

1 Wednesday, 7 August 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the second day this
4 week of the Chapter of this phase in which we're looking
5 into the provision of residential care for children and
6 young people at St John Bosco's, St Andrew's, Shandon,
7 and St Philip's, Plains.

8 As I said last night, before we rose, the plan today
9 is for three witnesses to give evidence in person.

10 I think the first witness is ready to do so and indeed
11 is here; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

12 MR MACAULAY: Yes, indeed. Good morning, my Lady. The
13 first witness is an applicant, and he wants to remain
14 anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Dean'.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 'Dean' (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: 'Dean', as you've probably already noticed,
18 there is a red folder on the desk there. That's got
19 your written statement in it. The first thing I want to
20 thank you for is for having engaged with us to provide
21 that. It's been really helpful to have it in advance.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: I know you've covered in that statement the
24 time you spent at more than one place as a child and
25 it's been really useful to be able to read that. But,

1 separately, thank you for agreeing just to engage today
2 and come here and answer our questions --

3 A. I think the stories need to be told, don't they?

4 LADY SMITH: I know. I know, and we'd like to explore some
5 aspects of what's in your statement with you a little
6 more. Don't worry if we don't explore everything. It
7 doesn't mean it doesn't matter; it does. But, as
8 Mr MacAulay may have already explained to you, there are
9 particular things we want to talk about today.

10 But separately from that, 'Dean', I know it's not
11 easy. You're in public. We're going to ask you
12 questions about things that are very private to you, and
13 particularly about when you were a child and aspects of
14 your life that you may feel are difficult to go back to,
15 and perhaps often you'd prefer to try not to do that.
16 It may be upsetting. You may think you're fine. You may
17 think you're going to get through this without any
18 emotional moments, but it may take you by surprise.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: I get that. I fully understand and if there's
21 anything I can do to assist, whether having a break,
22 even just a pause sitting where you are, explaining
23 things differently or leaving a topic alone that we've
24 already explored with you in writing, you must let us
25 know.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, it will work for me, it
3 will work for Mr MacAulay. So don't be afraid to speak
4 up; all right?

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay now, if that's
7 all right, and he'll take it from there.
8 Mr MacAulay.

9 Questions by Mr MacAulay

10 MR MACAULAY: My Lady. Good morning, 'Dean'.

11 A. Morning.

12 Q. The first thing I want to do is just to get the
13 reference of your statement into the transcript and that
14 is at WIT-1-000001116.

15 Now, if you could turn, 'Dean', to the last page of
16 your statement; can I ask you to confirm that you've
17 signed the statement?

18 A. Yes. That's my signature, yeah.

19 Q. And do you say in the final paragraph:
20 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
21 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
22 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
23 true.'

24 A. Yes, that's correct. Yeah.

25 Q. I don't want to know your full date of birth, but to

1 give us some context; can I put it to you that the year
2 of your birth is 1962?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, at the beginning of your statement, 'Dean', if you
5 go back to the beginning -- and you can see the
6 statement in the folder and it also comes up on the
7 screen --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- you tell us about your life before going into care;
10 and can I say in relation to this section and other
11 sections of your statement, although I'm going to touch
12 upon them, that in connection with other Chapters in
13 this study, these parts of this statement have already
14 been read into the evidence.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. I think you're aware of that?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Nevertheless, just looking to life before care, you tell
19 us there in paragraph 2 about your family: that you had
20 a brother, I think, and a number of sisters; is that
21 correct?

22 A. Yeah. Three sisters, yeah.

23 Q. There came a point in time when your parents split up
24 and you moved with your mother to a different part of
25 Glasgow?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You go on to tell us about a very sort of difficult
3 incident for you -- and this is at paragraph 5 -- when
4 you were being looked after by one of your aunts and
5 your father brought home a dog?

6 A. Yeah, that's correct.

7 Q. And something happened?

8 A. Yeah. We were all -- my older sister and my older
9 brother and my aunt were annoying the dog. The dog had
10 been injured or something, that's why my dad had brought
11 it home. And when the dog got up and growled and went
12 for them, they all charged out of the living room and
13 shut the door and left me in with the dog. And
14 obviously I'm trying to run out the door, so the dog
15 went for me. It was a neighbour across the landing that
16 came running in and managed to pull the dog -- because
17 they had ran into rooms and hid. So it was a neighbour
18 that heard me screaming, ran in and pulled the dog off
19 me. And I had to be rushed to hospital for bite marks
20 and get a jag and things like that.

21 Q. So a very traumatic incident?

22 A. Very traumatic.

23 Q. Can you remember what age you were when that happened?

24 A. I must have been about three years, four years of age,
25 if that.

1 Q. You also tell us about another incident when you fell
2 between railings; what happened there?

3 A. Yeah, it's when my mum -- my mum moved. When we moved
4 from Moorepark to Govan and it was -- I think my mum and
5 my father had broke up at that point and my mother was
6 trying to get away from him, so it was a single end we
7 had moved into. My mum had let the house. And it was
8 a one-up, old, condemned tenement building. It had the
9 cast iron railings and there was some smashed, and
10 obviously my mum has got my younger sister on her arms
11 and I went through the railings and fell from a high
12 distance and hit the stairs and had to be rushed to
13 hospital with a fractured skull.

14 Q. And can you remember what age you were when that
15 happened?

16 A. Roughly -- I think I was five, because I got held back.
17 I was meant to be going to -- starting school and
18 because of that accident I was in hospital, so I missed
19 school. I missed school, so I didn't start school until
20 I was six.

21 Q. When you started school; did you find that a bit of
22 a difficulty?

23 A. Yeah, very difficult. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you explain that?

25 A. Yes, because I was going in -- my sister started at the

1 same time. She's younger than me, so the two of us
2 started school at the same time. And when I went in,
3 because of the accident I had -- how could I put it? My
4 attitude changed towards a lot of things. I was more
5 cheeky. But I got took in front of the headmistress,
6 Mrs Henretty her name was, and I had a right good
7 conversation with that woman. And I managed to get my
8 head down and just worked away and done not too bad at
9 primary school at first, until one time I had -- I went
10 into an old man's house and we got tablets.

11 Q. I wonder if that was perhaps a bit later on, because --

12 A. It was in primary school, yeah.

13 Q. You were still in primary school when that happened?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But I think what you tell us, in paragraph 9 of your
16 statement:

17 'I had started going to -- primary school -- I
18 remember coming home from school and going into the old
19 buildings and getting my school clothes dirty. My mum
20 would have to wash them and they wouldn't be dry for the
21 next day, so I'd miss school.'

22 Do you remember that?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Because of that; were the social work people involved
25 with you?

1 A. That's correct, yeah.

2 Q. Against that background; were you brought before the
3 Children's Panel?

4 A. See, looking back on it, I don't even know if I went in
5 front of a Panel. I can't remember if I did. I don't
6 know if it was the social workers that got involved and
7 they suggested I be put -- I don't really know. I can't
8 remember that far back, if it was a Panel that sent me
9 there or if it was social workers got involved and sent
10 me there, to St Ninian's.

11 LADY SMITH: The social workers would be involved in the
12 Panel case, if there was a Panel case.

13 A. Possibly. But I can't remember, going back, whether
14 I was up in front of a Panel or not. I would be lying
15 if I said I was in front of a Panel.

16 MR MACAULAY: So I think what you're saying, 'Dean', is you
17 remember being involved with the social work people --

18 A. Yeah, I remember my mum taking me to Govan Town Hall, to
19 the social workers, and then the social workers taking
20 me from my mother and taking me to St Ninian's.

21 Q. So far as St Ninian's is concerned, although
22 I thought -- I think you thought that when you gave your
23 statement you might have been about eight?

24 A. Eight/nine. About nine, yeah.

25 Q. The records -- the Inquiry has managed to recover

1 records and, certainly as far as the records are
2 concerned, and can I say they're not always accurate,
3 but you were admitted to St Ninian's on
4 [REDACTED] 1972, so you'd be aged about ten?
5 A. Yeah, nine going on ten, yeah.
6 Q. Again, just according to the records, you left
7 St Ninian's on [REDACTED] 1973, when you'd be about 11?
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. So you're there for about a year; is that your own
10 recollection?
11 A. Yeah. Roughly, yeah.
12 Q. Can I say, in the next part of your statement, you talk
13 about the routine at St Ninian's, Gartmore, the bed
14 wetting, the chores that you had to do, and what contact
15 you had with your family when you were there?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. That's at paragraph 38. And running away. You also ran
18 away a few times?
19 A. Yeah, I ran away. I think I was there about a week
20 and -- running away, I ran down a hill, by the time
21 I got to the road they had drove round and caught me.
22 It wasnae actually running away. I tried to run away;
23 didnae get far.
24 Q. You would have had a long way to go from --
25 A. From St Ninian's right down to the road, you were having

1 to run over fields and fences and things like that.

2 There were --

3 Q. Was it your intention to run home?

4 A. Yeah, it was to run home.

5 Q. So it was a long way to go?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. As I said to you already, this has been read in to the

8 evidence, because you go on to talk about the abuse you

9 suffered at St Ninian's.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. For example -- and this has been touched upon

12 previously -- at paragraph 45 of your statement, you

13 talk about a Brother Benedict. You say he was one of

14 the worst and he was particularly abusive towards you;

15 is that right?

16 A. Yeah. He took me down to the boot room, where the

17 shower room is, and beat me. Tried to put me over his

18 knee and spank me. But it was like a bench, and the way

19 I was struggling we kind of -- the bench went over and

20 he got madder and he started whipping into me. He

21 always used to carry a crop or a stick whenever he was

22 going about, and he was hitting into me with it.

23 But while he was hitting into me, I was crawled up

24 into the -- there was boot rooms and in between there

25 was a wee space we could put our shoes, and I crawled up

1 in a corner in a thingmy, but he was still trying to get
2 at me. But I was trying to dodge it, and the more I was
3 dodging, the angrier he was getting, and the angrier he
4 was getting, the more he was trying to hit me.

5 Q. And were you injured in the course of this attack?

6 A. I suppose I would have had welts all over myself, over
7 my legs and my back. I was crying. I was probably
8 screaming. Most of the residents probably heard me from
9 upstairs because it was a warm day, and usually on
10 a warm day, before you went to the classes or whatever,
11 they would line you up outside the main entrance and ask
12 you, or tell you, what classes you were going to;
13 'You're going to music class', 'You're going to
14 English', or arithmetic or whatever class you were going
15 to that day.

16 Q. I think from the timeframe you've been talking about,
17 you would be aged about ten when this happened?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Now, you also say that he -- at paragraph 45 -- he
20 disappeared at some point, but he was replaced by
21 Brother MJO?

22 A. Father MJO. And he was -- he wasnae as -- he was
23 just as bad, to be honest. He done the same things as
24 Brother Benedict. When you were all lining up, he would
25 stand at one end and he would look down and if we

1 weren't straight, he would walk along and barge you with
2 his shoulder and push you. So, yeah, he wasn't any
3 better.

4 Q. You also mention a woodwork teacher and how he dealt
5 with you; can you perhaps just tell us about that?

6 A. If you were talking, he would sit up -- he'd be working
7 at the benches and if he seen somebody -- he would sit
8 and do it deliberately. He would sit and he would shout
9 you if you were talking, 'Right, I told you before, no
10 talking'. So he would shout you up, put you over his
11 knee. And we'd all have shorts on, most of us would be
12 wearing shorts, but he would still pull half a leg up to
13 expose your cheek, and he would start -- he would say,
14 'Right, you're getting six', or eight or whatever it may
15 be, and he'd slap you once or twice, but leave his hand
16 on your buttocks and kid on he's talking to another
17 resident and say, 'You, stop doing what you're doing',
18 or whatever. Then he would continue. But while he was
19 doing it, you felt him getting aroused, so you were
20 trying to -- you felt uncomfortable, so the more you
21 were struggling with him, I think the more he liked it,
22 so you learnt to just get the spansks over with and get
23 back to your place.

24 Q. The way you've summed up the position with regard to
25 St Ninian's, at paragraph 51 -- and I'll just read that

1 out:

2 'St Ninian's was just a horrible, bad, dirty place.'

3 A. Yes, it was -- I mean, they were sick in some way.

4 There was no need for them to touch you at all, but they

5 were always wanting to sit you on their knee or put arms

6 round you when -- if you're sitting at a desk, put their

7 arms round you. There was no need for that. But when

8 you were young -- you thought they were being caring.

9 That's the way I thought, at first.

10 Q. Very well. You came to leave St Ninian's, as I put to

11 you before, in [REDACTED] 1973; did you go back home

12 after that?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Now, one thing you do say, at paragraph 53, is that you

15 didn't tell your mother anything that was happening to

16 you at St Ninian's --

17 A. I tried to tell my mother, but my mother, being a

18 staunch Catholic, didn't believe it.

19 Q. Was that after you left St Ninian's?

20 A. After I left. Even when I was in, when she come up to

21 a visit, I told her about Brother Benedict beating me up

22 and whatever, but she says, 'You must have done

23 something wrong'. But that's the way my mum was brought

24 up herself, probably.

25 Q. Then, in your statement, you go on to tell us about the

1 tablets incident; can you just tell me what happened
2 there?

3 A. Older boys were jumping about, where I stayed at the
4 time, and -- in Govan. They had got tablets so they
5 were dishing them out, and I had took tablets when I had
6 went to school and it was -- I was back to the primary
7 school, St Anthony's, and when we were in the dining
8 hall, they started affecting me, the tablets, and I had
9 to be rushed to hospital because I fell into my pudding.

10 Q. Had these tablets been taken from a house that an old
11 man was living in?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And what then happened after you came out of hospital?

14 A. I went back to the same thing. I got took up in front
15 of the headmistress. She asked me where I'd got them.
16 I didn't tell her. I just says I'd found them.

17 I don't think the police got involved, to be honest,
18 unless the social workers got involved.

19 Q. It is the case, I think, that this formed part of the
20 background of you going to St John Bosco's?

21 A. Yeah, possibly.

22 Q. According to the records that we've seen, as I said to
23 you, you were sent to St John Bosco's on
24 [REDACTED] 1975; that means you would be 12?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. At paragraph 57 through to 58, you describe the set-up,
2 and in particular that it was all boys who were there?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. And what was the age range?
5 A. I would say from about 10 to 16.
6 Q. Would you have any problems looking at a photograph for
7 me?
8 A. No, not at all.
9 Q. This is INQ-0000000872. It will come on the screen.
10 A. Is that St Ninian's?
11 Q. St John Bosco's.
12 A. Is that John Bosco's? They look the same, to be honest,
13 only there was two lions outside the thingmies at
14 St Ninian's. But it looked the same. But it doesn't
15 look the way I was -- it seemed different buildings.
16 Q. I think it may be the case that when you were there, in
17 the 1970s, there had been extensions built on to it?
18 A. Yeah, yeah, I think there was, because it was grey
19 buildings we were in.
20 LADY SMITH: This is just one of the buildings, 'Dean', but
21 it's the only photograph we've been able to source, I'm
22 afraid.
23 A. Yeah, it must be an old one, because the buildings were
24 grey. I think they'd been done up, as he had said,
25 extensions put on them, and that was the living quarters

1 for the residents.

2 MR MACAULAY: You go on to tell us a little bit about the

3 layout, and this is at paragraph 58. And then you go on

4 to mention who SNR [REDACTED] was at the time when you

5 were there; who was SNR [REDACTED] ?

6 A. Father LOB [REDACTED].

7 Q. And I think you say that he --

8 A. He took an instant dislike to me because --

9 Q. Now, don't tell us why.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Dean', can I ask you something else? It's

11 really good that you're so keen to explain things to us

12 and give us your evidence as quickly as you can. If you

13 speak at the same time as Mr MacAulay, the stenographers

14 can't note what you're both saying. We all do it. This

15 isn't a criticism. I'm just asking you to be aware of

16 that and make their life a little bit easier. Thank

17 you.

18 A. Okay.

19 MR MACAULAY: What you say in your statement in relation to

20 Father LOB [REDACTED] was, first of all, that he told you that

21 he disliked you; what did he say to you?

22 A. He says: you're an embarrassment [REDACTED].

23 Q. And you also say that he was 'a nasty piece of work' and

24 we'll look at things that happened to you --

25 A. Oh yeah.

1 Q. -- in a moment or two.

2 Can we first just look at the routine? And you tell

3 us about that.

4 Did you have to do chores, work when you were there?

5 A. Yeah. Obviously, you had to make your bed, empty your

6 bins, take your dirty clothing to the laundry room,

7 et cetera, and bedsheets, stuff like that.

8 Q. What about things like cleaning and so on?

9 A. Yeah. Obviously, yeah, you had to brush out the dorm

10 that you were in. You were gave a quota, certain days.

11 I might have been a Monday, the boy in the next bed to

12 me might have had to do it on a Tuesday. We were all

13 gave days where we would tidy the dorm up that we stayed

14 in or we slept in.

15 Q. Were there adult cleaners there to do that?

16 A. I think that was the older boys. They were given, like,

17 a passman-type job, you know?

18 Q. Were you aware of there being adult cleaners there?

19 A. No. I couldn't -- no.

20 Q. You tell us the food was okay?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And in relation to schooling, you talk -- at

23 paragraph 68, you say:

24 'I thought the schooling at St John Bosco's was all

25 right.'

1 A. Yeah. Yeah.

2 Q. See what you say there about:

3 'A lot of the boys didn't bother much with

4 education. We were getting told that we were no good

5 and some boys didn't believe there was anything for

6 them.'

7 Can I just understand that?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Who was saying this?

10 A. The actual priests and the monks that were there looking

11 after us. If we'd done something wrong, you were always

12 told, 'You're no good, you'll never be good. You'll

13 never make anything of your life. That's you got

14 a criminal record, so you'll never be anybody. You'll

15 never get ...'

16 So you started to believe that at a young age. You

17 believed you were no good. If you're getting told

18 constantly that you're not good, you're evil, you're

19 bad, you start to believe it, so you become bad.

20 Q. Was that the sort of language that was being used?

21 A. That's the way they spoke to you if you were put on

22 report for being cheeky to a civilian member of staff,

23 because we'd be playing football, there could be things

24 in the gym; if you'd done something wrong, you were sent

25 in front of the Father **LOB**, as he was **SNR**

1 at the place, and you were punished. But he would tell
2 you, 'You again. I'm sick of seeing you. I wish you
3 weren't here'. There's a lot of bad things that were
4 said to you, you know. And, as I say, you believed it.
5 If you're told that many times, you believe it.

6 Q. You have mentioned Father **LOB**. In relation to
7 members of the Order; can you tell me any other names of
8 priests or Brothers who were there when you were there?

9 A. I think there was a Mr Stevenson. I don't know if he
10 was the fencing instructor. They used to do fencing.
11 There was a lot of sports. I can't remember their names
12 off the top of my head, it was a long --

13 Q. You mentioned a little while ago lay staff; were there
14 lay staff involved with the boys as well?

15 A. Yeah, yeah, yes. There were civilians there, yeah.

16 Q. Just in relation to the civilian staff; where were they?
17 Did they stay at the place or --

18 A. No, no, they went home at night.

19 Q. In relation to visitors, you tell us, at 74, that you
20 didn't have any social work visitors while you were
21 there?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you run away?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Can you just talk to me about that? Did you run away on

1 quite a number of occasions?

2 A. I ran away a few times. I think, the first time, three
3 of us absconded from St John Bosco's and obviously we
4 jumped in the back of a bus, where they put the luggage,
5 and we got to Edinburgh and from Edinburgh we got the
6 train home.

7 Q. Did you do that on a number of occasions?

8 A. I done that as much as I could. Any time I got caught
9 and got took back, first chance I got of running away
10 again I would do it.

11 Q. And did others run away as well?

12 A. Yeah. There was a lot of people running away because of
13 the things that was going on. There was a lot of abuse,
14 physical, mental abuse going on in St John Bosco's at
15 that time.

16 Q. Why did you run away?

17 A. Because of the beatings I got off of Father LOB [REDACTED].
18 He just -- I seemed to be getting put on report, and any
19 time I got put on report it wasn't a talking to; it was
20 always a beating.

21 Q. Can I just focus on that, therefore? Because you talk
22 about that from paragraphs 81 onwards. Can you just
23 tell me then what would happen when you were going to be
24 faced with Father LOB [REDACTED]?

25 A. Sorry, say that again.

1 Q. Let's say you have run away and been brought back; what
2 would happen?

3 A. You would get a punishment. He would either want to
4 give you the belt, and if he gave you the belt you would
5 have to pull your sleeves up, so he could get you on the
6 wrist, or he would tell you to bend over his desk and he
7 would hit me with a cane or a belt, slap me in the
8 buttocks.

9 Q. And was that with your clothing on?

10 A. Sometimes he would tell you to pull your shorts up, so
11 your cheeks were exposed, again, so he could slap you on
12 the cheeks with the belt or the stick or whatever it is.
13 There are a few times I had welts on the back of my legs
14 with getting hit by him.

15 Q. How often do you think you were treated in that way by
16 Father **LOB**?

17 A. At least once a week. Any time I was put on report. If
18 I had -- put on report three times in the one week, it
19 was three times I was punished.

20 Q. How many strokes normally?

21 A. Sometimes it was five strokes, sometimes it could have
22 been seven strokes. To be honest, you're not counting
23 them, you're crying. I was crying when he was doing it.
24 He wasn't holding back.

25 Q. That's one thing you do say, at 82:

1 'It was really vicious and he wouldn't hold back.'

2 A. No, he wouldn't hold back. And you knew you were

3 getting it, because when he got up he was rolling his

4 sleeves up, so you knew you were getting hit hard.

5 Q. At this time -- you went there when you were 12; did

6 you -- were you given this treatment really from when

7 you started there?

