

1 Thursday, 5 June 2025

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 9 of  
4 our case study hearings in which we're exploring the  
5 provision of residential care for children with  
6 healthcare needs, additional support needs and disabled  
7 children.

8 Now, we, I hope, have an oral witness ready this  
9 morning.

10 MS INNES: We do, my Lady.

11 The first witness this morning is a witness who  
12 wishes to remain anonymous and has the pseudonym  
13 'Duncan'. He was born in 1967.

14 In a record of admissions found within documents  
15 provided by Fife Council, we can see that he was  
16 admitted to Linwood Hall on [REDACTED] 1982 and he left  
17 on [REDACTED] 1983.

18 In his statement, he describes being abused by  
19 David Murphy, who was convicted on 5 February 2001 of  
20 30 sexual offences against children at St Margaret's  
21 Children's Home and at Linwood Hall, and I wonder if we  
22 might perhaps just look at JUS-000000116.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS INNES: This is the sentence, which shows the date of the  
25 conviction and sentence. If we scroll down, we can see

1           the extent of the offending, and we can see, on page 2,  
2           that he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

3   LADY SMITH: How many charges was that in total, Ms Innes?

4   MS INNES: 30.

5   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6   MS INNES: If we look back at the indictment at  
7           JUS-000000115. I should say that this is the full  
8           indictment. There were amendments to it and obviously  
9           he only pled guilty to certain charges.

10   LADY SMITH: Yes.

11   MS INNES: It does appear that he only pled guilty to one  
12           charge involving a child at Linwood.

13           If we can perhaps look on to page 12. At the bottom  
14           of the page -- sorry, I'm not fully switched on, as it  
15           were.

16           At the bottom of the page, charge 56, this relates  
17           to a child at Linwood, and over the page, at page 13, he  
18           also pled guilty to charge 57, which was also in respect  
19           of the same child.

20   LADY SMITH: Right.

21   MS INNES: It does appear from the indictment that charges  
22           49 to 60 involve offending or alleged offending at  
23           Linwood.

24   LADY SMITH: Hang on, those two charges you refer to, 56 and  
25           57, specify St Monans.

1 MS INNES: That's where his caravan was.

2 LADY SMITH: Of course. But the child was resident at  
3 Linwood.

4 MS INNES: That's our understanding.

5 From page 11 of the indictment onwards, so one can  
6 see at charge 48, that's in the early 1970s when he was  
7 working at St Margaret's and then we know that he went  
8 to work at Linwood in the early 1980s and we can see  
9 from charge 49 onwards that these charges all relate to  
10 that period in the 1980s and, as I say, although the  
11 locus is different in each of the charges, it's either,  
12 as I understand it, his own address or a caravan in  
13 St Monans, and I think these later charges are likely to  
14 refer to children who were at Linwood.

15 So there were 11 charges involving offending over  
16 that time period, involving ten complainers.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS INNES: As your Ladyship will be aware, the conviction of  
19 David Murphy led to an inquiry led by Black and  
20 Williams, which has been referred to in evidence before.

21 I should say that although 'Duncan' gave a statement  
22 to the police and was due to be a witness at the trial,  
23 he is not the complainer mentioned in the charge to  
24 which David Murphy pled guilty.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

1                               'Duncan' (affirmed)

2   LADY SMITH: 'Duncan', thank you for coming along this  
3               morning to help us with your evidence in relation to  
4               your time when you were in care as a child. I'm really  
5               grateful to you for being able to do that.

6               I've already got your written statement, so that's  
7               already evidence in front of me and that's been of great  
8               assistance too.

9               But as you probably understand, we'd like to focus  
10              on some particular parts of it and explore it with you  
11              today if that's all right?

12   A. No problem. Yeah, it's fine.

13   LADY SMITH: If at any time you've got any questions, do  
14               speak up. We want to know if there's anything that's  
15               worrying you or you want to ask about.

16              If at any time it feels too much and you get upset  
17              and you want to have a break or just sit and pause, do  
18              feel free to tell me and we'll do what we can to  
19              accommodate what would make it easier for you.

20              Otherwise, 'Duncan', I'll take a break in any event  
21              at 11.30 this morning. We always do that. If we  
22              haven't finished your evidence by then, you can bank on  
23              that happening, so you'll get a breather then, but as  
24              I say, if you want a breather at any other time, that's  
25              all right.



1 A. No problem.

2 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll pass over to Ms Innes and  
3 she'll take it from there.

4 A. Thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

6 Questions by Ms Innes

7 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

8 'Duncan', if I can take you to your statement, first  
9 of all and just if we can look, please, at the end of  
10 your statement to begin with. So on page 13.  
11 On page 13, and it will come up on the screen as  
12 well, at paragraph 67 it says:  
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, I think, looking over the page as well,  
18 that you signed your statement on 21 June 2017, is that  
19 right?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Thank you.

22 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

23 Q. We know from your statement, that you were born in 1967,  
24 is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you tell us that you were born in Kirkcaldy?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You tell us that you went initially to a local

4 primary school and then you went to

5 Kirkcaldy High School?

6 A. I went to about six or seven different primary schools.

7 I started in Larbert, went to Biggar, to

8 Broughton Primary, then Duns, Elie Primary, back to

9 Broughton Primary, then Valley Primary in Kirkcaldy and

10 then Torbain Primary in Kirkcaldy.

11 Q. Was that because your family was moving about?

12 A. My dad was a farm worker and then he -- we moved back to

13 Kirkcaldy. That's when I went to Valley Primary.

14 Q. And then you tell us that when it came to the time to go

15 to high school, you went to Kirkcaldy High School?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You say that you had major problems there?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Now, if we look over the page in your statement, to

20 page 2, you talk about some of the difficulties that you

21 had at Kirkcaldy High School. At paragraph 8, you talk

22 about problems with a particular teacher there and you

23 say that you would be locked in a cupboard?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And you would be left there?

1 A. Yeah. I'd be beaten first. I'd be beaten while I was  
2 dragged into the cupboard and then locked in the  
3 cupboard.

4 Q. You say at paragraph 9 that, after a while, you just  
5 stopped going to school?

6 A. Yeah, totally. I just -- I had -- I'd walk out the door  
7 in the morning and just go and hide out.

8 Q. Was that because of what was happening?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And then you say that a letter came telling your mum  
11 that she had to take you to school?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You say that she took you in and you had a prefect take  
14 you from class to class?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And what happened in the first class that you went into?

17 A. Went in, it was either English or maths, I can't  
18 remember which, but they said: you should be in  
19 remedial, so I said: 'Right, no problem', walked out the  
20 door and that was it, I was out the back door and got  
21 home before my mum packed my stuff and I went to Leeds.

22 Q. Why did you go down to Leeds?

23 A. 'Cause one of my old school mates that I used to stay  
24 with, he'd moved down to Leeds.

25 Q. You tell us about that on page 3 of your statement and

1 I think you came back from there, back up to Kirkcaldy,  
2 did you?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And what happened about your schooling when you came  
5 back to Kirkcaldy?

6 A. When I went to school, I didn't have to go to the art  
7 class any mair 'cause at one point if I was going to  
8 have to go, I wasn't going to go to school, pure and  
9 simple. So when I was at art class, I would get sat  
10 some place and then get put to another class elsewhere.

11 Q. So you were taken out of the art class and allowed to  
12 sit somewhere else?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You say on this page that the social work started  
15 getting involved?

16 A. Well, I -- when I come back from Leeds, I actually  
17 phoned the social work to say, ken, I'd run away and  
18 I wasnae going home unless something was happening about  
19 my school and that was the only reason I would agree to  
20 actually go back home.

21 Q. At the end of this page, at paragraph 15, you say that  
22 there was a Children's Panel and you say you were asked  
23 if you wanted to visit Linwood Hall Residential School  
24 by the social work and you agreed to that?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Why were they suggesting that you might go to  
2 Linwood Hall, do you know?

3 A. Well, school life wasn't great and the home life hadnae  
4 been too great either. I'd actually been living in  
5 an all-electric house for about four or five years  
6 without electric, so I wasn't able to clean myself or  
7 anything so I got -- ken, that's another reason I was  
8 getting picked on at school.

9 Q. What did you feel about this suggestion that you go and  
10 visit Linwood Hall and maybe go there?

11 A. Well, being able to clean, shower, I was getting, ken,  
12 new clothes, I'd get pocket money every week, so I  
13 jumped at the chance to be quite honest.

14 Q. If we go on over the page, to page 4, you say that you  
15 didn't know Linwood Hall. You had never heard of it  
16 before it was mentioned by social work.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you go for a visit to it?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What did you think of it when you went to visit it?

21 A. It was all right. It looked fine. Classrooms were four  
22 or five each, ken, so you were getting, ken, actually  
23 taught something, so it was all right, aye.

24 Q. So when you say it was four or five, there were four or  
25 five pupils in the class --

1 A. To a classroom, aye. There was only 30 people max at  
2 the school.

3 Q. And you say that you were shown around by the  
4 headteacher?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And if we look at paragraph 17, you describe it as  
7 a castle?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Can you tell us --

10 A. It was an old Victorian building with towers and  
11 everything.

12 Q. If you went into this old Victorian building, was that  
13 where the school was?

14 A. The school was upstairs, to be quite honest, in the top  
15 building. There was two girls' dorms upstairs and then  
16 all the classrooms and the dorm -- the boys' dorms was  
17 down the back. It was a like a new part of it, which  
18 was four/five bedrooms with four beds to a bedroom.

19 Q. Were the boys' dorms in a completely separate building?

20 A. Yeah. It was joined, but it was a new part of the  
21 building. It wasnae a regular -- a Portakabin built  
22 sort of thing, if you know what I mean?

23 Q. It had been built on or attached to the main building?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You talk about the boys' dorms and I think -- how many

1 people did you say was in a room?

2 A. Four to a room, apart fae I think number one, it had  
3 five, or number five, I'm not sure. The furthest away  
4 one had one more, I think.

5 Q. Were you in a room with boys of your own age?

6 A. Yeah. Basically the youngest were the furthest room and  
7 as you got older, you got moved up.

8 Q. You talk about there being houseparents. You say one  
9 set had one room and one set had the other room. So  
10 were there houseparents that stayed in the residential  
11 part?

12 A. Yeah. You walked through two double doors and in  
13 between the double doors, one side was **KNH** and **KZP** 's  
14 room and the other side was Dave's and was it **KNH**?  
15 I think it was **KNH**. It was just one apiece.

16 Q. Would they swap around?

17 A. One stayed every night and it went a rota one, one, one  
18 and then after four days, it would repeat itself.

19 Q. So would there be one houseparent in overnight or two?

20 A. There'd be one.

21 Q. One. Okay.

22 And that houseparent would be in charge of all of  
23 the boys' dorms?

24 A. Yeah. And there was a girls' houseparent up the stairs  
25 as well with them.

1 Q. Now, going down to paragraph 20, you talk about the sort  
2 of normal routine. You say you got up, you went to the  
3 classes in the morning. You had lunch. You went back  
4 to classes in the afternoon and then after school, you  
5 say that you could muck about, go swimming, that kind of  
6 thing, and you talk about after dinner being able to go  
7 out to local clubs or go for a walk?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You were allowed to go offsite?

10 A. Yeah. Wednesday night the local youth club had a disco  
11 and, ken, badminton, so we went -- that was where you  
12 went on a Wednesday night. Maybe Tuesday night, you'd  
13 go swimming with whatever houseparent is, ken, one of  
14 the two houseparents that was on duty would take you  
15 swimming in Kirkcaldy or Glenrothes.

16 Q. Were you allowed to go out to the youth club on your own  
17 or with the other boys --

18 A. No, you could go out yourself. You could walk down to  
19 the shop and all, as long as you let them know you were  
20 actually going out the door.

21 Q. Do you know if that applied to all of the boys?

22 A. Yeah, as far as I know.

23 Q. And then you say that there would be supper about  
24 9 o'clock?

25 A. Yeah.



1 Q. And then you'd get ready for bed with lights out about  
2 10 o'clock?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You say that you could have a shower either first thing  
5 in the morning or last thing at night. Was it  
6 a communal shower or could you go into a room and have  
7 your own shower?

8 A. It was two or three cubicles in a room. Just depending  
9 how many was in it at a time.

10 Q. And did you feel that you had privacy in the shower  
11 room?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And then at paragraph 22, you talk about when there was  
14 one houseparent staying overnight. And you say that  
15 they would generally be in their rooms but every now and  
16 then you would hear them moving about?

17 A. Yeah. You would hear the swing doors bat, 'cause when  
18 they come through, they was batted back and forward.

19 Q. At paragraph 24, you tell us a bit more about some of  
20 the staff. So first of all, you mentioned SNR  
21 SNR. What was he like?

22 A. He was an ex-Sergeant Major fae .

23 Q. And you describe him as being rough but fair?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. You say in your statement --

1 A. He was the person that actually took [REDACTED] to court,  
2 mind, for no giving holidays. When they done a voucher,  
3 he was the one that took them to court. That was years  
4 after I left the school. He actually was the only one  
5 that managed to win or something, I think.

6 Q. So what did he -- he was trying to get maybe, was it  
7 more money from the council to allow you to do things  
8 or?

9 A. I'm not sure.

10 Q. You're not sure. Okay.

11 A. No, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was giving out thingummies -- he sued  
12 them and it was a big test case or something. It was  
13 years after I'd left school 'cause that's the last  
14 I ever heard of him.

15 Q. I see. I understand.

16 So you say that he had a cross drawn on the wall in  
17 his office and he said if you annoyed him --

18 A. No, it was in the communion room. It was in the  
19 communion room. He used to sit -- when you went in, in  
20 the morning, there was assembly and he had a seat and  
21 there was like a dog, dobie, kind of, picture and  
22 there was a wee cross on the wall.

23 Q. And you say that he said if you annoyed him he would  
24 bounce --

25 A. He would bounce you off the wall, bounce you off that

1 cross. I'd never seen him do it, but --

2 Q. But that's what he said?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. You say the threat was enough?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. How did you feel about him?

7 A. I thought it was a joke, to be quite honest, and, as

8 I said, I never seen him do it. He was never rough or

9 -- ken -- I never seen him lift his hand to anybody. He

10 was fine. He was talkable, ken. He always said: 'If

11 you've got a problem come and see me, I'll gi' you a bus

12 fare if you want to go home but don't run away, ken.

13 I'd rather you come and see me and I'll gi' you a bus

14 fare'. He was -- Mr zLUT was fine.

15 Q. At paragraph 25, you say that if you had a problem with

16 somebody, you could go to him and you would get boxing

17 gloves?

18 A. Get boxing gloves and take you up -- it would always end

19 in a draw, it didnae matter who was winning, it would

20 always end in a draw. It was just -- he didnae let you

21 get battered, ken, it was just like going to a club and

22 doing boxing, to be quite honest.

23 Q. You say you would go to the recreation room and box for

24 ten minutes?

25 A. Aye; rather than taking them outside and falling out

1           with somebody and having a big barny, that was his way  
2           of, ken, dealing with it, ken, 'Go up to him and we'll  
3           do it'. Queensberry Rules or whatever, ken.

4   Q.   And as you say, it always ended in a draw?

5   A.   Aye, always. Draw and shake hands and that's it. Not  
6           to be mentioned again.

7   Q.   Then you tell us about the houseparents. As you've  
8           said, they were on a shift and one would stay overnight.  
9           We'll come back to David Murphy but what were the other  
10          houseparents like?

11  A.   Fine.

12  Q.   At paragraph 27, you say that when you went to Linwood,  
13          you got new clothes and shoes from the social work?

14  A.   Mm-hmm.

15  Q.   There was hot water and you could have a shower every  
16          day?

17  A.   Yeah.

18  Q.   And that was something you'd not had at home?

19  A.   Not for a while, no.

20  Q.   At paragraph 29, you say that you stayed Monday to  
21          Friday and went home at weekends. Is that something  
22          that you did? Did you go home at the weekends or not?

23  A.   Most weekends but not every. I did stay a few weekends.

24  Q.   And what sort of things would you do if you stayed over  
25          at the weekends?

1 A. You'd go out. Like, one time I stayed, I got taken to  
2 a football match, Dundee United, Dundee United against  
3 Rangers I think it was.

4 Q. You say there that you could go swimming, as you've  
5 mentioned, or go cycling?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you were doing cross-country running as well,  
8 I think?

9 A. **KNH** and that done hillwalking. You could go and camp  
10 over weekends and such and I'd go outdoor and then go  
11 hillwalking with 'em and such on. That was mair **KNH** and  
12 **KZP**'s, ken, their activities sorta thing. Dave and  
13 that was mair -- **KNH**, I think he was into electric cars,  
14 ken, Scalextrics and that, he made them and all that,  
15 and Dave was into fitness.

16 Q. And you say in this paragraph:  
17 'It was great, couldn't have been a better place as  
18 far as I was concerned.'

19 A. For the first six months, yeah.

20 Q. And why was it that you thought that?

21 A. A bit of routine. I was getting pocket money.

22 Q. You said things like you had the new clothes and the  
23 showers and hot showers and things?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You also say that you did Duke of Edinburgh awards when

1           you were there?

2   A.   I done my bronze and silver.

3   Q.   And then, at paragraph 30, you talk about there's a TV

4           room with a pool table.  There's a shooting range in the

5           attic?

6   A.   In the attic, aye.

7   Q.   You say that was supervised by a member of staff?

8   A.   Yeah.  I think it was **KNH** that done the shoot -- held

9           the shooting range.

10   Q.   And there was Scalextrics, as you've mentioned, and

11           a big train set?

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   And then at paragraph 31, you say the food was good?

14   A.   Yeah.

15   Q.   At paragraph 32, you were asked some questions about

16           school.  How did you find the classes that you went to?

17   A.   Fine.  But there was nothing too strenuous.  To be quite

18           honest, I was mair advanced in technical drawing than

19           what they were.  I actually had to show the teacher how

20           to do a technical drawing, how they were doing it.  He

21           was still doing it the same way fae about 1960, where it

22           had moved on a bit.

23   Q.   You say that there was no chance of going for O-Grades

24           or anything like that?

25   A.   We didn't hae the facilities.  One of the classes was

1       run I think by SNR [REDACTED]'s wife who was -- I don't  
2       know if she was even a teacher, to be quite honest. It  
3       was mair like computer, crafts, you done a bit of  
4       spelling and maths, but not a great deal.  
5   Q. Did that bother you at all or were you happy with that?  
6   A. I couldnae read or write -- I couldnae write, so, aye,  
7       that suited me fine.  
8   Q. At paragraph 34 you say that you got pocket money at  
9       Linwood, which you have mentioned. That was something  
10      that you've never had before?  
11  A. No.  
12  Q. And that the pocket money was kept for you and one of  
13      the houseparents organised how much you had?  
14  A. It was the head houseparent, I cannae mind his name.  
15  Q. Was pocket money ever docked or money taken off you?  
16  A. No.  
17  Q. No.  
18  A. No.  
19  Q. And you say that you left Linwood with about £400?  
20  A. Yeah.  
21  Q. If we go on to page 8, you say that your social worker  
22      came to visit, but you say all you can remember doing  
23      with her was shopping?  
24  A. Basically, aye.  
25  Q. Now, if we move on to page 8, and paragraph 39, as

1       you've been saying, the first six months at Linwood you  
2       were enjoying it, everything was good?

3   A.   Mm-hmm.

4   Q.   And then you tell us that in the summer holidays,  
5       David Murphy, who was one of the houseparents, asked you  
6       if you wanted to go stay with him and go sailing with  
7       him?

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   And what did you feel about that offer?

10  A.   Fine. He used to take us out cycling and that.  
11       I'm sure by that time I'd actually went to Perth with  
12       him overnight with the boys and stayed in the hostel.  
13       Ken, cycled up to Perth one night, stayed in a hostel  
14       and then cycled back then next day and it was fine, aye.  
15       He used to do cross-country training with me and such  
16       on. So it was just another -- aye, aye.

17  Q.   And you say that he asked your mum?

18  A.   Yeah.

19  Q.   And she was quite happy with it as well?

20  A.   Yeah.

21  Q.   And then at paragraph 9, you say, as you've been  
22       mentioning, that he was a fitness fanatic?

23  A.   Mm-hmm.

24  Q.   There were all these different sports that he did with  
25       you?



1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. At paragraph 41, you say:

3 'He used to give me massages last thing at night.'

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. What was his explanation for doing that?

6 A. Stay loose for your running.

7 Q. And would that be --

8 A. He used to massage a few boys, to be quite honest, it

9 wasnae -- ken, it wasnae as if it was just me. He done

10 it to a few, so ...

11 Q. Was that in your dorm?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And would there be other boys --

14 A. Yeah, there'd be other boys about, so it was, ken --

15 there was nothing in it at that point. It was nothing.

16 Q. And you say that was going on up to the summer holidays

17 and you were going cross-country running and he was

18 taking you swimming and things.

19 And at paragraph 42, you say:

20 'He asked me to go sailing with him. He turned,

21 like flicking a coin.'

22 Can you explain that?

23 A. It was -- we'd been -- he picked me up. We went up to

24 his caravan, dropped the stuff and then we cycled back

25 down to Anstruther, went sailing, went back up, we had

1 something to eat and one then minute he was just sitting  
2 there, next minute it was like -- as I said -- just  
3 a flip of a coin and then he was a completely different  
4 person.

