

Tuesday, 13 January 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of
4 our case study hearings.

5 As you may remember, we heard opening submissions in
6 relation to Phase 10 before Christmas and, as was
7 indicated then, the purpose of this case study was to
8 consider the provision of residential care for children
9 and young people in establishments run by local
10 authorities, and establishments run by voluntary
11 providers used by local authorities and others, to place
12 children in care.

13 And it was noted that 20 establishments had been
14 confirmed as being part of this investigative phase, and
15 the period examined by those investigations extends from
16 within living memory until the end of 2014.

17 Just to recap, we had the opening submissions over
18 one full day in the last week that the Inquiry was
19 working before -- the last full week -- before Christmas
20 and I indicated at that point that in January we would
21 begin with evidence in relation to Dunclutha Children's
22 Home, and that is what we're going to start today.

23 Today will be a little different from most start
24 days for the hearing of evidence in case studies; it's
25 just the way things have worked out. This morning we

1 will have read-ins from witness statements which, as
2 I've often explained, are, of course, already evidence
3 before the Inquiry, having been carefully gathered
4 through our private session process, and signed and
5 confirmed as what the witness believes to be the truth.

6 This afternoon we will begin, all being well, with
7 a Webex link to a witness, an applicant, who is not able
8 to come here in person to give her oral evidence but can
9 give it over the link, and some of you will have been
10 used already to hearing evidence over our links. It has
11 been tested, it was working when it was tested, I have
12 no reason to believe that the link will fail us this
13 afternoon, but only 2 o'clock will tell.

14 If we have time after that, we may be able to read
15 in some more witness statement evidence.

16 So you won't see any witnesses coming to give
17 evidence in the witness stand here today, but there will
18 be some as the week progresses.

19 Now let me turn to Mr MacAulay. I may just have
20 explained everything you were going to explain this
21 morning, Mr MacAulay, have I?

22 MR MACAULAY: I think your Ladyship probably has done that
23 and just to recap, the focus today and will probably
24 spill into tomorrow will be on Dunclutha Children's Home
25 in Kirn by Dunoon. This is the first chapter in the

1 first block of five chapters that is to be heard over
2 the next few weeks, and the evidence in this particular
3 chapter will be in relatively short compass.

4 There are a total of nine applicants and, as your
5 Ladyship has just mentioned, with just one oral witness,
6 and, again, as your Ladyship has mentioned, that witness
7 is to give evidence remotely from the United States this
8 afternoon.

9 That means that the remainder of the evidence will
10 be by way of read-ins.

11 Now, it is likely, as I said, that the chapter will
12 be completed certainly by tomorrow morning, and
13 thereafter the chapter on Lagarie is due to start
14 tomorrow afternoon.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR MACAULAY: The Dunclutha Section 21 responses will be
17 spoken to later, as the relevant witness is also due to
18 cover other establishments. So that being so, can
19 I just make some introductory remarks about Dunclutha.

20 Dunclutha opened as a children's home around 1932.
21 At that time, it was run by the then Glasgow Corporation
22 and, due to local government re-organisation, from 1975
23 to 1976, it was run by Strathclyde Regional Council and
24 from 1996 by Argyll & Bute Council.

25 The Dunclutha that is the focus of the Inquiry

1 closed in around 2018/2019, quite recently, and a new
2 Dunclutha opened up in the vicinity of the old
3 Dunclutha. So there is still a Dunclutha Children's
4 Home, but in a different, modern building.

5 I'll put a photograph, in fact it's on the screen,
6 of the old Dunclutha. It's INQ-0000001230. Apparently,
7 according to the Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire
8 Standard, it is now a garden centre.

9 LADY SMITH: Oh.

10 MR MACAULAY: It was described in inspection reports as
11 'a large, mansion-style building surrounded by
12 substantial grounds in Kirn', and your Ladyship can get
13 a sense of the size of the building --

14 LADY SMITH: And to locate it near to somewhere more people
15 may be familiar with, it's not far from Dunoon, the
16 Dunoon area.