8 A. More or less from day one, because I think my brother

9 had been in there and he wasn't liked. So when I went

10 in there, obviously, 'Are you a family member of so and

11 so?' And 'You're an embarrassment [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]'. That's the very first -- that was the words

13 out of his mouth as soon as I landed there.

14 Q. What you tell us in your statement, at paragraph 82,

15 that when he was hitting you, it would be with a cane or

16 a ruler?

17 A. Sometimes he would hit you with a ruler on the hands,

18 yeah, or your backside. Cane, whatever he had lying on

19 his desk he would usually hit you with. Sometimes it

20 was a belt, sometimes it was a stick.

21 LADY SMITH: Was that a wooden ruler?

22 A. A cane, yeah --

23 LADY SMITH: No, no, the ruler --

24 A. -- bamboo-type cane.

25 LADY SMITH: If he used a ruler; was it a wooden ruler?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: And you do say in your statement, at

4 paragraph 82, that whenever he was beating you, he

5 always had one hand in his cassock.

6 A. In his cassock or in his trousers. Whenever you turned

7 round -- I've turned round a couple of times and seen

8 his hands in his cassock and it doesn't take much of

9 your imagination to know what he was doing.

10 Q. Did you form any view at the time as to --

11 A. Not at the time, no. But, as I got older, I realised.

12 I mean, he must have been up to something. Must have

13 been getting some gratification out of it.

14 Q. Apart from Father **LOB**; were there any other members

15 of the staff --

16 A. None, it was just him.

17 Well, don't get me wrong, there were a few staff

18 members I must have been cheeky to to get put on report,

19 to be in front of Father **LOB** in the first place.

20 You know, but we'd be playing football or whatever and

21 -- maybe a bad foul and I didn't agree with the member

22 of staff that was refereeing it and I would be cheeky,

23 and so I would be put on report.

24 When you were put on report you got a yellow card,

25 and if you got two yellow cards it was a red card, so

1 you never got home that weekend. That's the kind of
2 things they done; stopped you from going home.

3 Q. Can I ask you this: when you were being dealt with by
4 Father **LOB**; would that be in his office or his
5 room?

6 A. In his office.

7 Q. Would anybody else be present?

8 A. No. Whoever took you in would leave.

9 Q. When you were at St John Bosco's; did you try to talk to
10 other members of staff as to what was happening to you?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. You are telling us about your own experiences. What
13 about other boys? Do you know what was happening to
14 other boys?

15 A. Well, it's just hearsay, isn't it? You heard other boys
16 were getting took out to -- there was a forest-type
17 thing and there was a wee cabin and sometimes they'd say
18 to go -- there was a wee monk -- I can't remember his
19 name -- he would want boys to go with him to pick up
20 branches for -- I don't know if they had a log fire or
21 whatever it was, but he would want to take boys. But
22 I never, ever went there. I never went there, so
23 I don't know what happened. But I heard things were
24 happening. Obviously, boys talk.

25 Q. In relation to Father **LOB** and how he dealt with

1 other boys; do you know how he treated other boys?

2 A. Yeah. He would hit the other boys, too. There was

3 other boys would come up and say, 'I just got five whips

4 across the backside' or 'I got the belt', yeah. It

5 wasn't just me.

6 Q. No.

7 A. He did hit other residents. But I felt, you know what

8 I mean, that he was picking on me. That's just

9 a feeling I got from him.

10 And any time we would pass each other, it was dirty

11 looks. He would look at you and, you know, he just

12 wasn't a nice man. Aye, he was ...

13 Q. Now, let's look at when you came to leave

14 St John Bosco's, 'Dean'. That happened against

15 a background of you running away; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell me about that?

18 A. Yeah, I'd ran away and I was -- I don't know how long

19 I had been on the run, but I eventually got caught and

20 they took me to Govan Police Office and says, 'Right,

21 we're just waiting on thingmy coming to pick you up'. I

22 says, 'If you take me back there, I'll hang myself.

23 I'll kill myself some way'. And the police officer was

24 shocked, and he's like, 'What did you say there?' And

25 he got the inspector in, and the inspector came in and

1 says, 'Right, put him into the observation room'. They
2 put me in the observation room and then, I don't know if
3 it was an hour -- I don't know how long it was, but he
4 came and got me and says, 'Right, we're releasing you
5 into your mother's care', because I stayed [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]. And he says, 'You'll go up
7 in front of a Panel soon, so behave yourself', and I was
8 released from the police office into my mother's care.
9 Q. But did you then go before a Panel?
10 A. I went in front of a Panel. I don't know if it was days
11 later or a week later, I'm not sure.
12 Q. And what happened before the Panel?
13 A. At the Panel, they were wanting to put me in another
14 Approved School, but they said St Joseph's was full.
15 There was a waiting list. There was a long waiting list
16 for certain Approved Schools and they decided to give me
17 another chance and says: right, we'll release you into
18 your mother's, so you can go back home. But any time
19 you come up here again, you know where you'll be going.
20 Q. Going back to the police; did you tell the police why
21 you didn't want to go back and, if you did, you would
22 hang yourself?
23 A. I must have told them for them to take it so serious.
24 Q. What about the Panel? What did you say to the Panel
25 about going back to --

1 A. To be honest, I didn't get talking at the Panel. Any
2 time I was in front of a Panel, I never got talking. It
3 was always the social workers done the talking or my
4 mother done the talking. It was never questions
5 directed at me.

6 Q. In relation to the social worker that you were connected
7 with; did you tell the social worker why you didn't want
8 to go back to St John Bosco's?

9 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I must've. And I must have in
10 a statement. A statement must have been read out for
11 them to have let me out, you know what I mean, because
12 why not send me to another -- surely there'd have been
13 other Approved Schools they could have sent me to or
14 even a closed unit?

15 Q. So then you go back to live with your mother and you're
16 going now to a secondary school; is that right?

17 A. No. I think when -- yeah, wait the now -- yeah, yeah,
18 it would have been secondary school.

19 Q. I think when you left St John Bosco's, as did you at
20 that time, which was [REDACTED] 1975, you would be 13?

21 A. Yeah, it'd have been secondary school then, yeah.

22 Q. You give us information about that at paragraph 89. And
23 you had difficulty, I think, when you were at the
24 secondary school?

25 A. Yeah, because there's even things that I can't still

1 bring myself to say today that happened to me in these
2 places. I can't do it. I can't bring myself to say
3 them, and they were in my head and I've always -- since
4 St John Bosco's, I would drink, I would go out and get
5 drunk just to blank it out, because the memories were
6 still in my head.

7 Q. Are you saying that in relation to St John Bosco's there
8 are things that happened to you there that you can't --

9 A. Not just -- in St Ninian's, too.

10 Q. But also in St John Bosco's?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. But then when you went to the secondary school you went
13 to; did you have difficulties there?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. What happened then?

16 A. When you went to the secondary school, there was class
17 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], and the [REDACTED] were for the problem kids, and
18 I was classed as a problem kid because I came from
19 an Approved School. They knew about my past being in
20 an Approved School and whatever else, so I was put in
21 amongst all the boys that were being cheeky or, as
22 I said, problem kids.

23 Q. And did you start getting into trouble?

24 A. Yeah, because I was staying up late and obviously when
25 I'm going to school, I'm tired, and this one time

1 I was -- I must have had my head in my arms on the table
2 and I got hit with a duster. It was a teacher. He
3 flung a duster at me to wake me up, and I picked a chair
4 up and flung it back at him. I didn't think; it was
5 just an automatic reaction.

6 I was an angry young boy after St John Bosco's. It
7 made me more aggressive, not to trust adults, you know?
8 That's just the way I was then. That's just the way
9 I turned out, and I think it was these places that done
10 it to me, to be honest.

11 Q. And were you suspended from the school because of that?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did you start --

14 A. I got suspended from school and then I ended up getting
15 into trouble, breaking into places and things like that,
16 and that's when I ended up getting sent to St Mary's,
17 I think.

18 Q. Before that I think you were in Larchgrove --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- and Longriggend?

21 A. No, I was sentenced, but Larchgrove is a remand --

22 Q. Correct, yes.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. But you also -- again, this has been read in, so I won't
25 spend a lot of time looking at it, but because of the

1 fact you were going to these places, you had passed
2 through Barlinnie?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Is that right? You talk about that at paragraph 95.
5 You had spent a period of time in Barlinnie before
6 moving on?
7 A. Sometimes they kept you -- if you were up in front of
8 a court on a Friday, they would keep you over the
9 weekend in Barlinnie until the Monday, and then they
10 would take you to Longriggend.
11 Q. You were still a young teenager at this time?
12 A. Yeah, yeah.
13 Q. And --
14 A. I was 15, I think I was. 14/15. I think I was 14 the
15 first time, and then 15 when I first got remanded in
16 Longriggend schoolboys.
17 Q. Again, much of this has been taken already, but if you
18 go to paragraph 96, I just want to look at this for
19 a moment or two.
20 This is in Barlinnie, you say there were times when
21 you were kept in what was called the 'dog box'?
22 A. Yeah. When you go into Barlinnie you -- there's these
23 cubicles, they call them, and that's where you change
24 from your civilian clothes to your prison clothes. But
25 we were brought -- if you were brought up at lunchtime,

1 there was two thingmies from the courts at the lunchtime
2 and the teatime. And if you were took up at lunchtime,
3 you were kept in these boxes. Sometimes they would put
4 four people in just one box, and in the summer it was
5 roasting hot. There was only a -- one seat that two
6 boys could squeeze and sit together, and the other two
7 had to sit on the floor or stand. And sometimes it was
8 hours. Sometimes it would be two hours and you would be
9 took -- if it was a Friday, you were took over to one of
10 the wings, where you would be staying until the Monday.
11 But, if you were lucky enough to get took back up to
12 Longriggend that night, you were in there until the
13 courts finished, then the Longriggend prison officers
14 would come down to Barlinnie to take us back to
15 Longriggend.

16 Q. But you describe being in these dog boxes as torture?

17 A. It was torture. It was torture, especially if there was
18 four of yous in that one wee cubicle. It was about
19 three feet by three feet deep. That's how -- and
20 putting four young boys in there. All right, we weren't
21 tall, we weren't big, but in them for hours it gets to
22 you after a while.

23 Q. And when you were in the prison set-up, after you were
24 moved from the dog boxes, what you say at paragraph 97
25 is that you knew you were safe with the cons, but the

1 guards were ruthless.

2 A. Yeah. A few times, you know, if you weren't walking
3 in -- you would have to go down to the dining hall and
4 you would be walking down, and if you were talking you
5 would get a slap or a kick, even. I've been kicked
6 a few times by the prison officers just for laughing or
7 talking to whoever was in front of me. We were supposed
8 to walk in a straight line, silent, not say nothing, go
9 to your table, wait til you get your food, go up and get
10 your food and go back, eat your food, be quiet and then
11 go back to your cell.

12 Q. So far as Longriggend was concerned then, you tell us
13 that Longriggend was full of crooks?

14 A. Yeah, the food was rotten.

15 Q. One thing that happened to you at Longriggend is that
16 your head was shaved?

17 A. Yeah, that's right. I was on -- the first time I went
18 there, because I had been on the run from St Mary's when
19 I got took into Longriggend, they said you had nits in
20 your head, they would put Prioderm on your head and
21 leave you for a night or two. But because I was
22 an escapee -- I tried to run away from the police
23 officers, I was classed as an escapee, I got my head
24 shaved and obviously a photo took. And whenever --
25 wherever I went, I always had to be with a prison

1 officer and a wee brown book with my photo on it.

2 Q. Let's look then to you ending up at St Mary's, Kenmure,
3 in Bishopbriggs.

4 According to the records, you went there on
5 [REDACTED] 1977, and that would mean by then you would
6 be 15?

7 A. 15, yeah. I went from Longriggend schoolboys to
8 St Mary's.

9 Q. And what you tell us about St Mary's is that, in that
10 paragraph 103, it was actually an okay place?

11 A. Yeah, I found it okay. But there was some staff members
12 I didn't get on with, like the woodwork teacher and
13 things like that. But, other than that, no, there was
14 a big, giant sport hall and there was lots of sports.
15 I liked sports. I liked running. I liked boxing,
16 football... so we done a lot of that.

17 And the staff were -- they didn't hang over you.
18 There was nae 'Sit on me knee', there was none of that,
19 you know. You were sat -- if you had a complaint you
20 would go down and sit and talk to them. You know, they
21 never had that before.

22 Q. At paragraph 107, I think you are making a comparison
23 between other places, because you say:

24 'I remember thinking straightaway that the
25 atmosphere was completely different. There was

1 laughter.'

2 A. Yeah, there was laughter, there were boys running about

3 shouting. There was nae, 'Stop that', and, 'You're too

4 loud'. There was none of that. It was -- you felt at

5 ease as soon as you went in. They made you feel that

6 way and it was good.

7 Q. At that time, of course, St Mary's was being run by

8 civilian staff?

9 A. That's right, yeah.

10 Q. But you do tell us about a staff member with whom you

11 had a problem?

12 A. Yeah. That was the woodwork teacher, again, yeah.

13 Q. What was the problem with him?

14 A. I can't remember what it was that kicked it off, but

15 I ended up -- he pulled me -- when I was younger if

16 I got thingmied I'd get embarrassed dead easy and

17 I would take -- I would go red in the face. And when he

18 pulled me up, he pulled me up in front of everybody and

19 told me, 'Right', whatever I had said, whatever he was

20 pulling me for. And he went to grab me by the back of

21 the neck and I pulled away from him, and I says,

22 'There's nae need for that'. He says, 'You'll do what

23 I tell you', I says, 'No, but you don't put your hands

24 on me. You don't do that'. He says, 'Come here', and,

25 'You're going in front of the head -- the top man', and

1 he went to grab me and I ended up swearing at him and
2 ran, but he chased me. He was running after me and
3 that's when I decided: I'm not staying here, I'm going
4 to take to my heels.

5 And that's when I decided I was running away.

6 Q. You left -- you absconded, as you've said, from
7 St Mary's in 1978, and I think the records tell us that
8 was in [REDACTED] 1978, and I think you turned 16 shortly
9 after that?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. But you were caught by the police?

12 A. Yeah. I was caught by the police and I think what they
13 said when I was in the police office, 'We'll clear our
14 books', and I was like, 'What do you mean you'll clear
15 your books?' They says, 'Well', and they charged me
16 with 40-odd charges because I wouldn't tell them where
17 I was staying while I had absconded. I was staying in
18 my mother's. My mother's dead now. But I was staying
19 in my mother's house, and if I had told them where
20 I'd been staying they would have charged my ma for
21 harbouring an escaped pupil.

22 Q. So they had these many charges that they were --

23 A. Yeah, they just cleared their books. And it wasnae all
24 the one type of crime, it was all different crimes:
25 breaking into sheds; smashing shop windows; breaking

1 into shops. It was just -- as I said, they cleared
2 their books.

3 Q. And what happened then?

4 A. I got charged with them all. Then, as I said, I got
5 charged again while I was out -- I think I was out on
6 leave. I went back to St Mary's, St Mary's took me back
7 and says, 'Right, we'll thingmy that in court when we go
8 to court', because I told them: I didnae do half of
9 that.

10 And while I was out the weekend leave, I got charged
11 for attempt opening lock fastening, doing that to a car
12 door, and I got charged and I got borstal for it.

13 Q. That was Polmont?

14 A. That was Polmont, yeah.

15 Q. Again, this has been looked at previously, but you were
16 sent to Polmont in 1978, when you were 16?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What you tell us about Polmont is that you just tried to
19 keep your head down, because you didn't want any more
20 time added to your sentence?

21 A. Yeah. Well, in borstal, you could do -- the least you
22 could do was nine month, I think, and the most you could
23 do was two years, so it's up to you what you done. If
24 you kept your nose clean, you would be out in nine
25 month; if you wanted to be rowdy and run about with the

1 rest of them and be a ned, then you would do the whole
2 two years. So I just got my head down and done what
3 I had to do, worked when I worked.

4 As I said, I was classed as an escapee, so any time
5 I went anywhere, I always had the book, the thingmy. So
6 that happened for the first four month or something, and
7 then they took me off the escapee list.

8 Q. But, when you came to leave Polmont, what you tell us,
9 at 117, is there was no help whatsoever to prepare you
10 for leaving?

11 A. No, they gave you a week's money and a train ticket to
12 wherever you were going, and that was it. There was nae
13 follow-up, there was nae help to get work, nothing.

14 Q. So what happened after you left Polmont?

15 A. I think I went back to Govan. I must have went back to
16 my mother's and stayed in my mother's. I think I got
17 two jobs. They didn't work out and before I knew it
18 I was back in amongst the old crowd.

19 Q. Yes, and back in trouble?

20 A. Back in trouble.

21 Q. Did you end up -- what you say, actually, perhaps
22 I'll ask you about this. This is at 119. You describe
23 your relationship with the police and you say:

24 'Sometimes if we were just standing in the park, the
25 police would come flying down in their motor. Once the

1 police caught up with you, they would find something to
2 charge you with.'

3 Are you saying police were charging you with charges
4 that you had not been involved in?

5 A. They would come down and charge you for a breach of the
6 peace or whatever, so -- the police were very corrupt
7 away back in they days, in Govan especially. They would
8 charge you so they could go in and have a cup of tea,
9 fill in a report, whatever the report may be, whatever
10 they're charging you with, and it gets them off the
11 street for a couple of hours. And that's the way --
12 I mean, they got to know your face, so any time they
13 seen you, they would pull you.

14 Q. Is that what you mean when you say:

15 'I was a marked man.'

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. But then you ended up in Glenochil Young Offenders
18 Institute?

19 A. That's true, yeah.

20 Q. Again, that has already been covered and read in. But
21 you do tell us, at 122:

22 'The guards at Glenochil were rough. They were
23 wolves and bullies.'

24 A. Yeah, there was eight suicides. In the two years that
25 I was there, there was eight young boys took their

1 lives.

2 Q. Did you know any of these boys?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What was -- how did they do it?

5 A. Hanged themselves. In fact a boy had two weeks to go,

6 and he hanged himself with two weeks to go. I don't

7 know the reason why he done it, but ...

8 Q. Was he someone of your own age?

9 A. Yeah. I think he was only 18, 17 or 18, the boy. It

10 was all -- Glenochil, it was all 16 to 20. As soon as

11 you turned 21 you were classed as a man convict, so you

12 were moved to a bigger prison.

13 Q. You go on to tell us then, 'Dean', about life after

14 being in care, and the way you describe it is that,

15 after 16, that that became the start of your prison life

16 and it was chaotic?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Can you just develop that for me? How was your life?

19 A. It got out of control. Because -- I don't know if the

20 thingmy in my statement -- I found a baby. We were all

21 sitting on the Clyde and having a drink and we thought

22 it was a doll passing, and somebody with a branch pulled

23 it over and the baby turned over and we realised it was

24 a dead baby, and somebody had phoned the police.

25 When the police came they just took a statement off

1 us, but I ended up getting charged for breach of the
2 peace because I was drunk and loud. That affected me
3 mentally, finding that kid, but I wasn't gave any
4 counselling, nothing.

5 Q. What you tell us at that paragraph is -- and I'll come
6 to when this changed shortly -- that you have:
7 '... been in and out of young offenders institutions
8 and prison most of my adult life.'

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you've seen a lot of things that were pretty
11 terrible?

12 A. Yeah. Yeah.

13 Q. Including people being murdered?

14 A. That's correct, yeah.

15 Q. Did you become involved in drugs?

16 A. Yeah. I was an addict, yeah.

17 Q. Substantial parts of this have been read into the
18 evidence, so I'll only touch on a few points. But you
19 do tell us, at 124, that you had a relationship and you
20 had a son?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But your son's mother died when he was eight or nine?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 Q. Who looked after him after that?

25 A. My mum.

1 Q. Was that because you were in and out of prison?

2 A. Yeah, I was in Barlinnie, untried at the time. In the
3 week that I was took to Barlinnie, his mother passed
4 away and my mum ended up getting custody of him, and she
5 done a great job.

6 Q. At paragraph 128, you say that:

7 'All in all, I think I've spent the best part of
8 15 years in prison. In 2005 or 2006, I got out after
9 a seven-year sentence. That's when I decided I'd had
10 enough.'

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So can you just tell me about that thought process, the
13 decision-making process?

14 A. When I got out after that sentence, I realised I wasn't
15 there for my son. My father wasn't there for me growing
16 up and I'd done the exact same thing to my son.
17 I wasn't there for him. I didn't know how to be
18 a father, because any man who put his arms round me was
19 wanting more than just his arms round your shoulder,
20 through experience with St Ninian's and St John Bosco's.
21 That's the only men I had in my life, and it wasn't
22 a nice experience.

23 And I suppose my son suffered through that, because
24 I didn't know. To me, giving him a cuddle wasn't right.
25 That's the way I felt because the people that brought me

1 up, how it was supposed to be a guidance to you, were
2 abusing you, beating you up and whatever. So, no,
3 I just didn't know, and he suffered through it, so he
4 did. He seen me taking drugs and whatever else,
5 I suppose. It just kills me when I think about it.

6 Q. So that was the thinking behind you saying to yourself
7 that you had to sort yourself out?

8 A. I needed to sort myself out and then be there for my
9 son. He had grown up now and he's got kids of his own,
10 so I try and do for his kids what I didn't do for him.

11 Q. At paragraph 130 onwards, you provide us with some
12 information about the impact being in St Ninian's and
13 St John Bosco's had on you. Again, I can tell you that
14 some of this has been already looked at.

