this page about being -- you  
10 were allowed to go to the shops in the village in  
11 Colinton and one time you found a purse in a phone box?

12 A. Yes, because I went to the phone box to try and phone  
13 somebody to come and get me, take me home -- and be a  
14 good girl -- and I found a purse and I went down to the  
15 shops in Colinton and then I went to the bottom of the  
16 convent and sat on a fence 'cause I bought a box of  
17 candy lipstick and I'm sat sucking the lipstick and  
18 Sister MHT, Sister MHV and the lady whose purse it  
19 was came up and I gave them -- I said I didn't spend  
20 a lot and they took my candy lipsticks off me and they  
21 said, 'Did you steal that?' And I says, 'No'. You said  
22 'finders keepers, losers weepers', you used to say --  
23 I used to get told at home, so I didn't think it was  
24 stealing, 'cause I found it.

25 Q. What was the punishment for doing that? I think you



1 tell us at paragraph 35 that you weren't allowed to go  
2 to ballet lessons or watch the telly?

3 A. Yeah. I wasn't allowed to go to ballet or watch the  
4 telly or get, like, any privileges whatsoever, because  
5 I took -- they says I stole it but I didn't. I found  
6 it.

7 Q. You say that after a while you were -- you asked your  
8 friend if you were able to come out of your room?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you were allowed to come back out of your room again  
11 after a while?

12 A. [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] asked -- and [REDACTED] went and asked if  
13 I could come out and play.

14 Q. Were you allowed to come out then at that point?

15 A. Well, it felt for ages that I wasn't allowed out,  
16 because I had to learn that I wasn't to take anything  
17 and steal. But I didn't steal though.

18 Q. Now, if we go on over the page, to page 7, you tell us  
19 that sometimes you had to go to the Royal Hospital for  
20 Sick Children, but you say, at paragraph 41, that you  
21 were put on Valium when you were about 10-and-a-half?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Why was that, do you know?

24 A. I was told if I took them that they would -- it would  
25 make me feel nice and I wouldn't miss home and



1 I wouldn't feel bad and if I had any pain or anything,  
2 it would go away.

3 Q. You say, at paragraph 42, that the staff gave you one of  
4 the Valium tablets when they thought you needed it, so  
5 it would be up to the staff to decide?

6 A. Yes, up to the staff to decide and they would just tell  
7 me to take it, it would make me feel better.

8 Q. Now, if we move on to page 9 of your statement, you tell  
9 us about what happened when Brian Dailey, who you've  
10 already mentioned, used to supervise you when you were  
11 in the bath and you, as you've already said, he used to  
12 say that you were his wee angel?

13 A. And buy me a Twinkle and sweeties. He used to buy me  
14 a Twinkle comic and sweeties and say I was his wee  
15 angel.

16 Q. Are you able to tell us about what he did to you when  
17 you were in the bath?

18 A. I didn't know what that was. It -- it just looked like  
19 a sausage, banana thing he had and he used to wash it in  
20 between my legs and says that that was dirty in there  
21 too. I didn't know what that was, so -- so I didn't  
22 know it was bad.

23 Q. You tell us in your statement that he used to touch you  
24 in your private parts and that he made you touch him, he  
25 made you --

1 A. Yes, he used to get his -- that thing, it looked like  
2 a sausage thing and hit it off my face and put it in my  
3 mouth and then I'd be all stinky and I didn't know why  
4 he ...

5 Q. Was that his penis that he was doing that with?

6 A. I know that now, but I didn't know it then. I didn't  
7 know what it was.

8 Q. Then you tell us, at paragraph 52, that one time he did  
9 something different, it really hurt and you ended up  
10 bleeding?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And -- sorry --

13 A. He made me sit on top of him and it hurt so bad and  
14 I was bleeding and he put me back in the bath and tried  
15 to clean me and I remember going to the toilet beside my  
16 room and I was crying for somebody, 'Please help me'  
17 because I didn't know why I was bleeding, and I thought  
18 I belonged to the devil or something. And somebody  
19 threw a sanitary towel with big loops round it and threw  
20 it in the toilet and I can remember saying that 'I'm not  
21 wearing a nappy', and I didn't tell -- I wanted to tell.