17 MR MACAULAY: It's by Dunoon.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR MACAULAY: The internal space changed over the years but
20 in their evidence to the Inquiry, applicants talk about
21 dormitories for boys and girls and, in subsequent years,
22 bedrooms were created, and that can be seen from
23 inspection reports from the Care Commission and the Care
24 Inspectorate.

25 At a point in time, there was a school at Dunclutha,

1 and it certainly is the case that from February 1951,
2 a nursery school opened there to accommodate children as
3 young as 2.

4 Now, mainly in the period spoken to by applicants
5 there is reference to children attending local schools,
6 primary and secondary schools.

7 So far as capacity is concerned, we get a sense of
8 that from the evidence of the applicants, but it
9 certainly appears to be the case that Dunclutha could
10 accommodate over 50 children of both sexes.

11 There are two snapshots provided in the Section 21
12 responses which are of interest. The first is for
13 31 May 1951, where the capacity of the home is said to
14 be 57, the children in the home is said to be 68 --
15 that's over capacity -- and there were 24 staff.

16 Ten years later, on 31 May 1962, again the capacity
17 is said to be 57, there were 57 children being
18 accommodated there at the time, and 30 staff.

19 As was the case with other establishments that your
20 Ladyship has heard about in evidence, and due to changes
21 in the approach to care, by 1996, Dunclutha accommodated
22 only 11 children and, since 2001, Dunclutha was geared
23 towards accommodating six children, to 'reflect best
24 practice'.

25 And also the ratio of staff to children also changed

1 dramatically over time, so by 2018 when six children
2 were being accommodated, there were some 20 staff, so
3 vastly outnumbering the children.

4 LADY SMITH: But that, of course, would reflect the number
5 of shifts --

6 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: -- that staff would work in the average day,
8 and days off.

9 MR MACAULAY: Indeed.

10 The period covered in the evidence of applicants
11 ranges from 1949 to 1979, but the focus of the
12 preponderance of the evidence is on the 1970s. There is
13 no evidence of abuse from applicants after 1979 and,
14 indeed, it is the case that during the stewardship of
15 Argyll & Bute from 1996 onwards, Care Commission and
16 Care Inspectorate inspection reports have been positive.

17 Now, one final point, my Lady. Some contemporaneous
18 records have been recovered. Inevitably -- and we've
19 seen this in the past -- there are discrepancies between
20 dates spoken to by applicants and the contemporaneous
21 records and that's perfectly understandable.

22 When possible, we will focus on the dates contained
23 in the contemporaneous records, especially when looking
24 at admission and discharge.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR MACAULAY: So, my Lady, that's all I wish to say by way
2 of introduction. The first read-in is to be done by my
3 learned friend, Ms MacLeod.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 Thank you, Ms MacLeod, whenever you're ready.

6 'Carol' (read in)

7 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the first read-in is that of
8 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Carol'. The
9 statement can be found at WIT-1-000000351:

10 'My name is 'Carol'. I was born in 1963. My
11 contact details are known to the Inquiry. I learned as
12 an adult who my birth parents were and the circumstances
13 that led to me being adopted and in care.

14 'My mother became pregnant at 16 years old and my
15 father had gone to England and then abroad.

16 'The Salvation Army arranged my adoption. My mother
17 and father were Protestant so I was adopted by a working
18 class Protestant family. I lived in Glasgow with my
19 adoptive family.

20 'My parents adopted another child when I was 6 years
21 old, so I had a younger sibling. I went to primary
22 school and high school in Glasgow.

23 'My father was a violent alcoholic and my mother by
24 today's standards would be deemed as having learning
25 difficulties. My mother also became a violent

1 alcoholic. Nobody from the Salvation Army came to see
2 me after I was adopted. There was nobody I could speak
3 to about it.