15 But one of the things you say is that it made you
16 toughen up, but not in a good way; can you just explain
17 that?

18 A. Because you're put to these places, you're put in
19 amongst criminals. Older people say to you, 'Do you
20 want to know how to steal a car?' So you were learning
21 things -- that I didn't know. I was put to St Ninian's
22 for, as I said, being cheeky. It's called urban
23 exploring now, but I would -- the houses that we stayed
24 in were all condemned and if you were -- the police came
25 and caught you in one of these condemned houses, you

1 were done for house-breaking for being in a place that
2 wasn't yours. And that's what happened and that's how
3 I think I ended up in these Approved Schools, so ...
4 Q. You do say that being in these places did toughen you
5 up, but in a way that wasn't appropriate?
6 A. Yeah, you had to toughen up; if you didn't toughen up,
7 you were picked on, you know what I mean? There was
8 vultures, as we called them. In every institution
9 you'll get them. You'll get the ones that want to prey
10 on the weak, and if I was going to be picked on, then
11 I made sure I was tough enough to fight back.
12 Q. Can I just ask you about this -- it's towards the end of
13 that paragraph, 130:
14 'I remember one of the monks saying, "There's three
15 kinds of apples, decent, bad and rotten. You're
16 a rotten apple".'
17 A. Yeah.
18 Q. You say that's always stuck with you?
19 A. It always has, yeah. And that's not the first --
20 I mean, it was a constant barrage of: 'You're no good.
21 You'll never be good. You'll never make anything of
22 yourself', and if you're told that constantly, you
23 believe it.
24 Q. But this particular quote that I've put to you,
25 comparing you to --

1 A. An apple.

2 Q. Who said that to you?

3 A. That was SNR [REDACTED] in Glenochil, SNR [REDACTED] KMU [REDACTED].

4 Q. At 132, you say that you're institutionalised?

5 A. Yeah, even now. I don't -- obviously, I can't go out

6 and do things. I can't go and play football with my

7 grandson or anything like that. I can't walk a far

8 distance, so I'm stuck in the house most of the time.

9 And I prefer that, because the only people I knew

10 causing my lifestyle were criminals and addicts, so if

11 I go back to them I'm going back to -- I'm going to go

12 back to the old way of living, so I had to do away with

13 them, stop mingling with them, and I prefer my own

14 solitary ...

15 Q. And that's what you've done?

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. I think you have taken medical advice in connection with

18 how you are?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Have you been having nightmares over the period?

21 A. As I said, I had it buried for so long and then when the

22 police got in contact with me about St Ninian's, I've

23 started it -- it's all -- there's a lot, as I said,

24 I had it buried, a lot I couldn't remember. But through

25 the police coming and taking statements and that off me,

1 it's all coming -- some of it's coming back and things
2 that I don't want to come back, I'm having nightmares
3 about the kid -- finding the kid in the Clyde and things
4 like that. That's -- they're all coming back. A few
5 times I'm wakening up having nightmares with it.

6 Q. You say you were contacted by the police; was that
7 initially in connection with St John Bosco's?

8 A. St John Bosco's, yeah.

9 Q. Was there some investigation going on in connection with
10 St John Bosco's?

11 A. That's correct, yeah.

12 Q. What were you told about that investigation?

13 A. They were asking me about the -- did I ever go to the
14 hut in the forest and things like that. And through
15 that conversation, St Ninian's came up, and that's when
16 I was contacted. They must have told whoever was
17 investigating the St Ninian's.

18 Q. I think in due course you ended up in court, giving
19 evidence in connection with a case against
20 Brother Benedict?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And, again, that has been read into the evidence.
23 If I go then to paragraph 143, where you have
24 a section that's headed:
25 'Lessons to be learned.'

1 Again, much of this has been read in. But if I can
2 just touch on one or two little points. What you say at
3 144 is that:

4 'When I was a boy, there was nowhere for kids to go
5 to keep them out of trouble.'

6 A. That's correct. And anywhere you had to go, you would
7 have to pay in, and my mother being a single parent with
8 five kids, she couldn't just give one money to go, you
9 know what I mean? She didn't have the money to give
10 five of us money to go to the Pearce Institute or
11 wherever it may be. You had to pay in to play snooker
12 or play football, whatever it was. No, so we didn't --
13 there was nae other places to go to that were free.
14 There's nae -- if you went down to the park, you knew
15 the police were coming to the park. You knew they would
16 come down and harass you.

17 Q. And at 145, you say:

18 'There needs to be support put in place for kids in
19 care and for care leavers.'

20 A. Yeah, because there were kids that weren't criminals
21 that were put in there for care and protection, you know
22 what I mean, and possibly being abused. Some of them
23 aren't here and probably took their life through what
24 happened to them in these places, you know. And who's
25 got a voice for them?

1 Q. After you left St John Bosco's; did you get any support?

2 A. None. Never. In any institution I've left I've never

3 had support.

4 Q. And one of the final things you say, 'Dean', is at 146:

5 'I just don't want anyone to go through what I went

6 through.'

7 A. No, no. I would hate to think that other young kids are

8 going through what I went through. I know what it done

9 to me mentally. No, and so I think there needs to be

10 more done about the people who are working in these

11 places. They need to be vetted very carefully, very

12 carefully. They're evil people. They know what they're

13 doing, so they do.

14 Q. At the end, you say at 147:

15 'I think it's a shame that the prosecutions of these

16 monks and priests didn't happen long before they did.

17 A lot of these individuals have taken their own lives or

18 passed away and have never been punished for what they

19 did. I think the Catholic Church owes me and others

20 like me an apology.'

21 A. Yeah, because they knew it was going on. Any time

22 a complaint was made against them, what they would do

23 with that individual is move them to wherever,

24 a bungalow in Skye or somewhere in Australia. That's

25 what they done with them, and then brought them back

1 once everything quietened down. So they brought them
2 back knowing what they had done, you know.

3 So, no. It made me hate the Catholic Church. It
4 made me homophobic. It made me a lot, so it did. It
5 changed me as a person when I was younger. Who knows
6 what I could have become if I'd have been gave a bit of
7 nice counselling or a bit of -- och, I don't know.
8 I just don't like to think about it, to be honest.

9 I was a good boxer when I was younger, I could
10 have -- no, I could have maybe done something with
11 myself if I hadnae been put into these places, you know.

12 Q. My Lady, I haven't been sent any questions to put to
13 'Dean' and I'll give 'Dean' the opportunity to say
14 anything further that he may wish to say.

15 Is there anything further you would like to say?

16 A. No, no. I think I've said everything, you know what I
17 mean, it's just: what about the ones that aren't here to
18 tell their story? What is happening for them, you know
19 what I mean?

20 Is there things going to be done with the
21 Approved Schools, List D Schools? Is there going to be
22 changes made?

23 LADY SMITH: The world has changed, and is changing, but
24 you're absolutely right to keep asking these questions,
25 'Dean'.

1 A. They need to be asked --

2 LADY SMITH: And it's thanks to people such as you engaging
3 with us that we've learnt so much about how it was in
4 the past, and how it needs to be better for the future.
5 Better now and in the future. And if it wasn't for such
6 as you coming forward to help with that, we wouldn't be
7 where we are now --

8 A. No, but --

9 LADY SMITH: -- which is we've made a lot of progress with
10 our learning and understanding of what was going on.
11 I'm really grateful to you for everything you've
12 helped us with today and, as I said, the evidence that
13 we've got from your signed statement. Thank you for
14 that.

15 A. Thank you, ma'am.

16 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go and hope the crowds
17 aren't too daunting outside. Edinburgh is a bit mad at
18 this time of year.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (The witness withdrew).

21 LADY SMITH: Now, just before we move on from 'Dean's'
22 evidence, a couple of things to note. One was he did
23 use his own second name at times, but he's entitled to
24 anonymity, and has chosen to be anonymous, so that name
25 mustn't be repeated outside this room. He also

1 mentioned a Brother MJO, and Brother MJO has the
2 protection of my General Restriction Order and evidence
3 relating to him mustn't be identified as -- in relation
4 to him outside this room.

5 So, have we got time to read in a statement? Let's
6 do that.

7 MR MACAULAY: Ms MacLeod will do that.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'Tom' (read)

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
11 who will use the pseudonym 'Tom'. His statement can be
12 found at WIT-1-000000166:

13 'My name is 'Tom'. I was born in 1951. My contact
14 details are known to the Inquiry. I have five older
15 brothers and four sisters. I'm the youngest child of
16 the family. We lived in a council house in Glasgow and
17 I went to primary school. My siblings all moved away
18 from the family home while I was a child.

19 'One day in primary school, I dodged school with two
20 other boys. I was aged around 11 when this happened.
21 The three of us were walking around in Shawlands and
22 a shop window got smashed. The police came and the
23 three of us were taken to Larchgrove Remand Home for
24 reports to be done. This was the first time I'd been in
25 trouble with the police and it was the first time I had

1 been taken into Larchgrove. My older brothers had been
2 in trouble with the police before and maybe they
3 recognised my name.

4 'I was in Larchgrove for possibly one or two weeks
5 only. It was okay and I had no problems with being
6 there. I slept in a dorm room with older boys. I felt
7 bad about not being at home and not living with my mum
8 and dad, but it didn't bother me too much.

9 'A guy came to see me and asked me if I'd like to go
10 to a new place to live. I don't know who this guy was
11 and no one explained his role and I can't remember his
12 name. He told me about a children's home and made it
13 sound like a holiday camp. He told me about an Approved
14 School I could go to instead and I was given the choice
15 of both. I agreed to go to the children's home as it
16 sounded the best place.

17 'Then I was taken away by myself straight away to
18 a welfare office in Glasgow for processing. I don't
19 remember who took me there. It was just a few hours and
20 I was taken to a children's home. I had just the
21 clothes I was wearing at the time and no belongings. I
22 never went to any court hearing and I didn't appear in
23 front of any Panel. I don't know if my mum and dad were
24 told or if they had any input into the decision.'

25 Between paragraphs 7 and 46, the witness speaks

1 about his time at a children's home in Bridge of Weir,

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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4

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6

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS MACLEOD: -- in his evidence.

9 I'll move to paragraph 47, on page 11, where the
10 witness speaks about his time at St John Bosco's
11 Approved School in Aberdour. Records recovered from the
12 Inquiry indicate that this witness was admitted to
13 St John Bosco's on [REDACTED] 1964 and that he was
14 there until [REDACTED] 1966. So he would have been 12
15 when he was admitted:

16 'St John Bosco's was an Approved School that was
17 open and not a secure unit. This was a large stately
18 home on a hill in its own grounds. There was a main
19 house and separate buildings in front of it where the
20 school was. The main house was for us to sleep in and
21 wash and shower in. We ate in a canteen in a separate
22 building. There was also a gatehouse for the gardener
23 to live in. There was also a play area outside for
24 recreation, like playing basketball. I can't remember
25 now how I felt about going there.

1 'This home was run by a religious order called the
2 Salesian Fathers. It was run by men who were Brothers
3 and priests as well as two lay Brothers. These were men
4 who weren't priests, but dressed and behaved as if they
5 were. The Brothers wore plain black robes with a belt
6 and the priests had a similar robe with a cape over
7 their shoulders that was pulled up over their heads when
8 it was windy, as well as wearing a hat.

9 'I can only remember two religious Brothers and
10 another man who was called Brother GTD . He was
11 actually a civilian staff member, but was called a
12 Brother. I think there were three priests. There was
13 a priest in overall charge and I rarely saw him.
14 I can't recall his name. The priest who was SNR
15 SNR was called Father LOE . The other ones dealt
16 with us on a day to day basis if anything was wrong.
17 I only saw the head priest when I was ready for leaving
18 school at 15 and he asked me to see -- if I knew what
19 I wanted to do in the future. There was also
20 a Brother KMK , who was a religious Brother.

21 'The main building consisted of three floors. On
22 the ground floor there were offices and a sick bay. On
23 the middle floor there were communal baths and showers
24 as well as dorm rooms. There was also an attic with
25 dormitories and showers. The religious staff had their

1 own quarters in this building. I can't remember which
2 floor it was on. It was all boys at the school and they
3 were similar ages to me. One of the boys I went to
4 primary school with in Glasgow was in the school at the
5 same stage. I had been with him when the shop window
6 got smashed and it led me going to Larchgrove for the
7 first time.

8 'I think I was between 12 and 13 at the time as I
9 had not long started secondary school before I was moved
10 to Fife.'

11 In paragraphs 53 and 54, the witness provides some
12 evidence about the routine in the school and the timings
13 of that.

14 At paragraph 55, he speaks about washing and
15 bathing:

16 'There were communal showers and basins at the end
17 of the hallway in both the middle floor and attic.
18 I can't remember if there was a set day for having
19 a shower or what they were like. There were no issues
20 with washing and bathing that I can recall. The clothes
21 were provided by the school. I think the food was okay
22 and I can't recall any punishments for not eating our
23 meals. We had three meals a day at the school.

24 'We were educated in a hut within the grounds rather
25 than going off site to a local school. The priests

1 provided the education. The school was generally okay
2 and I just got on with attending the classes. I think
3 there were three different classes, so we weren't all in
4 the same room. The lay Brother, **GTD**, taught carpentry.
5 The gardener who lived in the grounds also taught some
6 classes inside. I can't remember which ones. I think
7 he was a married man and I can't remember his name.

8 'A priest gave us lessons in maths and English.
9 Education was hard as I'd not had much schooling before.
10 I think the teaching was basic and we weren't being
11 prepared for taking any examinations.

12 'There was one priest, I can't recall his name, who
13 was small and bald headed, and he hit us with a ruler on
14 the head or on the knuckles with the edge of the ruler.
15 This could be for just getting a sum wrong or reading
16 a wrong word. Every one of the teachers punished us in
17 their own way.

18 'There was Mass said first thing every day in
19 a short service and before we went to school. There was
20 a longer service on a Sunday. As well as the boys,
21 people from the village came to the service. The church
22 was in an outside building. I'm not sure if we had
23 breakfast before or after going to Mass.

24 'I was picked along with another boy to serve as an
25 altar boy. Father **LOE** had taken a shine to me for

1 some reason.

2 'We had to either wash a car or we sawed up logs for
3 the priest who had a small house in the grounds. We'd
4 get points or stars for doing chores and these were
5 shown on a chart on the wall that was for everyone to
6 see. The chores were done on a Saturday.

7 'There was a games room set up in one of the outside
8 buildings. We played in the yard and there were roller
9 skates to play with and volleyball in the yard. There
10 was a football park away from the building. A priest
11 supervised what was going on. There was no TV, but we
12 may have watched a film sometimes on a projector screen.
13 There was a dance troupe at the school and the boys wore
14 kilts. I remember Brother GTD deliberately putting his
15 hand on boys in the area where he said the sporran would
16 go. There was no need for him to touch the boys in that
17 way.'

18 At paragraph 66, the witness speaks about some trips
19 and, in 67, birthdays and Christmas, and, in 68, he
20 speaks about medical care:

21 'My brother and his wife and my dad came to visit
22 once and that was on sports day. That's the only visit
23 I remember. I don't recall any social work visits.
24 There were no reviews of my placement. I'm not aware of
25 any independent inspections taking place. One of the

1 boys' sister came and took me and the boy out for the
2 day. I didn't try to run away from the school.

3 'There were boys who wet the bed, but I can't
4 remember if boys were ridiculed for it. I don't
5 remember physical punishment. I don't think there were
6 as many boys who wet the bed as there had been in the
7 other home I'd been in.

8 'If boys were found to be fighting they'd get
9 skelped with the back of someone's hand on the spot or
10 the belt would be used to whack you on the backside or
11 legs. I got the belt a few times. I'm not aware of any
12 punishment being recorded in a book or log. The
13 Brothers had belts on them like trouser belts and not
14 the normal school belt. They used the belts to hit us
15 on the back of the legs or the backside. We wore short
16 trousers, so we were being hit on bare skin and it was
17 painful. It happened to me. The priests were
18 frequently shouting or bawling at someone or other.

19 'After lights out, when just the red light was on
20 and everybody else should be sleeping, Brother GTD came
21 into the room and started touching me. I was in bed,
22 with his hands in a sexually intimate manner under the
23 bedclothes. I don't recall him speaking to me. This
24 started after I had been at the school for a few days
25 and it happened three or four times over a couple of

1 weeks. I knew what was going on Secondary Institutions - to be published la

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3 'Then on one occasion, not at bedtime, Brother GTD
4 caught me by the back of the ear and was pulling it. I
5 reacted violently and tried to kick and punch him. He
6 didn't bother me after that. I assume he moved on to
7 someone else. I was punished for kicking and punching
8 him, although I'm not sure now what that punishment was.
9 It was probably being hit with the belt. No other boy
10 told me it happened to him.

11 'I was aware that some boys were woken up and taken
12 out of the dorm room at night. I was woken up by the
13 noise of them being woken up by someone who came into
14 the room and them leaving the room. The red light bulb
15 was switched on. I assumed at the time it was something
16 to do with bed wetting. I didn't see them coming back.
17 I think it happened most nights. When I was up in the
18 attic I remember seeing the same boy being taken.
19 I can't remember his name. That sort of thing didn't
20 happen to me.

21 'Father LOE had a pick-up truck and when I was
22 working with him on a chore outdoors he'd get me to sit
23 on his knee when he was driving. He was clearly aroused
24 by this. He didn't say anything about it. As far as
25 I know I was the only boy he took in the pick-up truck.

1 'Father LOE also liked to clean out my ears at
2 night with a cotton wool bud and he'd stand right behind
3 me and pressing against me. I don't know his reason for
4 doing it. I was the only boy he did that to that I saw.
5 I think I was aged 13 or 14.

6 'I never told anybody what happened at the school.
7 If Brother GTD had gone any further I might have tried
8 to report him, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

10 I can't have been the only boy these things were
11 happening to at the school.

12 'I was due to leave the school in 1965 and I went to
13 see the priest in charge in his office for the first
14 time. I was sent home by train to live with my mum and
15 dad in Glasgow. I had no more than a week's notice that
16 I was leaving the school to go back to my parents.

17 'I went back to live with my parents and went back
18 to secondary school for just a few months. I was aged
19 15 and then I left school. I had a few temporary jobs
20 and tried a number of trades, like plumber and butchers.
21 Sometimes I lasted four or five months in a job and
22 sometimes only a few days. I was getting into bother
23 with the police. I was 16 and then went through
24 an adult court and was sent to a detention centre at
25 Longriggend for a few months. I was released from there

1 and then sent to a borstal. It was an open place and
2 I was working with members of the public in a jute mill.

3 'After that I spent six months in a young offenders
4 centre. Reports were done for court on my background
5 and that was in regard to what other offences
6 I'd committed. No one asked me about what happened to
7 me in the care system. I never got probation as part of
8 my sentence. I just got given detention.

9 'I got married at 19 and I was in prison for the
10 first year I was married. When I came out my wife's
11 father got me a job with the council doing various
12 things. That changed my outlook. I settled down and
13 didn't get into trouble again and ended up working with
14 the council for 37 years. I'm now retired. I stayed
15 living with my wife and we have three children and six
16 grandchildren. I'm aware that one of the boys from
17 St John Bosco's went on to be a big-time criminal and
18 others never changed their outlook.

19 'I've just got on with life the best I can. I never
20 trusted people, and especially any priests, with my own
21 children. I knew they couldn't be trusted. If my kids
22 were away at camp, I was very worried and my wife
23 thought I was being overprotective. I didn't tell her
24 what happened to me at the time. I didn't tell her
25 about the abuse until around 18 months ago, after the

1 police contacted me.

2 'At St John Bosco's I thought there was no point in
3 reporting anything. They wouldn't have believed me and
4 branded me a liar. If it had carried on I don't know
5 where it would have gone, but it just stopped for me.
6 I never heard of any abuse involving others in
7 St John Bosco's.

8 'For a long time it affected my relationship with my
9 mum and dad and I didn't see them when I was away in the
10 home -- as I didn't see them when I was in the home, the
11 school, the borstal or prison. I was suspicious of men
12 and their intentions towards me for a long time.

13 'In prison or borstals you don't speak to anyone
14 about sexual abuse because of the judgment it would
15 bring. I was too ashamed to tell anyone. No one would
16 have believed me and it would have made me vulnerable to
17 abuse from other inmates.

18 'I've never told my children about these things and
19 just started to talk to my wife after the police got in
20 touch. I think about what happened to me a lot, and
21 sometimes I see reports in the news or on TV about abuse
22 by priests, or overhear conversations, and it hits home
23 that it happened to me.

24 'The police approached me out of the blue in 2018 to
25 ask me about events in St John Bosco's. They had access

1 to a ledger with the names of hundreds of boys who had
2 attended the school and were trying to locate as many as
3 they could. The police showed me a photograph of three
4 priests from the school and I was able to identify both
5 Brother GTD and Father LOE.

6 'I forgot about the abuse until the police contacted
7 me. I had thought I couldn't do anything about abuse as
8 it happened so long ago.

9 'A short time after I saw the police I saw the TV
10 advert for the Inquiry and I realised there was
11 something else I could do to report the abuse. I have
12 not tried to access any of my records.

13 'I hope abuse like this doesn't go on in children's
14 homes now. These homes need to be held to account for
15 what happened there. What these people got away with
16 was hidden for too long. I hope the Inquiry can stop
17 this abuse happening behind closed doors in future.

18 'I'm aware that two of my own brothers were abused
19 when they were in care themselves in Approved Schools.
20 A family member told me about it recently, but they've
21 never told me. I never told my brothers and sisters
22 about the abuse I suffered.

23 'I didn't see any other abuse going on in St John's,
24 but looking back now it must have been happening to
25 other boys. I'd like to see the men who did this being

1 held to account for what they did. They had no one
2 above them to answer to. I hope the homes and schools
3 I was in are now inspected. I also think children now
4 are a lot wiser than I was and know more, and they're
5 aware of who is in charge of them. When I went into the
6 children's home first of all, I was still in primary
7 school and knew very little about life and the outside
8 world.