22 Q. Was there anybody that you were able to tell about what  
23 was happening at the time?

24 A. He told me if I told anybody, he would say I was a bad  
25 girl and naughty and they wouldn't believe me and nobody

1        would love me at Ladymary or at home, and I'd go to hell  
2        and belong to the devil, and so I couldn't tell anybody.  
3        I really wanted to tell Sister MHV , but I was  
4        frightened.

5    Q.    You say that maybe when you were a wee bit older, maybe  
6        when you were about 11, you think that you maybe told  
7        your aunt what was happening and you say that --

8    A.    Yeah.

9    Q.    -- your grandad went and spoke to the Mother Superior?

10   A.    I must have let it slip out to my wee niece or something  
11        and when my aunt, who I called my big sister, and I can  
12        remember being in Ladymary and the next minute, my  
13        granda, who I called my dad, came up with my big sister  
14        and started shouting. He said to me first, 'Who's  
15        that -- that guy over there?' I said, 'That's the man  
16        that gives me a bath', and he was shouting at the nuns  
17        and all that and I was scared in case he'd get into  
18        trouble. And then that was the last time I seen  
19        Brian Dailey and he didn't even say cheerio or bye and  
20        he says I was his mate.

21   Q.    And did you leave Ladymary after that as well?

22   A.    My granda and that stayed and took me out, took me out  
23        of Ladymary and my granny promised -- well, my mum  
24        promised I'd go to a normal school or home, but she  
25        lied.

1 Q. I think you go on to tell us -- and I'm not going to ask  
2 you questions about this today -- but you go on to tell  
3 us in your statement that you went to a school called  
4 Merton Hall School in Newton Stewart and you tell us --  
5 A. Yes, down in Newton Stewart. That was away miles away  
6 and I didn't know. I was told by social work and that,  
7 that me, my mum and my wee brother were going out on  
8 a run and there was a pony and I liked animals and then  
9 I asked, 'Where's my mum?', and that and they went,  
10 'They left', and I was running after the car, and  
11 I couldn't believe they left me again.  
12 Q. 'Patricia', you tell us about your experiences at that  
13 place in your statement. I'm not going to go over that  
14 today.  
15 I'm going to move on in your statement to page 22,  
16 when you talk about reporting what happened with  
17 Brian Dailey to the police.  
18 You told the police what had happened. Initially, I  
19 think they said that they couldn't do anything and, at  
20 that stage, you tell us that you felt like somebody had  
21 physically knocked the wind out of you?  
22 A. Yes, I -- I said to my fiancé, all I said to him was  
23 that something bad happened to me when I was a wee girl  
24 and he said, 'Phone the police and tell the police' and  
25 I says, 'But who's going to believe me?' I says,

1        'Nobody would believe me'. And I phoned the police and  
2        they came to my house and then I done recorded  
3        interviews to the police people and they phoned up and  
4        said that the case was open and there was other people  
5        going to look into it in Edinburgh and I felt as if  
6        nobody did believe me, and he was right.

7            And then months later, I got a phone call from the  
8        police saying that he was getting done, that another 11  
9        people came forward.

10    Q.   How did you feel when you were told that by the police,  
11        that all these other people had come forward?

12    A.   I felt -- I don't know what I felt. I just wanted  
13        somebody to believe me, that I was telling the truth and  
14        I wasn't bad, and I didn't belong to the devil.

15            Because I still wet the bed even now and everything.  
16        They stole everything. Everything from me. I couldn't  
17        even enjoy being a mum because I felt everyone would  
18        know what I did and I can't even -- I couldn't even ask  
19        for sanitary towels and I don't like getting undressed  
20        in front of people and I used to drink holy water,  
21        I still do, to keep the devil away from me.

22    Q.   After speaking to the police about Brian Dailey and then  
23        being told that other people had come forward, did you  
24        ever have to give evidence in court about it?

25    A.   Yes, yes. I gave evidence at court, it was -- it was --

1        what was it called? A commission that I gave  
2        evidence -- a commission.

3    Q. How did you find giving evidence at the commission? How  
4        did you find that experience?

5    A. It -- it was hard, 'cause a lot of things happened to  
6        that wee girl and that wee girl wanted to come back out  
7        and tell in her own words, even though she was part of  
8        me, and I just didn't understand really, 'cause I was  
9        told I suffered fae complex post-traumatic stress  
10       disorder and depersonalisation blackouts because of  
11       everything.