5 Q. And you say one day he was this nice man who was looking  
6 after you, and then he became this evil, sadistic  
7 person?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And at paragraph 44, you tell us what happened, as you  
10 have been describing. You went out sailing, you went  
11 back to the caravan. You had your tea and then you say  
12 you went to bed?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Are you able to tell us what you remember?

15 A. Just lying there and next minute I just heard a movement  
16 and -- behind my back and next thing I ken, I was  
17 flipped on my stomach and he was on top of me and that  
18 was it. I tried to fight him off. My face got pushed  
19 into the pillow and he just ripped my jammy bottoms down  
20 and molested me.

21 Q. And you say that this happened once. You never got  
22 caught out again?

23 A. I made sure I was never alone with him again.

24 Q. What did you do the next morning?

25 A. I telt him I wanted to go home.

1 Q. Did he accept that?

2 A. Not at first, no.

3 Q. Did he eventually accept it, that you wanted to go home?

4 A. When I basically told him I was either going -- I was

5 just walking -- I was going. That was it. I was just

6 leaving and I'd find my own way home.

7 Q. Did he say anything about what had happened?

8 A. On the way home, he basically just: 'Mind, nothing

9 happened. You tell anybody and I can get you any time.

10 Mind, I'm here at night by myself. I can get you'.

11 Q. And what did you feel about that? Did you believe him?

12 A. Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: 'Duncan', you said that he told you, 'Mind,

14 I'm here at night by myself'. Where did he mean by

15 'here'?

16 A. At the school.

17 LADY SMITH: At the school?

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS INNES: And then over the page, at paragraph 46, you say

21 that after you went back to Linwood, you avoided being

22 caught in a situation at school, but as you've just been

23 saying, once every four nights he was there by himself.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. What happened?

1 A. You'd hear the swing doors going and then you'd hear the  
2 door open and he'd creep up and he'd go, 'I'm still  
3 here. I can still get you any time'. And then he'd  
4 just vanish again.

5 Q. And you say that on those nights you constantly lay  
6 there awake?

7 A. I'd be sitting waiting for him. I knew he'd be -- ken,  
8 I knew. I'd lie and I'd lie and then you'd hear -- as  
9 I said, you'd hear the swing -- the gates -- the swing  
10 doors.

11 (Pause)

12 Q. You say that he would do this, he'd come into the room  
13 and he would whisper that and then away he'd go. You  
14 say at the end of paragraph 47:

15 'It was just constant mental abuse after that.'

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Would he speak to you at other times?

18 A. He'd just speak normally at other times. If there was  
19 anybody about, he'd speak normal. He'd just act normal,  
20 the same as what he did before. There was nae -- as  
21 I say, it was like the flip of a coin, ken, like two  
22 faces of a coin.

23 Q. Did you ever hear -- at the time that you were there  
24 anybody else saying that he had --

25 A. No, no.

1 Q. And you say at paragraph 48 that you made sure you never  
2 got sick?

3 A. Aye, because then you'd have to sit -- lie in your bed  
4 and, ken, there'd be naebody about for a full day.

5 Q. And did you stop doing the activities that you had been  
6 doing?

7 A. I stopped doing cross-country and everything.

8 Q. You say that you started going camping with the other  
9 houseparents and did the Duke of Edinburgh?

10 A. Yeah. If it was him and KNH that was on, I'd either go  
11 Scalextrics with KNH or I'd make sure it was someone  
12 that was nothing to do with Dave. If he was taking  
13 other people swimming, I wouldnae go. If KNH was  
14 taking, I'd go.

15 Q. If we go on, over the page, to page 11, you tell us that  
16 you left Linwood when you were 16?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you went back to your mum's house initially?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. If we go down to paragraph 53, you say that you didn't  
21 tell anybody what had happened?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Even after you went back to stay at your mum's house?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Why did you not tell your mum what had happened?

1 A. My mum actually asked me that when I was going -- when  
2 I actually had to tell her and she actually said why did  
3 I not tell her and the answer I gave her was 'Where was  
4 I going to tell you, at the end of the [REDACTED] bar?  
5 'Cause that was the only time I seen my mum, was in the  
6 [REDACTED] bar.

7 Q. And you say at paragraph 54 that you didn't tell the  
8 social work either?

9 A. No. It didnae see -- it never --it just didnae --  
10 didnae seem right, to be quite honest. It just --  
11 I don't know, it just -- I didnae want to tell anybody,  
12 to be quite honest. I was ashamed to tell anybody.

13 Q. And you also say that you were worried about  
14 David Murphy?

15 A. He terrified the hell out of me, to be quite honest,  
16 after that. I just ...

17 Q. At paragraph 55, you say that the first time that you  
18 told anyone of the abuse that you'd suffered was in  
19 1998?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you say you were called by the police?

22 A. Yeah, I got a call fae the police asking if anything had  
23 happened and initially I said no and then I had  
24 a breakdown about a month-and-a-half later and I ended  
25 up in hospital and I telt the social work in the

1           hospital.

2   Q. Did you then give a statement to the police?

3   A. Then I gave a statement to the police, yeah.

4   Q. And you say at paragraph 56 that you know that

5       David Murphy pled guilty. You say the day before you

6       were due to give evidence. So you were expecting to be

7       going along to court?

8   A. Yeah.

9   Q. How did you feel about the fact that he'd pled guilty

10       and was sent to prison?

11   A. Well, I was glad for both, to be quite honest, 'cause

12       I wasnae looking forward to giving evidence but at the

13       same time I was glad that he got jail. I did go to

14       court to see him to get jail, to be quite honest.

15       I went to the High Court in Glasgow.

16   Q. How did you feel when you went into court and saw him

17       again?

18   A. At one point I wanted to climb the dock and knock his

19       bloody head off 'cause, as he come up the stairs, he

20       goes, 'Where's my boys?'

21   Q. How did you feel after, you know, you saw him being

22       sentenced to prison?

23   A. A bit better.

24   Q. Were there other people there that had suffered abuse?

25   A. Yes. I don't know any of them personally, but, yeah.

1 Q. You say at paragraph 57 that one of the things that you  
2 were angry about was that you discovered that  
3 David Murphy had moved from one home to another. He'd  
4 been suspended and then he was moved to Linwood?  
5 A. Yeah.  
6 Q. And can you tell us how you feel about that?  
7 A. I would love to know who actually moved him fae a home  
8 after they'd been told. 'Cause a dozen boys actually  
9 stood up and said it was happening to 'em and it was  
10 just, ken, he was suspended and then moved over to us  
11 basically, to just restart all over again.  
12 Q. You've never had any explanation as to who made that  
13 decision?  
14 A. No.  
15 Q. If we look down to the bottom of page 12, you talk  
16 about -- on page 12, you talk about the impact that the  
17 abuse had on you first of all.  
18 A. Yeah.  
19 Q. What was the effect that the abuse had on you in your  
20 later life?  
21 A. 25 years a drug addict. I've never really -- terrified  
22 to hug my kids, hug my grandkids in case somebody calls  
23 me a paedophile and that, because it was so -- ken, so  
24 many years if you were abused, you would turn out to be  
25 an abuser. So I always kept my kids at arm's length



1           over the years.

2   Q.   At paragraph 61, you say that you got some compensation

3           after the trial?

4   A.   Yeah.

5   Q.   From Fife Council. At the top of page 13, you say you

6           didn't ever get an apology?

7   A.   No.

8   Q.   Would an apology have made a difference?

9   A.   Definitely.

10   Q.   And you say there again about the issue that you've just

11           raised about the fact that you don't know how it came

12           about that he was moved from one home to another?

13   A.   Somebody knew what he was doing and moved him.

14   Q.   If we can look down, please, to page 66 -- 65 first of

15           all. I think you have tried to get some access to your

16           records since you signed your statement, maybe?

17   A.   Yeah.

18   Q.   And were you able to recover anything?

19   A.   I got a card with just -- illegible writing on it, to be

20           quite honest. Couldn't understand half of what was

21           written on it. And that was just fae Kirkcaldy High.

22           Nothing for anywhere else.

23   Q.   And then at paragraph 66, you tell us about the lessons

24           to be learned. You say it should be that things like

25           this never happen again and things need to be tightened

1 up, you say?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. You say at the end of this paragraph:

4 'What would help me more than anything is answers

5 from Scottish Government.'

6 A. Just answers to who moved him and why.

7 Q. I see.

8 I suppose again we should learn from what happened,

9 that that shouldn't happen --

10 A. Somebody was told he was harming and they made

11 a physical decision to do nothing about it and move him

12 to another home.

13 Q. So we would need to look carefully about when somebody

14 has been accused of something --

15 A. If there's a dozen people standing up saying yeah, it

16 should be looked into, yes.

17 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Duncan'. I don't have any

18 more questions for you.

19 LADY SMITH: 'Duncan', let me add my thanks. You've been so

20 clear and helpful with your evidence this morning.

21 I'm really grateful to you for coming along and talking

22 to us about it.

23 I'm able to let you go now and I hope you have

24 a safe journey home. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

2 MS INNES: I think we'll be able to do a read-in at this  
3 point. I'm just going to check with Ms McMillan which  
4 read-in we're going to do and who's going to do it.  
5 (Pause)

6 MS INNES: Ms McMillan will deal with a read-in and if  
7 I might be excused briefly just to speak to the witness.  
8 Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'Ellen' (read)

11 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

12 The read-in I intend to deal with is for the witness  
13 who is going to be known as 'Ellen'.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MCMILLAN: The reference for 'Ellen's' statement is  
16 WIT-1-000000761.

17 'Ellen' is a trans woman but was recognised as male  
18 when she was born and throughout her childhood.

19 In her statement, she talks about her time in  
20 Starley Hall. She says she went to Starley Hall when  
21 she was about 13 years old.

22 She says she was there for a year-and-a-half and  
23 left before she was 16 years old.

24 Records show that she started as a day pupil in  
25 [REDACTED] 1983 and became a residential pupil in

1 [REDACTED] 1983.

2 She left Starley Hall in [REDACTED] 1985.

3 'Ellen' was born in 1969. She lived in Edinburgh  
4 with her parents and older half-sister in a one bedroom  
5 flat.

6 Her mum was involved in drugs and petty crime. Her  
7 dad was a blacksmith and had his own business for  
8 a while until that unfortunately failed.

9 She says that her mum sold drugs, which she did to  
10 survive and to provide for her and her sister.

11 'Ellen' tells us that her dad was a heavy drinker  
12 and was very violent. He was abusive towards her,  
13 telling her she was not wanted and that she had an ugly  
14 smile.

15 'Ellen' witnessed physical and serious sexual abuse  
16 towards her mother by her father. Her mother tried to  
17 remove her and her sister from the violence by staying  
18 in different places, but her dad would always find them.

19 However, she had a good relationship with her  
20 paternal grandmother who supported her, including when  
21 she disclosed to her at a young age that she wanted to  
22 be a girl when she was older.

23 'Ellen' went to the James Gillespie's Primary and  
24 then on to high school but only attended there for  
25 a short time because the bullying was bad. She started

1 to skip school. She was placed under the care of  
2 a psychologist at the age of 12.

3 'Ellen' obtained her medical records from this time,  
4 which she noted used homophobic and transphobic  
5 language.

6 At paragraph 27, 'Ellen' says it was the  
7 psychologist who produced a report which resulted in her  
8 being placed in care.

9 It stated that her actions were causing marital  
10 disharmony and she was making things difficult for those  
11 around her.

12 From paragraph 30, on page 6, 'Ellen' tells us about  
13 her arrival at Starley Hall and her experience there.  
14 She states:

15 'When I was told I was being sent away to  
16 Starley Hall, I felt like it was my fault. I wasn't  
17 involved in any of the discussions and just felt like  
18 I was being talked at and not talked to. My  
19 understanding at that time was that I was being sent  
20 away because there was something wrong with me and I was  
21 causing problems for everybody else around me. It  
22 wasn't about protecting me, but about fixing me.

23 'The bond between my mum and I was damaged for many  
24 years after that, because I thought she had a say in the  
25 decision. I later learned she didn't have a choice and

1 my granny had dementia by then, so she couldn't stop it  
2 happening, otherwise she would never have let me be  
3 taken away.

4 'I went into Starley Hall School when I was about  
5 13 years old. It was on Aberdour Road in Burntisland.  
6 The place felt like it was on a cliff edge with a drop  
7 right on the Firth of Forth. It was quite isolated with  
8 only one other mansion house near it, which I think was  
9 a private house.

10 'I don't remember my first day, but I remember the  
11 journey took over an hour. I didn't really have  
12 an understanding about what the place was when I was  
13 taken there. I felt like I had arrived at a prison camp  
14 as a punishment. I found out later it was a place for  
15 what they considered to be emotionally disturbed  
16 children.

17 'It felt like there were hundreds of kids in the  
18 place, but there wouldn't have been. There were maybe  
19 only about 15, if that, and only three were girls.  
20 I remember some of them being younger than me, some my  
21 age and some slightly older. The kids don't really  
22 stick out in my mind.

23 'I started as a day pupil at first and caught the  
24 bus there by myself, went to the classes and left every  
25 day to get the bus home. After a while, I was made to

1       stay there.

2       'As you drove up to Starley Hall, you pass

3       a gatehouse, although I don't think there were any gates

4       there. Then there was a lodge, which was an old cottage

5       with Portakabins attached to it that were used as

6       bedrooms for older kids. Further up, there were about

7       three Portakabins, which was where the school was. Then

8       further along, you came to the main house in the front

9       of you, which was like an old, imposing mansion. There

10      was also a newer building beside the main building,

11      which I think was also used for classes, but I'm not

12      sure. There was another older building behind that,

13      which was used as a gym.

14      'There was a forest if you kept walking past the

15      gym, which I think was still within the grounds.

16      'As you went into the door of the main building,

17      there were steps to the right and I think there may have

18      been a reception desk, but I'm not sure about that.

19      Straight ahead, as you went in, was the main living

20      room. To the left, were two bedrooms on the ground

21      floor, which were for the girls. I think there were two

22      girls in one and one girl in the other. The dining hall

23      was also on the ground floor and I think the kitchen was

24      downstairs.

25      'Upstairs, on the first floor, there were three

1 bedrooms for the boys, which were like dormitories.  
2 There were more stairs going up and there was a flat on  
3 the second floor, which was for staff and I remember  
4 a man, who I think was a carer, staying there at one  
5 time. I only remember going up there once.  
6 'An American man was [REDACTED], to my knowledge.  
7 I don't think he stayed on the premises.  
8 '[There was SNR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the place. Other  
9 staff I remember are Mr Leech, Miss Griffiths, who were  
10 teachers, and [a man] who was one of the carers in the  
11 main house. [This man] was a tall fat man, as far as  
12 I recall, and he had curly hair. [There was also  
13 a female carer] in the main house and later on in the  
14 lodge and there was also Mr Lloyd, who I remember as  
15 being the carer in the lodge. There were maybe two or  
16 three other staff members but I don't remember much  
17 about them or their names.  
18 'There was an older man who was a carer that worked  
19 in the main building when I first went into  
20 Starley Hall. He lived in the upstairs flat in the main  
21 building. I remember him taking me up the stairs to the  
22 main house and going into the flat. I don't remember  
23 anything after that and I don't know why. I have always  
24 wondered if I have suppressed an unpleasant memory.  
25 'I first attended as a day pupil and went to classes



1       then went home. One day I was speaking to one of the  
2       pupils in Miss Griffiths' class and she told me to stop  
3       talking. I said "Oh, for fuck's sake" under my breath.  
4       She asked me what I said so I repeated it. I was very  
5       strong willed. She then sent for Mr Leech and I was  
6       scared because he always seemed like an angry man to me.  
7       [REDACTED] came instead and told me I didn't have to be  
8       there if I didn't want to, so I left straightaway.  
9       I went out the door, got on a bus and went home.  
10      I thought I had a choice. I don't know why I thought  
11      that, because I had never had a choice in anything else.  
12      'I was made to start boarding soon after that, but  
13      I don't know if it was straightaway or a few weeks  
14      later. I thought I was being punished and locked up  
15      there because I wasn't normal and that this was the  
16      children's version of a prison. I found out later from  
17      my records, that the plan from the start was always to  
18      make me board there.  
19      'When I started boarding, [REDACTED] spoke to me in  
20      one of the offices in the school building. He told me  
21      that I was going to be living as a boy and it would show  
22      me if I wanted to live as a boy, even though I knew  
23      I didn't. I felt like my whole identity was being  
24      stripped away because I had been adamant my whole life  
25      that I wanted to live as a girl.

1           'I was put in one of the bedrooms on the first floor  
2           in the main building with other boys. I think there  
3           were eight beds in total in the room I was in, but there  
4           were maybe less. I just remember rows of beds and it  
5           felt like we were warehoused.

6           'As I got older, I moved to the bedrooms in the  
7           Portakabin attached to the lodge, which had its own  
8           living room and kitchen. I was in a room with three  
9           beds there which I shared with two other boys my age.  
10          There was another room in the lodge, which also had  
11          three beds in it. There was a carer called Mr Lloyd who  
12          stayed in and had his own bedroom there too.

13          '[The female carer] was the carer when I was in the  
14          main house and then when I was moved to the lodge, she  
15          moved there too and worked alongside Mr Lloyd.

16          'A member of staff came and woke us up in the  
17          morning. We got up and brushed our teeth and washed our  
18          faces. Then we went downstairs for breakfast in the  
19          dining hall in the main house. I don't remember many  
20          details about the routine.

21          'We went to school after breakfast in the  
22          Portakabins.

23          'After school, we just went back to the house. Then  
24          there was tea time in the dining hall and we watched TV  
25          in the living room or played bingo because [REDACTED]

1        liked playing it. There might have been other games  
2        provided for us, but I don't remember what we did in our  
3        free time. I think kids could play football or sports  
4        outside if they wanted to, but I didn't like sports so  
5        I didn't.

6        'You got in trouble for going to the toilet at night  
7        so I used to have to sneak to the bathroom on the first  
8        floor if I needed to go. Going to the bathroom at night  
9        was the only privacy I got. I would open the window  
10       because it overlooked Edinburgh and blow my mum a kiss  
11       goodnight.

12       'The weekends felt like the same routine except we  
13       didn't have school. They sometimes took us out for the  
14       day when the weather was nice.

15       'The routine was the same when I moved to the lodge,  
16       except we got ready, washed and had our meals in the  
17       lodge.

18       'We sat at tables in the dining room in the main  
19       hall. The food came up from the kitchen downstairs.

20       'I don't remember what the food was like, but  
21       I remember refusing to eat something once and it was  
22       served up to me several times over two days. I still  
23       refused to eat it and it was eventually just thrown  
24       away. I wasn't force fed and I don't remember anyone  
25       else being force fed.

1            'We had showers in the main house. I don't remember  
2 details but the shower room must have had cubicles  
3 because I would have found it traumatising showering in  
4 front of other people because I didn't like my body or  
5 feel like it was mine. There was always a carer  
6 supervising. I remember there always being a member of  
7 staff standing in the doorway watching. It was  
8 sometimes one of the teachers and sometimes Mr Leech.  
9 There was no privacy.

10           'There was a bathroom at the top of the stairs on  
11 the first floor which had a bath in it, but I don't  
12 remember ever having a bath.

13           'When I started boarding, I was given a uniform to  
14 wear. It was a jaggy jumper, a shirt and corduroy  
15 trousers. My hair was cut short too. Everybody wore  
16 the same and had the same clothes. We were like little  
17 clones stripped of our identity. We weren't allowed to  
18 have any individuality or personality.

19           'The school was in the Portakabins in the grounds.  
20 The classes were all on the left-hand side and the  
21 right-hand side was offices, including the headmaster's  
22 office.

23           'Miss Griffiths taught me most of the time.  
24 Mr Leech also taught sometimes and that sticks out  
25 because he used to give out prizes for whoever did the

1 best work and it was always the same girl who won.  
2 Then, one time, he made us write out job applications as  
3 a task and I won that time but mysteriously there was no  
4 prize for that. I wondered why I even bothered because  
5 everyone else seemed to be getting rewarded but I got  
6 nothing.

7 'The education was basic. I think I got a better  
8 education when I was in primary school. I don't  
9 remember realising at the time that I wasn't learning  
10 anything or being challenged. We didn't seem to follow  
11 a curriculum and we didn't sit any exams. My friend was  
12 really intelligent and he went out to a proper day  
13 school every day.

14 'I remember being taken to parks in the warmer  
15 months. They would take us to different parks after  
16 school and dinner and just leave us to walk around while  
17 the staff member stayed by the van.

18 'I only remember the female carer taking us there,  
19 but there might have been other staff members who took  
20 us out. They basically just took us so they didn't have  
21 to look after us or do anything with us.

22 'There were no holidays away anywhere.

23 'My birthday was during the school holidays so  
24 I would be home. I can't really remember if anyone's  
25 birthday was celebrated.

1           'I think I would be home for Christmas too. I would  
2           have remembered if I had to stay there over Christmas.

3           'I don't remember any visits from a social worker or  
4           anyone. I didn't get any visitors. I think my mum came  
5           to visit on the open day.

6           'There were other visitors that came to the school  
7           who looked official. I didn't speak to them because the  
8           staff selected certain kids to speak to them and  
9           I wasn't one of them.