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 'Tom' signed the statement on 14 January 2020.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

15 It's almost 11.30, so I think we should stop there
16 for the morning break and move on to the next witness in
17 person after that. Thank you.

18 (11.29 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.45 am)

21 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
22 wishes to use the pseudonym 'Charlie' when giving his
23 evidence.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25

1 'Charlie' (affirmed)

2 LADY SMITH: 'Charlie', thank you for agreeing to come and
3 engage with us today to provide oral evidence. We do
4 already have your written evidence, of course, and it's
5 in the red folder that's on the desk there in front of
6 you. I'm very grateful to you for having helped us with
7 that as well. It's been very good to be able to read it
8 in advance.

9 As you probably appreciate, today we're going to
10 focus on some particular parts of your evidence that we
11 already know about from your written statement, give you
12 the opportunity to say anything that you now want to say
13 that you hadn't already told us, and listen to your
14 explanation of perhaps some further detail about what's
15 in the written statement.

16 But please don't think that if we don't go to some
17 of the written statement, it's because I'm not
18 interested in it, or it's of no value. Not at all.
19 It's really valuable to us to have that as well.

20 But, 'Charlie', let me also say this: I do
21 understand that coming into public to talk about things
22 that are private to you, and in particular relating to
23 your early life as a child, is not at all easy and it
24 may at times become upsetting. I do understand that.
25 If you want a break, there's no problem with that. If

1 there's anything else we can do to help, perhaps by
2 explaining things better than we're doing -- I know we
3 can be very bad sometimes about the way we phrase our
4 questions and, if we are, that's our fault not yours, so
5 don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries at all;
6 all right?

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

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

11 Questions by Ms MacLeod

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. Good morning, 'Charlie'.

13 A. Morning.

14 Q. I don't need your full date of birth, because you are
15 anonymous, but to give a timeframe; are you able to
16 confirm that you were born in 1961?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You've provided a statement to the Inquiry and it's in
19 the folder in front of you. I'm just going to give the
20 reference of that for the transcript: WIT.001.001.9841.

21 Could I begin, 'Charlie', by asking you to turn to
22 the very last page of the statement, and that's really
23 to confirm that you've signed it?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In the very last paragraph there; do you say:

1 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
3 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
4 true.'

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If I can take you back to the beginning of your
7 evidence, and ask you to tell us a little bit about your
8 life, 'Charlie', before you went into care. You do
9 provide some detail in relation to this in your
10 statement. You tell us you were born in Glasgow; is
11 that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that you were the oldest of five children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I think you say that your parents had some problems --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- at the time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You describe it as 'living hand to mouth'?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did there come a time where you started to get into
22 trouble?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me a little about that?

25 A. I started shoplifting to support the family, for food

1 and whatever. Some of the money I was giving my father,
2 he was actually drinking the money away.

3 Q. And were you attending school at the time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Were you having some difficulties there, and were you
6 sometimes not attending school?

7 A. Quite regular I wasn't attending school.

8 Q. Did there come a time when you appeared before
9 a Children's Panel?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you remember roughly how old you were then?

12 A. I would say about 11, 12 maybe.

13 Q. What are your recollections about appearing before that
14 Panel at the time?

15 A. What do you mean?

16 Q. What do you remember about it? Do you remember the
17 Panel hearing?

18 A. Yes. I remember it as clear as day.

19 Q. What was your understanding at the time of the purpose
20 of that?

21 A. Well, my parents took me to the Children's Panel and
22 told me, 'No matter what happens, you're coming home,
23 son'. They told me that. The Panel proceeded. At the
24 end of the day, the Panel agreed I was okay to go back
25 to school and my mother turned round and says, 'I don't

1 want him back home with me. Take him away', and I stood
2 up in the Children's Panel and I said, 'Mum, what are
3 you talking about?' A security man came and told me to
4 sit down. I stood up again and I said to my father,
5 'Dad, come on, tell mum', and my dad ...

6 Q. Were you taken from the Children's Panel to a children's
7 home?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you have a social worker at that time, 'Charlie'?

10 A. Not that I'm aware.

11 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that you were
12 taken to a children's home for a period of time,
13 possibly in around 1968 or so?

14 A. Say that again?

15 Q. Were you taken to a children's home, near St Andrews,
16 I think you tell us in your statement?

17 A. No, I was taken to a children's home in Aberdour.

18 Q. Okay. Was that the first place you were in?

19 A. No, I was in -- I couldnae remember it. I still can't
20 remember to this day what place this was they took us
21 to. It was only during the summer holidays. It was
22 during the summer holidays. It was like a holiday
23 break.

24 LADY SMITH: 'Charlie', help me, I think I've got this
25 right. I'm trying to work out your background. I know

1 it's difficult remembering all these years ago. It
2 looks as though you went to a children's home for
3 a summer placement, maybe when you were about seven or
4 eight years old?

5 A. That's correct.

6 LADY SMITH: But that was just a short time?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Then you went back home?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Then you weren't going to school and you were
11 still getting into trouble, and then the social work
12 intervened and you ended up in front of the Panel; have
13 I got that right?

14 A. That's right.

15 LADY SMITH: That would be when you were about 11 or 12, and
16 you've got this vivid memory of your mum saying she
17 didn't want you, so they could just take you away.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: It was from there you were taken to Aberdour?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: Was it the security staff that you mentioned
23 who took you to Aberdour?

24 A. No, it was two strangers. Two female strangers I'd
25 never met before.

1 Q. In terms of the time when that happened; was it around
2 1973 or so that you were taken --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- to St John Bosco's?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. And the Inquiry has been able to recover records which
7 suggest that you were admitted to St John Bosco's on
8 [REDACTED] 1973, which would accord with that?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. Do you remember arriving at the school?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. What are your memories of that?
13 A. I arrived at the school, the car stopped. I was quiet in
14 the car going from Glasgow to Aberdour. As soon as the
15 car stopped, I started crying. They took me out the
16 car, took me to an office, and it was a priest says:
17 'Charlie', it's okay, you'll be fine here, everything's
18 good here, so take your tears away'. I started to feel
19 a wee bit relaxed.
20 The two persons that took me to the home had left,
21 so I don't know anyone in this place, who they are or
22 what they are. I'm just following the boys. They've
23 given me a boy from the home to show me the way, sort of
24 thing, and that was it.
25 Q. Did anyone explain to you why you were there or how long

1 you would be there?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Were you shown to a dormitory where you would be

4 sleeping?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you share that dormitory with some other boys?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How many boys were in your dormitory?

9 A. The dormitories were partitioned off with a glass

10 partition at the top and there was about four or five of

11 these in this section, with about 25 boys. That was it.

12 Q. What is your recollection of the number of boys in the

13 school overall?

14 A. How many boys were in the school?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. To me it looked like hundreds, but possibly 50 boys.

17 Q. And what about the age range of the boys?

18 A. From as young as 8 -- no, as young as 10, to 16.

19 Q. Do you remember who SNR [REDACTED] was?

20 A. Father LOB [REDACTED].

21 Q. Who were the other staff or Fathers that you remember?

22 A. Father LUF [REDACTED], Father LNB [REDACTED]. I called him

23 Brother LMW [REDACTED], but LMW [REDACTED] his name just was.

24 I called him LMW [REDACTED] for some reason, because it's

25 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I called him LMW [REDACTED].

1 Q. So, looking at Father LUF first of all; can you tell
2 me what his role was in the school?

3 A. Father LUF, he was a priest.

4 Q. Was he someone that had interactions with the boys?

5 A. Yes, he was a favourite with the boys.

6 Q. And what about Brother LNB?

7 A. Father LNB?

8 Q. Father LNB.

9 A. He was a priest, same as LUF. Same category as
10 Father LUF.

11 Q. What about Father LMW, who you have mentioned?

12 A. This was Brother LMW. He was a priest, with a robe
13 on, what have you. He was also a woodwork teacher.

14 Q. We'll go on to look at some of these staff members later
15 on in your statement. But, first of all, can you tell
16 me a little bit about the routine at St John Bosco's, in
17 terms of in the mornings, for example, who was involved
18 in getting the boys up and arranged for breakfast, that
19 sort of thing?

20 A. Well, it was early in the morning. I don't particularly
21 remember what time it was. We got up, we had our
22 breakfast -- went down to the dining hall, had our
23 breakfast -- our breakfast, to school, say about 8.30 or
24 9 o'clock. It was school until about 2 o'clock in the
25 afternoon, and then it was TV time, free time or play

1 football time daily. Sometimes we had outings. They
2 had a big coach, big jalopy coach, but it did the
3 purpose. Took us to swimming sometimes. Took us to the
4 beach, that kind of stuff.

5 Q. You mention in your statement, paragraph 27, there were
6 some boys that wet the bed?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say that wasn't something that affected you, you
9 weren't someone who wet the bed?

10 A. No.

11 Q. What's your recollection of how bed wetters were treated
12 by the staff?

13 A. Well, they came in at nighttime. There were a few bed
14 wetters in my dormitory. They come in through the night
15 and woke them up to get them changed, new pyjamas on,
16 get their bedding changed and what have you, the guys
17 that wet the bed.

18 Q. Who was involved in this procedure? Was this priests
19 coming in?

20 A. Priests coming in, yes.

21 Q. You say in your statement that you think the bed wetters
22 had a particularly hard time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you just explain what you mean by that?

25 A. They got took away in the middle of the night and they

1 were crying. They got took away in the middle of the
2 night. And some of the bed wetters hadnae wet the bed
3 and they were still getting took away through the night,
4 and they came back sobbing and crying and greeting.
5 I never asked any questions.

6 Q. Was there a school?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. As in an education kind of school?

9 A. There was a corridor with a few classrooms in it.

10 Q. And how did you find the teaching?

11 A. At the start I was interested, first week or two. Got
12 to know the teacher. Miss IXA, that was my teacher.
13 And after what happened to myself, I wasnae interested
14 in any part of the school or any part of being there.

15 Q. Focusing on Miss IXA then; what kind of relationship
16 did you have with her? How did you find her?

17 A. Just a teacher. Nothing else.

18 Q. I think you mention in your statement that she didn't
19 treat you well?

20 A. No.

21 Q. How did she treat you?

22 A. Well, after what happened to myself, I sort of went into
23 myself. I wasnae opening up with anything. I wasnae
24 concentrating on my schoolwork. I wasnae doing my
25 schoolwork. I didnae want to be there. Miss IXA

1 used to threaten me with the guy that abused me, and
2 I was under the impression that she knew what was going
3 on with me. I could be wrong. I could be wrong, but
4 I think she knew what was happening.

5 Q. Did you have any visits from family while you were at
6 St John Bosco's?

7 A. Not that I'm aware.

8 Q. And what about visits from social workers? Did you have
9 any visits of that kind?

10 A. Not that I'm aware.

11 Q. Were there any inspections of the school, as far as
12 you're aware, while you were there?

13 A. Inspections?

14 Q. Yes. Did inspectors come into the school?

15 A. Not that I'm aware.

16 Q. In paragraph 40 of your statement, you explain, I think,
17 that some of the boys were in the school for care and
18 protection --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and that others may have been there for committing
21 crimes?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And what you say is:

24 'I told other boys I was there for committing
25 crimes, although this was not true.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You go on to say:

3 'The boys there for care and protection were slagged

4 by the other boys.'

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you just develop that for me? What are your

7 memories of that?

8 A. They put the -- it was the letters CP, care and

9 protection: he's a CP, blah, blah, blah.

10 And the boys that were in for trouble, committing

11 crime, were the higher up guys, that kind of thing.

12 They were more respected than guys like myself, if you

13 know what I'm trying to say here.

14 Q. Do I take it from that that you said you were there for

15 committing crimes so that you would -- to protect

16 yourself?

17 A. Yes, I was there for not going to school and my mother

18 didnae want me. That was the reason I was there.

19 I was care and protection myself.

20 Q. Can I ask you now about punishment and the regime for

21 punishment at the school? You speak about this in

22 paragraph 44, and you describe it as a 'brutal regime'?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you explain that for me, what you mean by that?

25 A. If you can go into detail and tell me what you're

1 actually speaking about here.

2 Q. Who gave punishment if you did something that was seen
3 to merit punishment?

4 A. It was the priests.

5 Q. Was there a particular priest who dealt with that or
6 could that be any of the priests?

7 A. It could have been any one of them. It was mainly
8 Father **LOB**.

9 Q. If we look at Father **LOB**, first of all, then. If
10 he was going to punish you for something that he
11 perceived that you had done; what did he do?

12 A. He belted you (indicating).

13 Q. Which part of your body did he belt you on?

14 A. Mainly the head. Slap on the head or give you the belt.

15 Q. You are holding your hand out; on your hand?

16 A. Yes. And that was a big thing if he gave you the belt,
17 because all the boys seen you pulling your hand away and
18 they were laughing because it was sore on your hand.

19 Q. Was that something that was done there and then, when
20 something happened, or did it happen at a later time?

21 A. It happened at later times. I actually got belted on
22 the behind and all, but that's not the same
23 establishment.

24 Q. At St John Bosco's; were you belted on the head and the
25 hand?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you help me with how regularly this happened to you?

3 A. Quite regular. I was classed as -- how can I say this?

4 I didnae want to be at this home, so I caused so much

5 hassle by bringing the police to the -- I was escaping

6 all the time, trying my best to get to Glasgow.

7 Sometimes I done it, sometimes I never. Police picked

8 me up, took me back. And Father LOB and another

9 priest, Father LNB, says I'm causing too much hassle

10 for the home because I'm bringing the police back and

11 forward. They didnae want it. There was a big issue

12 for bringing the police to the home.

13 Q. And I'll ask you a little bit later on about running

14 away, because I'm aware you did run away on a number of

15 occasions.

16 So looking at use of the belt then; were there other

17 staff members who used the belt?

18 A. Not that I'm aware.

19 Q. You've described what happened to you; did you see other

20 boys being hit with a belt in that way by Father

21 LOB?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. You mention in your statement that you could be punched?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Who punched you?

1 A. Father LOB . Father LOB used to be a regular
2 thing. He was SNR . You from
3 this man -- the other priests from him. He
4 was SNR . He used to make it a habit to
5 get to me because I was causing trouble with 'I'm away,
6 I'm off', staff out looking for me, police out looking
7 for me, that kind of stuff.

8 How can I say this? I was a thorn in their side,
9 sort of thing. I was unaware of that at the time, but
10 I was that kind of boy.

11 Q. And the punching then; can you help me with -- is that
12 something that happened regularly to you or was that --

13 A. No, because I ended up -- when something happened with
14 that, for the reason I'm here, when that happened,
15 I started standing up for myself.

16 Q. When you were punched by Father LOB ; where did he
17 punch you? Which part of your body?

18 A. It was a backhander. It could be a backhander across
19 your face, see stars, flash, that kind of stuff. Just
20 out the blue that happened. For some reason -- for some
21 reason, he just done it for the sake of doing it.

22 Q. If I can look then to Brother LMW , 'Charlie', and
23 what you tell us about him. You speak about this in
24 paragraphs 24 and 46 of your statement.

25 If you tell me, first of all, 'Charlie' -- I think

1 you say that he was somebody who was nice to you to
2 begin with?

3 A. Yes. Put me in mind of my father. A father figure he
4 was.

5 Q. And was he your woodwork teacher?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was he encouraging of you? In terms of woodwork; did he
8 encourage you in the class?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did he suggest to you that you might want to consider
11 becoming an altar boy?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was he in charge of organising the altar boys?

14 A. He seemed to be at the time.

15 Q. Were you one of a number of altar boys?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did there come a time when that changed or when you were
18 singled out on your own as an altar boy?

19 A. There came a time when we used to go to learn what we're
20 doing for the altar boy, and what we've to do, put the
21 robes on and that kind of stuff, what we're to do
22 with -- what do you call it? I forget what you call it.
23 The smelly smoke stuff.

24 LADY SMITH: The incense?

25 A. That's the word, yes. I used to swing that. You had to

1 swing it a certain way and what have you. Then he
2 called me himself to do the same stuff and I was on my
3 own. Where you're ready to come to that, I'm ready to
4 answer that.

5 Q. So you were in a situation where you were on your own
6 with him --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- at this time?

9 A. The chapel was straight on. The front end of the
10 chapel, the main entrance coming down from there to
11 there. There is the chapel and here was a big altar,
12 a big wooden table and that's where the robes were
13 hanging up beside there and there was a door in it.
14 There was actually a room with a big table in it.

15 Q. And are you able to tell me what happened when you were
16 in that room?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What happened?

19 A. Are we talking about the reason why I'm here?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. It was all fun and I was paying attention -- what I was
22 to do and blah, blah, blah. And he told me to put
23 a robe on, and I put the robe over my clothes and he
24 says, 'No, no, take your trousers off and take this
25 off', blah, blah, blah, 'Shirt off and put the robe on'.

1 I was putting the robe on and he threw me over the
2 table, put -- held my head down on the table and whipped
3 my underpants -- and that was it. He raped me.
4 I cannae say it any other way. That's what
5 happened.
6 I was screaming. He started holding my mouth and
7 that. It was done. It was finished. And he was all
8 nice again. He turned a right evil man when that
9 happened. I didnae understand what was going on, to be
10 honest with you. I just didnae know what was happening,
11 and it was mine and his secret. I'm not to tell anyone
12 about it, blah, blah, blah. And I stayed well away.
13 I was on another planet after that.
14 Q. Was that something he said to you, 'Charlie', not to
15 tell anyone about it?
16 A. Yes. And I didn't.
17 Q. Were you injured?
18 A. I was bleeding.
19 Q. You mention in your statement that you're convinced that
20 your teacher, Miss IXA, may have known that something
21 had happened?
22 A. Yes, yes.
23 Q. Why did you think she may have known?
24 A. Because she used to threaten me. If I didnae pay
25 attention to her, she used to threaten me I was to go

1 and see him. Or he's going to come and see me.

2 Q. In paragraph 50 of your statement, 'Charlie', you say

3 that you remember a particular boy from St John Bosco's.

4 Now, we don't need to use his name, but you tell us

5 about something you remember him saying in the dining

6 room?

7 A. I don't recall.

8 Q. Okay. That's fine. You have mentioned this already and

9 you talk about it in your statement, that you started

10 running away from St John Bosco's?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that after the incident --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- with Brother LMW [REDACTED] ?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Where were you trying to run away to?

17 A. To Glasgow.

18 Q. On some occasions did you make it to Glasgow?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you returned on some occasions by the police?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is that when the school started to punish you for

23 running away?

24 A. Yes. They didnae let me go home for six to twelve weeks

25 sometimes.

1 Q. On occasions when you were brought back and you were
2 punished for that; how were you punished?

3 A. I wasnae allowed certain activities. I wasnae
4 allowed -- I'm thinking about it. I've been in that
5 many establishments. I'm getting confused with some of
6 the things, some of the things that you're saying to me.
7 I don't know if it's this establishment, or is it that
8 establishment or that establishment, because I got
9 passed around.

10 But it was a slap and it was -- they made me wear
11 shorts, short trousers. I was the only boy in the
12 school that wore short trousers in the winter, with
13 a pair of plastic shoes so I couldnae run away.

14 But that was easy conquered, because I would take
15 another boy's clothes and run away.

16 Q. On the occasions that you were brought back to the
17 school and punished; were you ever physically punished
18 for running away?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. And was that Father **LOB** who punished you?

21 A. Father **LOB**, **SNR**.

22 Q. And did that punishment take place in his room, in his
23 office, or could it be anywhere in the school?

24 A. It was the main building, his quarters. Boys werenae
25 allowed into it, but he took me into it.

1 Q. Would there be a witness present, another Brother there,
2 while you were being physically punished?

3 A. Sometimes, sometimes. Sometimes no.

4 Q. And on those occasions when you were physically punished
5 in his quarters; what form did the punishment take? Was
6 that the belt again or something else?

7 A. It was a slap and verbal, with the finger getting
8 pointed. And he used to swear at me. He used to call
9 me 'You fucking wee bastard. You're bringing the police
10 here', blah, blah, blah, that kind of stuff. Trying to
11 intimidate me. He was intimidating me.

12 Q. Would the belt be used on these occasions?

13 A. Not that I'm aware.

14 Q. You have explained that you didn't tell anybody about
15 the incident with Brother LMW; did you tell people
16 how you were being treated more generally in the school?

17 A. Well, the way I was getting treated at the time, I
18 caused that for me to be treated like that, so everybody
19 knew about it.

20 I was a misfit in that place after what happened to
21 me. I didnae want to be there.

22 Q. When it came time for you to leave St John Bosco's; how
23 did that happen? Was it a sudden thing that happened or
24 can you help me with how that came about?

25 A. This is what I recall: I left St John Bosco's, I got put

1 on a bus to Buchanan Street Bus Station, and I knew how
2 to get home from Buchanan Street Bus Station. I was out
3 for about a week and they put me to St Joseph's in
4 Tranent. I went to another home immediately. I don't
5 know what was going on between my parents and social
6 workers. I don't know what was happening, but that's
7 what happened.

8 Q. The records the Inquiry have recovered -- and the
9 records aren't always completely accurate, but the
10 records suggest you left St John Bosco's on
11 [REDACTED] 1974; does that --

12 A. Doesnae mean nothing to me.

13 Q. I see. That's fine.

14 You tell us in your statement that the next place
15 that you went to was St Joseph's --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- Approved School, in Tranent?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you're aware, 'Charlie', that part of your
20 evidence in relation to St Joseph's has already been
21 read in to the Inquiry hearings?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That was during this case study, but during Chapter 2,
24 which looked at the De La Salle Brothers. For the
25 transcript, that was Day 410, 22 January 2024.