12   Q. We know that Brian Dailey was convicted?

13   A. Yes.

14   Q. How did you feel when you heard that he had been  
15       convicted?

16   A. I went and wrote a statement letter and I told the  
17       police that I forgive him, that I've not got a right to  
18       judge anybody and that the judges and God would judge  
19       him, but I felt a wee bit happy because somebody had  
20       finally believed that wee girl and somebody finally  
21       listened to her. And every time I tried to tell social  
22       work, everybody, they weren't interested. They'd sent  
23       me away as if I was a nobody.

24   Q. Finally, 'Patricia', you tell us why it is that you have  
25       come forward to speak to the Inquiry and talk about what

1       happened to you.

2           Why did you come to the Inquiry and give

3       a statement?

4   A.   Because I thought that it was good that somebody wanted

5       to hear people and what they went through, because it

6       wasn't nice but, most of all, I wanted to protect

7       children in care today, so that they don't have to feel

8       or go through what me and other survivors went through

9       and I felt that it was the right thing to do.

10  MS INNES: Thank you for your evidence, 'Patricia'.

11           I don't have any more questions for you. Thank you.

12  LADY SMITH: 'Patricia', I don't have any other questions.

13       I just want to thank you again for helping us today with

14       your evidence. As I said at the beginning, I did

15       realise that this wasn't going to be easy and I can see

16       it hasn't been easy, but the evidence you've given me is

17       very valuable and I'm really grateful to you, so thank

18       you for that.

19           Now, please, feel free to go --

20  A.   I'm very grateful to you for doing what you're doing and

21       I hope it makes a difference, so I do.

22  LADY SMITH: Yes. We all do, 'Patricia'. That's what we're

23       trying to do here. Now you go and rest. I think you

24       need it, okay? Thank you.

25  A.   Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Again, the name Sister MHT was used during  
3 that evidence and, as I said before lunch, her identity  
4 is protected by my General Restriction Order and she's  
5 not to be referred to as a witness mentioned in our --  
6 as a person mentioned in our evidence at all.

7 Now, Ms Innes.

8 MS INNES: My Lady, we have obviously heard evidence today  
9 about the conviction of Brian Dailey and I wonder if it  
10 might be helpful now to look at his convictions.

11 LADY SMITH: That would be, yes, please.

12 MS INNES: So Brian Dailey was convicted on two separate  
13 occasions, following two separate trials at the High  
14 Court, for offences committed while in the course of his  
15 employment.

16 The first trial was in June 2017. He was convicted  
17 of five charges and if we could look please at  
18 JUS-000000215 to begin with.

19 We can see here that the first charge relates  
20 to lewd and indecent and libidinous practices and  
21 sodomy, and the second charge is an assault. Both of  
22 those were when Brian Dailey was at Ridgemark Home in  
23 Lanark and that conduct was just over a year between  
24 about January 1973 and --

25 LADY SMITH: You said this is the first charge?



1 MS INNES: The first two charges. The first charge is  
2 a sexual offence and the second charge, scrolling down  
3 is an assault.

4 LADY SMITH: No, I think we were down at charge 7 there.  
5 This is what we need, yes. This starts with Ridgemark.

6 MS INNES: Charge 1 is the sexual offence and, if we scroll  
7 down, we can see charge 2 there, that's an assault,  
8 again at Ridgemark, and these are between 1973 and 1974.  
9 So before he was at Woodfield Ladymary.

10 Charges 4 and 6 are also in 1974, but later, and  
11 these concern a complainant who has given evidence to the  
12 Inquiry and has the pseudonym 'Alec'.

13 Again, your Ladyship can see that there's a charge  
14 of assault and charge 6 is a sexual offence.

15 If we look on over the page, there's more detail of  
16 the offences which include penetration.

17 Then the next page is charge 7, which is an offence  
18 committed in the 1980s, so at a later stage, at  
19 Mill Park Children's Home. This is sexual offences over  
20 a period of about two years with a female complainant  
21 aged between about 14 and 15 years old.

22 If we can look, please, at JUS-000000211, we can see  
23 that Brian Dailey was convicted on 29 June 2017. On 27  
24 July 2017, scrolling down to the bottom of the page, he  
25 was sentenced to a period of ten years in respect of

1 charges 1, 2, 4 and 6. Then four years in respect of  
2 charge 7, that being served concurrently.