10          'I used to write to my mum but you weren't allowed  
11          to seal the letters because I assume the staff read them  
12          first. So I never wrote about how I felt or what it was  
13          like in there. I was young but I wasn't stupid. My mum  
14          wrote to me once too and I think it had been opened when  
15          I got it.

16          'I got to go home every second weekend. We were  
17          taken in a blue van and dropped off at home one by one  
18          and then picked up again some time before school on  
19          a Monday morning. I went home for the school holidays  
20          too.

21          'My mum had gotten a house and lived apart from my  
22          dad when I went into Starley Hall. For the first time  
23          I felt like I could breathe when I was home because he  
24          wasn't there.

25          'A few times, I don't know how many, maybe even once

1 or twice, I got ill when I was home and so would stay  
2 for a few days longer until I got better.

3 'I was made aware that the psychologist, Mr McCabe,  
4 who had put me in there, had made an issue out of how  
5 close my mum and I were. The word he'd used was  
6 co-dependence, which I'd never heard before. I never  
7 saw Mr McCabe again once I went to Starley Hall.

8 'When I was at Starley Hall, I learned quickly that  
9 they were trying to fix me, as they saw it. [REDACTED]  
10 told me I was going to be living as a boy even though  
11 I was adamant that I was a girl and that was how  
12 I wanted to live.

13 'I didn't get any psychological treatment or any  
14 kind of care in there. It was just a holding place.  
15 There was no doctor or nurse there and I don't remember  
16 being sick while I was there.

17 '[REDACTED] tried to psychoanalyse me by asking me  
18 which of my two friends in the school ... I wanted to  
19 kiss. He was trying to use psychological questions as  
20 if he knew what he was talking about, when he clearly  
21 didn't. Even at that age, I knew he was being  
22 ridiculous. I told him I didn't want to kiss either of  
23 them because they were my friends. It would have been  
24 different if he'd asked if I wanted to kiss boys or  
25 girls. I could have answered that.

1           'I used to get panic attacks at night and I would go  
2           to the bathroom on the first floor, lift my pyjama top  
3           up and lie on the floor. It was the only thing that  
4           would cool me down and calm me down. I had to sneak to  
5           the bathroom because you got in trouble for going to the  
6           toilet.

7           'I didn't ever try to run away but other kids did.  
8           I remember being told that they were caught in the  
9           middle of the night trying to escape and were made to  
10          run around the gym hall in circles. I think they got  
11          hit too. I heard that from other kids but I don't know  
12          if it was just a story to scare us into not running  
13          away.

14          'I remember walking upstairs in the main building  
15          with an old man who was a carer. This was soon after  
16          I arrived there. We walked up to his flat and  
17          I remember walking in and I don't remember anything  
18          after going inside. It is like a steel shutter comes  
19          down in my memory. I don't know if that is because my  
20          mind is protecting me from something by shutting it out  
21          or if nothing happened in there. He was an older man  
22          with a balding head with bits of grey or white hair at  
23          the sides. He must have left soon after I got there,  
24          because I don't remember anything else about him.

25          'If you didn't pay attention during bingo or were



1        talking, [REDACTED] would lose his temper and start  
2        shouting. He would get right up in your face and scream  
3        in your face. The discipline used was intimidation,  
4        fear and shouting.

5            'One time me and another girl were talking and  
6        laughing in the living room. [REDACTED] started  
7        screaming in our faces. It wasn't even while we were  
8        playing bingo. I was terrified but started laughing.  
9        The more he shouted in my face, the more I laughed. It  
10       was the most surreal feeling. I tried to stop because  
11       I thought he was going to hit me if I didn't. I could  
12       see it coming. I must have stopped laughing because he  
13       didn't hit me. The other girl was the same. She  
14       couldn't stop laughing but I could see the fear in her  
15       face too.

16           'On one occasion, I was coming down the stairs and  
17        I saw [a male teacher] going into one of the girls'  
18        bedrooms. I think she was in the bedroom on her own at  
19        the time and had been refusing to come out. He went  
20        into her room and I stopped at the bottom of the stairs  
21        and couldn't move for some reason. He didn't close the  
22        door. I heard the girl arguing and her refusing to  
23        leave and then she started screaming. The next thing  
24        I saw was him coming out of the room and she was on the  
25        floor behind him as he was dragging her along by the

1 hair. Her arms was flailing about but she couldn't get  
2 a hold of him. I remember the panic and fear in her  
3 face. He dragged her from the bedroom to the living  
4 room by her hair.

5 'I don't remember anything after that. I was frozen  
6 where I was standing and felt so helpless. I felt like  
7 the violence I had seen from my dad was happening again  
8 and I wondered if life was just like this.

9 'I was physically abused by [that teacher] too.  
10 I don't know what provoked it. I was probably cheeky  
11 but I know I didn't swear because I had learned not to.  
12 He just came at me, without saying anything, put his  
13 hands around my throat and pinned me against the wall  
14 near the front door. It felt like it lasted forever and  
15 I wondered if this was how I was going to die. I think  
16 my eyes might have rolled back because I felt like I was  
17 going to pass out when he let me go. Nothing else was  
18 said after that. I was just left there.

19 'I didn't tell anyone about it, because I had seen  
20 violence with my dad and I had seen [the teacher] doing  
21 it to [the other girl] so I just thought it was what  
22 happened. I also thought I would get more if I said  
23 anything to anyone. This teacher could also be nice  
24 sometimes, but then so could my dad. It was a pattern  
25 I had seen before.

1           'One time I was late to go back to Starley Hall  
2           after visiting my mum at the weekend. She had kept me  
3           back for a few days because I had been ill. I remember  
4           being in [SNR ]'s] office with my mum when  
5           I got back. I don't know what the chat was about.  
6           I was sitting in a metal chair with a padded seat and  
7           wooden armrests. [SNR ] told my mum to  
8           leave. I asked her not to go and leave me because  
9           I didn't want to stay there. He told my mum to leave  
10          again so she did.

11          'As soon as my mum left and turned a corner, [SNR  
12          SNR ] came across the room towards me in a flash.  
13          He was standing over me and he had pinned my wrists down  
14          on the armrests, holding me down. I lost it and started  
15          screaming and called him every name under the sun.  
16          I was struggling to get free but he was a big rugby  
17          player and it felt like I was in a vice because he was  
18          so strong. I kept fighting because I'm stubborn but  
19          I had to stop because I felt like my wrists would snap  
20          and he'd break my bones. He wasn't arguing with me or  
21          anything.

22          'For weeks after that my wrists were black and blue,  
23          but nobody saw them because I wore long sleeves. I had  
24          always seen my mum hiding and covering up her bruises,  
25          so I thought that was what you did when you had

1 injuries.

2 'It felt like a prison camp and that nobody liked  
3 me, let alone cared. I never relaxed the whole time  
4 I was there. There was always a feeling of fear. I was  
5 made to feel like the person that I was was wrong and  
6 I was unnatural. The abuse was mental as well as  
7 physical.

8 'The only time I felt like anyone cared a little bit  
9 was when I moved to the lodge and Mr Lloyd was the carer  
10 there. He was the only one who didn't show me any  
11 dislike.

12 'I felt like [the female carer] hated me, which was  
13 proved by her reaction when I told her I had been raped.

14 'This happened when I was living in the lodge and we  
15 were being taken out on day trips to parks in the spring  
16 and summer. On this one evening, we were taken to  
17 a park in Fife, but I don't remember which park. It was  
18 still light because it was summer and we were left to  
19 wander for a certain amount of time. I went off on my  
20 own because I wanted to get as far away from [the female  
21 carer] as possible because I knew she didn't like me.

22 'I remember going into the toilets in the park,  
23 which had a corrugated roof. I remember going through  
24 the door and there were urinals on the left-hand side.  
25 I would never use urinals because it felt weird to me,

1       so I went to one of the cubicles. There was a man  
2       standing in the toilets. The cubicles were behind him  
3       and there was one to the right-hand side.

4       'The man was just standing in front of the cubicles,  
5       almost like he was waiting for someone. I went into the  
6       cubicle on the right. When I came out, I remember he  
7       led me back into the same cubicle without saying a word  
8       and he raped me. He penetrated me. I just remember the  
9       pain. I don't remember details, but I remember the  
10      feeling and the smell. I could smell urinal cakes and  
11      mustiness, which must have been urine. I remember the  
12      wall I was looking at and the pain I felt.

13      'I can see the toilets and I can see the shape of  
14      the man who raped me but I can't picture them together  
15      but I know the rape happened there. When I picture the  
16      man, all I see is wet clay where his face should be.  
17      I can't visualise his face.

18      'I remember it being over and the man being gone.  
19      I don't remember leaving the toilet but I remember being  
20      back to the van and [the female carer] standing by the  
21      van door with her back to me. I said [to her], "I went  
22      to the toilet and a man did things to me". I didn't  
23      call it rape because I didn't know that's what it was  
24      called. She turned and looked at me with sheer disgust  
25      as if I had told her I had murdered someone and then

1       looked away again. I was so confused and wondered if  
2       I had done something wrong. I knew she'd taken in what  
3       I had said and heard me, but she just didn't care.  
4       There was no compassion or empathy.

5       'I remember going back to the school and I was in so  
6       much pain that I couldn't sit down. I remember sitting  
7       on my hands on the seat and pushing myself up with my  
8       hands so it looked like I was sitting but I wasn't  
9       really. [The female carer] told me off and told me to  
10      sit down even though I had told her what had happened.

11      'I remember my underwear being full of blood and  
12      there were stains on my trousers too. I don't know why  
13      I did this, but I put my pants in a plastic box at the  
14      side of my bed. I remember then coming back from  
15      a visit at home with my mum. I came back later than  
16      I was supposed to because I'd been ill again and, while  
17      I was away, some boys had found the pants. I was teased  
18      mercilessly by them because the blood had dried and  
19      turned brown and they thought I had soiled myself. They  
20      teased me about it and I felt like it was my fault.

21      'The box with my underwear had disappeared. Not one  
22      of the teachers or carers spoke to me about it.  
23      I didn't say anything to anyone because of the way [the  
24      female carer] reacted when I told her. She made me feel  
25      like I'd brought it on myself and when nobody spoke to

1 me about it, I just thought it was my fault and I had  
2 let it happen. It felt like complete neglect from the  
3 staff.

4 'I couldn't talk to my mum about it either when  
5 I went home for visits. I had seen her being raped by  
6 my dad and she had never called the police or anything  
7 and would cover her bruises with make-up and sunglasses  
8 so I just felt like abuse wasn't something you talked  
9 about. There was nobody I felt like I could speak to.

10 'I was in Starley Hall for about a year-and-a-half.  
11 I left when I was 15, just before my 16th birthday.  
12 I think I left because you could leave school at 16.  
13 I had realised I would be getting out after I had been  
14 moved to the lodge.'

15 'Ellen' then goes on to talk about her life after  
16 care. She didn't go back to school and was bullied by  
17 others for being transgender. Her mum was still involved  
18 in drugs and things were still chaotic at home.

19 Her mum made an attempt on her life and the police  
20 frequently attended the house.

21 At one point, she too found herself in police  
22 custody. She didn't have any money and she had to  
23 figure out how to do things by herself.

24 When she was 18, she met a psychiatrist who she says  
25 was a supportive person for her. He was kind to her.

1       'Ellen' says that this scared her more than the abuse  
2       because she was not used to kindness.

3             She changed her name when she was 18 and got her own  
4       flat when she was 20. She had gender reassignment  
5       surgery before her 22nd birthday and has had further  
6       corrective surgery.

7             'Ellen' reports that she was a victim of a further  
8       rape which she did not report because she thought that  
9       she had allowed this to happen. She didn't want to be  
10      humiliated any further.

11            At paragraph 131, 'Ellen' tells us about the impact  
12      of her time in care.

13            She says:

14            'As an adult, I have always felt like I wasn't  
15      worthy of love. I felt like my mum didn't love me  
16      because she had put me in care and wanted rid of me.  
17      I felt like my dad hated me and wanted nothing to do  
18      with me.

19            'My dad did a lot of damage to me so I can't blame  
20      it all on my experiences in care, but they did reinforce  
21      all the negativity and everything that he had made me  
22      believe was wrong with me. They proved him right.

23            'I wondered what was so broken with me that the  
24      staff in Starley Hall thought I deserved to be treated  
25      the way they treated me. That I deserved to be pinned



1       against the wall by my throat, pinned down on a chair  
2       and raped without them caring. It made me not trust  
3       people or authority so I didn't even report incidents  
4       that happened in my adult life.

5           'I didn't trust men, but I didn't dislike them all.  
6       I was so used to violence and abuse in my life that I  
7       panicked when my psychiatrist, Mr Bankcroft, showed me  
8       kindness. I was scared that it was all just an act and  
9       he would turn. [The female carer] taught me I can't  
10      trust women either and that women can also be dangerous.

11          'I was always made to feel like I was stupid in care  
12      and was not given the chance to learn or get a proper  
13      education. It took until I was an adult and getting  
14      professional help to learn that I was not an idiot, but  
15      part of me still always thinks that I am.

16          'I was programmed my whole life, including in care,  
17      to feel like I am not normal and believe I am too old  
18      and too damaged now to be deprogrammed from that  
19      feeling. The mental abuse is worse than the physical  
20      because the physical ends, but the mental scars stay.

21          'A lot of people might say that things were just  
22      like that back then for transpeople, but I don't agree,  
23      because Mr Bankcroft, who helped me get my surgery, was  
24      around when people in care were around and he got it.  
25      There were people around who understood that children

1       could be free thinkers. I was just handed over to the  
2       worst people, like the psychiatrist, Mr McCabe, and the  
3       staff at Starley Hall. If authorities had done their  
4       job correctly and protected me as a child, the abuse  
5       should have stopped with my dad when I was 12 years old  
6       and professionals first got involved.'

7       'Ellen' then talks about some of the other effects  
8       that her time in care has had on her. She says that she  
9       has lashed out during consensual sex because of  
10      flashbacks of abuse in the park toilet when she was at  
11      Starley Hall.

12      She has no self-worth and thinks that everyone has  
13      an ulterior motive. She had anxiety which she takes  
14      medication for and at one point she tried to take her  
15      own life.

16      At paragraph 144, she says:

17      'I still have flashbacks and nightmares that someone  
18      is at the door coming to take me to Starley Hall.  
19      I still have nightmares about mine and the other girls'  
20      attacks at Starley Hall and the rape in the park  
21      toilets. I have been diagnosed with complex  
22      post-traumatic stress disorder for this.'

23      'Ellen' provides some further reflections. At  
24      paragraph 162, on page 29, she says:

25      'I am now not naive. I know that I am limited in my

1       life due to being trans, but I was damaged even further  
2       in care because I was trans.

3       'Children are put into care because they are already  
4       vulnerable, but then those places attract adults who  
5       prey on the vulnerable. Adults should not be touching  
6       children. Being in a position of authority and care,  
7       they should realise that the damage they do lasts  
8       a lifetime.

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

13      'Ellen' has signed her statement and it is dated  
14      21 July 2021.

15   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16   MS MCMILLAN: My Lady, there's a very, very short read-in  
17      that we could do that prior to the morning break.

18   LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

19   MS MCMILLAN: I'll pass over to Ms Innes for that.

20   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21                    'Robert' (read)

22   MS INNES: My Lady, this is an applicant who remains  
23      anonymous and he is known as 'Robert'.

24      The reference for 'Robert's' statement is  
25      WIT-1-000001137.

1           Parts of 'Robert's' statement have previously been  
2           read in. The first was on Day 398, 13 December 2023.  
3           The second was on Day 419, 16 February 2024, in separate  
4           chapters of Phase 8.

5           Today's evidence relates to his time at  
6           Starley Hall, which was brief. Records show he was  
7           enrolled there in 1982 but the exact date is unknown.  
8           He would have been around 13 at the time.

9           'Robert' was born in 1969. He went into care at  
10          a young age. He was originally placed in a children's  
11          shelter and then from about 1971, he was living with  
12          foster parents.

13          He suffered physical and sexual abuse during this  
14          placement. He spent a short period of time within  
15          a psychiatric unit at Liff Hospital. He then went to  
16          Rhoineach Mhor Children's Home in Dundee around 1979.

17          Following that placement, he was sent to  
18          Robert Gordon's School in Aberdeen for a short period of  
19          time because he was intelligent. That placement didn't  
20          work out and he was then admitted to Ann Street  
21          Children's House before going to Burnside House in 1981.

22          'Robert' says that he was tried out in different  
23          places and Starley Hall was one of them.

24          Turning to page 33 of his statement and  
25          paragraph 160, he says:

1           'They also tried me out in a place called  
2           Starley Hall, I think in 1982. I wasn't in Starley Hall  
3           for long, just weeks, I think. They had  
4           an education department and I can remember an incident  
5           in there fighting staff again, but I can't remember the  
6           details.

7           'I was hospitalised and then moved out and back to  
8           Burnside. I was hospitalised twice. In Starley Hall  
9           I was assaulted by [REDACTED]. I had 14  
10          stitches in the head and I have a hole in my head to  
11          this day because I was glassed on my head. Starley Hall  
12          had a tower and we were in the top floor of the tower  
13          where the playroom was. The room was full of kids and  
14          staff.

15          'I can't remember why I was arguing and fighting  
16          with [REDACTED]. He picked me up and threw me straight  
17          through the window head first. I can remember hanging  
18          out of the window and I could see how high it was and  
19          I was very scared. He pulled me back in. I had a big  
20          hole in my head from the glass. He took me to the  
21          Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy to have the glass removed  
22          and the cut stitched up. I don't know if anyone asked  
23          me how I'd been injured. The police didn't speak to me  
24          at that point. In the reports to the social worker the  
25          home said I was aggressive to [REDACTED] and that

1 I assaulted him.

2 'After I had been in hospital, Starley Hall refused  
3 to take me back afterwards. Apparently Burnside refused  
4 to take me at that point as well. I was worried they  
5 were going to put me in Rossie Farm. I can see from my  
6 records there was a big discussion about where I could  
7 go and they ended up sending me to Howdenhall in  
8 Edinburgh.'

9 'Robert' goes on to tell us further about his  
10 experiences in Howdenhall Secure Unit, a further foster  
11 family and then his time in prison.

12 My Lady has previously heard about the impact of his  
13 time in care, his diagnosis of complex PTSD, his  
14 experience of reporting abuse he suffered to the police  
15 and the lessons he hopes can be learned.

16 At paragraph 215 on the final page of his statement,  
17 he says:

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

22 And he has signed his statement on 28 November 2022.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 So we take the morning break now. Let's do that and  
25 I'll sit again at about quarter to 12. Thank you.

1 (11.23 am)

2 (A short break)

3 (11.45 am)

4 LADY SMITH: Ms McMillan.

5 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

6 We're now going to commence with some further

7 applicant evidence.

8 This witness wishes to be known as 'Fred'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MCMILLAN: Fife Council have been unable to provide

11 records for 'Fred'. Logbooks have been provided, which

12 do at least make reference to him from 1982 to 1984, at

13 Ovenstone.

14 'Fred' attended there and he also attended

15 Linwood Hall.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 'Fred' (affirmed)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Fred', thank you so much for coming along

19 today to help us with your evidence.

20 As you know, I've already got your written evidence

21 and it's really good to have had that in advance and

22 it's in that red folder that I see you've found already.

23 We'll also bring parts of it up on the screen when we're

24 wanting to explore particular sections of it with you.

25 But generally, 'Fred', please be assured that we're

1           anxious to do anything we can to help you give your  
2           evidence as comfortably as possible.

3           If you have any questions, feel free to ask. If you  
4           want a break at any time, whether just pausing, sitting  
5           where you are or leaving the room for a wee while,  
6           that's not a problem either.

7           The key is if it works for you, it will work for me,  
8           all right?

9    A.   Yeah.

10   LADY SMITH: So I'm going to hand over to Ms McMillan now if  
11           you're ready and she'll take it from there. Is that all  
12           right.

13   A.   Yes.

14   LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms McMillan.

15                               Questions by Ms McMillan

16   MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady.

17           Good morning, 'Fred'. I'm going to ask you firstly  
18           to look at the final page of your witness statement, so  
19           for those in the room the reference is WIT-1-000000228.

20           The final page is page 22.

21           Now, just as a matter of formality, we can see at  
22           paragraph 79 it says:

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 You have signed that and it's dated 21 January 2020.

3 Do you see that there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that still the position today?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. We can go back to the first page of your statement. You

8 tell us you were born in 1972?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you talk, in this first page, about your life before

11 going into care and, to summarise that, I think you say

12 that you were born in Kirkcaldy and you've stayed there

13 all your life?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you have two older brothers?

16 A. Two older brothers, yeah.

17 Q. And initially you had lived in a flat with your older

18 brothers and your parents before you moved to a bigger

19 house?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then turning over to the next page, on page 2 of

22 your statement, you say that you initially went to

23 Dunearn Primary School, just at the top of that of

24 paragraph?

25 A. No, I think that should be Dunnikier.

1 Q. Dunnikier.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS MCMILLAN: Then you go on to say that you were expelled

4 from there and moved to Valley Primary School.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And the reason that you say that you were expelled and

7 you moved was because you misbehaved at school?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. It was 'nothing drastic, just carrying on, laughing and

10 joking and would not pay attention'?

11 A. Yeah, I was a bit out of hand through that, to be quite

12 honest with you, yeah.