1 Records recovered in relation to St Joseph's suggest
2 that 'Charlie' was admitted on [REDACTED] 1975, so quite
3 shortly after your time at St John Bosco's?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'Charlie', that you
6 arrived at St Joseph's much more streetwise than you had
7 been at St John Bosco's?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. And that you turned into quite a violent person?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And is that -- was that a development of what you've
12 already been telling me, how your behaviour changed
13 following the incident with Brother LMW [REDACTED] at
14 St John Bosco's?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. In terms of the -- you would have been about 13 when you
17 arrived at St Joseph's?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. You tell us that some of the boys were quite a lot older
20 than you?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Do you remember who SNR [REDACTED] at St Joseph's, who
23 was SNR [REDACTED] ?
24 A. It was religious, again. There was a -- Brother MJG [REDACTED]
25 was SNR [REDACTED] .

1 Q. What was he like?

2 A. Didnae see much of that man.

3 Q. Were you allocated to a particular cottage when you

4 arrived at St Joseph's?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is that how the school was arranged; that some of the

7 children lived in cottages outwith the main school

8 building?

9 A. There were four cottages outside the main building.

10 Q. Was your cottage run by a couple?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you remember their names?

13 A. Mr and Mrs HPT-SPO

14 Q. I think you tell us in your statement there was a night

15 watchman also, in each cottage?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who was the night watchman in your cottage?

18 A. Used to be HPT.

19 Q. Did you share a room with other boys in the cottage?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You mention about six boys?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If we can look at HPT, first of all. You tell

24 us a little bit about him in paragraphs 58 and 69 of

25 your statement. What was HPT like? What are

1 your memories of him?

2 A. HPT was the housemaster. Seemed an all right

3 kind of guy. I kept my distance from authority.

4 I wasnae interested in speaking to any of them. I kept

5 my distance from authority.

6 Q. In your statement, you mention that he used to organise

7 some parties?

8 A. Yes, at nighttime.

9 Q. In the cottage?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who would be in attendance at the parties?

12 A. When I say 'parties', if this is what you mean, when the

13 alcohol used to come into the situation, yes, yes, that

14 was happening. And sometimes a girl or two came in.

15 I don't know who they were.

16 Q. Did you see anything that concerned you at the time?

17 A. The whole situation concerned me.

18 Q. What concerned you about it?

19 A. Because there was alcohol involved and he was

20 encouraging guys like myself, and younger than myself,

21 to have a swally.

22 Q. This was HPT encouraging the boys to drink

23 alcohol?

24 A. No, no, this was another watchman. HPT and his wife

25 and his kid -- his kid was , so he was a lot of

1 work to -- sometimes I used [REDACTED] myself to
2 certain places. He was [REDACTED].
3 Q. This was the night watchman organising the parties?
4 A. Yes, this is a watchman that comes in. It wasnae
5 HPT [REDACTED] HPT [REDACTED] wasnae involved in that kind of stuff.
6 Q. Do you remember the name of the night watchman?
7 A. No, I never seen him in my life before.
8 Q. It was the night watchman who was arranging these
9 gatherings with alcohol --
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. -- and encouraging the boys to drink?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. You mentioned that girls would sometimes come to those?
14 A. Yes, girls older than myself. I don't know where the
15 girls came from. I don't know.
16 Q. In your statement, you say that older boys told you that
17 staff would watch older boys having sex with girls?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. That wasn't something you saw yourself?
20 A. No.
21 Q. Can I ask you then about Brother Benedict, who you also
22 talk about in your statement, 'Charlie'? What was
23 Brother Benedict's role at St Joseph's while you were
24 there?
25 A. He was a teacher.

1 Q. Now, in your statement you describe him as a 'bit of
2 a nutcase'?

3 A. Oh, definitely.

4 Q. Can you develop that for me? What made him a nutcase?

5 A. His actions. Things that he done. I never noticed this
6 at the start, but I gradually got to see what he was all
7 about.

8 Q. You say that Brother Ben was brutal with the boys and
9 used to punch you?

10 A. Well, I don't know about brutal with the boys; he was
11 brutal with me.

12 Q. So in terms of his behaviour with you then; can you
13 explain for me how -- was it -- did he punish you for
14 things or how did this sort of behaviour come about?

15 A. Everything was good at the start. St Joseph's was a new
16 start for me. Nobody knew me, so in my own head I was
17 willing to change and be nice and stick to the rules
18 sort of a situation.

19 I met Brother Ben, never knew nothing, what he was
20 like at the time, and had a conversation with him. We
21 had a conversation and he says, 'You know my friend',
22 I said, 'Who's your friend?' He told me his friend.
23 And his friend was Brother LMW from Aberdour, so
24 right away I went on ultra alert. Aye, that was me. As
25 soon as he said that to me, then the rest was history

1 from there. I wasnae wanted there the way I was acting
2 there, too. As soon as I heard what I heard from
3 Brother Ben.

4 Q. Was that quite early on in your time in St Joseph's he
5 said that to you?

6 A. Right away. Day one more or less.

7 Q. Were you in his class? Was he one of your teachers?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What did he teach?

10 A. Arithmetic, English, all sorts. All that kind of stuff.

11 Q. And looking at the physical side of things, you have
12 mentioned that he punched you; can you help me with how
13 that would come about?

14 A. Well, he was holding me back in the classroom and the
15 classroom was empty. He had his robe on, big pair of
16 steel toe cap boots. We used to call him Bootsie;
17 that's what we called him.

18 His robe is undone and he's showing me his manhood.
19 At that stage, I didnae care about Brother Ben.
20 I'm quite prepared to assault Brother Ben, in my head,
21 if any of this is going on, and I did.

22 There was a broken desk at the back of the classroom
23 and I picked a leg up. This is me and him, ourselves.
24 I've whacked him and he's fell down. Just on the head,
25 but he was up just as quick. I was off. I was away.

1 I was away with two brothers. When I say two brothers,
2 it's two boys from the Approved School that were friends
3 of mine. I told them, 'I'm off, I need to go, I need to
4 go'. I told them why, 'Brother Ben', blah, blah, 'He's
5 trying to get hold of me'. He never got me. I stayed
6 well away, but he was looking about the school for me.

7 I cannae see him. He was good at hiding.
8 Brother Ben was good at hiding. He just appeared from
9 nowhere, Brother Ben. You're having a laugh with your
10 friends and he's on the scene. You don't even see him
11 coming, he's there. It's that kind of feeling: that
12 'oh, here we go'.

13 But it was a weekend; most of the boys were away on
14 home leave. I'm no home leave. I'm going over to
15 the -- bottom part of the main building was a snooker
16 room. There was two tables in it, in the snooker room.
17 So as you walk into the main building, there's a toilet
18 there, and I'm walking by and Brother Ben's came on the
19 scene. Wallop, bang, he's knocked me out. I've woke up
20 and Brother Ben's not there. I'm dazed, sort of stunned
21 still: what happened? What happened?

22 Big flash in my heid, big lump on my heid. He's
23 punched me full force and he's knocked me out.

24 Q. So is this -- you have explained the beginning of this
25 incident, that you were in the classroom with him?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that he exposed himself to you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did he show you his penis?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did that happen on one occasion or more than one

7 occasion?

8 A. He done it on more occasions with me. Kept me back.

9 I was actually in another class with a female

10 teacher and he's requested to get me in his class. I

11 didnae want to -- I was happy in the first class with

12 the female teacher, but he's got me into his class.

13 I couldnae turn round and say to the teacher, 'I don't

14 like going to him because he's this and he's that'. You

15 didnae talk about that kind of stuff because they were

16 all staff.

17 Q. You've explained that on one occasion -- how you

18 responded to that and what you did, in terms of hitting

19 Brother Benedict?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. On other occasions; how did that come to an end? When

22 Brother Ben exposed himself to you in that way; how did

23 it come to an end?

24 A. I was getting older and I was pushing him out of the way

25 and he was trying to catch me and that kind of stuff.

1 I wasnae letting him near me. I had no respect
2 whatsoever for this man.

3 Q. On the first occasion that you've told me about, when he
4 came after you at the weekend and ultimately knocked you
5 out, as you've described; were you injured as a result
6 of that?

7 A. Injured? I was knocked out. Physically, to look at, no.

8 Q. Did anybody in the school know that had happened to you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Other staff?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Who knew that that had happened to you?

13 A. Other boys.

14 Q. Did you see Brother Ben behave in a way that concerned
15 you with other boys?

16 A. No really, no really.

17 Q. Much later on in life, 'Charlie'; were you asked to
18 provide evidence at a trial in relation to
19 Brother Benedict?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And did you do that? Did you give evidence in the High
22 Court?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'm not proposing to put this on the screen, but
25 I'm going to give the NUIX reference for an indictment

1 in relation to Brother Ben and that's at JUS-000000068.
2 On that indictment, charges 37, 38 and 39 relate to
3 offences of which Brother Benedict was convicted after
4 trial and where you were the complainer, 'Charlie';
5 you're aware of that?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Two of these charges relate to sexual offences and one
8 to physical abuse?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. Another staff member at St Joseph's, you tell us about
11 in your statement, is a Mr HPS ?
12 A. HPS , yes.
13 Q. What do you remember about him? How did he behave with
14 the boys?
15 A. He was wanting to be your pal, sort of a teacher. As
16 I said earlier on -- authority, I stayed well away.
17 I didnae want to be about these people. And he was
18 telling us how to wash our penises, that kind of stuff.
19 It was kind of a weird-- hearing -- for him saying that.
20 That is what I can remember.
21 He took us on an outing, me and another boy.
22 I'll not mention the boy's name. A friend of mine. Put
23 us in the boot of his car to take us to somewhere. What
24 was the name of that place? Berwick-upon-Tweed,
25 I think. It was a long journey anyway. We went to

1 a river and he had us in the boot. Put me and the other
2 boy in the boot of the car. We thought it was fun, to
3 be honest with you, but that's what he done with us.

4 Q. I think you tell us about that in your statement; that
5 he locked you and a friend in the boot of the car and
6 drove for 30 miles with you in the boot?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Going back to what you said, about what he said to boys,
9 in terms of washing themselves; can you help me with
10 that? Did he say anything to you about how you should
11 wash yourself, and in particular your private parts?

12 A. No, I don't think so.

13 Q. Did he say to other boys?

14 A. He says it to me and this other boy that he took out for
15 the outing. We were unaware. I was unaware that --
16 I thought he was an all right kind of guy, but it turned
17 out he wasnae really an all right kind of guy.

18 Q. I'm trying to work out; was this something he said in
19 front of you or something another boy told you about?

20 A. I'm not sure.

21 Q. Okay. Another staff member you mention is MJK
22 MJK ?

23 A. MJK . I remember him well.

24 Q. Was he a metalwork teacher?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did he do something to you that you remember and
2 that caused you concern at the time?

3 A. He threw a hammer at me.

4 Q. Did the hammer hit you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Which part of the body did it hit you on?

7 A. I'm not aware -- oh, the hammer never hit me. It gave
8 me a fright.

9 Q. When it came time for you to leave St Joseph's,
10 'Charlie'; can you help me with how that came about?

11 A. Same as St John Bosco's. I was going to school one day
12 and they told me I was free to go, go and get my own
13 clothes on, give me a bus pass, a train pass, took me to
14 somewhere in Tranent Train Station or wherever it was,
15 outside Tranent, to Waverley, and from Waverley to
16 Glasgow. I was unaware where Waverley -- at that time
17 in life, but that's what happened.

18 I went into the house, my mother and father look at
19 me, automatically thought I'd run away again. And
20 I says, 'I'm released'. Okay, they phoned up certain
21 people, whoever you phone, and 'No, 'Charlie' is
22 released'. And understanding I had a social worker by
23 this time called Brian O'Donald or Mr Bracken; I had two
24 social workers. They were trying to interact and get me
25 back into school, high school.

1 I went to the high school, only lasted days and
2 I was in another establishment. I was away again.
3 Q. For the transcript, the record suggests that you left
4 St Joseph's on [REDACTED] 1974?
5 A. Right.
6 Q. You have mentioned that you ended up in another
7 establishment; was that St Mary's?
8 A. St Mary's.
9 Q. In Bishopbriggs?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. In your statement you tell us that that was when you
12 were about 15 or so?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. Was it lay staff who were in St Mary's?
15 A. It was civilian staff.
16 Q. While you were at St Mary's; did you have any concerns
17 about the staff and how they were treating the children
18 in their care?
19 A. Yes, right away.
20 Q. What were your concerns?
21 A. It was same as the last two.
22 Q. Were there any staff members in particular that you can
23 remember that come to mind in relation to your concerns?
24 A. How I remember the staff, I had different names for
25 them. LYT [REDACTED], he was ancient. I don't know how he

1 was a teacher, but he was ancient. Well, to me he was
2 ancient. I forget -- I wasnae there too long, but it
3 was all the same scenario. It was all ...
4 Q. In your statement you mention LYT [REDACTED], and also
5 a Bill Fanks?
6 A. Bill Franks, that's it. And there was [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] there too. I cannae recall their names. A long
8 time ago.
9 Q. Can you help me with the set-up at St Mary's? Were
10 there boys and girls there, in St Mary's?
11 A. No.
12 Q. All boys?
13 A. All boys.
14 Q. What was the age range there?
15 A. I'd say -- I wasnae there too long, to be honest with
16 you. I've had enough of Approved Schools by this time
17 myself. I just left. Ages -- I'd say 16.
18 Q. If we then focus on the two people that you have
19 mentioned there. LYT [REDACTED]; what were your concerns
20 about LYT [REDACTED]?
21 A. He was tampering with the children.
22 Q. Did you see him?
23 A. I never seen it, but it was spoke about. It was widely
24 spoke about.
25 Q. Who spoke to you about him?

1 A. Other boys.

2 Q. What did they say?

3 A. Sexual favours and they got whatever they got for a --

4 what do you call it? For a reward. They got -- they

5 would get looked after better than the rest of the boys.

6 Q. So was your understanding then that they were having to

7 do something sexual with LYT [REDACTED], and receiving some

8 kind of benefit or privilege for that?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. What sort of age were these boys?

11 A. I would say younger than myself.

12 Q. And what about Bill Fanks then? What about him? What

13 were your concerns there?

14 A. Bill Franks was a cook. He had all the patter under the

15 sun. Nice guy, blah, blah, blah, but he was just so

16 slimy a guy. I knew what was going on.

17 Q. When you say you 'knew what was going on'; what did you

18 know was going on?

19 A. Well, I can only speak for myself here, but sexual

20 favours was going on.

21 Q. Did you see that happening?

22 A. No.

23 Q. How did you know about it?

24 A. Because it was verbally spoke about. The other boys

25 would say something to other boys: so and so is doing so

1 and so. He's doing that to so and so. We were all boys
2 at the time.

3 Q. And what do you remember being said about Bill Fanks?

4 A. Bill Franks. He was a good guy. Bill's a nice guy,
5 he's a great guy, but guys were getting rewarded for
6 what they were doing. I never seen it. It was all
7 talk. I was just sick of the place. I left kind of
8 quick.

9 Q. I think you tell us that you ran away regularly while
10 you were there?

11 A. I was away again. I ended up in Longriggend. That's
12 when life began.

13 Q. 'Charlie', you do provide evidence to the Inquiry in
14 relation to your time in Longriggend Remand Centre and
15 also Polmont Young Offenders Institution, and that
16 evidence has already been read into the Inquiry; I think
17 you're aware of that?

18 A. I was a schoolboy. I shouldn't have been in that
19 establishment. I was too young, but it's the only place
20 they could put me.

21 Q. That evidence was read in on Day 394 as part of
22 Chapter 1 of this phase, which dealt with the Scottish
23 Prison Service, and that was on 6 December 2023.

24 If I can ask you a little bit about that, 'Charlie'.
25 In relation to Longriggend; what was your experience

1 there in terms of what happened to you?

2 A. I was a schoolboy, locked up 23 hours a day for seven
3 months, so starting to go by the wayside in my head.

4 School wasnae regular. School was a bonus because
5 I was locked up in this establishment. Brutality --
6 we're all schoolboys. I say all schoolboys; there was
7 older boys in the facility as it is, but we were in
8 a section of this. We got treated as -- we shouldnae
9 have been there. We really shouldn't have been there.
10 It's as simple as that. That is what I've got to say
11 about it. We shouldn't have been there. It was hush,
12 hush. Get us to the dining hall. We had a wee section
13 of the dining hall, whipped away again, back locked up
14 again, they never had any -- for the schoolboys .

15 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, do the documents we have give us
16 a date for the Longriggend section?

17 MS MACLEOD: We don't have a specific date of admission
18 there.

19 A. 1977, it was.

20 LADY SMITH: You think it was in 1977 and it was a number of
21 months?

22 A. Yes. Seven months I was there, and I got took to
23 Polmont after that.

24 LADY SMITH: I wondered about that. I think when you gave
25 your written statement you thought it was five months.

1 It doesn't matter. Certainly a number of months.

2 A. It was all added into my sentence because my sentence

3 had no remission on it, because I was under

4 a section 413 social work order I was in there, like the

5 care and protection kind of thing.

6 LADY SMITH: Just to help you with that, I think that would

7 have been a sentence from the Sheriff Court because you

8 were in the court system.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: That's not the social work order. Social work

11 orders, as you're thinking of them, would be coming from

12 the Panel.

13 A. I think you're right, aye.

14 LADY SMITH: I think you were one of these people who may

15 have ended up with both types of order affecting you,

16 the Children's Panel orders which would have been under

17 the 1968 Social Work (Scotland) Act, and, once the

18 Criminal Procedure 1975 Act was in force, there was

19 provision for children, but those were court orders for

20 detention.

21 A. To get us locked up.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 A. Yes. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: While you're in detention, the Children's Panel

25 order would have been suspended, but then it would have

1 come back into force at the end of whatever the court's
2 sentence was.

3 At the stage you were at, it was probably very
4 confusing for you and I suspect nobody explained it at
5 the time.

6 A. Nothing was explained to me. I was still under the
7 belief it was the Social Work Department until you spoke
8 there ma'am.

9 LADY SMITH: If it was a section 413, that's from the court.
10 It's from the Sheriff Court.

11 A. It was a section 413.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: At Longriggend, 'Charlie', you mention you had
14 an issue with a particular prison officer there?

15 A. Right, ZHEG .

16 Q. I think you mention you were being constantly hit and
17 bullied by a particular prison officer?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. You may have retaliated?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. And you say you were charged with assault and that was
22 added on --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- when you appeared at court?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You provide evidence, in paragraphs 93 and 94, about
2 your transfer to Polmont --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and your experience there. I think you tell us that
5 -- you say that -- in Polmont you understood the rules
6 and that it was easier to cope with the routine?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You say there's nothing that went on that you need to
9 tell -- that you feel you need to tell the Inquiry about
10 at Polmont?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. Again, did you leave Polmont quite suddenly and without
13 the knowledge of your family at least?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it a surprise to your family when you were released?

16 A. Well, I went in a boy and I came out a man.

17 Q. You say that your parents got a shock when you turned up
18 out of the blue?

19 A. Yes, my sister didnae recognise me. She said: who's
20 that?

21 She never recognised me. I had changed.

22 Q. You were still only 17, you say?

23 A. Yes -- 16.

24 Q. You tell us in paragraph 96 that you continued a life of
25 crime and spent a period of time in Barlinnie --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- in 1979, where you say you were one of the youngest
3 prisoners at the time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In relation to Barlinnie, you say that you were well
6 looked after there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say at that time that you liked being in prison,
9 and felt safe there?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You had no difficulty in there at that time.

12 You then provide some information, 'Charlie', about
13 your life after being in care. That's all set out in
14 your statement. But I would just like to ask you
15 a little bit about that, if that's okay?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You begin by telling us that you drifted into a world of
18 crime and drugs, and that you were using drugs at that
19 time?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say that you taught yourself to read and write while
22 you were in prison, in fact?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In relation to your health, you say that you are now
25 clean and getting your life back?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And have re-established relations with your family?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Moving on then to the section where you deal with impact
5 and the impact that you believe your time in care has
6 had on your life. You provide some information there.
7 You say that your childhood was wrecked by the system?

8 A. Yes. I never knew that at the time.

9 Q. That's a reflection, is it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You say you were originally meant to go to St John
12 Bosco's for a year, and ended up spending more than five
13 years in the care system:

14 '... until it finally turned me into a criminal and
15 I didn't have a say in my own destiny.'

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You provide some information about reporting abuse. We
18 spoke about it already, that when you were at
19 St John Bosco's, you didn't report to the police. I
20 think you mention you may have reported it to police
21 officers on site, the trainee police officers?

22 A. Yes, cadets, two cadets. I tried to explain to the
23 police because there was -- they looked like police
24 officers to me, they still had their big uniform, they
25 had a blue band round their hat -- young guys same as

1 myself, but a bit older, and I says to them about
2 Brother LMW and the guy was shocked. The police
3 officer guy was shocked, as if he was -- 'You shouldnae
4 be telling me -- this stuff doesnae happen in here',
5 sort of thing, and the expression on his face was enough
6 for me. That was --

7 Q. Nothing happened as a result of you telling him that?

8 A. No.

9 Q. In terms of lessons to be learned, at the end of your
10 statement, 'Charlie', you say in paragraph 111 that you
11 hope that what happened to you never happens to any
12 other child in the care system?

13 A. Yes, definitely. Yes, 100 per cent.

14 Q. 'Charlie', thank you very much for answering all my
15 questions today. I just want to check in with you: is
16 there anything you would like to add or say at this
17 point before we complete your evidence?

18 A. Well, I've had a thought -- I think about this, being
19 here, and it's to do with these -- I'll call them
20 establishments -- these establishments.

21 I think there should be an independent person goes
22 in there and is active in that place, but is not one of
23 their colleagues, to get to know the males or the
24 females as children, and if they've got any problems to
25 speak to this person and she reports it to a higher up

1 person, but not to the establishment. That's basically
2 it.