4 'When I was about 7 years old, my parents separated
5 for a while and my father left the family home. A man
6 befriended my mum and would bring her drink. He would
7 sexually assault me. He raped me. He told me if I told
8 anybody, that I would be killed or that I would be taken
9 away.

10 'My father came back home and I never saw the man
11 again. It all seemed to happen quite quickly, from my
12 father leaving, the sexual abuse, and then my father
13 returning. I think it happened within a year.

14 'During that time, the neighbours reported my mother
15 to social welfare and they came to the house. They must
16 have told my mum before they came, because my mum warned
17 me not to say anything and told me to lie or they would
18 take me away. When they came, they spoke to me in front
19 of my mum and I lied and said everything was fine. They
20 never came back again.

21 'My adopted mother died when I was 11 years old.'

22 And I move to paragraph 24 of the statement:

23 'My sister and I were taken into care because my
24 father was not deemed fit to look after us. Nobody sat
25 me down and explained what was happening but

1 I understood. I was told that I was going to a nice
2 place by the sea and it was dressed up as an adventure.
3 I can understand why they would do that, but I was still
4 terrified.

5 'I was 12 years old when I was taken to a children's
6 home with my sister. We didn't take anything with us
7 because we lost everything when we were taken from our
8 home. We had nothing to take to the new place, except
9 the clothes we were standing in.'

10 The home the applicant refers to, my Lady, is
11 Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon. Records show that
12 the applicant was admitted in early [REDACTED] 1976, when
13 she would have been 12, coming up for 13, which indeed
14 accords with her own memory.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, she thought she was about 12, we see that.

16 MS MACLEOD: Yes:

17 'I remember going over the water on the ferry. It
18 would have been my social worker, Don Evans, or
19 an emergency social worker who took me and my sister.

20 'The home had a driveway and a walking path that led
21 up to it. It was a huge, impressive building that was
22 set back and looked over the Clyde.

23 'I remember it being noisy when I went into the
24 home. A couple called FGG-SPO [REDACTED] were SNR [REDACTED] when
25 I first went in. They were delightful when we went in

1 with our social worker. They were smiling and welcoming
2 and shaking the social worker's hand. I still didn't
3 want to be there and I didn't trust them.

4 'I remember sitting in front of a television on my
5 first day there in what was the TV room. I was wearing
6 a red polo neck. My sister was crying and I was
7 comforting her.

8 'There were a lot of kids in the home, both boys and
9 girls. I remember a very young girl who was possibly
10 about 2 years old, as well as older girls who were maybe
11 about 16 years old. There was a wide range of ages in
12 there.

13 'When you came into the front door, there was
14 a dormitory to the left and one to the right. I think
15 the girls slept in the ground floor dormitories. There
16 was also a small reception room, a dining room, TV room,
17 a playroom and showers on the ground floor.

18 'There were two floors in the home. There was a big
19 oak staircase going up to the first floor and there were
20 stained glass windows. It was all very traditional.
21 There was a fire door at the top of the stairs and then
22 a small room for the older girls and a fire exit. There
23 were also more dormitories upstairs, which I think is
24 where the boys slept.

25 'There were more than two kids per room. There were

1 about nine girls in my dormitory, including myself. My
2 sister was in the same dormitory as me.

3 'I think the only staff that lived on the premises
4 were FGG-SPO, the children, and possibly a man
5 called FFX, who was care staff. The rest of the staff
6 were day staff.

7 'I remember going into the cupboard, which was along
8 the wall in the dormitory, to get school clothes in the
9 morning. I must have had school uniform. Then we had
10 breakfast and went to school.

11 'I think I read a lot when I wasn't at school.
12 I would sit at the front of the home with the other
13 girls. We would maybe share a cigarette. Sometimes we
14 would go to the local sweetie shop. I would have pocket
15 money that I got from my aunt. I don't remember getting
16 any pocket money from Dunclutha.