13 Q. But you do say that you never went to hurt anybody?

14 A. No. No, no.

15 Q. You go on in that paragraph and you say that you then

16 started to become involved with a psychologist and there

17 was social work involvement as well?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You say that the social worker heavily influenced

20 decisions about you going into care at Ovenstone?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Can you tell us a bit more about that?

23 A. They were having difficulty finding another school that

24 would take me and, erm, this was the best option for me.

25 As far as I remember, my dad did try to stop it, but

1       in my dad's words, if he didnae accept it, they would  
2       have took me away from my mum and dad and my brothers.

3       So he had to let them put me in Ovenstone basically.

4   Q.   When you say that you knew that your dad was trying to  
5       fight them, do you remember being part of any of the  
6       meetings about going to Ovenstone?

7   A.   One was -- I think I might have still been at  
8       Valley Primary and I do remember sitting in a room and  
9       it did get a bit confusing for me, but that was I think  
10      when they made up their mind, erm, but it wasnae  
11      straightaway.

12       I think -- I've got memories of going to see  
13      a woman -- all I can remember it was a big building and,  
14      erm, I seen her for a bit then I went to Ovenstone not  
15      long after that.

16   Q.   Were you ever asked where you wanted to go or what your  
17      views were at any of these meetings?

18   A.   No.

19   Q.   I think you go on and you do tell us in the rest of that  
20      paragraph and in paragraph 6, that your dad was strongly  
21      disagreeing with the psychologist, but it didn't mean  
22      anything to you at that point?

23   A.   No.

24   Q.   You go on in that paragraph to say that you didn't see  
25      your behaviour as a problem, because all your friends

1       behaved the same way, and it was never explained to you  
2       that if you were to change your behaviour, you wouldn't  
3       need to go into care?

4   A.  No, it wasn't explained, no.  There was more than just  
5       me, eh, but I seem to be the one that got the brunt of  
6       it.  Maybe I was a wee bit wilder than the rest.  
7       I don't know but I was only the one that ever seemed to  
8       get punished for the things that were done, eh, so ...

9   Q.  So before you even went to Ovenstone, did you feel like  
10      your behaviour was similar to the people in your class?

11  A.  Yeah, most of them, yeah.  So I still really don't  
12      understand why I was the one that got picked out of  
13      quite a few of us.

14  Q.  I think you go on at the bottom of that paragraph to say  
15      with the benefit of hindsight you think you had  
16      Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?

17  A.  Yeah.

18  Q.  And that's because your sons now have that and you've --

19  A.  Both my sons, yes.

20  Q.  -- been told that it's hereditary?

21  A.  Yeah.

22  Q.  Turning to page 3 of your statement, to paragraph 7, you  
23      describe Ovenstone School.  Do you remember what your  
24      first impressions were of the school when you arrived?

25  A.  It was just a big grey building.  I was scared, 'cause

1        basically I just got dropped off and that -- I didn't  
2        even get a chance to say 'Cheerio' to my mum. It was  
3        just like fling you in. 'There you go'. It was a big  
4        shock to the system. I had a few sleepless nights.

5    Q. When you say that you just got dropped off, were there  
6        any family members with you when you got dropped off?

7    A. Yes, my mum and my social worker, I'm trying to remember  
8        his name. Off the top of my head I can't remember.

9    Q. It's okay.

10   A. There was somebody waiting for me. I think it was  
11       Mr LUS , I think, if I remember right, and he showed  
12       me my room and gave me like a wee list of dos and  
13       don'ts. He showed me where my wardrobe was, 'cause  
14       I had to change into their clothes.

15   Q. You do talk about your first day there at paragraph 12  
16       on page 4 of your statement and you say that you  
17       remember feeling very emotional and you felt terrified?

18   A. Yeah.

19   Q. Why was that?

20   A. Just -- I was away from parents in a strange place.  
21       Didn't know anybody round about me. Er, just wanted to  
22       go home really. It was terrifying, it was.

23   Q. When you were shown about and given those rules by  
24       Mr LUS , where were you sleeping? What was your room  
25       like?

1 A. It was just a room with a bunk bed. That was it.

2 Q. Was there any other boys in the room?

3 A. No.

4 Q. What about other pupils when you arrived there, other

5 boys? Did you see any when you arrived?

6 A. Just the two other boys that shared the block that I was

7 in. There was like three separate rooms and I was in

8 the very last one at the end.

9 Q. I think you do talk about this at paragraph 9 of your

10 statement and you say that you were put in your own

11 bedroom, but there were dormitories. Did you know why

12 you were in your own room?

13 A. No.

14 LADY SMITH: And although you had a bunk bed, there was

15 nobody in the other bunk, have I got that right?

16 A. Yeah, it was just me, yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MCMILLAN: And the other boys that you have been talking

19 about, did they also have their own room?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say that you remember feeling isolated and lonely

22 a lot of the time when you were talking about your room.

23 Why was that?

24 A. I had -- there was nothing in the room, just the two --

25 well, it was a bunk bed, no pictures, just a window

1       really. That was all I had, 'cause the wardrobe was out  
2       in the hall. That's where everything got kept.

3   Q. Were you aware of other boys that were sleeping in  
4       a dormitory-style room?

5   A. Yeah, the rest of the school, they had two wings, there  
6       was east and west wingers, and they all shared a big  
7       room.

8   Q. Was there anything that you remember from their rooms  
9       that differed from yours or what they were allowed to  
10      do?

11  A. Well, they had their own playroom and TV and games.  
12      Where we were, we had nothing.

13  Q. So no television between you and the other boys?

14  A. No, between the three of us, we had nothing.

15  Q. No games, no toys?

16  A. No.

17  Q. And I think you tell us in that paragraph that you had  
18      your own houseparents, who slept in rooms on the level  
19      above yours?

20  A. Yes.

21  Q. Would they be people that you could approach if you  
22      needed help in the middle of the night?

23  A. One, yeah.

24  Q. Who was that?

25  A. That was **KLK**.

1 Q. What was it about KLG that made him approachable?

2 A. He would listen. He would sit down and he would have

3 a normal conversation with you and explain that why you

4 cannae do this or why I was getting punished or -- he

5 spent time explaining and made me understand better, you

6 know?

7 It wasnae just like: 'Right, you're sent to your

8 room for the night, we'll see you tomorrow'. He would

9 explain why and, you know, he'd try and help you as much

10 as he could.

11 Q. And you do talk about KLG in the next paragraph and you

12 say that he was really good and tried to help you in

13 many ways and that you felt that he cared?

14 A. Yeah. He was -- he didnae -- he treated us with

15 respect. If we respected him, he respected us back.

16 You know, there was a line that, you know, you couldnae

17 cross.

18 Q. Did his respectful and caring approach, as you're

19 describing, did that differ from some other

20 houseparents?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Can you tell us a wee bit more about that?

23 A. They would just punish you, you know. You would get

24 punished, sent to your room or you'd miss out your

25 supper or you wouldn't get to go swimming or whatever.



1       There was so many activities, horse riding, stuff like  
2       that, but if you didn't meet -- they had a point system  
3       and if you got less than 12 points, that was you  
4       straight after your tea at six, that was you 'til seven  
5       the next morning in your room.

6   Q.   And this would be you in a room by yourself with  
7       nothing?

8   A.   Nothing, just a window to look at and all there was was  
9       farmer fields. That was it. You were out in the middle  
10      of no place.

11  Q.   And unlike the approach that KLG had, where he explained  
12      maybe why you were being punished or why something was  
13      happening, did the other people who sent you to your  
14      room, houseparents, did they ever explain why?

15  A.   No.

16  Q.   Did you know why?

17  A.   Usually it was punishment. It was after seeing  
18      Mr LUS and that, that would be me after my tea,  
19      'cause he was quite strict, with me anyway. I can only  
20      speak for mysel' and, you know, but he was strict.

21  Q.   In what way?

22  A.   Me personally, in my experience, he would rather punish  
23      me. I don't know, we just didn't see eye to eye at all.

24  Q.   When you say that he would punish you, what sort of  
25      things do you remember him doing?

1 A. He would, erm, hit you with a trainer. You would stand  
2 at the side of him and he'd tell you to take your top  
3 button out and then he'd pull you over his knee. And to  
4 this day I still remember the trainer. It was an Arrows  
5 trainer and it had three big chunky grips going across  
6 'em and that's what he would hit you with and it wasnae  
7 soft. You couldnae sit down after he hit you with that.  
8 It was sore.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Fred', have I got you right about taking your  
10 top button out, because you showed me at your waist, you  
11 are talking about the top button of your shorts or  
12 trousers?

13 A. Trousers, yeah, and he would pull it down as he -- so he  
14 got your bare bum.

15 LADY SMITH: Your bare bum?

16 A. Yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MCMILLAN: How many times would he hit you with the  
19 trainer?

20 A. Three or four and, if you struggled, sometimes maybe  
21 more.

22 Q. Was there any other ways, other than hitting you that  
23 way, that he used to punish you?

24 A. He would use his hand if he couldnae get his trainer and  
25 most of the time it would be your punishment and then

1       sent to your bed, then that would be me, but, erm,  
2       I would miss out my supper and night activities and  
3       stuff like -- some nights you would do swimming, other  
4       nights horse riding, the Elie Chainwalk and just going  
5       down to the harbour and playing on the beach and you'd  
6       get chips before you went back again.

7   Q.   When you say that sometimes he'd use his hand, was that  
8       similar, was it on the backside again?

9   A.   Yeah.

10  Q.   Was it always on the backside?

11  A.   Yeah.

12  Q.   You go on in your statement to talk about mealtimes and  
13       food at paragraph 15. I think you've been telling us  
14       that you would miss out on supper if you didn't have  
15       enough points?

16  A.   Yeah, the points system, yeah.

17  Q.   You had said that you were following a special diet at  
18       one point. Do you know why that was?

19  A.   That was for -- it was for -- I think it was  
20       a hospital -- a doctor at the hospital stopped -- is it,  
21       additives, preservatives and food colourings, so  
22       basically I was on a diet that -- what I remember is  
23       everything tasted like cardboard. There was nae taste  
24       and to be sitting round in the dining room and they're  
25       eating something different fae me, that was a struggle.

1 Q. Was that additive-free diet a method to try and help  
2 your behaviour?

3 A. I think so, yeah. They never really told me a lot, eh.  
4 Even when I went to hospital visits, I was just there  
5 for tests and I never knew what for.

6 Q. You go on to talk about the clothing and the uniform at  
7 Ovenstone. What sort of thing would you be wearing  
8 during the day?

9 A. Just, er, shirt, jumper and grey trousers. It was all  
10 the same colour.

11 Q. And did the school provide this uniform?

12 A. Yeah. You had your -- like, your initials on the tags  
13 on everything.

14 Q. You go on to talk about the leisure time and you say at  
15 paragraph 19 that you found that you spent a lot of time  
16 in your room alone and constantly felt lonely. Can you  
17 tell us any more about this?

18 A. That was just punishments for misbehaving or, you  
19 know -- not having enough points at the end of the day.  
20 I spent a lot of time in my room. A lot. Just staring  
21 at a window at nothing. And it was lonely. Felt  
22 segregated.

23 Q. In, for example, a week, Monday to Friday, how often do  
24 you think you were punished and sent to your room?

25 A. I would say at least four or five. I was -- I would get

1       punished for the slightest thing so -- I don't know,  
2       just being in the wrong place. Even if you're in  
3       a classroom, you ask to go to the toilet, that was two  
4       points. You get caught looking out the window, that was  
5       another point. Answering back, that was a point. So  
6       basically, if you didn't really, you know -- like, my  
7       mind wanders a lot, eh. I've got poor concentration, so  
8       I'd get caught looking out the window and that would be  
9       two points.

10       Then if I answered 'em back for it, that's another  
11       point. So I did spend a lot of time in my room.

12    Q. Who kept a record of the points?

13    A. I think you had -- like, the teacher or your houseparent  
14       would have a card and you would have your names on it  
15       and you'd just add the points to the card.

16    Q. So could you see how many points you were on or how many  
17       you'd lost?

18    A. No. You'd have a rough idea, but it wasn't until just  
19       before you went for your tea, we'd all meet in one of  
20       the rooms and that was where everybody would find out --  
21       they would say, you're going horse riding tonight or  
22       swimming and then they'd tell you your points and if you  
23       were under -- I think it was 12, I'm sure it was 12, if  
24       you were under 12 points, that was straight to your bed  
25       after your tea.

1 Q. So when you found out that you were going to bed if you  
2 didn't have enough points, was everyone there? Was  
3 there a meeting where everybody went to?

4 A. Yeah, the whole school was there, yeah.

5 Q. Did they give any reason about why the points had been  
6 lost or was it a case of: 'You're not going tonight, you  
7 don't have enough points'?

8 A. Yeah, they would say it was for doing this in school or  
9 for, at night time, you know, being caught out your room  
10 or not doing as you're told or being in a part of the  
11 building you're not supposed to be.

12 Q. So the reason why you lost points was discussed in  
13 front of the full school?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Moving on to talk about school then at Ovenstone.  
16 Do you remember what the classrooms were like and  
17 what the school was like?

18 A. Yeah. The best way I could describe the classrooms, it  
19 was like two big Portakabins put together, with one  
20 entrance and, as you went in, there was Mr LUR on  
21 the left and I cannae remember the woman that was in the  
22 other one, 'cause I was in with Mr LUR quite a lot.

23 Q. I think you say it might have been a Miss Dow in the  
24 other room, in your statement, who taught English?

25 A. Yeah, but I can't remember if she was Ovenstone or

1       Linwood.

2   Q.  What sort of things did you do in school? Did you

3       follow a curriculum?

4   A.  Erm, yeah, maths, a bit of English. I do remember,

5       I think, music as well, but, erm, I spent most of my

6       time out in the hall.

7   Q.  Why was that?

8   A.  For no paying attention, answering back, erm, or --

9       basically just answering back or getting caught staring

10      out the window. And when you find out you lose two

11      points, I wasnae very happy, so I'd get dragged out and

12      made to stand out in the hall.

13  Q.  So when you say you got dragged out, were you physically

14      removed from the class?

15  A.  Yes.

16  Q.  And was that by Mr LUR [REDACTED]?

17  A.  Mr LUR [REDACTED], yeah.

18  Q.  How long would you be made to stand outside the class

19      for?

20  A.  'Til the class was finished. And that could be, I don't

21      know, an hour, possibly more, and if I really struggled,

22      it would be to Mr LUS [REDACTED] straight up there and I'd get

23      punished by Mr LUS [REDACTED].

24  Q.  You were telling us there that you sort of daydreamed

25      a lot?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. But at paragraph 24, you say that you felt like no one  
3 ever gave you a break in trying to help you with the  
4 issues that you had?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What do you mean by that?

7 A. They wouldnae hear my side. It would be punishment  
8 or -- they just wouldn't explain. It's as though they  
9 didnae hae any time of me. They'd rather see the back  
10 of me than hae to deal with me.

11 Q. You go on to say that you never got any feedback on your  
12 progress at school. Did you feel like you were learning  
13 anything at school?

14 A. No.

15 Q. We go on in your statement, at paragraph 27, talking  
16 about healthcare at the school. You say that you seem  
17 to recall Mr LUS had to approve anyone being taken  
18 for any form of medical attention out of the school?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would he ever, as far as you're aware, not let anyone be  
21 taken out of the school for medical attention?

22 A. Not that I can remember, no. I had a few -- I kept,  
23 like, getting tonsillitis and I was quite bad for that  
24 when I was younger, so I did see a doctor quite a few  
25 times in Pittenweem or -- I get the two of them mixed



1 up, it was either Pittenweem or Anstruther, but they're  
2 like two wee towns right next to each other so ...  
3 Q. You would see a doctor at one of them?  
4 A. Yeah.  
5 Q. You go on to talk about a particular experience you had  
6 where you had tonsillitis and you were taken to see  
7 a doctor and you were involved in a car accident --  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 Q. -- at that point. And you were checked over. You say  
10 you had bumps and bruises and you were allowed to return  
11 to Ovenstone. But you had to spend two days in bed and  
12 you saw this as a punishment?  
13 A. Yeah.  
14 Q. Did anyone tell you why you had to spend time in bed?  
15 A. No. Two days in my room on my ain, but, erm, KLG would  
16 pop in just to make sure I was all right, if I needed  
17 water or just a chat, eh, 'cause --  
18 Q. Did you feel like you were being punished for being in  
19 a car accident?  
20 A. Yeah. It wasnae my fault. It's just an accident.  
21 Q. You weren't told: 'Oh, you have to stay in bed and  
22 rest', because maybe after the accident, you weren't  
23 told anything like that?  
24 A. No. It was just bumps and bruises I had on this side of  
25 me (indicating) fae hitting the door pillar and that.

1 Q. You go on at page 9 of your statement to say, at  
2 paragraph 35, that your social worker never came to  
3 visit you and you never had any sort of official visits  
4 and nobody really came to speak to you.

5 Was there anyone that you could speak to outwith the  
6 school if you needed to speak to someone? If you had  
7 a problem in the school, was there anyone outside you  
8 could speak to?

9 A. Outside the school, no.

10 Q. What about inside the school?

11 A. KLG.

12 Q. And what would KLG do?

13 A. I would tell him my issues and, like, if I had a problem  
14 and he would try and help me to the best that he could,  
15 but I think most of the time there wasnae a lot he could  
16 do, 'cause it was a punishment by Mr LUS and I don't  
17 think that he could go over Mr LUS's head.

18 Q. You go on to talk about family contact and we see at  
19 paragraph 36 that there was another punishment that  
20 Mr LUS used to use, which was that he would cancel  
21 your weekends home?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. How often would this happen?

24 A. I think three or four, I think.

25 Q. Three or four times or weekends in a row?

1 A. It happened three or four times but I think the most was  
2 three weekends in a row that I didn't get home and  
3 I just got angrier and angrier 'cause I couldnae get  
4 home, nae way of hearing my mum or -- 'cause I didn't --  
5 my mum was the one that I spent quite a lot of my time  
6 with. My mum would listen to me, you know. We had just  
7 a -- I don't know, you could say maybe I was a mummy's  
8 boy, erm, but my mum would listen and no hearing her  
9 voice and seeing her, that really affected me.

10 Q. So was going home seen as a privilege if you behaved  
11 yourself?

12 A. Yeah. I know there was -- it wasn't just me. There was  
13 other children as well, 'cause there was more than just  
14 me, but they were in other wings so ...

15 Q. And if you were in staying at the weekend then, what  
16 sort of things would you do over the weekend?

17 A. We'd go down to the harbour, but at that time that's  
18 where the North Carr was out the water so we'd get to go  
19 and hae a look at that and walk along the beach.

20 Is it Pittenweem, the outdoors baths? You know,  
21 it's on the beach? We'd go there. I'm just trying to  
22 think where else.

23 Q. So even though you weren't allowed to go home, you were  
24 still allowed to take part in activities then at the  
25 weekend?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You go on at paragraph 38, on page 10, to say that one  
3 night you ran away with some of the other boys because  
4 you had had enough. Are you able to tell us more about  
5 that?

6 A. Yeah. I think it was just basically a build-up of no  
7 getting listened to, frustration, er, and we thought it  
8 was a good idea, but it's miles and miles of farmers'  
9 fields and for some unknown reason, the police knew  
10 where to find us. We got to the end. It was a pitch  
11 dark, middle of nae place, and we were just heading and  
12 we eventually get out the fields and the polis were  
13 sitting there waiting on us, so they'd just put you in  
14 the back of the car and take you back.

15 Q. You say that the police never asked why you were running  
16 away?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you think if they did ask, you would have told them?

19 A. I think so, yeah.

20 Q. You go on to say that you only ran away twice but you  
21 knew others that maybe had run away a bit more?

22 A. Yeah. It was quite a regular thing.

23 Q. You say that one of the consequences when you ran away  
24 was that when you came back, Mr LUS would be there  
25 shouting at you and you had to go to bed knowing that he

1           would punish you when you woke up?

2   A.   Yes, the next morning, straight after you had your  
3       breakfast, you'd line up outside his office, and, aye,  
4       it wasn't pleasant, but, yeah, punished just the same as  
5       -- over his knee with a trainer, so ...

6   Q.   At paragraph 45, on the next page of your statement, you  
7       talk about bed wetting. You say that not long after you  
8       started at Ovenstone, you started to wet the bed, which  
9       was something you hadn't done.

10           You say you believe it was because of the fear that  
11       you felt every day?

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   What did you mean by that?

14   A.   I was terrified, just -- it's not just the teachers  
15       you've to worry about, it's other kids, you know,  
16       they're there as well and they want what you've got or  
17       they're not wanting you where they are, you know. It's  
18       just a place where there is quite a bit of violence, eh,  
19       kid on kid, eh.

20           You know, especially with me being new there, first  
21       time and I got picked on quite a bit, but eventually you  
22       say enough's enough, eh.

23   Q.   When you say that there was kid-on-kid violence, what  
24       sort of things would happen?

25   A.   Fighting. Then if you get caught fighting, you'd get

1       taken to the -- like, they've got playrooms on each  
2       wing. You'd go to one where the whole school would be  
3       there, teachers, whoever's on staff, and you'd get made  
4       to box, with boxing gloves, at, you know, nine/ten-year  
5       old. I didnae ken how to box so -- and me personally,  
6       it didnae make things any better, it made things worse  
7       in front of the whole school and with all the teachers  
8       there and it wasnae very pleasant.