3 And I'd like to say thank you very much to Edinburgh
4 and Lothian's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre because
5 I'm sitting here today because of these guys, and
6 I'm seven-and-a-half years clean and sober. And that's
7 all I've got to say.

8 Q. Thank you very much, 'Charlie'.

9 My Lady, I can confirm I haven't received any
10 applications for questions of the witness.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 'Charlie', well done for that. That's a long period
13 to have got yourself on the straight and narrow, or
14 whatever expression you'd want to use. But well done
15 for everything you have helped us with today.
16 I'm really grateful to you for doing that. It has
17 brought quite a lot of what was in black and white on
18 paper to life, sadly, but it's important and I'm sure
19 you appreciate how important it is to the overall work
20 we're doing here for me to have heard that.

21 Thank you so much. I'm now able to let you go.

22 A. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: Just before I rise for the lunch break, names
25 that have been used this morning in the course of

1 evidence I'd like to mention, because they're people
2 whose identities are protected by my General Restriction
3 Order and they can't be identified as being people who
4 are referred to in our evidence.

5 There was a Brother GTD, Father LOE,
6 Father LOB, Father LUF, Father LNB,
7 Brother LMW or LMW, a Mr HPS and a
8 MJK or MJK, so please take note of that.
9 Otherwise I'll sit again at 2 o'clock and we'll have
10 another witness in person at that point. Thank you.

11 (12.56 pm)

12 (The luncheon adjournment)

13 (2.00 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, Mr MacAulay.

15 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady, we have another witness and this
16 witness wants to retain his anonymity and to use the
17 pseudonym 'Joseph' in giving evidence. In light of his
18 status, he probably does have to be warned.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

20 'Joseph' (sworn)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', thank you for being here this
22 afternoon. As you know, we're interested to ask you
23 some questions about the time that you worked at
24 St John Bosco's, and Mr MacAulay will do that shortly.

25 But, before we get to your evidence, first of all,

1 can I just say that I do appreciate engaging in giving
2 evidence to a public inquiry, which of its nature means
3 you're giving evidence in public, is of itself
4 stressful. I do understand that taking people back to
5 ask them about things that happened a long time ago
6 isn't easy and sometimes it can be hard to be clear
7 about what happened. Sometimes you may just not
8 remember what happened and I appreciate that.

9 I don't want you to feel under undue pressure.
10 I don't want you to feel that we can go at any pace
11 other than the pace that suits you. If that means that
12 you would like a break at any time, please don't
13 hesitate to let me know, whether that's just sitting
14 quietly where you are or leaving the room for
15 a breather. You can do that. If it works for you, it
16 will work for me.

17 Because what's important to me is to do what I can
18 to help you give your evidence as well as you can, give
19 the best evidence that you can and as clear evidence as
20 we can get for the purposes of this public inquiry.

21 Now, let me turn to something else, 'Joseph'.
22 Although this is a public inquiry and you might think
23 that's something like a court, we're not actually. But
24 although we are not like a court, you do have all the
25 protections that you would have in a courtroom, whether

1 it was a criminal court or a civil court, and that
2 includes that you don't have to answer any questions the
3 responses to which might incriminate you. It's your
4 choice. But if you do start answering any such
5 questions, of course you're obliged to give full answers
6 because you've just undertaken that you will tell the
7 whole truth.

8 If you're in any doubt at any time, 'Joseph',
9 whether what we're asking you is that sort of question
10 that you're quite entitled to refuse to answer, please
11 just check. Don't sit worrying about it, just speak up.
12 Or indeed if at any time you don't understand what we're
13 asking you, that's our fault not yours, so just tell us
14 and we'll try harder.

15 Does that all make sense?

16 Thank you.

17 If you're ready, now, 'Joseph', I'll hand over to
18 Mr MacAulay and he'll take it from there. Mr MacAulay.

19 Questions by Mr MacAulay

20 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

21 Yes, good afternoon, 'Joseph'. Although Lady Smith
22 has referred to me as Mr MacAulay, I'm happy for you to
23 refer to me as Colin, because we like to try to be on
24 first name terms in the Inquiry.

25 In the red folder in front of you, you'll find the

1 current draft of the statement that you have provided to
2 the Inquiry and it's there simply as an aide-mémoire to
3 you because it's quite detailed, it may not be wholly
4 accurate and it will be there in front of you as a draft
5 throughout the course of your evidence. So you can have
6 regard to it at any point in time. You may find it
7 useful as I'm going through your evidence, relying
8 really very much so on the headings in the statement,
9 for you to look at the statement to see what you've said
10 when you gave the statement.

11 LADY SMITH: Just before Mr MacAulay goes on, could I add,
12 'Joseph', I know that the document in front of you is
13 a draft, and I also know from long experience of the
14 Inquiry that many witnesses, when they see the draft of
15 their statement, want to add to it, point out that some
16 things aren't right, think about it, or whatever. Put
17 shortly, I know that's not your signed statement and
18 it's probably not your final word on everything. At the
19 moment really, I just regard it as a guide to the topics
20 that you're asked about, so don't worry if the statement
21 is wrong in any way, or missing something in any way.
22 It doesn't count against you. Can I put it that way?

23 Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MACAULAY: 'Joseph', I don't need to know your full date
25 of birth because you want to remain anonymous. But to

1 give context to the evidence that you're going to give;
2 can you confirm to me that you were born in 1942.
3 A. I was, yes.
4 Q. So you're in your 80s?
5 A. 81.
6 Q. As her Ladyship has said, you have come here to give
7 evidence in connection with your time at
8 St John Bosco's, in Aberdour. I think you tell us in
9 the draft statement that the school of St John Bosco's
10 was always referred to by you and others as 'Aberdour'?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Is that right?
13 A. Amongst the members of our religious order, it's
14 a shorthand way of -- saying 'I was sent to Aberdour'
15 means 'I was sent to St John Bosco's School'.
16 Q. Just on that then: can you tell me when you first went
17 to Aberdour?
18 A. If my memory serves me right, half past four on
19 16 September 196█.
20 Q. That is the sign of a good memory if you can remember
21 that.
22 A. Some things are sharper than others.
23 Q. Very young then, at that time?
24 A. Yes, I was nearly 21.
25 Q. And what was your background then, before you went to

1 Aberdour?

2 A. I was training to become a Salesian. So I'd done
3 secondary school at the Salesian College near
4 Macclesfield, I had done a one year novitiate, which is
5 when you learn about the religious order, and I had done
6 three years advanced levels and philosophical studies.

7 Q. What was the purpose in you going to Aberdour at that
8 young age?

9 A. That would be what we call 'practical training'. Three
10 years of learning on the job.

11 Q. Were you there for three years?

12 A. No, I was there for two years and then, to get a wider
13 experience, the provincial moved me to the college near
14 Macclesfield. They needed somebody to do a bit of music
15 and I think he thought I had better qualifications than
16 I had. After five months, the other music man came
17 back, and I was sent back to Aberdour because they
18 needed the kind of music that I could do.

19 Q. If you left in 196█; were you back in 196█, or perhaps
20 into 196█?

21 A. I would say January 196█.

22 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that when you
23 returned you were there for -- can you tell me how long
24 you were there?

25 A. Until -- the rest of that session. And I would be due

1 to move on to theological studies, so I was sent to
2 Italy to do those, but I used to return in the summer
3 and go back to Aberdour to give a hand.

4 Q. And how long did you spend in Italy?

5 A. Four years.

6 Q. Now, just looking at that early period -- because you
7 come back later on to Aberdour and I'll look at that
8 later on -- what role did you have to perform?

9 A. In those early days, you did more or less everything:
10 teach the kids; take them into their recreation; take
11 them and put them to bed. It was a very small staff and
12 a very small school, and in completely different
13 physical facilities.

14 Q. Can I put a photograph on the screen for you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. This is INQ-000000872. Do you recognise that as
17 Aberdour?

18 A. I recognise that as Hillside House, but that was only
19 part of the school.

20 Q. Yes. When you arrived at the school, I think you tell
21 us in your draft statement that there were also wooden
22 huts that were used?

23 A. Yes, military-type huts.

24 Q. But this is the main building we're looking at in this
25 photograph?

1 A. No. The huts were the main buildings. This was
2 really -- as far as the boys were concerned, this was
3 only sleeping quarters.

4 Q. You say the huts were the main buildings; is that where
5 activities took place?

6 A. That is where the classrooms were, the dining room,
7 a games room, that sort of thing. Woodwork room.

8 Q. And you suggest in the draft statement there were about
9 35 boys there --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- at that time, when you went there first?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. A range of ages?

14 A. I always understood secondary school age.

15 Q. Can you remember if there were any boys there who might
16 have been younger than secondary school age, if
17 secondary school age is 11 or 12?

18 A. Yes, there might have been exceptions under that age.

19 Q. Looking to the staff then, that were there when you went
20 there in the 1960s; can you tell me about that? For
21 example, were the staff all Salesians?

22 A. When I went there for the very first time, I think the
23 staff was four Salesians. Then we employed a lay member
24 of staff as a gardening instructor and from then --
25 of course, there were always the cook and domestics, and

1 there was a matron.

2 Q. But insofar as direct involvement with the boys would be
3 concerned; do I take it then that really it was the
4 Salesians that would be directly involved with the boys?

5 A. Mostly. Except the matron, of course, would have
6 involvement with the kids.

7 Q. Can you remember the names of the other Salesians?

8 A. When I first went there, it was Father LOE ,
9 Father GVS , Brother LMW and
10 a Brother zGTD who was finishing, and I was
11 taking over from him.

12 Q. You have indicated there the distinction between those
13 who were priests and those who were Brothers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And Brothers could go on and become priests?

16 A. Some Brothers went on to be priests, others stayed
17 Brothers all their lives.

18 Q. I think we heard somewhere that -- from somebody that
19 there would be SNR ?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was that Father GVS when you went there?

22 A. At that time, yes.

23 Q. But there was a Father Rector?

24 A. Yes, that's confusing in Scotland.

25 Q. Can you explain it to us?

1 A. The rector is the superior of the religious community as
2 a religious community. SNR is SNR
3 the school.

4 Q. And when you were there in this first period; did you
5 have any teaching duties?

6 A. Oh, yes.

7 Q. Did you teach particular subjects?

8 A. No, it was mostly remedial education. In fact,
9 100 per cent remedial education.

10 Q. And at that time did you have a teaching qualification?

11 A. I had an English teaching qualification, which wasn't
12 recognised in Scotland. I had to do something about it.

13 Q. We have had evidence from men, boys who went to
14 St John Bosco's at Aberdour at this time, that duties
15 such as cleaning duties fell upon them; was that the
16 position when you were there, that the cleaning of the
17 premises was carried out by the boys?

18 A. I really can't remember. I really can't remember.
19 It's -- erm.

20 Q. And at that first period then; what can you tell me
21 about the atmosphere at the school?

22 A. In all the time that I was there, we tried to follow
23 St John Bosco's philosophy, creating a relaxed,
24 friendly, warm atmosphere, more like a children's home.
25 Of course, sometimes the kids were difficult and it

1 didn't always work out in a friendly kind of way. But
2 by and large we wanted to create a happy atmosphere.

3 Q. Can you remember how a child might be disciplined at
4 that time?

5 A. In those days, I think there was still the option of not
6 watching television. Yeah, there was, because I would
7 take the ones who weren't watching television. That's
8 how I learnt to type. So not watching television,
9 certainly, and things like that would be punishments.

10 Q. And you've mentioned the Salesian approach to education,
11 and that was very much at the core of Don Bosco's
12 philosophy and we'll hear more about that, I think, on
13 Friday. But -- and you tell us this in your draft
14 statement, at paragraph 14, that Don Bosco believed that
15 kids had to feel that you loved them if you wanted to do
16 any good at all?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Was that the sort of atmosphere that the founder of the
19 Order envisaged?

20 A. Don Bosco said it's not enough that the boys be loved,
21 but they must know that they are loved.

22 Q. And you tell us, and again we may hear more about this
23 on Friday, that he referred to this as the 'preventative
24 system'?

25 A. No, 'preventive'.

1 Q. Can you elaborate upon that? What did he mean by that?

2 A. First of all, it's not the best name in English. It

3 comes from the Latin, *praevenire*, to go before. And the

4 idea is that you're not just there counting the heads,

5 you're there before them, you're there with them, and

6 you're there after them.

7 Q. Can I ask you about something you say in paragraph 18

8 and -- about supervision? And I think you say, four

9 lines down:

10 'Part of the time, the rector was also the deputy

11 social worker.'

12 Can I just understand that: are you talking there

13 about a time later?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Just on that, to cut to the chase, so to speak, you

16 leave and you're back, as you've indicated, when you had

17 the summer holidays. But you return once you are fully

18 qualified, if I can use that word, in 197█?

19 A. Yes. I think by then there was a different school

20 altogether.

21 Q. Can we just put something on the screen for you?

22 Unfortunately, we don't have a photograph, but there is

23 a drawing that I would like you to look at. This is at

24 FIC-000000682.

25 A. Not appeared yet.

1 Q. If you just get your bearings, 'Joseph'. At the top
2 part of the drawing, you'll see reference to the
3 existing house and then, off to the left, the, I think,
4 proposed new buildings. You get the reverse image on
5 the bottom.

6 Although it's difficult to make out, I think this is
7 dated 1968, but I may be wrong.

8 But when you went back in 197█, as you said, it was
9 a different building; had an extension been built on to
10 the former building?

11 A. Yes, but this doesn't do justice to it, because the main
12 part of the building is away from these two shots.

13 That's the back and the front of the big house, but the
14 new building went away. It's at right angles to this.

15 I could have supplied a beautiful photograph of the
16 whole school.

17 Q. And to use the word 'beautiful', this was a beautiful
18 location?

19 A. It was a beautiful school.

20 Q. And a beautiful location?

21 A. Yes, a lovely school and lovely location.

22 LADY SMITH: When you say 'at right angles to this'; was the
23 other new building that was proposed at right angles to
24 the old building or the new building that we can see in
25 the architect's drawings there?

1 A. It's at right angles to the big, grey house, but going
2 away from you as you look at this. This new building is
3 very short. It was like -- not an L, an L with two
4 legs, but this is the shortest of the legs. You've got
5 a long leg and another long leg, with classrooms on this
6 leg and dormitories or units on this leg. So you are
7 only getting a small picture of the building there.

8 MR MACAULAY: From what you say then, this was quite
9 extensive --

10 A. It was a whole new building, a whole new school.

11 LADY SMITH: What we've got there is, at the top, the south
12 elevation. So is that the back of the old house, as we
13 looked at the photograph we saw a few minutes ago?

14 A. Can you show me both? I have the top one. At the
15 moment I can see --

16 LADY SMITH: The south. Then below it is the north.

17 A. Let me look at the bottom.

18 LADY SMITH: Can we just go down to the north elevation,
19 that's the bit below?

20 A. No, the bottom one is the front of the house, yes, at
21 the door.

22 LADY SMITH: I thought it was because you can see the main
23 door there and the railings that seem to fence off
24 a space -- it would be the basement below it.

25 A. Yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: And then that top drawing is the back of the --
2 A. The back of the big house, yes.
3 LADY SMITH: And that's when we're seeing more of what the
4 proposed extension is going to consist of --
5 A. But you're not seeing the majority of the new extension
6 at all there.
7 LADY SMITH: Is that just because it's compressed, the way
8 the drawing has been done?
9 A. No, it's perspective. It's going away from you.
10 LADY SMITH: Yes, I see. Thank you.
11 MR MACAULAY: I appreciate this doesn't give the full
12 impression as to what the building looked like, but this
13 was what you faced when you went back in 1971?
14 A. Yes. I think it was finished. I think it was finished.
15 There were later additions, as I've said in my
16 statement. Later on we got permission to build a sports
17 hall, known as a play barn, a big sports hall, and we
18 also built an administration block.
19 Q. Perhaps I could take you to the draft statement at
20 paragraph 11, because you are quoting from a document
21 that you've provided to the Inquiry and I'll just --
22 I'll get this into the transcript:
23 'The present buildings consist of a main block
24 completed in 1970, housing classrooms, art and technical
25 facilities, recreation rooms and two units for the

1 accommodation of the children. A sports hall was added
2 in 1973, a fantastic play barn along with general
3 purpose TV and assembly room. In 1979, the
4 administration block was completed.'

5 You go on to say:

6 'So the whole physical layout was beautifully done
7 and very modern.'

8 At this time then, when you went back, so far as the
9 main house was concerned, if I can refer to that; what
10 was that used for?

11 A. I think that now is a -- resort is the wrong word.
12 Returned. No, that is the wrong word. Became --
13 I'm just thinking. The Salesians lived in it. I don't
14 think the boys had any need to go into it at all. The
15 top floor used to be the dormitories, but they were now
16 individual Salesians' rooms and, bottom floor, yes,
17 I don't think the kids went in there at all. Except,
18 later on, we put a pottery in the basement and so kids
19 sometimes went down there.

20 Q. Now, if we focus on the period in the 1960s when you
21 were associated with Aberdour; did you get any sense of
22 children being maltreated at that time?

23 A. There was occasional slap to a boy and occasional smack
24 on the bottom with a slipper when somebody had been
25 causing trouble at night. Since the boys' dormitories

1 were in the grey house, the big house, and the rest of
2 the school was down below, then perhaps it had to be
3 dealt with then.

4 Q. Would that fall upon a Salesian to do that?

5 A. I think so.

6 Q. At that time because they were the main staff.

7 But, leaving aside that -- leaving aside that sort
8 of treatment; did you have any sense of there being any
9 maltreatment that was inappropriate, if I can put it
10 that way?

11 A. No, I don't think so.

12 Q. If I can put this to you: when boys were having showers,
13 for example, have you any recollection of how that was
14 managed?

15 A. In those early days, the showers would be taken in the
16 other building, in the green huts. I'm not sure when,
17 but at some time in the timetable they would be taken
18 for showers, which were at the far end of the green
19 huts. The only time they would take a shower in the big
20 building was if they'd wet the bed.

21 Q. In relation to when they were taking showers in the hut;
22 was that supervised by either a priest or a Brother?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And was that something that you had to do yourself?

25 A. Not in the green huts, no.

1 Q. So you weren't present at any time when these showers
2 were being taken?

3 A. In the green huts, no.

4 Q. And in the main building?

5 A. The main building, there was a spell when I was in
6 charge of the showers. The headteacher asked me to do
7 the showers because there was an outbreak of -- is it
8 scabies? I can't remember, and we had to see that the
9 kids were -- the kids' skin was clean, so I was asked to
10 take charge of the showers. So I adopted the Salesian
11 principles and boys would come down in groups. I think
12 it might have been eight, might have been six. And when
13 we were coming to the end of a particular group, I would
14 go upstairs to the dormitories with the penultimate boy,
15 so that I wasn't left in the showers with one boy and
16 I would tell the boy to put the light off and I would
17 tell the person in charge of the unit, 'There's one more
18 to come. If he doesn't appear in a few minutes, we need
19 to investigate in case he disappeared'. But I wouldn't
20 be left in the showers by myself with one boy. That was
21 automatic Salesian training.

22 Q. In your supervision of the showers that you supervised;
23 would you carry out any inspection?

24 A. Yes, I had to inspect the boys. The shower consisted of
25 a shower basin and a similar area in front of that in

1 each cubicle. So I had my own -- my own -- our
2 practice. I never went into the cubicle. I was always
3 in sight of the other boys who were getting dressed.
4 I always treated the moment, which was a delicate
5 moment, I treated it quickly and I treated it with
6 utmost respect. No silly comments, no jokes, and
7 protecting them and protecting myself.

8 Q. And when you put it that way; would that require to
9 inspect a boy's genital area?

10 A. As far as you could from that distance. I never --
11 I made it as quick as possible and I never went any
12 closer.

13 Q. Let's look at when you go back in 197█ --

14 A. All that is after 197█ in the new buildings. The period
15 I was talking about with the showers is in the new
16 buildings.

17 Q. Not in the main build -- I see.

18 A. I never checked the showers in the green huts or in the
19 big house.

20 Q. I was confused. So thank you for clarifying that. So
21 we're talking about 197█ and onwards in relation to your
22 role as you've described it?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Well, I picked you up wrongly as well because
25 you said that you weren't present at showering in the

1 green huts.

2 A. That's right.

3 LADY SMITH: But you said the main building, there was

4 a spell when you were in charge of the showers.

5 A. Yes. I'm sorry --

6 LADY SMITH: And that you related to an outbreak of scabies.

7 A. Yes, I should have said the new building, not the main

8 building.

9 LADY SMITH: Oh, that's where our confusion came from.

10 A. By then the new building was the main building.

11 LADY SMITH: I think Mr MacAulay thought you were referring

12 to the old -- it looks like a 19th century house.

13 A. It is, yes. But, as far as the boys were concerned, it

14 didn't feature anymore.

15 MR MACAULAY: And the huts that you mention no longer

16 existed when you went back in 197█?

17 A. Wait a minute now, one little block did. That was the

18 outside toilets on the yard, and I think we kept what

19 had been the games room and turned it into a theatre or

20 concert hall. So there were still some green huts, but

21 the long line -- I think, I'm vague on this -- the long

22 line of green huts, I think, had gone.

23 Q. As far as showering was concerned, when you came back in

24 197█, the shower area was in the new block?