3 Thereafter, Brian Dailey faced a second trial at the  
4 High Court in Glasgow in August 2022. At that stage, he  
5 was convicted of another 16 charges involving physical  
6 and sexual abuse.

7 The charges are to be found at JUS-000000212.

8 LADY SMITH: So that's the trial which 'Megan' referred to  
9 in her evidence before lunch?

10 MS INNES: Yes, that's correct.

11 And charges 3, 4 and 5, so this is the indictment  
12 with charges in respect of which he was not found guilty  
13 removed --

14 LADY SMITH: Yes, of course.

15 MS INNES: -- so these are charges in respect of which he  
16 was convicted.

17 So at charges 3, 4 and 5, there are offences which  
18 occurred when he was at Smyllum and those were between  
19 1969 and 1973. So he was at Smyllum, then he was at  
20 Ridgepark, then he was at Woodfield Ladymary and then he  
21 was at Mill Park.

22 The next 13 charges on the indictment were committed  
23 during Brian Dailey's time at Ladymary, between January  
24 1974 and December 1977. There are seven complainers.

25 Charges 9 and 10, so at the bottom of the page, we

1       see an offence and that is an offence in respect of  
2       'Patricia'.

3       Over the page, at charge 10, we see another charge  
4       in respect of 'Patricia', which is a charge of rape.

5       Then charges 11 and 12, relate to another  
6       complainer. Your Ladyship will see that the locus of  
7       the offences varies, but that complainer was also at  
8       Ladymary.

9       If we look down to charge 16, charge 16 relates to  
10      an offence which took place at the swimming pool. We  
11      have checked and that is a child who was at Ladymary.

12      If we go on over the page, at charge 19, this is  
13      a charge in respect of 'Megan', who gave evidence this  
14      morning. Again, your Ladyship can see reference to  
15      matters referred to in 'Megan's' evidence, including the  
16      involvement of another child and the hot radiator  
17      element, which 'Megan' referred to in her evidence.

18      Then charges 20, 21 and 22 relate to another  
19      complainer, again at Ladymary. This is a male child,  
20      who was around 9 years old when the abuse began and it  
21      went on for over two years.

22      Charge 23, over the page, was another complainer who  
23      was around 7 years old. The abuse continuing for about  
24      a year.

25      Charge 24 is a single charge of a physical assault

1           in respect of a male complainer.

2           Initially, Brian Dailey was sentenced to 15 years'  
3           imprisonment, but this was reduced to 12 years after  
4           a successful appeal.

5           Your Ladyship will see this at JUS-000000216.

6   LADY SMITH: I think 'Megan' thought it was 18 years, but  
7           that was the 15-year sentence, wasn't it?

8   MS INNES: Yes.

9           Your Ladyship will see that the conviction was in  
10          August 2022 in Glasgow High Court and then the sentence  
11          was in September 2022. Then at the bottom of the page,  
12          your Ladyship can see that the sentence imposed by the  
13          trial judge was 15 years, but at the Appeal Court on 28  
14          October 2022, an appeal was sustained and a period of  
15          12 years' imprisonment was substituted.

16   LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you very much.

17   MS INNES: My Lady, those are the convictions in respect of  
18          which we've heard evidence from some of the complainers  
19          as I have mentioned.

20   LADY SMITH: That's very helpful. Thank you.

21          That completes the evidence for today, I think, am I  
22          right?

23   MS INNES: That's correct, my Lady.

24          Tomorrow, we have evidence from witnesses from  
25          Fife Council.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2           There are two of them giving evidence together as

3       a panel.

4 MS INNES: Yes, as a panel, my Lady.

5 LADY SMITH: Very well, I'll rise now until 10 o'clock

6       tomorrow morning.

7       (2.50 pm)

8           (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

9           on Wednesday, 11 June 2025)

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I N D E X

1	'Sharon' (sworn) .....	2
2	'Francis' (sworn) .....	2
3	Questions by Ms Innes .....	3
4	'Megan' (affirmed) .....	55
5	Questions by Ms McMillan .....	56
6	'Patricia' (sworn) .....	105
7	Questions by Ms Innes .....	106
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
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