9   Q. Was this a way that the school seemed to think that you  
10       could resolve any disagreements you had, by boxing?

11  A. Yeah. But it just made things worse.

12  Q. Just jumping back to the bed wetting. You say that if  
13       you had wet the bed then in the morning, you had to take  
14       them to the laundry?

15  A. Yeah.

16  Q. You say it was a walk of shame through the building, as  
17       anyone would be able to see you. There was an old lady  
18       who worked there and she would stand over you, talking  
19       in your ear, telling you how disgusting you were?

20  A. And you'd be -- it's ice cold water in an old-fashioned  
21       sink and you would hae to wash it. Then there was a big  
22       mangle, quite a scary machine, and you would put your  
23       sheet in one end and turn the handle and it would come  
24       out. Then you'd wash it again, then put it through the  
25       mangle again before they'd even touch it, touch the

1        sheets. But as you're doing that, they're telling you  
2        that you're disgusting, dirty.

3    Q. So before the lady there actually washed the sheets, you  
4        had to do like a --

5    A. A prewash.

6    Q. -- prewash with them?

7    A. Yeah. And you had to do it twice.

8    Q. You go on in your statement to talk about the fact that  
9        you moved from Ovenstone to Linwood Hall School. Do you  
10       remember how that came about?

11   A. I think that was maybe the second time I seen my social  
12       worker. He took me and my mum there and that was when  
13       I met Mr LUT, excuse me, SNR.

14   Q. And what was your first impression of Linwood Hall?

15   A. It was a big, big school. He was different. A lot  
16       different. Just the amount of kids that were there as  
17       well. There was way more than what I was used to at  
18       Ovenstone.

19   Q. When you say that Mr LUT was different, what was it  
20       that made him different?

21   A. He actually treated you like a human being, to be quite  
22       honest. He listened to you at the meeting. He spoke to  
23       me and my mum and tell us what things they had, you  
24       know, like education-wise and that.

25       Then I think after that -- I'm trying to remember.

1 Q. Sorry to interrupt you there, 'Fred', but do you know  
2 what age you were when you went to Linwood?

3 A. 12.

4 Q. I understand that you were a residential pupil at  
5 Ovenstone but were you a day pupil at Linwood?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You say at paragraph 52 that after Mr LUT met you, you  
8 remember that, during a conversation, he roared and  
9 thumped his hand on the table?

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. 'He was a big man so my mum and I got a fright.'

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Do you know why he thumped his hand on the table?

14 A. I don't know, just to give us a fright, I think. It was  
15 just out the blue. He just really thumped the table and  
16 me and my mum hit the roof, eh.

17 Q. Was this your first interaction with a member of staff  
18 at Linwood Hall?

19 A. Yeah, that was the initial first time we seen him.

20 Q. You go on to say that you, unlike Ovenstone, you didn't  
21 have to wear a uniform at Linwood Hall?

22 A. No, it was just smartly dressed.

23 Q. You say that Linwood Hall, at paragraph 55, offered you  
24 lots of opportunities for trips away?

25 A. Yeah. I done the Duke of Edinburghs, the bronze and



1 silver, and that was something that I really enjoyed,  
2 West Highland Way and stuff like that. It was something  
3 to work for, to keep me going.

4 Q. So was this something out of the class that you liked to  
5 focus on?

6 A. Yeah, that was it, yeah. Stayed over, 'cause, you know,  
7 the camping trips and that, before, the night before,  
8 er, and done quite a lot of good things.

9 Q. What were the classes like at the school?

10 A. They were quite good, yeah. I'm trying to think how  
11 many was in a class. Maybe about ten to a class, which  
12 was -- we had maths, science, pottery. I liked pottery.  
13 Geography. I think that was Mrs [REDACTED] that done the  
14 geography.

15 Q. Did you feel like you enjoyed the classes better at  
16 Linwood Hall than you did at Ovenstone?

17 A. Oh, definitely, yeah. Most of the teachers listened to  
18 you, you know, which was a bit strange for me, 'cause  
19 usually there was just punishment after punishment, eh.

20 Q. You obviously had said that you sort of lacked  
21 concentration. Was that something that you still felt  
22 that you lacked when you were at Linwood?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And did --

25 A. Still had the lack of attention, yeah.

1 Q. Did you feel like the staff dealt with that better?

2 A. Yeah, most of the time, yeah.

3 Q. When you say 'most of the time'?

4 A. Yeah, I would still get frustrated and get punished for

5 doing silly things, shouting or being in the wrong

6 place -- some place where I shouldnae be, and on quite

7 a few occasions up in the front of Mr LUT , yeah.

8 Q. What would happen if you were being punished at Linwood?

9 A. If it was a bad day, a really bad day for me, I would

10 get taken to his office and the way he would restrain me

11 would be by sitting on me and pinning my arms to the

12 flair until I calmed doon, which he was a big man,

13 really big, heavy. When he sat on you, you struggled to

14 breathe, eh, but he would sit on you and he would pin

15 your hands to the flair and 'til you calmed doon you

16 struggled to breathe.

17 Eventually I would calm doon, but that was for --

18 just for him to get him off me, 'cause he was a big

19 chap.

20 Q. So if you went in to his room, how did you go from sort

21 of standing in his room to being restrained on the

22 floor?

23 A. Getting detention or losing a privilege, like,

24 I wouldnae get to go out, because it was like --

25 Ovenstone, if you behaved well, you got privileges and

1       you'd get taken out, bike rides, stuff like that and  
2       I would lose that and I would lose my temper, so he  
3       would restrain me. No that I was going to physically  
4       attack him. I wasnae that way, but it was his way of  
5       calming me doon.

6       I don't know if he done it to other pupils, but  
7       that's how he would get me to calm doon, by sitting on  
8       me, restraining me.

9   Q. How often do you think that happened?

10  A. Maybe once or twice a week.

11  Q. Once or twice a week you were being restrained?

12  A. Yeah.

13  Q. You say at paragraph 57 that you did try and work harder  
14       to control your behaviour and anger and you earned the  
15       trophy for the most improved pupil when you were 15?

16  A. Yeah. That was hard, but it was months and months of  
17       hard work, 'cause I got that as well, but I got -- if  
18       I behaved -- or stayed out of trouble for more than  
19       six months, I got to go on the trip to the Isle of Man,  
20       so I tried -- I still had my ups and downs but Mr LUT  
21       was -- he was harsh, but he was fair as well. He could  
22       be fair.

23       There's quite a few times I was up in the front of  
24       him and he could have stopped me fae going on holiday,  
25       but I think maybe he seen that I was trying, just having

1       bad days, eh.

2   Q.   You say that by the time that you were at Linwood you  
3       were older, you'd learned a lot about how to behave and  
4       look after yourself from your time at Ovenstone?

5   A.   Yeah, I was more -- I knew more about how rules -- and,  
6       you know, no just like the rules of the school, but how  
7       the rules, you know, like -- with other children and  
8       that, you know. There's, like, you know, nae snitching  
9       and stuff like that, you know.

10  Q.   You do go on to say at the bottom of that page, at  
11       paragraph 60, that you didn't bully anyone, but the  
12       bullying at Linwood was horrendous?

13  A.   Yes, it was, yes.

14  Q.   Can you tell us a bit more about that?

15  A.   There was a few people there that were disabled or --  
16       I'm trying to phrase it right, I cannae think of the  
17       word.

18  LADY SMITH:  Don't worry, let's just think about some people  
19       who were maybe a bit different from others. Would that  
20       do?

21  A.   Yeah.

22  LADY SMITH:  I've got the picture. You explain.

23  A.   Is it all right to say his name or --

24  LADY SMITH:  I don't need his name. It's a boy?

25  A.   Yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: About your age at the time?

2 A. I think he was possibly a bit older, 'cause he looked  
3 a lot older, because he had, like, stubble.

4 LADY SMITH: Okay.

5 A. But --

6 LADY SMITH: What happened to him?

7 A. He really got picked on. Like, somebody would say to  
8 him, 'Go and do this' and he didnae ken any better and  
9 he would do it, and I sat and I watched this go on for  
10 weeks, and one day I says, no, that's not right,  
11 I've had enough.

12 So me and my friend -- I will say his name, [REDACTED],  
13 that was my friend, we both went to Linwood at the same  
14 time, got on the same bus and we became like brothers.  
15 I just said, 'No, this is no going to happen any more',  
16 so me -- I got into quite a bit of trouble for sticking  
17 up for him, 'cause I wasnae willing to sit by and watch  
18 him get bullied and harassed.

19 MS INNES: Was it other pupils that were bullying him and  
20 harassing him?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. So did you and your friend sort of take a protective  
23 role?

24 A. Yeah. I couldnae sit and watch it happen. It was no  
25 way to treat somebody.

1 Q. How were the other pupils treating this other boy?

2 A. Telling him to do stuff, pulling his trousers doon,  
3 pushing him about. It was something I couldnae sit and  
4 watch, so I warned 'em not to do it any mair, but they  
5 push you and push you and it did turn to fighting and  
6 I got punished for it, but in my eyes I was sticking up  
7 for somebody that couldnae stick up for himself.

8 Q. Were you able to tell anyone, any of the teachers, any  
9 of the carers, anyone at Linwood Hall about what was  
10 happening to this boy?

11 A. Yeah, I told Mr LUT and other teachers but they said  
12 they'd try and keep an eye, but they cannae keep an eye  
13 on you all the time, but I just couldnae let it go on  
14 any more and I got into quite a bit of trouble for it,  
15 but I just couldnae sit and watch it any more.

16 Q. You go on to talk about other abuse that happened at  
17 Linwood Hall and we've touched on some of it but you  
18 mention that when you were in woodwork class, at  
19 paragraph 63, you were cheeky and you were clamped to  
20 four woodwork benches?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Do you remember how that came about and what happened?

23 A. It was just -- it started out to be a bit of banter,  
24 laugh and a joke, but, I don't know, maybe I touched  
25 a nerve or said something I shouldnae have and Mr HTZ

1       and Mr KZZ -- was it KZZ? Mr KZZ  
2       I think. We had four woodwork tables and they've got  
3       like vices on each end, pushed the four tables together,  
4       grabbed me, put me on top, put my trouser legs in the  
5       bottom vices and my cuffs in my shirt on the other and  
6       tightened them up and left me there and just had a good  
7       old laugh, which really angered me.  
8   Q. How long do you think you were left there like that?  
9   A. I would say 15/20 minutes. If no longer. It felt  
10       longer. But just them laughing at you, it doesnae make  
11       you feel nice.  
12   Q. You go on at paragraph 64 and 65 to talk about some of  
13       the things that you were effectively told was happening  
14       or were aware of.  
15       First at paragraph 64 you say that Mr LUT announced  
16       to the school that a gardener had lost his job because  
17       he had been caught sexually abusing a child:  
18       'It was talked about at the school, however I never  
19       knew who the child was.'  
20   A. Yeah, I'm not sure if it was a child from the school or  
21       fae the surrounding area, but he did get caught.  
22   Q. When you say that Mr LUT announced to the school, did  
23       he --  
24   A. It was, like, weekly assembly.  
25   Q. So at the weekly assembly you were all told the reason

1           why the staff member wasn't there?

2   A.   Yeah, for something to do with a child, yeah.

3   Q.   Then you go on at paragraph 65 to talk about

4           a houseparent called Dave Murphy. You remember that he

5           used to have a caravan at a farm. He used to take

6           groups of kids out cycling and would go to his caravan

7           but you never got to go, probably as you'd been on

8           punishment at the time, and you were gutted?

9   A.   Yeah, I was, yeah. 'Cause it wasnae just for the bikes,

10          going out, like, on the bikes was a privilege and, you

11          know, even more so 'cause you're going to a farm and

12          I thought, well -- but after finding out what happened

13          up there, I'm kind of glad that I didnae go.

14   Q.   So when you say you found out what happened, I think you

15          say that the police came to see you and you learned that

16          he'd been responsible for sexually abusing children?

17   A.   Yeah.

18   Q.   When you were at school, were you ever aware of that?

19          Did you ever hear anything about that from other pupils?

20   A.   No, 'cause he was Dave Murphy, he was one of the

21          houseparents and with me going home, I only seen him --

22          I didn't see him all the time, but when I did stay over

23          for -- we had archery and shooting, I really enjoyed

24          that. I won trophies for that. He was all in charge of

25          that. So, no, I never noticed or heard anything about



1           stuff like that.

2   Q.   You go on to say that you left Linwood just before your  
3        16th birthday?

4   A.   Yeah.

5   Q.   And you went back home at that point?

6   A.   Yeah.

7   Q.   And you go on to tell us in your statement about life  
8        after your time at Ovenstone and Linwood.

9           I think you say that you struggled to connect with  
10       your brother?

11  A.   Yeah.  I've got two older brothers, but just -- we had  
12       nae connection, we lost -- even with my dad, just we  
13       didnae see eye to eye anymore.

14  Q.   You go on and say that you went to Elmwood College in  
15       Cupar to study Estate and Farm Maintenance and you got  
16       your apprenticeship out of it?

17  A.   Yeah.  Aye, that was my dad managed to get me a job with  
18       Fife Council.  I did start off in woodwork, but I'm more  
19       outdoors, so I moved to gardening, at the war memorial  
20       at Balwearie High School, that's where I was based, and  
21       I enjoyed that, yeah.

22  Q.   You go on to tell us a wee bit more about your life.  
23       You say that the early 1990s weren't good for you really  
24       until you met your wife and I think things got better  
25       after that?

1 A. Yeah. I had a lot of anger issues and trust issues.  
2 I still believe that if I didnae meet [REDACTED], I don't  
3 know where I would have ended up, 'cause half the people  
4 I went to school with are nae here anymore, through  
5 violence, drugs or just, you know. I've lost quite  
6 a lot. And most of them were from schools that I went  
7 to and we were quite close. They just took the wrong  
8 path when they left school.

9 Q. You go on in your statement to talk about the impact,  
10 but you have passed to me a note that I think you are  
11 quite happy for me to read out, if that's okay?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So you say:

14 'Because of my time at Ovenstone and Linwood, it  
15 affected my relationship with my two older brothers.  
16 I was away from home for so long that I never had  
17 a sibling bond with them and we are still estranged  
18 today.

19 'It also affected my relationship with my dad as he  
20 received many phone calls about my behaviour and it put  
21 a massive strain on our relationship, that was only  
22 resolved shortly before my dad passed away from terminal  
23 cancer in 2007.

24 'It also affected my ability to find employment,  
25 because, as soon as employers learned what school I went

1 to, they didn't want to hire me.

2 'I also feel that I would have ended up in prison or  
3 on drugs, but when I met my wife and we had our children  
4 I could finally live a proper family life.

5 'I am still affected mentally today as I suffer from  
6 PTSD, anxiety and depression and agoraphobia. It has  
7 tainted my whole life.

8 'I would like to add though that one of the  
9 houseparents, KLG, was amazing. He brought me food  
10 and drink when I was being punished, by not having my  
11 evening meal. He also helped me channel my energy into  
12 art. He was a truly amazing person with whom I kept in  
13 touch with until he passed away, so thank you KLG.'

14 'Fred', is there anything further you would like to  
15 add?

16 A. No, that's great, ta.

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

19 LADY SMITH: 'Fred', I don't have any other questions  
20 either.

21 Thank you for taking the trouble to write down what  
22 you wanted to add to what was in your statement. It was  
23 very powerful and very clear. And thank you again for  
24 coming here today and speaking so openly and frankly  
25 about your time, both at Ovenstone and at Linwood. It's

1           been really enlightening.

2           You are now free to go and I hope the rest of the  
3           day is calm and peaceful for you. Thank you.

4   A. Thank you.

5                               (The witness withdrew)

6   LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the lunch break, I want to  
7           mention the names of some people who aren't to be  
8           identified as referred to in our evidence outside this  
9           room.

10           KLG [REDACTED], Mr LUR [REDACTED], Mr LUS [REDACTED], Mr KZZ [REDACTED],  
11           Mr LUT [REDACTED], Mr HTZ [REDACTED], and someone who was a boy alongside  
12           the witness who has just given evidence, that he  
13           referred to as [REDACTED].

14           So those people are all protected by my general  
15           restriction -- their identities are all protected by my  
16           General Restriction Order. Please bear that in mind.

17           So I'll rise now for the lunch break and sit again  
18           at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

19   (12.55 pm)

20                               (The luncheon adjournment)

21   (2.00 pm)

22   LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

23           Now, Ms Innes, back to some read-ins, I think, yes?

24   MS INNES: Yes, we have two read-ins this afternoon.

25           The first one is quite lengthy and it's for

1           'Anthony'.

2   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3                               'Anthony' (read)

4   MS INNES: This is the statement of an applicant who wishes  
5           to be anonymous and will be referred to as 'Anthony'.

6           The reference is WIT-1-000000633.

7           Part of 'Anthony's' statement has previously been  
8           read in during the Foster Care case study on Day 327,  
9           27 September 2022.

10           In his statement, 'Anthony' talks about the time he  
11           spent in Starley Hall. He says he went there when he  
12           was 8 years old and left when he was around 12. The  
13           records we have recovered are not entirely clear, but it  
14           appears that he was enrolled in Starley Hall in 1986 and  
15           he left in 1989.

16           'Anthony' was born in 1978. He tells us, in his  
17           statement from paragraphs 3 to 9, about his life before  
18           he went into care.

19           His parents were very abusive. They had  
20           difficulties with alcohol and there was social work  
21           involvement with them before 'Anthony' was born.

22           He tells us about his diagnosis of ADHD when he was  
23           around 14 or 15 years old. Although it was referred to  
24           as MAD at that stage.

25           He says that he needed to go a special school and he

1 remembers a particular school that he went to, which he  
2 describes as having been set up by Malcolm Rifkind as  
3 a place for intelligent children.

4 He says that he lived with his father until he was  
5 around 8 years old, at which point his father became  
6 physically abusive and surrendered him to social work.

7 'Anthony' then goes on to tell us about his time in  
8 Starley Hall.

9 So moving to page 3 and paragraph 9:

10 'I remember that my father told me before I went to  
11 Starley Hall that it was going to be like a military  
12 academy. I don't know why he said that. He had  
13 an obsession about that at the time. He told me that  
14 I was going to go off and become a soldier and  
15 everything else. I was taken to Starley Hall by my  
16 social worker.

17 'Starley Hall was located somewhere between Aberdour  
18 and Burntisland in Fife. I don't have a clue what  
19 organisation ran the place. I first went to  
20 Starley Hall when I was 8 years old. That would have  
21 been in about 1986. I left when I was 12 years old.  
22 That was in about 1990. Starley Hall is still open.  
23 There are apparently still children there. I believe  
24 that it is still held in the Barton family, who worked  
25 at the place when I was there.'

1           Obviously the Inquiry has up-to-date information  
2           about the ownership structure of Starley Hall.

3           He then goes on to describe it:

4           'The grounds had walls all around them. On one side  
5           was the Firth of Forth. On the other side there was  
6           a hill. There was a tiny little gatehouse at the  
7           entrance. That was where the older boys stayed. As you  
8           went forward there were some corrymex that were located  
9           next to the road. They weren't there when I initially  
10          went to Starley Hall but were put in place later.

11          Corrymex are like big corrugated iron shipping  
12          containers with windows. They're a bit like Portakabins  
13          but not quite as classy. They tried to make up little  
14          classrooms inside them and make it nice, but in truth  
15          they were shit. After the corrymex was the main house.  
16          Further on and higher up from the main house was the  
17          dance hall. Next to the main house to the back was  
18          an old ruined tower.

19          'The main building where we stayed looked like a big  
20          giant castle. I think there were four floors in the  
21          main building itself. The very bottom floor was like  
22          a basement. The kitchens were located there. There was  
23          also a seamstress area in the basement where the woman  
24          who was in charge of repairing all the clothes worked.  
25          Other than those areas, the rest of the floor was for

1       the staff.

2           'Above the basement was the ground floor. As you  
3       went in the entrance on the ground floor there was  
4       a visible set of stairs up to the next floor. The staff  
5       offices were near to the bottom of the stairs. Also on  
6       that floor was the main hall, the dining hall, the area  
7       where we had our pigeonholes and the girls' bedrooms.  
8       The first floor was where we, all the boys, slept. All  
9       the boys' bedrooms were located there. The nurse also  
10      had a small office on that floor.

11          'The second floor was like an attic. Initially the  
12      attic wasn't used. Later on during the time I was  
13      there, that floor was converted into a girls' area. It  
14      was like a day room where the girls could go and do  
15      girly things. Looking back, I do wonder why they gave  
16      the girls their own space.

17          'There was a principal and a deputy principal at  
18      Starley Hall. The persons who had those roles changed  
19      during my time there. All the staff members were  
20      referred to as teachers. There were loads of teachers  
21      during the time I was there. I only remember a few of  
22      the teachers actually having subjects which they taught.  
23      None of the other ones had a subject which they taught  
24      you. Those ones who didn't have a subject didn't have  
25      a clue how to teach.



1           'One of the staff members would supervise us in the  
2           main house at night time. I don't think there was  
3           a formal system for the staff who stayed over in the  
4           main house during the night. I remember that they  
5           tended to be teachers who were not really involved in  
6           the educational side of the place. They would stay in  
7           the office at the bottom of the stairs overnight.  
8           Looking back, it didn't feel like we were supervised.  
9           I remember them coming round the rooms once during the  
10          night. The rest of the time those staff members just  
11          sat on their arses in the wee rooms downstairs.