25 A. New school, yeah.

1 Q. When you went back in 197█ -- can I just ask you about
2 the set-up with regard to the staff? Again, you would
3 have a Father Rector?
4 A. Not on the staff, necessarily.
5 Q. But there would be a Father Rector █ SNR █?
6 A. No, you had a headmaster -- I'm talking about the
7 school. Headmaster, and by then we had two deputies,
8 a deputy education and a deputy social work, a team of
9 teachers and a team of residential social workers or
10 care workers. The rector might be part of one of those
11 teams or he might not. But he would be a superior of
12 the Salesians, but not the school.
13 Q. That explains the comment you made earlier about the
14 rector also being a deputy social worker?
15 A. Yeah.
16 Q. Who then was SNR █ when you went back?
17 A. When I went back it was Father LOB █.
18 Q. And SNR █?
19 A. SNR █ would be ... I'm just trying to think.
20 Q. Perhaps while you're thinking, I can put this to you:
21 were SNR █ members of the Order?
22 A. At some time, yes. Father zLUF █ was SNR █
23 SNR █ and I think maybe Father █ was █
24 █. SNR █ would be █ and
25 I think he was always SNR █ -- I don't think I was

1 ever SNR . I think the two teams must
2 have -- I really don't remember.

3 Q. But perhaps what I should be asking you: had the
4 structure of the staff changed, in that there were
5 Salesians present, but there were also lay staff?

6 A. Oh yes, much -- yes.

7 Q. Can you just describe that for me, how that had changed?

8 A. Well, as I said, we started off with four Salesians and
9 we finished up with 21 staff. So most of that 21 would
10 be lay people, men or women.

11 Q. Is that, at the time -- shortly before the school
12 closed?

13 A. Before I left, yes. When I left, there would be
14 a deputy education and three teachers and two
15 instructors and a deputy social work and maybe three or
16 four residential social workers.

17 Q. So the landscape had changed quite significantly since
18 the 1960s, into the 1970s and beyond?

19 A. Oh yes. Yes.

20 Q. As far as training is concerned, you told us about
21 having a teaching training qualification, which wasn't
22 legal in Scotland, if I can put it that way, but did
23 that change? Did you get more qualifications?

24 A. In Scotland, in the Approved School system, as it was
25 then, English qualifications were recognised for salary

1 purposes. So -- but the GTC didn't accept them, so
2 I wanted -- had to do something about that myself. My
3 colleague, Dennis, we went on the Hamilton College
4 remedial teachers course, and that consisted of
5 in-service training over the summer for two years and
6 observed teaching for the year in between.

7 LADY SMITH: When you say GTC; is it possible you mean GTCS,
8 the General Teaching Council for Scotland?

9 A. You're probably right, ma'am.

10 LADY SMITH: I don't think that the GTC would have any
11 interest in what --

12 A. I had a long fight with them, ma'am --

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 A. -- because -- you don't need the story. But to do the
15 remedial teachers course, you had to supply your
16 superannuation number, which I had, but, looking back,
17 they should have asked for my registration number. So
18 I did the course and got the certificate, and then that
19 put a small cat among some small pigeons.

20 MR MACAULAY: I want to ask you a little more about
21 discipline and how boys might have been punished in the
22 1960s, and whether in comparison or not to the 1970s and
23 beyond.

24 If we look at your first stint at Aberdour; was
25 corporal punishment being used?

1 A. Corporal punishment we used as our last resort, and that
2 applies to all the time in the school. So the belt was
3 used, like I say, as a last resort, and I think we got
4 more out of the belt by not using it than by using it.

5 Q. Let's look at the first period then, when you were
6 a junior member of the staff; did you yourself use
7 corporal punishment?

8 A. No, in those days you would only be -- it was --
9 corporal punishment was reserved to the head and maybe
10 the deputy.

11 Q. In this period of the 1960s; did you witness corporal
12 punishment being used, either by the head or the deputy
13 head?

14 A. Only on those occasions that I mentioned in the
15 dormitory, when a slipper might be used.

16 Q. If we look at the use of the belt --

17 A. No, I didn't witness it.

18 Q. Then, if we move on to the time that you're there in the
19 1970s, and I think corporal punishment was still being
20 used in the 1970s; what was the position before you
21 became -- I think you tell us you became SNR
22 and SNR. Was the belt being used?

23 A. It was. Hopefully rarely, but it was used by the
24 headmaster.

25 Q. On occasions, I think we'll see the deputy head might

1 step in if the headmaster wasn't available?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. But, again, [REDACTED]; were

4 you involved in any way in belting a child?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You have a section in the draft statement on page 7,

7 beginning at paragraph 26, and it's headed:

8 'Personal influence.'

9 If we look at paragraph 29, the section dealing with

10 child protection, you begin by saying:

11 'As Salesians, child protection has always been one

12 of our strong points.'

13 You go on to talk about how Don Bosco worked with

14 young boys and young men, but 'he wasn't starry eyed';

15 can you just develop that for me? What do you mean by

16 that?

17 A. Well, Don Bosco knew that there could be sexual problems

18 among boys and he also knew, I think I'm right in

19 saying, that this kind of work could attract the wrong

20 kind of person. So he knew what he was dealing with, so

21 he put structures in place to protect, as I say, the

22 boys and also the staff.

23 Q. You have mentioned this before, but one of the points

24 that he made was that a Salesian should never be alone

25 with a child; and that's to protect the child?

1 A. Yeah, and the staff.

2 Q. In relation to education -- you have touched upon this
3 already -- was there any difference in the way children
4 were being educated in the 1960s as against the time
5 when you were back in the 1970s?

6 A. I can't really say. It was always kind of remedial
7 education. The kids, many of them couldn't read
8 properly, couldn't write or do arithmetic. We used
9 television programmes, but nothing like today's,
10 of course.

11 When I was teaching, I found if you hit a vein of
12 interest, you would follow it. If the kids got
13 interested in something you were talking about, that
14 could become a topic for a day or two, and maybe get
15 them to write something about it or something like that.
16 When we did a course, we did project work, and things
17 like that.

18 Q. Are you talking here, perhaps, about when you were
19 SNR or --

20 A. No, when I was teaching.

21 Q. One of the issues that has arisen in the evidence
22 presented to the Inquiry -- and I don't know to what
23 extent you're aware of this -- is the allegation that
24 there was a lack of education and that boys left
25 St John Bosco's without being able to read and write;

1 can you comment on that for me?

2 A. Well, I couldn't say if it was true or false, in the
3 sense that, you know, they were given the chance to
4 learn to read and write. If a boy could manage academic
5 subjects, then there was the chance to go to day school
6 outwith the school. That was rare, but it happened.
7 Boys went to St Margaret's in Dunfermline.

8 Q. On that, can you tell me if you're looking there,
9 perhaps, at the latter part of St John Bosco's existence
10 rather than the 1960s and into the 1970s?

11 A. I just wouldn't be sure.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 Perhaps I should take this from you now, because at
14 paragraph 32 you mention under the heading:
15 'Most notable achievement.'

16 And that's against the background of the Secretary
17 of State wanting to close the school, and I think you
18 were involved in a campaign at that time to keep the
19 school open; you were SNR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I know we're jumping ahead a bit, but can you tell me
22 about that?

23 A. Well, we began to hear stories that the List D School --
24 they were List D Schools by then -- were going to be
25 dismantled and put into the care of the Local

1 Authorities and so some schools would be closed and some
2 schools would be handed over to Local Authorities.
3 I don't know how it all developed, but the Secretary of
4 State brought out a paper with five criteria for a good
5 List D School: closeness to centres of population; high
6 occupancy rate ... I don't think I can remember the
7 other three.

8 But we decided -- well, we're already meeting these
9 criteria. We had a good team and a good school, that we
10 were proud of, and we didn't want to see it disappear.

11 We also believed that people using the school
12 appreciated it and wanted to use it.

13 Now, I can't remember. This was probably already
14 part of an ongoing wooing process, if you like, with
15 social work departments and things like that. By then
16 we're into the Children's Panels era, so it's up to the
17 Local Authority Social Work Department to suggest to the
18 Panel that this child might benefit with a spell in
19 Aberdour.

20 So we decided that we would see how strong that
21 support was. So we took the names and addresses out of
22 the visitors' book -- we had many visitors, social
23 workers, teachers, Panel members. Take the names out of
24 the visitors' book, if they'd signed it, write to them
25 on one of the earliest mail merge programmes that had

1 come out -- not in the school, but one of the managers
2 had access to one -- and asked them personally: when,
3 you know, you visited the school as a psychologist, you
4 visited the school as a social worker, if you think
5 St John Bosco's is worth keeping, would you write to the
6 Secretary of State and tell him?

7 And I understand that we got a magnificent response
8 and the Secretary of State decided not to close the
9 school, but of course he was keeping his powder dry for
10 a later date.

11 Q. I think the Order has submitted to the Inquiry letters
12 in support of St John Bosco's at this time, in the early
13 1980s. But, as you pointed out, the school did close
14 in, I think, 1983?

15 A. Something like that.

16 Q. I should perhaps have taken this from you before, but
17 you [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] 197 [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you [REDACTED] from that position in 198 [REDACTED]?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So I think SNR [REDACTED] of the school, when the
22 school was closing down, was a lay person?

23 A. Yes. Mr [REDACTED].

24 Q. Who you mentioned before.

25 A. One of the senior civil servants in Social Work Services

1 Group -- Are you familiar, my Lady, with the strange
2 structure we worked under?

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 A. One of the senior civil servants said: if you are so
5 sure of yourselves; why don't you go independent?

6 And the lay staff said: okay, we will.

7 By then there weren't enough Salesians to carry on
8 running the school, so SNR [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and
9 his lay team took over the running of the school and
10 it's still running today, as far as I know.

11 MR MACAULAY: Before you became SNR [REDACTED] in 197[REDACTED]; had you
12 had a period where you [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]?

13 A. Yes, I think I became SNR [REDACTED] in a quiet sort of way,
14 around about 197[REDACTED], I think it was.

15 Q. When you were SNR [REDACTED], if we turn to paragraph 37,
16 there is a section dealing with managing and recruiting
17 staff, and you say:

18 'SNR [REDACTED] would manage their teams SNR [REDACTED] would
19 manage them.'

20 This is a situation when you were SNR [REDACTED]?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. By this time in Aberdour's existence; would SNR [REDACTED]
23 be lay persons or still Salesians?

24 A. No, as I said before, SNR [REDACTED] was
25 Mr [REDACTED]. SNR [REDACTED], that was

1 a Salesian at least on two occasions. Who was the first
2 one? I'm not sure. Maybe that was always a Salesian.
3 I can't remember. But not by design, if you know what
4 I mean. It'd be the most appropriate person to be [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] who might happen to be a Salesian.

6 Q. And in this period into the 1970s; did you have any
7 involvement in the recruitment of staff?

8 A. Only in -- first of all, we had a very small turnover of
9 staff. We had a team that grew, but not with a lot of
10 changes. So my memory of recruitment is quite sparse.
11 We advertised and interviewed in the usual way and
12 took references, but I don't remember too much about it.

13 Q. The training of staff then, you talk about that in
14 paragraph 40 in the draft statement:

15 'The training of all staff took the form of social
16 work staff who were not qualified receiving in-service
17 training with a view to future qualification.'

18 Are you there dealing with civilian staff?

19 A. Yes. Although, that could have been a young Salesian.
20 I don't remember.

21 Q. I should perhaps ask you that. Apart from the
22 established staff of the senior Salesians, if I can
23 refer to them as that, from time to time did young
24 Salesians, as you had done, come to play a role?

25 A. Yes, yes, yes. It becomes part of their training.

1 Q. We have also heard evidence there may have been retired
2 Salesians?
3 A. There were. Living in the community.
4 Q. Yes. Not in the buildings?
5 A. In the grey house at this stage. If we are in the 1970s
6 and 1980s, they would be in the big house, the grey
7 house.
8 Q. Once the new building had been finished?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. You go on in fact, in paragraph 43, to talk about the
11 living arrangements and comparing the position in the
12 1960s to subsequently.
13 I think when you first went there, you were in the
14 main house?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. And does that remain the position when you went back in
17 1971, but the boys were no longer there?
18 A. That's correct, yeah.
19 Q. You mentioned cleaners now going into the units, the
20 boys' units; do I take it from that, that certainly by
21 this time you had civilian cleaners?
22 A. Yes, domestics.
23 Q. Domestics. And at this time, when you were SNR
24 and so on in the 1970s; was there then cleaning staff
25 who took over, who did the cleaning jobs?

1 A. Well, I think there was always a couple of cleaners,
2 even in the early days.

3 Q. But, in any event, there was cleaning staff at this
4 point in time, in the 1970s?

5 A. I think so, yeah.

6 Q. One topic you discuss, at paragraph 51, is absconding
7 and the way you put that here is that you say:
8 'Absconding always concerned me. It went in waves.'
9 Now, can you just elaborate upon that? Was this
10 an issue that existed throughout your time, both in the
11 1960s and into the 1970s and beyond?

12 A. I don't think -- I think it was a rare sort of issue.
13 But if a boy ran away, or two ran away together, my
14 first thought would be: is this going to start another
15 wave?

16 So I would be concerned.

17 Q. Why would that be your first thought; that it might
18 start another wave?

19 A. Because I'd be responsible for it, SNR .

20 Q. But children did abscond?

21 A. They did, yes.

22 Q. That happened throughout your whole time -- your whole
23 association with Aberdour?

24 A. Yes, I think it was there, but not all the time.

25 Q. No, no. Did you ever -- what consideration did you give

1 to -- as to why a child might run away?

2 A. Well, whoever was dealing with it -- which might be me,
3 my memory is vague now, or part of the social team --
4 would try to find out what's behind it. And speaking in
5 general terms, I think, you know, if there was -- there
6 were issues to be looked at, that would be taken into
7 consideration. But I'm speaking more by theory than by
8 actual memory. But you want to deal with it firmly, but
9 at the same time sympathetically.

10 Q. In the next section, under the heading:
11 'Discipline and punishment.'
12 What you say at 54 is:
13 'We basically had the same approach as most schools
14 to discipline and punishment.'

15 A. I think there is a word missing.

16 Q. What is the word?

17 A. Salesian: same approach as most Salesian schools.

18 Q. I wondered about that.

19 A. I've not had a chance to read all this.

20 Q. Thank you for correcting, because it might be
21 questionable whether most schools would have an approach
22 that was warm and friendly to punishment, but that was
23 your philosophy?

24 A. That was our philosophy, yeah.

25 Q. Can we then look again at corporal punishment,

1 particularly in this second period, when you were there?

2 And you, at paragraph 56, say:

3 'Corporal punishment was the nuclear deterrent.'

4 So corporal punishment was still being used, but do

5 I take it from that that you're suggesting that it was

6 adoption of last resort?

7 A. It was adoption of last resort and when deemed

8 appropriate, as we've just said about absconding. And

9 also we phased it out ourselves in the school. I don't

10 remember the date when we said: we'll just gradually

11 phase it out.

12 Q. You tell us it may have been two-thirds of the way

13 through [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] ?

14 A. That's a guess.

15 Q. We're looking possibly at the latter part of the 1970s?

16 A. I really don't know.

17 Q. You don't know. But, at 56, what you say, four lines

18 from the top, is:

19 'You didn't automatically get the belt for

20 absconding, but you usually did.'

21 A. Yes. Again, that's my memory.

22 Q. And you go on to say:

23 'It was to discourage the others.'

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. From absconding. So do I take it from that that it

1 would become known that a child who had absconded had
2 received some form of corporal punishment?

3 A. Everything would become known, because -- in such
4 a small school. But, as we said earlier, if there were
5 circumstances to be taken into consideration then we
6 would.

7 Q. And again: was the corporal punishment that you are
8 talking about here, particularly for absconders, the use
9 of the belt?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And how was the belt used?

12 A. On the hand.

13 Q. Certainly, as SNR [REDACTED], that would be one of your
14 functions?

15 A. Yes, when I was SNR [REDACTED], yeah.

16 Q. I think you're aware of a document that has been
17 recovered by the Inquiry from the Scottish Government
18 and it comes out of a Scottish Education Department
19 file. I think you have seen this, 'Joseph'?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. It's SGV-001031939. Now, this is an interchange of
22 memos -- let's refer to them as that -- between
23 officials. And it follows upon Aberdour making what was
24 called a punishment return to SED.

25 Before I look at the document in detail, the

1 punishment return that was being made, as SNR or
2 indeed as possibly SNR; would you be involved in
3 making that return?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Were these made on a quarterly basis?

6 A. As far as I recall.

7 Q. Yes. And the information that went into the return; was
8 that taken from the punishment book?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So, if we turn to page 7 of the document, for obvious
11 reasons the names of the children have been redacted,
12 but can we see that this punishment return relates to
13 the period March 31, 1973, for the quarter ended, so
14 that would cover probably from January to March?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. There's a list that covers from 15 January through to
17 23 March. If we look at the offences that are being
18 dealt with, in the main, there is smoking referred to,
19 and failing to return, but in the main these are
20 offences of absconding?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would the information contained then here have been
23 taken, let's say by you if you were SNR, or
24 by somebody, taken from the punishment book and written
25 down verbatim in the return?

1 A. As far as I know, yes.

2 Q. You do see your name there, if you look to the column

3 'By whom the punishment was administered', and we have

4 your signature and, before that, we have a LOB [REDACTED],

5 that's Father LOB [REDACTED] who was SNR [REDACTED]?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. At this time, I think your position would be that of

8 SNR [REDACTED]?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Would that be a reasonable assumption?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. This is set out in a way that would accord with the

13 regulations, because when a punishment of this kind was

14 to be administered, it was also to be witnessed?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And we have, for example, the names of the witnesses in

17 the next column.

18 Now, I think you are aware, 'Joseph', that in

19 relation to the entries relating to you in respect of,

20 I think, three boys who had misbehaved rather badly, not

21 just absconding, but also breaking into vehicles and so

22 on, that we see the form of punishment is three times

23 two; does that tell us that it's three strokes of the

24 belt on both hands?

25 A. Yes, I think.

1 Q. I think you know from -- considering the document, that
2 under the regulations for children under 14 that the
3 limit was two strokes on each hand?
4 A. On each hand, yeah.
5 Q. This document -- this interoffice memo was simply to
6 raise the fact that you may have been -- when I say
7 'you' -- in administering the belt, had been in breach
8 of the regulations; you understand?
9 A. I understand the question.
10 Q. But we also take from this document, I think, that
11 although absconding may not have been a daily
12 occurrence, it was quite a regular occurrence, even in
13 1973?
14 A. Well, on that particular document, which covers three
15 months, there's one, two, three, four incidents of
16 absconding, so four in three months. It's not too bad.
17 Q. I suppose --
18 LADY SMITH: Sorry, you say that's not too bad; four in
19 three months?
20 A. Opinion, ma'am.
21 LADY SMITH: Is that what you just said? I was just trying
22 to pick it up.
23 A. Yes.
24 LADY SMITH: And the first one is the January one:
25 'persistent absconding'.

1 A. Yes, five times. There is persistent absconding five
2 times and then -- no, I've miscounted that.

3 LADY SMITH: There are quite a lot there. Right up to
4 March, you are getting to nearly a dozen.

5 A. Yes, I've counted the dates wrong.

6 MR MACAULAY: The last entry in March, AWL; is that 'away
7 without leave'?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What is the difference between 'away without leave' and
10 'absconding'?

11 A. I don't think there is a difference.

12 Q. Could it be that as we read -- as we move on -- 'failed
13 to return'. So if a boy gets legitimate leave of a day
14 or two and then fails to return; is that 'away without
15 leave', as opposed to simply absconding from the
16 premises? Could that be the difference?

17 A. It's not clear from the last entry whether that was
18 failed to return or absconding. No, I just don't know.

19 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, I see we're at 3 o'clock. We
20 usually have a break at this time.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes. 'Joseph', I normally take a break at this
22 point in the afternoon; would it work for you if we did
23 that just now?

24 A. I suppose the question -- rude question -- might be: how
25 long are we going to go on for on that?

1 LADY SMITH: The break will only be five or ten minutes and
2 it gives the stenographers a breather as well because
3 they've been working hard all day, all right? Thank you
4 very much.
5 (3.02 pm)
6 (A short break)
7 (3.10 pm)
8 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Joseph'. Is it okay if we carry
9 on now?
10 A. Yes.
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.
12 MR MACAULAY: If I can take you to what is paragraph 66 in
13 the draft statement, where you have a heading:
14 'Well-being.'
15 And you say:
16 'We didn't ask the kids about any concerns they may
17 have had specifically. We would speak to them out in
18 the yard.'
19 Then you go on to say:
20 'One of the things we did change was eating in the
21 dining room. Looking after the dining room was the
22 hardest job. Everybody seemed to recognise that. We
23 decided the best thing to do was to eat with the kids.'
24 So that was a change in the approach during the time
25 you were SNR ?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And previously then, before that; did the children eat
3 together without any member of staff being present?

4 A. No, there would be one member of staff present. I need
5 to clarify that first sentence now.

6 Q. Of course.

7 A. It doesn't sound very good. When I say: 'We didn't ask
8 the kids about any concerns they may have had
9 specifically', I mean in the general run of life.
10 Obviously, the social worker or whatever would be
11 talking about concerns. I think we're talking about out
12 in the yard and things like that. You would have
13 a normal conversation, things might come up, but it
14 comes across badly there.

15 Q. Just looking at this, what you sought to do here and, as
16 I understand it, improve the set-up in the dining room,
17 going back to the time you were there, in the 1960s;
18 what were the dining arrangements?

19 A. All the children ate together in the dining room. That
20 was always the case. There were 35 boys in a wooden
21 hut, it was much smaller, and there would be one person
22 in charge. So, at least as far as I was concerned, it
23 was a stressful time. But, later on, when the modern
24 school was built, still a stressful time with 50 boys.
25 But then we decided: let some of the staff eat with the

1 kids at every meal.

2 I think it was every meal. And that changed the
3 whole dynamic and became a much more relaxed affair.
4 You still had problems, but it was a much more natural
5 and homely sort of situation.

6 Q. Going back to the early 1960s; were children allowed to
7 converse in the dining room?

8 A. Oh, yes, yes.

9 Q. So there wasn't any situation whereby they couldn't
10 speak and there would be a reading of some sorts?

11 A. Oh, that sounds like the sort of thing we did in some of
12 our schools, but I don't know if it ever took place in
13 Aberdour.