17 'We had good times as well, when we would jump about
18 on the beds and singing Elvis songs. You tried to hold
19 on to the happy memories. Those girls [who were in
20 there with me] were going through hell too.

21 'We weren't allowed to have any money. I remember
22 getting some from my aunt and hiding it down part of the
23 bunk bed. It went all the way to the bottom and I lost
24 it.

25 'We had to go to church every Sunday.

1 'I don't remember the food being nice. It was basic
2 but it did sustain you. The porridge wasn't nice. If
3 we didn't eat our dinner, we had to sit at the table
4 until the sun went down or you would get it the next
5 morning for breakfast. Everybody learned just to eat
6 the food.

7 'I remember sitting at the table and filling my
8 sleeves up with food so it looked like I'd eaten.
9 I didn't want to be sitting at the table all day or get
10 the food again for breakfast. I then went to the toilet
11 and got rid of it. If you were caught doing that, you'd
12 be told you were a liar and were deceitful.

13 'We lined up with our towels to have showers. There
14 was a female attendant there. You would go in the
15 shower but I wasn't allowed to shut the shower curtain.
16 I had the audacity to ask why not and I was told I was
17 too young. I can't remember how often we showered.

18 'I remember feeling ashamed because we had to wear
19 crimplene trousers and certain types of shoes. I seem
20 to remember shoes called Bobby washables, which were
21 plastic shoes. I remember having a duffle coat but this
22 was before they were fashionable.

23 'I was ashamed to go outwith the grounds of the
24 home. The clothes identified where you came from. They
25 were more than unfashionable. I looked like a "homie"

1 kid and stood out from the local kids in Dunoon.

2 I always felt in the spotlight.

3 'I went to Dunoon High School. I remember walking
4 up the back of the woods to go to school in the morning.
5 I don't remember being at school.

6 'My only memory of school is seeing a boy who used
7 to live around the corner from me in Glasgow and we had
8 gone to primary school together. He had moved to
9 Dunoon. He came to see me coming out of class and he
10 stood and looked at me. I remember I felt so ashamed.

11 'I don't think I spent a birthday there and I didn't
12 have a Christmas [in Dunclutha].

13 'I don't remember getting a visit from a social
14 worker, but I remember a social worker would take me and
15 my sister over when we visited our aunt and bring us
16 back. We weren't allowed to go on the ferry
17 [ourselves].

18 'I went to my aunt's for a few weekends. I knew
19 I wasn't wanted there, but it got me out of Dunclutha.
20 I also knew that it gave me a level of protection if
21 I went back to the home and spoke about my aunt.

22 'I remember a stretch limousine would pick us up
23 from my aunt's which belonged to the social work
24 department. I would sit in the limousine with my
25 plastic bag, which had clean underwear, a comic and

1 stamps in it so that I could write to my aunt. My socks
2 would be down to my ankles because the elastic had
3 burst. It was awful. The driver had a false hand and
4 was very kind.

5 'I got one visit from my aunt and cousins at the
6 home. I remember the visit taking place in the
7 dormitory. I don't remember any privacy.

8 'Every time we went into care, we got sent to
9 a doctor who was assigned to the home. The doctor would
10 check you for lice, nits and scabies. It was to see if
11 you were clean, so it wasn't really a health check.

12 'I didn't have a problem with bed-wetting at
13 Dunclutha but other kids did. I remember their beds
14 being stripped in front of all the other children.
15 I think they had to strip the beds themselves.

16 'I felt trapped and angry. I dealt with it by
17 trying to make the person who was being humiliated
18 laugh.

19 'There was one guy called **FFX** who was a carer in
20 the home. He was a handyman in the home before he
21 became a carer. I think he was an ex-army guy. He
22 acted like [the] typical ex-army guy and was quite
23 brash. I think he had a dachshund dog and he would wear
24 these leather gloves with the fingers cut off. He was
25 a creepy man. He was quite small and had slick black

1 hair. I thought he was in his 40s but maybe he wasn't.