12          'There was no staff member that was assigned to me  
13          or had the role of a key worker. There wasn't really  
14          a specific staff member I could go to or speak to if  
15          I had a problem. If I ever had a problem, I would go to  
16          the nurse but that wasn't anything official.

17          '[SNR [REDACTED] when I joined] was a very  
18          red-blooded American male. I don't remember his  
19          day-to-day role in the place. All I remember is that he  
20          was [SNR [REDACTED] and he had a lot of money. As far as  
21          I'm concerned, he didn't do anything but wave money  
22          about. [He] left about a year-and-a-half after I first  
23          got there. I would have been about 9-years old when he  
24          left. That would have been in approximately 1987 or  
25          1988.'

1           The person who had been SNR [REDACTED]

2           [REDACTED] as SNR [REDACTED], he tells us:

3           'Nigel Lloyd was a teacher who came in some time  
4           after I started at Starley Hall. He became deputy  
5           principal ... in either 1987 or 1988. He was old.  
6           I don't know what he taught because that was never made  
7           clear to me. He used to play rugby. He was a good mate  
8           of [SNR [REDACTED]]. He smoked a pipe. It was never  
9           explained to me what his day-to-day role was.

10          'Mrs [REDACTED] and Mr PPR [REDACTED] were the only teachers who  
11          were really nice people. They were both older.  
12          Mr PPR [REDACTED] lived in Perth. Mrs [REDACTED] was  
13          a blonde-haired woman. She had a couple of daughters.  
14          She was absolutely perfect and lovely. She was never  
15          abusive. Her whole family was lovely. I don't know  
16          what Mr PPR [REDACTED] taught but Mrs [REDACTED] taught  
17          home economics. They ended up marrying one another  
18          during the time I was at Starley Hall. Looking back,  
19          they were the only two staff members who really cared  
20          about the children [there].

21          '[Another teacher was in his 30s when I was there].  
22          I don't know what he taught. All he would do is pull  
23          his guitar out in class and strum away. He would say  
24          that we were going to learn music but he didn't actually  
25          teach us anything. I don't remember us ever having

1       an instrument so I don't know how he was teaching us  
2       music. I remember him sitting there, just thinking  
3       I didn't want to sit there just listening to the  
4       Beatles, Maggie [May, perhaps] or whatever he was  
5       playing.

6       '[There was another teacher at] Starley Hall. He  
7       was Italian but I don't believe he taught Italian.  
8       I don't know what he taught. His wife taught Italian.  
9       She would have been in her late 30s when I was there.  
10      She was a lovely lady.

11      '[There was another teacher] but I don't know what  
12      his first name was. I'm not sure how old he was when  
13      I was at Starley Hall. I don't actually know what he  
14      taught. He had a hooked nose and was one of the staff  
15      members who would stay overnight in the main building.

16      'Miss O'Shinska was a teacher there. She was  
17      another staff member who stayed overnight in the main  
18      building. I think she later became a teacher in the  
19      educational side of the place but I don't remember what  
20      she taught. She was one of the staff members who stayed  
21      in the main house overnight.

22      'There was a younger male teacher who came into  
23      Starley Hall. I don't remember his name. He had hairy  
24      arms. I don't remember exactly what he taught but  
25      I remember him coming into the place and doing silly

1       little drawings of things like Thomas the Tank Engine  
2       with lots of different faces ...

3       '[There] was an older lady who was a teacher. She  
4       is probably dead now. I didn't like her. There was a  
5       permanent female teacher who taught Scottish country  
6       dancing. I don't remember her name. I don't think she  
7       taught anything in the corrymex initially but later she  
8       went on to teach [REDACTED].

9       'There was a male staff member at Starley Hall who  
10      did nothing but drive. I don't remember his name. He  
11      wore a lot of very Arran-style jumpers. I would say he  
12      was in his 40s during the time I was at Starley Hall.  
13      I might be slightly polite in that estimation.

14      '[The [REDACTED] American [REDACTED] had a female  
15      secretary who I don't remember the name of. I remember  
16      she always used to come out of [his] office with ripped  
17      tights. There was a lady who worked in the castle who  
18      was a dressmaker. She would repair your clothes. There  
19      was a nurse who had a small office upstairs in the main  
20      building. I don't remember her name. There was  
21      a dinner lady. I don't remember her name.

22      'There were children from all over Scotland who went  
23      to Starley Hall. It wasn't just people from the local  
24      area who went there. I remember there were boys from  
25      Kirkcudbright, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Perth and Dundee.

1 All I knew was that we were there because we all had  
2 ADHD. It wasn't called ADHD back then though. It was  
3 called MAD. I can see why they chose the name that they  
4 referred to it as.

5 'There were both boys and girls at Starley Hall.  
6 I remember that, at the age of 8, I was the youngest  
7 there. The oldest children would have been between 17  
8 and 18. The younger and older children were kept  
9 separate. The younger children would stay in the main  
10 house and the older children would stay in the  
11 gatehouse.

12 'I couldn't provide an estimate in total as to how  
13 many non-residential and residential children were there  
14 at any one time. However, I would say there were maybe  
15 about 40 boys and girls who stayed in the main house  
16 overnight. Of those children, I would say the maximum  
17 amount of girls would be about ten. Those numbers are  
18 very much an estimate.'

19 Moving down to paragraph 35:

20 'The place didn't look great to me when I arrived.  
21 I was terrified. I was just so lonely. When I first  
22 went into the main building, I wasn't introduced to the  
23 staff or shown around. All I was told was where I was  
24 and what I was going to do. I remember one of the first  
25 things that the staff did was give me a number. That

1       number was placed on all your clothes, your cubbyholes,  
2       your cutlery and your napkins. What 8-year-old wants to  
3       be told: you're a number now? I was then given a little  
4       bag full of clothes.

5       'After you got up, you washed your face, brushed  
6       your teeth then got dressed. After that, you made your  
7       bed before going down to get your breakfast. As you  
8       went into the dining room, you passed the pigeonholes.  
9       Each pigeonhole had your number on it. I would collect  
10      my cutlery, which was wrapped in an orange and white  
11      napkin, from that pigeonhole before going into the  
12      dining room. You would then have your breakfast before  
13      going down to school for your classes in the morning.

14      'You would go to different corrymex containers for  
15      different subjects. Everything was: go here, do this,  
16      and do that. I remember subjects that were taught  
17      including history, English, Italian and home economics,  
18      but there were others. During the day, there were  
19      breaks. I remember that I used to sneak out and smoke  
20      fags behind all the corrymex. I remember going back  
21      into classes stinking of smoke and none of the staff  
22      cared. At the end of the school day, we had to go back  
23      to the main house, wash up and get ready for tea.  
24      I remember sitting after tea in my pyjamas at 6.30 pm in  
25      a room watching things like Top of the Pops with the

1       other children.

2           'The girls and boys had separate rooms on separate  
3       floors. The boys' rooms were above the girls' rooms.  
4       The numbers of boys in each room would differ from time  
5       to time. All the bedrooms were different in size.  
6       There could be as many as eight or ten children in the  
7       bedrooms that had single beds. There were more in those  
8       bedrooms which had bunk beds.

9           'The first bedroom I was in was a tiny little room  
10       to the left-hand side on the first floor. It was right  
11       next to the nurse's station. I shared that room with  
12       between eight and ten other boys. I was 8 or 9 when  
13       I moved into the second and final bedroom I stayed in.  
14       That would have been approximately 1986 or 1987. The  
15       room was located in the middle of the first floor and  
16       contained bunk beds.

17          'There were set bedtimes and routines. I can't  
18       remember what the times were that were surrounding that.  
19       I remember that when I was in the left-hand room, it was  
20       really early. I remember going to bed after Top of the  
21       Pops was finished. Looking back, I don't know why I had  
22       to go to bed so early. When I was in the middle room,  
23       it was maybe about half an hour later. Bedtime was  
24       going to bed and that was it. There was no time for  
25       reading or anything like that.

1           'I remember speaking with some of the older children  
2           at Starley Hall who stayed in the gatehouse. They got  
3           to go to bed whenever they wanted. From the way they  
4           described their time in the gatehouse, they had a free  
5           run of that place. I don't think there was a member of  
6           staff on duty during the night in the gatehouse. The  
7           gatehouse was really small. It wasn't big enough to  
8           have space for staff to sleep overnight. It just  
9           wouldn't have been possible for it to have contained the  
10          number of children they had in there, as well as  
11          a full-grown adult.

12          'There were showers in Starley Hall. We had showers  
13          a couple of times a week. The shower times were  
14          whenever the staff felt like it. All the staff took  
15          turns supervising shower times and I remember some staff  
16          supervising showers ...

17          'The staff used to watch us when we were showering.  
18          It was cubicles but the door was always open so the  
19          staff could see inside. The staff would say things  
20          like: "Make sure that you get there". Sometimes the  
21          staff would make you use both your hands at the same  
22          time to wash behind your ears and then stare at your  
23          crotch while you were doing that. There was no reason  
24          why they should be looking there and not your ears if  
25          they were concerned with your ears getting clean. The



1 way they did things just wasn't right. It made me feel  
2 uncomfortable at the time. Looking back, there is no  
3 way that an adult should be watching an 8-year-old boy  
4 washing his penis.

5 'I ate most of my meals with the other children in  
6 the dining hall. We were told to sit down where we were  
7 told to sit. You couldn't sit where you wanted to. You  
8 would sit with whatever teacher was on that day. Later  
9 on, during the time I was in the Scouts, I had to go and  
10 have my food separately from the other children in the  
11 kitchen.

12 'Breakfast was always porridge. I remember the  
13 porridge would sit there for days on end. It was nasty.  
14 The other meals weren't any better. They were dreadful.  
15 It was just shocking. It seemed like all the meals were  
16 made the day before and left in the pot overnight. You  
17 don't do that with food. I remember getting given mince  
18 and tatties but it wasn't anything like the quality that  
19 you would have now.

20 'What would happen if you refused to eat something  
21 would depend on who was on. You would either be skelped  
22 or just left to starve. If it was somebody like  
23 Miss O'Shinska then she would see if she could maybe get  
24 something else for you. I remember occasions where the  
25 dinner lady would question why I didn't want to eat

1 something and not give me something else instead. That  
2 would mean that I would just end up starving.

3 'If it was somebody like Nigel Lloyd who was on, you  
4 would get battered for not eating. When they did  
5 something as obscene as that, they wouldn't do it in  
6 front of everyone else. They would do that separate  
7 from everybody else. They'd take you out of the dining  
8 hall to do that. I remember that whenever you were  
9 taken out of the dining hall, you could go one of two  
10 ways. If you went one way it wasn't too bad because  
11 nine times out of ten, you could run away. If you went  
12 the other way down the spiral staircase to the kitchens  
13 then you were really in trouble. It was not nice that  
14 you were taken down there. That happened to me.  
15 I remember other children speaking about it happening to  
16 them as well.

17 'Sometimes children were force fed. When I say  
18 force fed, I mean the staff would hold your nose and  
19 force the food into your mouth. They would literally  
20 force it down my throat. I remember being given  
21 desserts like semolina. I don't even know to this day  
22 what that stuff is. I remember getting things like that  
23 forced down my throat. It wasn't right for them to do  
24 things like that. [The music teacher], Nigel Lloyd and  
25 [a female teacher] were the ones who were particularly

1 bad for doing that. They would do that in the dining  
2 hall in front of everyone.

3 'I remember that we were made to mop the bathrooms.  
4 We had to make our own beds in the morning.

5 'When I first arrived I was given a little bag full  
6 of my clothes. There was no particular uniform. All  
7 the clothes were second-hand and looked as if they came  
8 from the 1970s. The clothes were all dreadful. I wore  
9 corduroys, big woolly jumpers and Y-fronts with orange  
10 piping cord. Everybody wore those sort of clothes but  
11 they were all different colours. Thinking back, I can  
12 identify the other children by what colour clothes they  
13 had. What 8-year-old bairn wants to be dressed like  
14 that? It wasn't right at all.

15 'I remember that my number was put on all my  
16 clothes. They used to rotate the two sets of clothes  
17 that you wore every three days. There were no  
18 inspections of the clothes by staff or anything like  
19 that. It was a cold place to stay and you did need more  
20 clothes from time to time. It was your responsibility  
21 to ask for new clothes or get clothes repaired if you  
22 wanted them to be. I remember the amount of shame you  
23 would feel when you've asked for something like that.  
24 I would feel apologetic when I asked for new clothes or  
25 repairs. If you needed a new piece of clothing, you

1       were just given another piece of bad clothing, otherwise  
2       there was a lady who worked in the bottom of the castle  
3       who would sew and repair your clothes for you.

4       'I had no personal possessions at Starley Hall.  
5       I didn't have books or anything like that. My mum or my  
6       dad didn't ever send me any gifts whilst I was there.  
7       I didn't get any pocket money.

8       'The school wasn't in the main building. It was  
9       located in two places. The younger children went to the  
10      school in the corrymex and the older children went to  
11      the school in the gatehouse. You went there until you  
12      were about 14. I never went to that part of the school  
13      because I was only in Starley Hall until the age of 12.

14      'There were between eight and ten children in each  
15      class. The age ranges in each of the classes were  
16      however the teachers saw fit. It wasn't sorted by age.  
17      I don't have anything positive to say about school  
18      whatsoever. There wasn't any quality to the education  
19      they provided. I think they must have all thought that  
20      we were all thick because we were hyperactive. I never  
21      took anything positive away from the school at all.  
22      I had no idea what was going to happen day by day. I  
23      wasn't allowed to communicate with anyone because, as  
24      I was repeatedly told, school time was important. In  
25      the end, I ended up passing everything with flying

1 colours.

2 'I remember my first lesson. I was told that  
3 I would be reading by the teacher. The teacher was  
4 a lady but I can't remember her name. I can't remember  
5 what the books were called but they were basically  
6 trying to gauge what your reading skills were.  
7 I remember seeing the book that was given to me and  
8 thinking that I was a lot better at reading than the  
9 book that had been given out. The teacher must have  
10 thought that I was retarded or something. I remember  
11 I was reading the book out loud for the teacher and got  
12 to the word "awry", I pronounced it the wrong way and  
13 then I was put straight back down to preschool books.  
14 I was still in the same classroom but those were the  
15 books that were given to me. It all felt like  
16 a punishment to me. Looking back, I don't know how many  
17 8-year-olds would be able to pronounce the word "awry".  
18 Later on, the teacher asked me to select a tape to put  
19 on. When I pulled the tape out and put it on,  
20 I realised what I had selected was rubbish. It was  
21 Willie Nelson. I remember the teacher being over the  
22 moon with what I picked.

23 'You could go out into the fields or to the beach to  
24 play. My favourite was going down to the beach. The  
25 beach was just down the hill from the main building.

1        Sometimes you were given activities to do in the  
2        evenings. I don't think there was anything structured  
3        in the way that they put on activities in the evenings.  
4        The sort of activities that were done in the evenings  
5        were things like [the teacher with the hook nose] would  
6        put on. He would drive you to a park or to the beach,  
7        he would ask us in the evenings who would like to go and  
8        those that wanted to would put their hands in the air.

9        'I remember that some of the children had board  
10       games at Starley Hall. I was about 10 years old when  
11       I stole a wee boy's Pass the Pigs board game. I'd never  
12       seen the game before so I decided to steal it. In 1984  
13       they turned part of the corrymex into a clubhouse so as  
14       we could go there to relax ... '

15       I think the reference to 1984 there can't be right  
16       because he was there in 1986. So I think that's just  
17       a mistake:

18       'There was one of those big standing stereos with  
19       all the little levels in the room. It was trying to  
20       look like a Technics system but it was actually a piece  
21       of shit. We could play records and that.

22       '[SNR ██████████] got me into the Scouts. He didn't  
23       have anything to do with them. He just arranged it all  
24       for me to join. I didn't want to join the Scouts. It  
25       was something I was made to do. I was the only boy from

1 Starley Hall who went to that. I remember that I had to  
2 pay for a scarf and a woggle. I enjoyed some of the  
3 things that we did in the Scouts because my grandad had  
4 taught me things about survival in the past. I wanted  
5 all of the badges. However, I didn't find the Scouts  
6 nice. I had to call people by made-up names like  
7 "Baloo". At the same time, it was a break from what was  
8 going on at Starley Hall.'

9 Moving on to paragraph 60:

10 'I remember that the older children who were in the  
11 gatehouse were allowed to go and do Taekwondo. They  
12 were old enough to have driving licences so they would  
13 drive there themselves.

14 'I never agreed to do anything with religion when  
15 I was there and throughout my time in care.'

16 At paragraph 62:

17 'I was expected to go to church every Sunday when  
18 I was at Starley Hall. I think the church was in  
19 Aberdour. I would try to avoid going to church and show  
20 up later on. Not going to church was seen as being  
21 unholy. I remember being punched, kicked and kneed for  
22 refusing to go to church. When I was kneed in the guts,  
23 I remember quite a few of the staff members doing that.  
24 I especially remember Nigel Lloyd, [SNR] and  
25 [the music teacher] and another staff member I don't

1 remember the name of doing that. Your punishment might  
2 not necessarily be on the morning that you refused to go  
3 to church. It might come later on. Nobody should be  
4 punished for not going or not wanting to go to church.

5 'Sometimes we were taken on trips out. I remember  
6 once being taken to Kirkcaldy and being made to look for  
7 abandoned fishing tackle on the beach. We also went to  
8 a place in Fife where they had a train. It was an old  
9 ruined steam train. It could have been Loch Orr or  
10 Loch Orr Meadows or something like that. I remember you  
11 could go sailing on the loch or go paddling. We once  
12 went to the theatre in Burntisland. On another trip, we  
13 were taken to see the Declaration of Arbroath in  
14 Arbroath. I also remember going to a place called  
15 Beecraigs in West Lothian.

16 'I remember once going on a camping trip with the  
17 staff at Starley Hall. I can't remember exactly where  
18 that was but the police have shown me photographs and  
19 they look like the same place we were taken. I don't  
20 know whether it was a place near Blairgowrie or  
21 Aviemore. All I remember about the place is that it was  
22 next to a big loch.

23 'To begin with, every six weeks I would get a break  
24 where I would go home for ten days and I would go back  
25 to my father's. Later on it was every four weeks. The



1 driver from Starley Hall would take us all out at the  
2 same time in a minibus and drop us off individually  
3 where we were going. We would drive all over Scotland  
4 dropping various people off at their homes. Given the  
5 things that were happening at home, when I went there, I  
6 wished they would have kept me at school.

7 'My parents didn't write to me or try to make  
8 contact in any other way when I was at Starley Hall.'

9 'Anthony' then refers to an incident where he was  
10 told that there had been a fire at his father's flat.  
11 His father, his girlfriend and 'Anthony's' wee sister  
12 ended up having to jump out the window.

13 At paragraph 67:

14 'I was aware of when my birthday was but I don't  
15 remember my birthday being celebrated in any way at all.  
16 There was nothing done at Christmastime. There were no  
17 decorations or a Christmas tree. I remember that we did  
18 receive presents from a charity. The presents seemed to  
19 be like what you would get out of a pound shop. If it  
20 was for a boy it was a blue thing and if it was for  
21 a girl it was a pink thing.

22 'I remember particularly surrounding Christmas that  
23 my family had different rules because my mother was  
24 German. Our equivalent of Christmas Day was on  
25 24 December. That wasn't respected at Starley Hall.

1           'I remember that we once went out to see a Christmas  
2       play. After that, we ended up being made to put on our  
3       own. I thought that was diabolical because it wasn't  
4       nice. I didn't want to be in the play. I was  
5       threatened by the staff with a hiding if I didn't appear  
6       in it. I was made to dress up in my dressing gown and  
7       self-flagellate on the stage for the entertainment of  
8       other people.

9           'I didn't really have any visitors when I was there.  
10      My mother didn't ever come to visit me because "it  
11      didn't suit her". The only time I saw my dad was when  
12      I was dropped off at his home in Perth. The only time  
13      he came near Starley Hall was when he dropped me back  
14      off there.

15          'I was never visited regularly by a social worker  
16      when I was there. I didn't have a clue what  
17      Social Services were doing in the background, if they  
18      were doing anything at all. All I knew was that I was  
19      kept at Starley Hall until I got better. On one  
20      occasion, a social worker called Alan Keep came to see  
21      me whilst I was at Starley Hall. He visited me about  
22      the time that they were getting me ready to go into  
23      mainstream schooling. They loved that term. It was as  
24      if I was going to be like some sort of superhero for  
25      leaving Starley Hall. We just talked shit during that

1 meeting. I believe the meeting was held in the front of  
2 [SNR].

3 'I don't remember there being any inspectors or  
4 inspections. Looking back, there really wasn't anyone  
5 from the outside who came in.

6 'I never saw a dentist during my time there.  
7 Although the school was set up for children who had  
8 ADHD, they didn't do anything in terms of treatment.  
9 Never once did I see any health professionals come in  
10 from the outside. All we had was the school nurse. She  
11 had a little office upstairs in the castle part of the  
12 place. I remember that when I saw her, she would fill  
13 in what looked like a little logbook.