14 Q. You've either got no recollection or you didn't witness
15 that?

16 A. Neither.

17 Q. There's a section in your draft statement, 'Joseph',
18 where you talk about problems at the establishment and
19 that's on page 18. We have already talked about
20 education.

21 One of the other areas you talk about are concerns
22 over placements. It's towards the bottom, at
23 paragraph 71. What you say is:

24 'We always said, although it was never
25 scientifically proven, that the boys placed at the

1 school were more disturbed as the years went by.'

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was there a change in the type of boy --

4 A. We always felt there was. I've no scientific research.

5 But we always felt that the boys were more disturbed as

6 the years went by and, as we often used to say: wee --

7 honest wee rogues weren't coming anymore.

8 It was more expensive to send children away.

9 Perhaps decisions were being changed -- postponed,

10 because it's more difficult. But we always had the

11 impression that, over the years, the children became

12 more disturbed that were sent to us.

13 Q. I didn't take this from you, but St John Bosco's was

14 originally a children's home --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- not an Approved School?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And it was made up -- it became an Approved School. And

19 we'll hear about that on Friday.

20 Another point you make, at paragraph 75 --

21 LADY SMITH: Just before Mr MacAulay goes on, to maybe more

22 of the same, I don't know, could I just explore with

23 you, 'Joseph', when you say children were 'disturbed' or

24 'more disturbed'; what is it you're telling me? What do

25 you mean by 'disturbed'?

1 A. More disturbed behaviour. More ...

2 LADY SMITH: What do you mean by that?

3 A. More unsettled, less amenable to sweet talk. More

4 violent reactions, perhaps.

5 Don Bosco said his system was based on

6 reasonableness, so that you would try to reason with

7 kids and talk to them about whatever was going on.

8 Maybe they -- I'm speculating now, ma'am. Just the

9 feeling that these kids are more disturbed than what we

10 were used to.

11 LADY SMITH: Did you get supplied with or did you try to

12 find out about these children's backgrounds, dating back

13 to when they first were taken away from their own homes?

14 A. Yes. We would get social enquiry reports.

15 An application would be made and the social worker

16 taking children to -- well, most of my time I'm talking

17 about the Children's Panel era -- taking somebody to the

18 Children's Panel and wanting to recommend residential

19 care would send social background reports. We would

20 read those, maybe ask for more information. Already

21 a picture would be beginning to emerge; was this

22 something that we could manage with?

23 We had the right to refuse, but it had to be handled

24 very carefully because if you did it more often, then

25 you'd lose your credibility and also your co-operation

1 with social work departments.

2 LADY SMITH: So were children ever accepted that, after you
3 had taken them in, you wished that you hadn't?

4 A. Oh yes. I have the headaches to prove it.

5 LADY SMITH: That's very frank. Thank you, 'Joseph'.

6 Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MACAULAY: Following through from that line of thought;
8 I take it that such children would be much more
9 difficult to control?

10 A. Yes. Or may -- to manage. Because sometimes they
11 weren't there to control, if they'd run away or
12 whatever. But, generally, more difficult to manage,
13 yeah.

14 Q. Bullying, you also address in your draft statement, at
15 paragraph 75; were there instances of known bullying at
16 Aberdour?

17 A. It's not something that stands out in my mind. As
18 I say, our approach would be to be with the boys in
19 recreation as well as in the classroom and in the dining
20 room. It would be more like a fight might take place,
21 then you might find that perhaps this boy had been
22 bullied before. But I don't have a memory of it being
23 a particular thing, except I remember telling one boy
24 off because he'd been bullied himself, and I tried to
25 tell him what it was like when he was a bully. At least

1 I think that's what I remember.

2 Q. If bullying was identified and a particular boy was
3 identified as being a bully; would he be punished?

4 A. I think it would be more -- I'm speculating now.

5 I don't remember any incident of somebody being
6 identified as a bully. I'm more likely to remember
7 somebody tormenting a smaller boy, if you know what
8 I mean, not on an ongoing basis, but just on
9 a particular case: well, why are you annoying him?

10 So I don't remember bullying being a particular
11 issue.

12 Q. If we look at what you say on page 21, under the general
13 heading of 'Abuse', at paragraph 80, you say there
14 wasn't any definition of abuse when you were SNR :
15 'It was assumed everybody knew what we were doing.'

16 So just -- can you elaborate upon that? What do you
17 mean by that?

18 A. I think I'm thinking of the world we live in today,
19 where there are definitions of abuse, and I don't think
20 we had definitions of abuse like that. We knew not to
21 abuse or not to let people abuse, but it seems much more
22 catalogued, and what you do about it now, than in those
23 days.

24 Q. I think I've asked you, but I can put it more pointedly
25 than perhaps I did before, but during your time

1 associated with St John Bosco's, from the early 1960s
2 until you [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]; were you aware of any form
3 of abuse being committed?

4 A. Well, we mentioned the slippers. That is all. That was
5 my memory.

6 Q. I put it in that context because the Inquiry has had
7 evidence -- and you may be aware of this -- covering
8 that period, from 1960 to 1975, of children who were at
9 Aberdour being abused, physically and emotionally and
10 sexually.

11 A. Well, my knowledge of physical would be as we have
12 mentioned.

13 Emotional, I've no -- I don't know what you are
14 referring to, unless there is some specific case.

15 Q. Belittling a child, for example? Belittling.

16 A. It doesn't ring a bell with me.

17 And sexual, none at all.

18 Q. I put it in that context because it does appear from the
19 evidence the Inquiry has in-gathered that we do not have
20 allegations of abuse during the period that you were
21 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]?

22 A. Like I say, for me, one of the best pieces of news
23 I ever heard was when Don Bosco's relics came to Glasgow
24 Cathedral, a man approached me and said as part of the
25 conversation: there was none of that stuff in the

1 Bosco's.

2 I felt proud of that.

3 Q. Was this somebody who had been at --

4 A. Yes, a past pupil.

5 Q. Was he in the period when you were SNR [REDACTED] ?

6 A. No, in the 1960s.

7 Q. But you say, quite frankly, at paragraph 83 in your

8 statement, 'Joseph', that you would be a brave man if

9 you said no abuse -- do you mean 'could have happened'

10 rather than 'couldn't have happened'? It's sort of

11 a double negative. Are you saying that you would be

12 a brave man if you said no abuse could have happened and

13 gone undetected?

14 A. No, I think there is a comma after no: 'You would be

15 a brave man if you said no, abuse couldn't have

16 happened.' Sorry about that.

17 Q. No, it's my fault.

18 A. Again, by this time my brain is --

19 LADY SMITH: There is actually a comma there 'Joseph'; it's

20 just a very small one.

21 A. At this stage in the interview on -- last week --

22 LADY SMITH: No, that's fine.

23 MR MACAULAY: You go on to say:

24 'I would have been very surprised, especially if

25 there were sexual abusers.'

1 A. That's because I had never heard anything about it.

2 Q. Can I put this to you: if the Don Bosco ethos had been
3 diligently followed at Aberdour, then it would have been
4 a wonderful place for children to be at?

5 A. I think it was, modestly speaking.

6 I was going to say something there as well.

7 Oh, I do say though, of course, especially sexual
8 abusers there, they are masters at hiding, so that's why
9 you can't say categorically.

10 Q. No.

11 Looking then at paragraph 85 and page 22, under the
12 heading:

13 'External monitoring.'

14 You do say that there was an HMI inspector, but they
15 didn't come very often. As you as SNR, have you
16 any recollection of an HMI inspector coming?

17 A. I'm presuming that would be in the education sphere?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. No. The one I remember most is the one who appeared
20 just after I had arrived as a young Salesian, and I'm
21 trying to teach Scottish history.

22 Q. That's way back in the 1960s. But, SNR, do
23 you remember --

24 A. I don't remember, but it doesn't mean to say it didn't
25 happen.

1 Q. But when the -- you do say, at paragraph 86, that
2 inspectors would speak to the boys if they came into the
3 classroom?

4 A. Yes. As any person visiting a classroom, I think --
5 I'm going by speculation now. If you go into somebody's
6 classroom, you normally speak to the teacher and then
7 say: now, what are we doing today, lads? What's all
8 this about?

9 So you would speak to them, but that's purely
10 speculation.

11 Q. In relation to record keeping that you begin looking at,
12 at paragraph 89 in the draft statement, as you say,
13 record keeping then wasn't what it is like today.

14 A. Yes. I can't remember what records were kept in the
15 education sphere.

16 Q. But if we go back to the 1960s; have you any
17 recollection as to what records were kept in relation to
18 the boys?

19 A. Well, quite a few of them would attend the educational
20 psychologist, so records would be kept if they did
21 educational testing and things like that. And I don't
22 remember much more.

23 Q. As far as the Order would be concerned -- we have
24 touched upon this already -- you would have the
25 punishment book?

1 A. You would have the punishment book.

2 Q. Were there other sort of generic texts, like a logbook?

3 A. The school had its own logbook, but that covered not

4 just education; that covered everything.

5 Q. Were there any other general texts of that nature that

6 were kept? You mentioned the visitors' book earlier on?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was that in play in the 1960s?

9 A. I don't know, is the short answer. But I'm sure it was,

10 because Father **LOB** was pretty much on the ball.

11 Q. I should have asked you when I was dealing with

12 inspections whether you would have some involvement with

13 the managers of the school?

14 A. Yes. Now, I can't remember: did I attend managers'

15 meetings or did I give a report? I can't remember.

16 Q. **SNR**, would you be expected to attend managers'

17 meetings?

18 A. I think so, but I don't remember.

19 Q. You don't remember. But did the managers have meetings

20 regularly?

21 A. Oh, yes, monthly meetings.

22 Q. And were the meetings held at the school?

23 A. Not necessarily, but usually.

24 Q. Did you see any interaction between the managers and the

25 boys?

1 A. In the early days when boys were released, they had to
2 be interviewed by a manager. They were released on
3 licence and still under the care of the school, and our
4 own social worker would still be visiting them at home
5 and they had to be interviewed by a manager before they
6 would be allowed to go on licence. But I don't know
7 afterwards.

8 LADY SMITH: I wonder if it was on licence, in the sense of
9 a sentence from the court, or whether they were still
10 subject to supervision of the type that the Panel
11 imposes; could it have been the latter?

12 A. I don't know if they released kids under the Panel. If
13 something had to change with the Panel system, then you
14 would take them back to the Panel.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. It wouldn't be termed a release from the
16 Panel, but a decision would be made that they didn't
17 have to impose as a condition that they live in
18 a particular place, but it could be that there was still
19 an overall supervision order that carried on from the
20 Panel.

21 A. As far as I understand, ma'am, the Panel would say:
22 okay, you're fit to go back home from St John Bosco's,
23 but then we had no further play. But, as in the
24 previous system, we released them on our licence, if you
25 like, and we could recall them if there was bad

1 behaviour.

2 LADY SMITH: I'm scratching my head to think what

3 legislation that was under, but maybe I should stop

4 thinking like a lawyer.

5 A. That's my own memory, ma'am.

6 MR MACAULAY: Yes, I think what you are distinguishing

7 there -- and we may hear a bit more of this on Friday --

8 is the period before the 1968 Social Work (Scotland)

9 Act, which introduced the Children's Panel. But, in the

10 1960s, that was covered by other regulations. I think

11 there was a duty on the managers to have some sort of

12 aftercare of the children; is that what you're

13 suggesting?

14 A. Yeah. With our own social workers.

15 Q. Yes, when you say your 'own social worker'; is that

16 a social worker associated with Aberdour?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. To what extent in reality did that happen, so far as you

19 can tell us?

20 A. I can't give any impression of how good it was. My

21 memory is Father **zLUF** coming back with

22 qualifications and doing a lot of Glasgow visiting, but

23 I don't remember the rest.

24 Q. But he would be the person --

25 A. He's the one that comes to mind.

1 Q. He was there in the 1960s?

2 A. Maybe early 1970s. I'm not sure.

3 Q. So far as the 1960s are concerned, it's a bit unclear?

4 A. I'm a bit unclear as to when Father [REDACTED] came back.

5 It could have been the 1960s. He was -- he'd been there

6 as a young Salesian and he came back, and I can't

7 remember exactly when, but I remember him doing a lot of

8 Glasgow visiting, which wouldn't have been the case

9 after the Children's Panel.

10 Q. But, in any event, just to be clear, once the

11 Children's Panel was up and running, the aftercare duty

12 did not rest with the Salesians?

13 A. No, which was disappointing because we never heard how

14 things were going and no feedback or whatever.

15 Q. Indeed.

16 We touched upon record keeping. Over the period

17 I think you tell us that the approach to record keeping

18 has changed quite significantly. By the time you left

19 in 198[REDACTED]; were there many more records kept in relation

20 to the care of the children?

21 A. I'm thinking there was, but I don't remember details.

22 By then we'd got an open-plan social work office where

23 the social workers could work together and we had case

24 conferences, regular case conferences, things like that.

25 Visiting social workers to discuss cases. I'm assuming,

1 rather than knowing, that all that was recorded.

2 Q. Can I then move on to that section of your draft

3 statement where you're looking at reports of abuse and

4 civil claims? That begins at paragraph 94 into 95,

5 which looks at -- reports of abuse, for example, you say

6 that:

7 'I was never involved in the handling of such

8 reports.'

9 That is paragraph 94.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. At 95, when you're looking at police investigations

12 during your time as SNR neither the school nor any

13 member of staff was ever the subject of a police

14 investigation?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. The comments you make, at paragraph 96, in relation to

17 'all the List D schools were investigated by Police

18 Scotland', and you had a lengthy interview with them;

19 can you just explain that to me? When did that happen

20 and what was the thinking behind it?

21 A. Well, I'm not so very clear on it myself. A couple of

22 years before your Inquiry, ma'am, when there was

23 an Inquiry into all the List D schools and they were

24 farmed out to different police areas, and we were

25 investigated by a force from Aberdeen.

1 Q. Do I take it that you were spoken to at that time in
2 connection with that general investigation?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But then you go on, at 97, to tell us about the first
5 time you were interviewed as a witness; can we just look
6 at that part of it? Can you tell me when that was that
7 you were being interviewed as a witness?

8 A. I can't remember the date. It was about a couple of
9 years before this Inquiry.

10 Q. So it's relatively recent?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And a witness to what?

13 A. To the running -- it's very much like this Inquiry.

14 Q. But were you being interviewed as a witness to
15 particular allegations?

16 A. No, it's more -- it's very much the questions you've
17 been asking today.

18 Q. Do I take it that names were not mentioned, names of
19 Salesians, priests or Brothers, were not being put to
20 you then in the course of this particular interview?

21 A. I don't really remember. I would have to be careful
22 there because it was another of these marathon sessions,
23 and I can't remember if it was or if it wasn't.

24 Q. But then you tell us that they came back a short time
25 later and they said they wanted to interview you as

1 a suspect?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And they put two allegations to you, I think of physical
4 abuse; is that correct?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you denied these allegations?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were names of boys mentioned to you?

9 A. They were, yes.

10 Q. Did you recognise the names?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Was this in the time when you were SNR or
13 previous to that?

14 A. I would have to check the admissions book. But I think
15 one is an old one, and one is when I was SNR .

16 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', am I right in thinking there was
17 a time when Father LOB was SNR
18 SNR , but due to ill-health he had taken some time
19 out ?

20 A. Yes, he had a heart attack.

21 LADY SMITH: Although you hadn't
22 SNR during that period?

23 A. No.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: I think it was during that period that we have

1 this entry in the punishment return, when
2 Father **LOB** was not available and you stepped in to
3 deal with the corporal punishment?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. This comment you make towards the bottom of
6 paragraph 97, one of the allegations was:
7 'One boy said I had kicked and punched him, which
8 I've never done to anybody. The second boy said I hit
9 him and made him cry.'
10 And you said:
11 'I told them that didn't ring true either because
12 these kids would never cry.'
13 Can you just explain why you say that?
14 A. Well, like I say, I'm pretty sure that allegation was
15 false as well and it struck me that -- they were tough
16 kids.
17 Q. Very well then. Going on to page 25, under the heading:
18 'Other staff.'
19 You were asked about a number of different Brothers/
20 priests. Brother **LMW**, who you are asked about;
21 I think you tell us that after Aberdour he did other
22 things and that he died about four years ago or so in
23 Bolton; is that right?
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. And you had no concerns over his interaction with

1 children?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You do say that he was spoken to by the police?

4 A. Yes, many years later.

5 Q. Yes, before he died. But the police investigation had

6 started and they spoke to Brother LMW, and subsequent

7 to that he died?

8 A. Yes, no causal connection.

9 Q. I would hope not. But you do tell us, on page 26,

10 towards the top, that you think the allegations put to

11 him were about indecent behaviour?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How -- what makes you think that?

14 A. That's more or less what he told me.

15 Q. He told you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was that the extent of what he said to you?

18 A. Yes, I think so. He didn't -- it's not something he

19 wanted to talk about. He said what the accusation was.

20 Q. Was he able to tell you who was making the accusations?

21 A. I think he told me, but I might be wrong on that.

22 Q. You also mentioned Brother LNB?

23 A. Yes, I didn't, but the --

24 Q. Sorry, it was put to you?

25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. Thank you. But you knew him?

2 A. Oh, very well, yes.

3 Q. He followed you --

4 A. He followed me as a young Brother, as the phrase was,
5 a trainee Brother.

6 Q. You have never heard of any allegations being made
7 against him?

8 A. No, that was a new one.

9 Q. You go on, on page 27, to the time when you came to
10 leave St John Bosco's, and what you did afterwards. I
11 think you're still active, 'Joseph', within the Order?

12 A. Relatively speaking.

13 Q. Under the heading:

14 'Helping the Inquiry.'

15 What you say is:

16 'I would say it's not necessarily correct that every
17 allegation that has been made is true.'

18 Are you saying -- I just can't quite understand the
19 way it's put there. It may not be put very well.

20 A. Well, I've given two allegations that were put to me
21 that were not true, so I'm saying not every allegation
22 is true.

23 Q. An allegation is but an allegation until it's accepted.

24 A. But the next bit is the important thing:

25 'We got on well with the young guys, but some of

1 them might see an opportunity. If there has been
2 an effect on anybody, especially if it's continued to
3 this day, we are deeply sorry. It's not because we knew
4 about it; we didn't know about it.'

5 So I'm thinking of new allegations that might come
6 forward.

7 Q. But the sentence:

8 'We got on well with our young guys, but some of
9 them might see an opportunity.'

10 What are you seeking to convey in that thought?

11 A. That people could still be injured emotionally by their
12 time in the school. I don't know. Somebody could say,
13 'I was badly treated', and might believe it and it might
14 be true, but I've tried to explain the situation as best
15 we can, or what the school was about, and really, if
16 there's somebody still hurting from his time in
17 St John Bosco's, that would be very upsetting.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', I should give you the opportunity to
19 just follow up on something you said a few moments ago
20 when you said, 'We are deeply sorry', and I suppose you
21 can really only speak for yourself. I get that. And
22 you then went on and said, 'It's not because we knew
23 about it; we didn't know about it'. Did you actually
24 mean to say to me it's not because you knew about it;
25 you didn't know about it?

1 A. Probably, ma'am. At this stage, I might have been
2 getting a bit eloquent.

3 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, I'm not criticising your language.
4 In fairness to you, I don't take you as trying to speak
5 for other people. You can't.

6 A. No, but I'm thinking, maybe as a Salesian, you know,
7 that we're in the business of working with young people.
8 I would have to read that very carefully and see what
9 I'm trying to say. But, certainly, if somebody is
10 hurting now after all this time, that would be very
11 upsetting.

12 LADY SMITH: I get that. And you're telling me that you
13 didn't know about it at the time, and that's as far as
14 you could go.

15 A. That's okay.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR MACAULAY: Well, thank you, 'Joseph'. I've come to the
18 end of this lengthy session as well. My Lady, no
19 questions have been submitted for me to put to 'Joseph',
20 and I just want to thank 'Joseph' for coming to the
21 Inquiry to give his evidence.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23 'Joseph', I'm very grateful to you for all the help
24 you've given us this afternoon and, as I said earlier,
25 I'm aware of the fact that you're working from

1 a statement that is a draft and it's plain that there
2 are things that you would want to add or subtract to it.
3 You have the opportunity to do that if you would wish to
4 do so. It's up to you, but you might find it helpful.
5 We could deal with that.

6 But, otherwise, I realise we've had you here for
7 quite a long time and you'll have travelled to come
8 here, and you need to get away and rest, and I hope you
9 manage to make your way through the madness that is
10 Edinburgh during Festival time without too much
11 difficulty.

12 A. Thank you, ma'am.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 LADY SMITH: Again, names that were used during this
15 afternoon's evidence: Father LOE, Father
16 GVS, Brother LMW, also known
17 as Brother LMW, a Brother zGTD or perhaps
18 zHYS and Brother LNB. These people's
19 identities are all protected by my General Restriction
20 Order and they're not to be identified as those who are
21 referred to in this afternoon's evidence outside this
22 room.

23 Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MACAULAY: That's earlier than usual to stop, but I think
25 in the time left, we probably wouldn't manage a read-in.

1 LADY SMITH: I think we should pause there.

2 We'll sit again on Friday, not tomorrow, but we'll

3 return to evidence on Friday. That will be with

4 witnesses in person again, according to the current

5 plan, I think, Mr MacAulay; is that correct?

6 MR MACAULAY: Yes. We have one witness in the morning and

7 two witnesses together in the afternoon.

8 LADY SMITH: We may even fit in one or two read-ins.

9 MR MACAULAY: Probably.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Until Friday morning at

11 10 o'clock.

12 (3.46 pm)

13 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

14 on Friday, 9 August 2024)

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