14 'I ran away whenever I was expected to do something  
15 I didn't agree with. That could be anything. I ran  
16 away three or four times from the age of 8 onwards.  
17 I would run away both at night and during the day.  
18 I remember that there was no one looking out from the  
19 top floors of the house to keep an eye on you. Leisure  
20 time wasn't supervised in any way. They just didn't  
21 care. The only times that we would be supervised [I  
22 think it should say where] if we were in a public place  
23 outside of Starley Hall.

24 'You could leave Starley Hall in a few different  
25 ways. You could go out during your break time, past the

1 tower that was to the back of the main house. You could  
2 just go down the hill and no one would see you. At the  
3 bottom of the hill was a path that took you all along  
4 the coast. If I didn't do that, I would turn right as  
5 I came out of the entrance to Starley Hall. I was  
6 a very good walker back then.

7 'Sometimes I ran away with other people from  
8 Starley Hall. The aim was always to get as far as  
9 Edinburgh. For some reason, we thought everything would  
10 be nicer there. I only ever got as far as Aberdour or  
11 Queensferry. Sometimes I would be gone for a day and  
12 other times I was away for as long as three days. If we  
13 were away for a long time we would sleep out rough.  
14 I remember us sleeping in bus shelters and bowling club  
15 pavilions. We had to break into places to keep  
16 ourselves safe.

17 'The first time I ran away from Starley Hall, I was  
18 about 8 years old. It was around Christmastime.  
19 I'm not sure why I ran away around Christmastime. It  
20 was probably something to do with church. I can't  
21 remember whether I ran away with anyone on that  
22 occasion.

23 'When I was 9 years old, I ran away with a boy and  
24 a girl. I think we just didn't understand why the staff  
25 at Starley Hall were doing what they were doing to us

1       and we wanted to get away. We thought if we got away  
2       things might be a bit easier. We wanted to get to  
3       Edinburgh. We walked to Aberdour then towards  
4       Queensferry. Getting to Edinburgh from Starley Hall  
5       isn't actually all that of a big journey. However, for  
6       a child of the age we would have been, it really was.  
7       The others were ultimately lifted by the police in  
8       Edinburgh on that occasion. No child of the age we were  
9       at that time in care should have been able to run away  
10      as far as that. I think I split up with them in  
11      Aberdour and didn't get further than Queensferry.  
12      I then think I went back to Starley Hall myself.

13           'I remember a time I was running away during the day  
14      along the coastal path and I lost my footing. I had to  
15      hold on to a branch to stop myself from falling off the  
16      path. I still have nightmares about that incident.  
17      I don't remember how old I was and when that happened.  
18      It's not something I want to go into in this statement  
19      as it is still an incident I don't like thinking about.

20           'I remember that there were alcoholics around that  
21      we would come across when we were on the run. They  
22      would ask us what we were doing, what we wanted and why  
23      we were doing whatever we were doing. I would just lie  
24      to them, tell them we were seeing my mother and give  
25      them a fake address. There was no abuse from them, but

1 I do remember having to make up things to tell them.

2 'The police would pull out everything to get us  
3 caught. They would look out for us and get us when they  
4 saw us. They would just think that we were kids who  
5 shouldn't be where we were. The police were always nice  
6 and friendly whenever they caught us. They would then  
7 just take us back to Starley Hall.

8 'What happened after you got taken back to  
9 Starley Hall after running away depended on who you got.  
10 Sometimes I was beaten by staff. All the staff members  
11 would do that from time to time. If you got Nigel Lloyd  
12 or [SNR], you would get skelped then get  
13 restrained for being violent. How could a wee boy  
14 taking on someone that big be violent? I was tiny.

15 'All the occasions I ran away are detailed in the  
16 records I recovered later on. I shouldn't have needed  
17 to run away from a place where I had supposedly been  
18 placed in care. Looking back, I should have been  
19 listened to and should never have felt the need that  
20 I had to run away. I shouldn't have had to run away to  
21 get the attention I needed to report what was happening  
22 to me.

23 'I wet the bed a couple of times when I was at  
24 Starley Hall. I was made to feel bad after that  
25 happened. There was a physical punishment for wetting

1 the bed. You were beaten by staff if you were found to  
2 have wet the bed. If you pissed yourself, you were seen  
3 as being unholy. I remember all the people I am taking  
4 to court doing that. Those people include Nigel Lloyd  
5 and [SNR ]. I would then be made to take the  
6 wet sheets down to the laundry. It was like a walk of  
7 shame. I remember the staff ridiculing me when  
8 I brought those sheets down. They would say, "How dare  
9 you" and make it known that they now had to clean my  
10 sheets. I remember seeing other children being treated  
11 in the same way as me ...

12 'The reason I was pissing the bed was because I was  
13 terrified. The bedwetting was linked to the abuse I was  
14 suffering. Why else would I randomly start pissing the  
15 bed? I had no other reason to be doing that. Maybe if  
16 the staff hadn't been battering the shit out of me or  
17 other staff members trying to do other things to me,  
18 I wouldn't have been wetting my bed.

19 'I was the smallest and youngest boy there and the  
20 staff made me feel it. I was just a tiny freckly kid.  
21 I think the people saw me being the size I was and  
22 thought I was an easy target. I was viewed as "the  
23 naughty boy", but I wasn't. I really wasn't naughty.  
24 I was just a very intelligent boy. When you were  
25 disciplined, it depended on which teacher caught you.

1 Different teachers did different things. I didn't know  
2 why they were doing the things to me most of the time.

3 'They got us to do manual labour as punishment. We  
4 were all bairns and we were made to do that. I don't  
5 know why we were made to do that. I remember on one  
6 occasion we had to tidy the corrymex when they made  
7 a clubhouse. I remember that we had to lift everything  
8 out ourselves. There were children carrying out chests  
9 of drawers and things like that. There was no  
10 supervision of that.

11 'I remember multiple times when I was forced to  
12 stand barefoot in my pyjamas on cold, hard concrete.  
13 I remember being forced to walk to country dancing in my  
14 bare feet. The dance hall was freezing cold. I don't  
15 know whether they made me do that as punishment or  
16 whether it was for something else. I never found out.  
17 There was more than one staff member who would make me  
18 do that.

19 'Around about the time that I was made to walk  
20 around Starley Hall in my bare feet, there was  
21 an occasion when I ran into the gym to escape PUU, who  
22 was a staff member at Starley Hall. I can't remember  
23 his surname. I remember PUU headbutting a window  
24 there. The window was one of those windows with  
25 reinforced glass in it.



1           'There really wasn't anything like lines or  
2 detention. I think there was only one time when I got  
3 given something else close to lines. I think I called  
4 someone "a motherfucker" and the teacher who gave me my  
5 punishment asked me to write down all of the swear  
6 words. I had to write them all down on a piece of  
7 wallpaper. I remember that I came up with some really  
8 beautiful swear words. Looking back, I can't see the  
9 point of making a child do that.

10           'The way they disciplined you was mostly in the form  
11 of physical assaults. All the staff were physically  
12 abusive. They used that as a means of discipline in the  
13 school and in the main house. The only one who wasn't  
14 was Mr PPR . It was brutal. If you didn't make your  
15 bed in the morning, you would get skelped with an open  
16 hand over the back of your hand. They would do a lot of  
17 restraining in Starley Hall. Why does an 8-year-old boy  
18 need restraining by a 40-year-old man? Even if you need  
19 to do that, there are ways of doing that. You don't  
20 need to twist the boy's arm right up their back. There  
21 is no need to have you permanently terrified by the  
22 prospect of that.

23           'There were times when my shoulder was dislocated  
24 during the times that I was restrained at Starley Hall.  
25 I remember it not being able to re-attach as the staff

1       had my arm halfway up behind my back. There were times  
2       when I was restrained purely for asking a question.  
3       There was no reason why they needed to do that.

4       'Starley Hall was a nightmare. I wasn't allowed to  
5       do anything. I wasn't allowed to speak to anyone.  
6       I was not respected and I was not cared for. There were  
7       no innocent staff at Starley Hall. They were all bad.  
8       In reality, nearly all of them were doing things that  
9       were abusive. It was all just to what extent they could  
10      get away with it. The staff really weren't nice to us.  
11      The abuse started pretty much as soon as I arrived and  
12      came in different forms. Everybody was emotionally  
13      abused at Starley Hall. I would say 75 per cent of  
14      people were physically abused in some way. They would  
15      beat the shit out of me and call it restraining.

16      'I was abused sexually at least a dozen times during  
17      my time at Starley Hall. It just wasn't right. Looking  
18      back, I think it was almost as if the staff had some  
19      sort of telepathic link as to who they could abuse and  
20      who they could do this and that to.

21      'I never got the impression that the staff who were  
22      abusive cared about anyone else seeing them doing what  
23      they were doing when they were abusive. They did do  
24      some of the things that they did to me in isolation but  
25      they also did it in front of other people. Looking back

1       on the way they did things, the way they would get  
2       around this is by saying: "We had to restrain him".  
3       They didn't have to restrain me. If they wanted me to  
4       sit down or stand up, then all they had to do was ask me  
5       to sit down or stand up. They didn't need to dislocate  
6       my shoulder to get me to do these things.

7       'When the staff hit you, they did it in such a way  
8       where they would not leave marks. They would cover  
9       their fists and things so they could punch you. They'd  
10      wrap their hands with anything that was there, it was  
11      usually tea towels. Sometimes they would hold you down  
12      in your duvet whilst they hit you with their fists, head  
13      or knees. They did that every time they hit you. The  
14      staff members I remember in particular doing that were  
15      [the music teacher], Nigel Lloyd and [a female teacher].

16      'I remember the only time the abuse stopped was  
17      following an occasion when the staff saw what my father  
18      looked like after he came in to see me, after dropping  
19      me off on one occasion. I think someone saw the size of  
20      him and thought "oh, fuck". The staff stopped hitting  
21      me right up until my father said to Nigel Lloyd "just  
22      fucking skelp him". That was like waving a red rag to  
23      a bull and they started all over again. They continued  
24      like normal after that break. I only had two or three  
25      weeks of peace. As soon as I was able to fight back,

1 I did.

2 '[My friend] was of the same mindset as myself. He  
3 would fight back whenever they tried to hit him. He was  
4 the only other one I ever remember standing up to the  
5 teachers. I remember an occasion when I was looking  
6 through the banisters and one of the teachers tried to  
7 call him into the office at the bottom of the stairs and  
8 tried something with him. I heard [my friend] say,  
9 "I will fucking stab you, you cunt" in response.  
10 I don't know which teacher called him into the room or  
11 what they tried to do. [My friend] just didn't take any  
12 shit off the staff.

13 'Nigel Lloyd was both physically and sexually  
14 abusive towards me. I remember him in particular being  
15 the disciplinarian amongst the staff. Even when I was  
16 a child, I knew that that was what his role was. As far  
17 as I was concerned his role was really only to beat the  
18 kids. I wasn't the only one who was physically  
19 assaulted by Nigel Lloyd. I remember seeing him  
20 battering other boys, including [my friend].

21 'When I was battered by Nigel Lloyd, he would cuff  
22 me round the ear, kick me and punch me. He did that  
23 both in the kitchen and after pulling me out of bed by  
24 the mattress or by my legs. I remember him booting me  
25 right up my arse and feeling the effect of that right in

1 my coccyx. Most of the physical abuse that Nigel Lloyd  
2 did was very masked. When he punched me, it was often  
3 in the stomach or in the groin area. I remember seeing  
4 him speaking to staff after doing that and making fun of  
5 me. How can it be okay for a grown man who was a former  
6 professional rugby player to do that to a small boy?

7 'On one occasion, Nigel Lloyd nearly dislocated my  
8 arm. He put my arm up my back, as was the staff's  
9 trademark there. It was called restraint. I don't  
10 remember on what occasion that happened or what the  
11 events were surrounding him doing that. I can't  
12 remember on what occasion Nigel Lloyd did that so  
13 I don't know whether there were any other staff members  
14 present when he put my arm behind my back.

15 'Nigel Lloyd sexually abused me during shower times.  
16 He would be in the shower room watching me and the other  
17 boys. He didn't go any further than that. He wasn't  
18 one of the staff members which progressed to touching.  
19 I remember we couldn't close the curtains. Looking  
20 back, I don't know why they thought it was appropriate  
21 to have staff members watching boys when they were  
22 showering ...

23 ' [SNR ] was another staff member I remember  
24 as being physically abusive. He would pull me out of  
25 the bed by the mattress or by my legs. I remember he

1 would take me down to the kitchens before or after  
2 I went to Scouts to give me some food. It was  
3 horrifying what happened when he took me into those  
4 kitchens. I wasn't the only one who was physically  
5 assaulted by [him]. I remember seeing him battering  
6 other boys, including [my friend].

7 'He once went mental at me because I didn't have all  
8 my clothes ready for a camping trip I was going on. He  
9 was about to drive me to go to the Scouts at Aberdour.  
10 He kicked my bags around and demanded that I go down to  
11 see the dressmaker. He got my arm up my back and  
12 marched me around to get things. I couldn't understand  
13 how this guy could be so bad to me when he had got me  
14 into the Scouts.

15 'I then had to go on a camping trip with [SNR  
16 SNR] and his son. It was a father and son camping  
17 trip so I couldn't understand why I was there. [He]  
18 spent all the time with his son. I remember being  
19 completely lonely on that camping trip. None of the  
20 other kids or their parents would help me. No one  
21 wanted to hang around with me. I was just left alone.  
22 I felt like a black sheep.

23 'On one occasion we went to a place called Beecraigs  
24 in West Lothian. I remember that there were lots of  
25 deer there. I remember that myself and another boy ...

1 got separated from everybody during a walk around this  
2 place. We didn't get separated intentionally. Because  
3 the staff couldn't find us, we were just left there. We  
4 were two young boys out in the wild. We looked to get  
5 some shelter and found some. I remember the shelter was  
6 right next to a road and sleeping out curled and huddled  
7 into one another. During that time we didn't hear  
8 anyone out looking for us.

9 'It wasn't until after midnight that we eventually  
10 got picked up by the staff. It was the bus driver and  
11 someone else. I think it was [SNR]. They  
12 found us in the shelter. When we got picked up they  
13 both kicked the shit out of us. We were kicked and  
14 punched. They did this because we were seen to have  
15 been the ones who had done something wrong. We were  
16 told that we should have handed ourselves in. Looking  
17 back, it was because all the teachers weren't bothered  
18 looking out for us that we got separated.

19 'I remember [the music teacher] being both  
20 physically and sexually abusive. He was another staff  
21 member who would pull me out of the bed by the mattress  
22 or my legs. When I was either 9 or 10 years old, [he]  
23 slammed me into a wall during a lesson in one of the  
24 classrooms. He did that because he thought I wouldn't  
25 let him continue sitting there and play his guitar.

1 I didn't care whether he wanted to play his guitar or  
2 not. He did that in front of the rest of the class.

3 'He was one of the staff members who would watch me  
4 and the other children washing during showering. He was  
5 a fat bastard. I remember on occasions other than  
6 shower times where he could get very close to you. He  
7 could put you into positions so that he could do that.  
8 When he stood close to you, you could feel his penis  
9 pressing against you. That wasn't right.

10 '[The teacher who I describe having a hooked nose]  
11 was a sleazy bastard. He was a staff member who  
12 physically and sexually abused me. He was one of the  
13 staff members who would pull me out of bed by the  
14 mattress or by my legs.

15 'I remember on one occasion [he] took us to the  
16 beach in Kirkcaldy as a night time activity. I was  
17 an angler at the time. I was looking for discarded  
18 fishing tackle down on a beach there. The beach was at  
19 the bottom of a cliff. The cliffs were quite tall. We  
20 weren't supervised when we were on beach but [the  
21 teacher] was standing at the top of the cliff over the  
22 beach. I remember that whilst I was on the beach,  
23 I found something and I turned to [my friend] to ask  
24 what it was. He told me it was a live bait feeder. I  
25 stuck it into my mouth and then climbed up the cliff to



1       where [the teacher] was standing.

2       'When I got to the top of the cliff, [he] asked me  
3       what I had in my mouth. I told [him] that I thought it  
4       was a live bait feeder. He turned around and smacked me  
5       round the face. What I didn't know was that what was in  
6       my mouth wasn't a live bait feeder, it was a type of  
7       urinal block that you put things in. I didn't know what  
8       it actually was because I never got taken anywhere.

9       'I was sexually assaulted throughout the night by  
10      a man. It happened when I was newly into Starley Hall.  
11      I was 8 years old. The man tried to suck my penis while  
12      I was in bed. I don't know for certain who it was  
13      because I had my eyes shut and I didn't want to open  
14      them. I remember though that the man had big hairy arms  
15      and was able to reach the top bunk. The man didn't say  
16      anything to me at all while he did that. He didn't try  
17      to get me to do anything or touch him in any way.  
18      Looking back, it just all makes no sense to me.

19      'The only staff member I can think of who had hairy  
20      arms was the younger teacher who came to Starley Hall  
21      and did the silly drawings. He was someone who was tall  
22      enough to be able to reach into the top bunk ...

23      '[The teacher who was Italian] always wore black.  
24      I thought he was some kind of Mafia. He physically and  
25      sexually assaulted me during the time I was at

1       Starley Hall.

2           'One time we were in the common room having TV time.  
3       We were watching Top of the Pops. Whilst we were  
4       watching that, a girl told tales on me to [him]. She  
5       said I wouldn't shut up. It all came from something  
6       innocent like me saying: what's happening there?  
7       I remember being picked up by the throat in front of the  
8       whole school by [this teacher]. When he did that,  
9       I think he was basically trying to show off. Nobody  
10      came forward to say he shouldn't be doing that. He then  
11      dragged me out of the room, he hit me while he was still  
12      holding me. He only stopped when his wife stopped him.  
13      She asked him to stop.

14           '[He] was the staff member who went further in the  
15      shower room than the other staff members. I have no  
16      idea why I couldn't put the shower curtain over when he  
17      was on duty in the shower room. He would masturbate me  
18      and make me touch him. I don't know why he thought it  
19      would be appropriate to touch me where he did. He also  
20      tried to sexually assault me in the kitchens. He pinned  
21      me down onto the ground and tried to get me to suck his  
22      penis.

23           'I know that the police have been looking for [him]  
24      as part of their investigations. I have been told they  
25      can't find him.

1           'I don't remember the driver but I remember him  
2           physically abusing me and other boys at Starley Hall.  
3           This happened on multiple occasions. One day we were  
4           taken to go to the theatre in Burntisland. I remember  
5           sitting in the back of the bus, seeing an old lady and  
6           saying, "There's an old lady". For whatever reason,  
7           I was so happy to see an old lady walking out and about  
8           to her destination. A girl who was at Starley Hall  
9           overheard me and told one of the staff that I had said  
10          [one of the teachers] was an old lady. From that,  
11          I ended up getting the shit kicked out of me from the  
12          driver and one of the [other] teachers.

13          'Looking back, even if I did say [the teacher] was  
14          an old lady then it would have been true. There was no  
15          reason why I should have been battered for saying  
16          something like that. Why should I have then been  
17          isolated from the rest of the school because the other  
18          child made up a lie about me?

19          'Another occasion when I was assaulted by the driver  
20          was after a time when myself and another boy were  
21          separated from the group during a trip to Beecraigs in  
22          West Lothian. I have already set that incident out  
23          above. That wasn't the only time I saw the bus driver  
24          physically assaulting boys. I remember on another  
25          occasion seeing him physically assault [my friend] ...

1           'I don't remember the lady who took Scottish country  
2 dancing while I was at Starley Hall but I think she  
3 might have gone on to teach there as well. She was  
4 a permanent member of staff. I remember that if you did  
5 the dancing wrong then she would hit you. On other  
6 occasions she would make you stand in your bare feet.  
7 You would be made to do that if you didn't manage to get  
8 a partner or you mucked up when you were dancing.  
9 Sometimes you were told to go and stand against a wall.  
10 When you were made to do that, you were told to place  
11 your head against it. The walls in the hall weren't  
12 plasterboard walls, they were real solid stone walls.  
13 It was horrible. Standing in your bare feet or against  
14 a wall were the polite things that could happen. More  
15 likely you would be given a skelp.

16           'I remember that I used to hide at the top of the  
17 big staircase in Starley Hall. At the bottom of the  
18 staircase, there was a little staffroom area. The night  
19 staff would use that area when they were on shift.  
20 I remember seeing a girl being called down and going  
21 into that office. I don't remember what member of staff  
22 called her down. I don't remember the girl's name. She  
23 was in her jammies and a dressing gown. I remember  
24 seeing her coming out of that office without her  
25 dressing gown on. You have to ask what's going on

1       there. Why would a child have to take their dressing  
2       gown off to go and speak to whoever was in the office  
3       whilst they were there?

4           'There was a wee boy, who was definitely a boy  
5       I suspect was being abused. I just remember him being  
6       so quiet. He never said anything. He would burst into  
7       tears at the slightest thing. I remember him crying  
8       when people asked him, "How are you doing?" That  
9       shouldn't be enough to send someone into tears. We were  
10      made to think he was just homesick. He wasn't homesick  
11      though. He was terrified about being abused. One  
12      evening, I saw him being called into the office at the  
13      bottom of the staircase. I could hear slapping noises  
14      coming from within the office. It certainly didn't  
15      sound like a staff member brushing a boy's hair or  
16      something like that. I remember seeing [the boy] leave  
17      the office in tears. I didn't see anything directly,  
18      but I am sure that something happened.

19           'There were boys who sexually assaulted me during my  
20      time at Starley Hall. I don't think I was the only boy  
21      who experienced that. I say that because I remember  
22      an incident during a camping trip when we were away  
23      overnight. During the night I turned on my night light  
24      and turned to one of the other boys in the tent with me  
25      and said, "Can you...". Before I could finish what

1 I was saying the boy turned around and said, "No,  
2 I'm not giving you a gobble." I turned round and asked  
3 him what he was going on about. Everybody, after that,  
4 put me down in school as the school puffter.

5 'There was a fellow resident at Starley at the time  
6 I was there. I remember him trying to sexually assault  
7 me on multiple occasions. The first time he jumped into  
8 bed with me and tried to suck me off one night. It was  
9 during a time when I was in my first bedroom at  
10 Starley Hall. I remember that I cried out when he tried  
11 to do that to me. I asked him to please stop. I told  
12 him I didn't want that. There were other boys in the  
13 room when he did what he did. There wasn't a reaction  
14 from anybody. No one cared. If it wasn't happening to  
15 them then why would they care.

16 'The next time he assaulted me, he tried to get me  
17 to suck him off in the showers. I would have been  
18 8-and-a-half at that point. He said, "Give us  
19 a gobble." When I ran away, I ran down the stairway  
20 near the showers. [He] followed me, put two hands on  
21 the banister, kicked me square in the chest and I fell  
22 down the stairs. He did all of that just because I  
23 wouldn't entertain him.

24 'I have been told by the police that [he] has no  
25 fixed address. The phrase they used is that he is

1 "couch surfing". I don't understand how they can know  
2 that and not just go out and pick him up. If they know  
3 he's staying on someone's couch, why can't they just go  
4 and pick him up?

5 'Another pupil at Starley Hall tried to sexually  
6 abuse me. I remember him going out for years with  
7 another pupil ... He tried to get me to suck him off in  
8 the toilets. He caught me stealing someone's sweeties  
9 and then did that.

10 'I wasn't really able to report any of the abuse  
11 I was suffering in Starley Hall when I was there. There  
12 was no one to speak to. The only person I can remember  
13 speaking to was the nurse. I remember speaking to her  
14 about a couple of the physical things that happened to  
15 me when I was there. I remember asking her why those  
16 things were happening without going into the detail.  
17 All she said was, "I don't know," and got on with her  
18 treatment. She would say that or say that I was making  
19 things up or telling "porkies". She didn't want to  
20 listen. I have recently told the police about the times  
21 I reported things and I am hopeful that they have chased  
22 the nurse up.

23 'We would tell the police that we were getting  
24 abused at Starley Hall when they caught us, the times we  
25 were running away. It was always different police

1 officers each time we were picked up. I reported the  
2 abuse that was happening in Starley Hall to the police  
3 when I was 8 years old in a police station in Kirkcaldy  
4 after the first time I ran away. I told them about [the  
5 teacher who was [REDACTED] touching me and going further  
6 in the showers. The police did nothing. It was always  
7 the same answer when I tried to tell them what was  
8 happening. They just shrugged their shoulders and said  
9 that we were making it up.

10 'The reason I left Starley Hall was that they wanted  
11 to get me into mainstream schooling. A social worker  
12 from Perth told me that. I think the social worker  
13 might have been Alan Keep. If it wasn't him it would  
14 have been a member of his team. I remember that whoever  
15 spoke to me said that I could "go to any school in Perth  
16 and Kinross". I said the local high school because  
17 I hadn't seen my family for years and I wanted to be  
18 close to them. I didn't want to get on an hour-long bus  
19 journey every day to go to school. Looking back,  
20 I should have gone to Morrisons Academy in Crieff. That  
21 was a private school which could have given me a better  
22 education.

23 'There was something like a Children's Panel hearing  
24 around the time of me leaving Starley Hall. It was all  
25 about whether I could go to mainstream schooling.



1        Looking back, I wasn't bad. The only reason I was in  
2        Starley Hall was because I had ADHD. I was very  
3        confused and didn't understand why they had the right to  
4        make these decisions over me. Ultimately, I can't  
5        remember the day I left Starley Hall. All I remember is  
6        feeling good that I had got away from the place.  
7        Looking back, the only good memory I have of  
8        Starley Hall is actually leaving.'

9            Moving on to page 60 at paragraph 246, 'Anthony'  
10        says:

11           'My family and the people involved in my care ruined  
12        my life. They ruined my education and everything else.  
13        I was supposed to carry on like nothing was going on.  
14        I have ended up with complex PTSD. I should have been  
15        a doctor. That's what I wanted to be when I was a kid.  
16        I don't know what child, at the age of 8 years old, has  
17        the intelligence of a 16-year-old and ends up joining  
18        the army then ending up in a wheelchair.

19           'My right shoulder is permanently damaged as  
20        a result of the way that they restrained me on multiple  
21        occasions at Starley Hall. I can now attach and  
22        re-attach my shoulder when I want. This is definitely  
23        from that rather than my boxing because I am a southpaw.  
24        It pops out randomly ...'

25           'Anthony' then goes on to say he's now in

1 a wheelchair and has been diagnosed with FND, which he  
2 understands is attributable to having had a childhood of  
3 trauma.

4 Moving on to page 64 and paragraph 260, he says:

5 'When the police eventually approached me to speak  
6 to me about Starley Hall, they told me that they had  
7 been looking for me for years. They ended up coming to  
8 a house in Kirkcaldy to take a statement from me.  
9 I spoke to them about a lot of different people that  
10 worked at Starley Hall. I gave them all the names of  
11 the teachers I remember.

12 'After speaking to the police, the Procurator Fiscal  
13 became involved. I was told that I was a key witness  
14 against a number of staff members they were trying to  
15 prosecute who worked at Starley Hall. I have been on  
16 countless trips to here, there and everywhere, just to  
17 see Procurator Fiscals to give statements about Starley  
18 Hall. I found it hard to keep hopeful when the police  
19 and Procurator Fiscal kept on wanting to go over my  
20 evidence. It left me wondering whether they still  
21 consider me the person who got into trouble when I was  
22 a bairn.

23 'During that process, I learnt a few things from the  
24 police and the fiscal. I have learnt that I'm not the  
25 only one who has come forward. The Procurator Fiscal

1       has said everyone has the same story. For him to say to  
2       me that what happened to me happened to everybody else  
3       too is shocking. Other things I have learnt is they  
4       haven't been able to locate [a teacher that I've already  
5       mentioned and another pupil that I've already  
6       mentioned].'

7           He then goes on to talk about the forthcoming trial,  
8       which at the time of his statement was due to happen.  
9       We know that subsequently that trial happened and that  
10      no allegations were found to have been proved against  
11      the people mentioned in 'Anthony's' statement.

12           Moving on to page 65 and paragraph 266, he says that  
13      he visited Starley Hall in adult life:

14           'That would have been about four years ago. I just  
15      wanted to see the place. I walked in and up to the main  
16      courtyard bit. Some people came out of the building.  
17      I remember I was speaking to some of the kids and  
18      telling them I used to go there. I told some of the  
19      teachers who approached me that I was there and  
20      I wondered whether anyone was still around who had  
21      taught me. I remember the teachers were standing around  
22      "on edge". That just made me think.'

23           And then finally on page 69 at paragraph 279  
24      'Anthony' says:

25           'I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 And he signed his statement on 5 March 2021.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 It's time for a break, I think. Thank you.

7 (3.03 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (3.13 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Ms McMillan, where now?

11 MS MCMILLAN: Thank you, my Lady. The final read-in that we  
12 have for today is the statement of Dr Michael Gibson.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Dr Michael Gibson (read)

15 MS MCMILLAN: The reference for his statement is

16 WIT.003.001.1396.

17 Dr Michael Gibson was born in 1945. At the time  
18 when he gave his statement, he was 72 years old and he  
19 was working for World Bank as a consultant in Kuwait and  
20 Sri Lanka.

21 Starting at paragraph 2 of his statement, he says:

22 'I qualified in 1968 with Honours in Physics, then  
23 worked as a teacher in Queen's Park Secondary School,  
24 Glasgow. I then did an MEd in psychology  
25 and transferred to Lanarkshire in 1971, where I

1 initially worked with children who were having  
2 difficulty and had been excluded from school.

3 'Between 1971 and 1982, I was a psychologist with  
4 Lanarkshire Council. I was a senior psychologist  
5 working in the upper ward in Lanarkshire covering places  
6 like Carstairs, Biggar and Carnwath.

7 'In 1982, I was promoted to Deputy Principal  
8 Psychologist in Edinburgh and in 1989, I became the  
9 Principal Psychologist in East and Midlothian. A few  
10 months later I transferred to HM Inspectorate of  
11 Schools.

12 'In Lanarkshire at the time there were several  
13 hospitals which dealt with mentally handicapped  
14 children. In 1974 the law changed which gave all  
15 children the right to an education. This was the  
16 Education (Mentally Handicapped Children) (Scotland) Act  
17 1974.

18 'Prior to 1974, there were three categories grading  
19 mentally handicapped children: educable, which meant  
20 they had an IQ of roughly 55 to 77, which meant you went  
21 to a special school; ineducable but trainable, which  
22 meant they had an IQ of roughly between 45 and 55, which  
23 meant you went to a junior occupational centre; and  
24 ineducable and untrainable, which meant they had an IQ  
25 of 45 or less and were outwith the responsibility of the

1 Education Department and were the responsibility of the  
2 social work and health services.

3 'In effect, they were trainable if they were toilet  
4 trained and could go to a junior occupational centre.  
5 They were deemed untrainable if they were not toilet  
6 trained.

7 'Many mentally handicapped children were in  
8 long-stay hospitals. The hospitals were the  
9 responsibility of the health boards.

10 'One of my jobs after the law changed was to go  
11 around the hospitals and assess the children for  
12 education.

13 'Several of the children were lying in cots with  
14 very little stimulation and many of those looking after  
15 them had little in the way of skills to help stimulate  
16 the children or progress their language. One of the  
17 moves we made was to put teachers in these hospitals to  
18 help with the stimulation of such children with the aim  
19 being to take the children out of such settings. This  
20 was happening all over Scotland at this time.

21 'St Charles Institute for Mentally Handicapped  
22 Children was an institute run by a religious order of  
23 nuns. At this time we were institutionally naive about  
24 the issues of child abuse. The place was run by nuns  
25 and, as such, we thought the children would be in safe

1 hands. The children themselves, because they were  
2 intellectually challenged, would not be able to say if  
3 abuse had taken place.

4 'We would not know if abuse had taken place unless  
5 we saw physical injuries. I was not aware of any  
6 problems there and, in fairness to the nuns, they did  
7 not insist on sitting in during any examinations. I had  
8 no concerns about what was happening at St Charles.

9 'My responsibility at St Charles Hospital was simply  
10 to assess the children for education. At  
11 Ridgepark School, I was assessing those going into and  
12 leaving the school. I was part of a committee that  
13 looked at the progress of all the children.

14 'To be admitted into a special school in those days,  
15 there were three professionals involved, these being  
16 a psychologist, a medical officer and a report from the  
17 school where the child was attending.

18 'At the hospital, I had no responsibility for the  
19 placement of children. Some were there because their  
20 parents couldn't look after them. These days, such  
21 children would likely be in foster care or a children's  
22 home.

23 'I have no recollection of dealing with  
24 Smyllum Orphanage, though I am sure I would have been  
25 there as it came under Lanark Council. If I was there,

1 I would have written up notes in case files, though  
2 I don't know where such notes would be now. These notes  
3 would cover both residential and non-residential  
4 children for any school we attended.

5 'Stanmore House Residential School wasn't a local  
6 authority but was run by the Scottish Council for  
7 Spastics, now Capability Scotland, though local  
8 authorities did pay for children to go there ...

9 'I was encouraged by the Inspectorate to provide  
10 psychological services. We would offer services and  
11 advise places to approach us if they had concerns about  
12 emotional or behavioural difficulties.

13 'Children did not come to see me. I always went to  
14 see them in their normal settings. I have plenty of  
15 recollections about St Charles and Stanmore but I can't  
16 recall Smyllum. It is possible that Smyllum didn't take  
17 up the offer of psychological assistance.

18 'Records would have been held at Clydesdale Street  
19 Psychological Services Lanarkshire --

20 LADY SMITH: There should be a full stop there, that's  
21 missing.

22 MS MCMILLAN: Yes. 'From 1975 onwards, I was in Strathclyde  
23 but, prior to that, it was Lanarkshire County Council.  
24 Strathclyde was regional and would have been my  
25 employers from 1975.



1           'The 1975 Children Act was a significant sea change  
2           in my professional life, whereas the 1968 Social Work  
3           (Scotland) Act was already in place and I had absorbed  
4           it as the normal way of working.

5           'We worked hand in hand with the Education  
6           Department, the Health Board and Social Work.

7           'The function of the Medical Officer was advising on  
8           the child's medical condition. You couldn't place  
9           a child in a residential school without the support of  
10          the Medical Officer.

11          'Child Guidance was established in 1945 and later  
12          became known as Psychological Services, though I'm not  
13          sure in which year the change occurred. Child Guidance  
14          was not an appropriate title as it suggested the child  
15          needed guidance but it wasn't always the case that it  
16          was the child that needed guidance.

17          'I did have children who ran away referred to me  
18          whilst I was a psychologist and visited such places but  
19          I don't recall it as a significant problem. If I did  
20          speak to such a child I would explore the underlying  
21          problems as to why the child had run away.

22          'It was a problem we took very seriously due to the  
23          obvious risks to children who ran away.

24          'Approved schools didn't come under the  
25          responsibility of the local authority at that time.

1            'In 1982, I got promoted to Depute Principal  
2            Psychologist in Edinburgh under Lothian Regional  
3            Council. I was doing a similar job as the one in  
4            Lanarkshire, though from a more senior post. I was  
5            still out and about visiting schools and working with  
6            children and families.

7            'There were about 30 special schools around Scotland  
8            for children with special educational needs eg for  
9            autism and children with behavioural problems. The  
10           Scottish Education Department had a list of school types  
11           and List D was a list of schools dealing with children  
12           who had had involvement with the justice system.

13           'I was a psychologist in Lothian from 1982 to 1989.  
14           I can't say that I had any concerns about the way the  
15           children were treated in residential schools. I did get  
16           to speak to them on their own, to look at their living  
17           quarters and where they went to school. By that time,  
18           we were more aware of how things could go wrong in  
19           respect of children in care.

20           'We may have been naive in the past at how safe we  
21           saw children who were in care, especially those in  
22           religious orders. We were never given any training in  
23           the '70s as to how to be aware of abuse. It wasn't on  
24           the national radar. Training in such things started  
25           maybe in the '80s because there was more publicity about

1       it and schools were becoming more aware of it.

2       'I can't say I saw any great differences in the way  
3       schools dealt with children in the '70s and the '80s,  
4       though they did have to deal with some very violent  
5       children, especially boys. The schools did have  
6       protocols in place to deal with such children.

7       'In 1989, I joined Her Majesty's Inspectorate for  
8       Schools and I was there for about 11 years. I had  
9       an inspection function. Nisbet Gallagher was the Senior  
10      Chief Inspector. In 2000, there were problems with the  
11      SQA examinations and the Inspectorate became an agency.

12      'I transferred from the Inspectorate in 2002,  
13      approximately, to join the Education Department in the  
14      Scottish Government and worked closely with ministers  
15      advising on policy.

16      'There are seven grant-aided schools which the  
17      government part funds. These are Stanmore House  
18      Lanarkshire, run by Capability Scotland;  
19      Corseford House, also run by Capability Scotland; East  
20      Park Home, Glasgow; Donaldson's School for the Deaf,  
21      Linlithgow; Royal Blind School, Edinburgh;  
22      Harmeny School, Edinburgh; and the Scottish Centre for  
23      Motor Impairments, Cumbernauld. All are run by  
24      charities, trusts or board of governors.'

25   LADY SMITH: His awareness was at 2017, of course, which is

1           when he signed his statement, isn't it?

2   MS MCMILLAN: Yes, my Lady, that's correct.

3           'Roughly 60 per cent of the funds for these schools  
4           was paid for by the government. The government didn't  
5           run these schools but a civil servant usually sat on the  
6           board of governors or education committee.

7           'From 1989 to 2000, I was involved in inspecting all  
8           types of schools from nursery to secondary, from  
9           institutions to hospitals and basically anywhere where  
10          the education of children was involved.

11          'My job was to inspect educational provision but we  
12          would also look at the care regimes. We would go out in  
13          the evenings and meet the children, speak to the staff,  
14          look at the logbooks.

15          'By this time, we had training on childcare and it  
16          was light years from what we were aware of in the '70s.  
17          By now we were getting more involved in communicating  
18          with the children and would hold focus groups without  
19          the staff. Nowadays a care inspector would attend with  
20          us to carry out these duties.

21          'In 1989, I did inspect secure units as part of my  
22          remit. By that time, there was more information coming  
23          out about sexual abuse with more cases of it being  
24          reported, especially in places run by religious orders.  
25          We were on the lookout for it as our worst case scenario

1       was to give a place a clean bill of health only for  
2       a case to be reported shortly thereafter.

3       'For this reason, we examined everywhere very  
4       closely. This included private boarding schools like  
5       Fettes.

6       'At the end of the day, despite how much you inspect  
7       a place, a lot of it comes down to a requirement of the  
8       children to speak out.

9       'Social work came round with us when examining  
10      schools. I don't recall when that started as I do  
11      recall going on visits without a social worker. We  
12      enjoyed the presence of a social worker because they  
13      brought with them a good level of expertise and legal  
14      background.

15      'By then, I was a civil servant and we were  
16      sensitive about grant-aided schools. Much of their  
17      funding were coming from the government yet the  
18      government had no direct control but instead were  
19      relying on the board of governors to provide effective  
20      governance.

21      'In a sense, one of the things the inspectors would  
22      try to do would be to look at the processes and systems  
23      in the school. For example, was there a process in  
24      place for the students to get their complaints across?  
25      We would look for several sources of evidence in

1 relation to what had occurred to ensure that any  
2 conclusion we came to was evidence-based.

3 'If someone had asked me in 1989 about my attitude  
4 to the care of children in residential care, based on  
5 what I had to deal with, I would say that by and large  
6 it was positive. I didn't see any systematic abuse  
7 though, yes, things could have been better.

8 'To me, when considering systematic abuse in  
9 a residential school, I would be looking at the  
10 following factors. It is unlikely I would have walked  
11 into a school and seen children walking about with  
12 injuries, but you can pick up on atmospheres, the  
13 quality of interaction, their humour. Does it look as  
14 if the child can interact? The ethos of the school. Do  
15 the children look healthy? Do they get out and about?  
16 Are visitors welcome? Is the school open about what  
17 they represent? How do they communicate with the local  
18 community or do they keep themselves to themselves?

19 'Such assessments are probably a modern way of  
20 looking at things and perhaps would not have been  
21 considered in the '70s. What you are doing is trying to  
22 look at it all through the child's eye so it's not just  
23 about the curriculum.

24 'If you are working with a group of children or  
25 an individual child, you have to set out a way of

1 communicating. At the same time, you have to be able to  
2 obtain feedback if you become aware of something that  
3 endangers their safety.

4 'This means trust has to be built, in case it is  
5 necessary to take things further. You don't just ask  
6 about negative things. You look for positive aspects of  
7 the school. You ask open questions to allow them to  
8 express themselves more openly. You also have to engage  
9 with parents, either face to face or via questionnaires.

10 'Our Inspectorate system is recognised around the  
11 world as a good role model. I believe the  
12 Care Inspectorate are now using the same sort of grading  
13 system, which helps. Internationally, we have a good  
14 reputation.

15 'As an inspector, I would look into complaints and  
16 complaint processes. This would include where a school  
17 had no complaints at all, though that would cause me  
18 concern, as it would suggest perfection, which would be  
19 unlikely. Some schools I have seen have a tremendous  
20 way in which they communicate with the children and how  
21 such communication is noted.

22 'If I was now going into, for instance, St Charles  
23 Hospital, I would have a totally different approach. If  
24 people who were there in the '70s told me now that they  
25 had had a good time and that there had been no

1       unreasonable treatment of children, then I would be  
2       asking: did none of the children ever complain? Did no  
3       member of staff ever have a problem? How did the school  
4       interact with the local community? Were the children  
5       ever taken out? Was it a welcoming school?

6       'I don't recall the names of the priests in  
7       St Charles though I recall meeting some of them.

8       'I would say the specialist schools that I was  
9       visiting would have roughly 30 to 40 children in each  
10      place. They wouldn't have been like the big children's  
11      homes, which could have had hundreds of children.

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      As your Ladyship has noted, he has signed his  
17      statement on 22 December 2017.

18   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19   MS MCMILLAN: That concludes the evidence for today.

20      Tomorrow there's an intention to start at 10 o'clock  
21      with further applicant evidence.

22   LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you very much.

23      I think it may actually be a mother speaking on  
24      behalf of her son.

25   MS MCMILLAN: Yes, that's correct, my Lady.



1 LADY SMITH: Who originally was the applicant but sadly is  
2 no longer with us.  
3 Very well. I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow  
4 morning.  
5 (3.33 pm)  
6 (The Inquiry adjourned until  
7 10.00 am on Friday, 6 June 2025)  
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