2 'FFX liked to hit people with a dog chain. I got
3 hit regularly with it. I saw him hit other people too.
4 He hit my wee sister with the dog chain once because he
5 caught her eating her Easter egg lying in her bed. FFX
6 whacked and whacked her with the dog chain over the
7 blanket that she had on her. She was only 6 or 7 years
8 old at the time.

9 'I think the boys got it worse. They were taken
10 down to the playroom which was used as a gym or boxing
11 room. FFX would take the boys down there and make them
12 fight each other to make a man of them or to sort their
13 issues out. It must have been talked about for me to
14 know about it. I remember being in there one time and
15 the gym mats being down.

16 'I have a photograph of FFX .

17 'There were three incidents of sexual abuse that
18 happened at Dunclutha.

19 'One was when I was lying in bed because I had the
20 flu or something and I had asthma. I was in the top
21 bunk and the shower lady came over. She asked if I was
22 okay and was showing me some kindness and rubbing my
23 tummy. Then she sexually assaulted me. It stopped
24 because another member of staff came in.

25 'I think the shower lady was a residential social

1 worker. I don't remember her name and I think that's
2 because I've deliberately blocked it out or because
3 there was too much trauma happening too quickly.

4 'There was PQZ, who sometimes worked as a gardener
5 and handyman in the home.

6 'There was the [REDACTED] man called PQZ. I'm not
7 sure if it was the same one who was [the] handyman in
8 the home. PQZ ran the [REDACTED] in Dunoon with his
9 wife, which was a stone's throw away from the home.
10 I was sexually assaulted there.

11 'I remember being taken down to the [REDACTED] by
12 older girls at the home and through a door at the back
13 that had plastic strips hanging down. The girls said
14 I would get sweets. I went in and I was made to sit on
15 his knee. I got sweets afterwards.

16 'One of the older girls was a bully. She and other
17 older girls orchestrated the [REDACTED] thing. I know
18 that the same thing happened to them too at the [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]. I witnessed them sitting on PQZ's knee and his
20 hand going up their skirts. He gave them sweets too.

21 'I went to the [REDACTED] once and never went
22 back. I would hide in the bushes in the grounds
23 whenever the older girls would go, so that I wouldn't be
24 made to go.

25 'Some of the older girls would get taken down to the

1 submarines. I would hide under the bed or the bushes so
2 I didn't have to go. I don't know who took them. They
3 would come back with sweets, so I thought the same thing
4 was happening that was happening at the [REDACTED]. It
5 was the same girls that would go.

6 'I felt trapped and angry being in the home. I was
7 so traumatised and terrified that I can't remember
8 things. I have memories, but they are dislocated and
9 I don't know where they fit in.

10 'One girl later told me that she was so glad I was
11 in the home because I protected them, but I've no idea
12 what I had done.

13 'I didn't tell anybody what was happening in
14 Dunclutha. There was nobody to tell.

15 'I've done a bit of digging and there were
16 accusations that were made in the 1970s and 1980s about
17 Dunclutha.

18 'Mr FGG [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] of the home and
19 when the accusations were made, it was [REDACTED]
20 Mrs [REDACTED]'s name, so nothing really changed at all.

21 'I was in Dunclutha for about six months.'

22 My Lady, the Inquiry so far have been unable to
23 locate a specific date of discharge for this applicant.

24 LADY SMITH: Oh, right.

25 MS MACLEOD: But there is an indication in the records that

1 she was in Dunclutha for 'a short period' during 1976 to
2 1977, which would tend to support months as opposed to
3 years perhaps.

4 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you very much.

5 MS MACLEOD: Her own reflection is six months.

6 LADY SMITH: Although, was it [REDACTED] that we thought she
7 started her period there?

8 MS MACLEOD: Yes, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: That's [REDACTED] 1976.

10 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: So it would be quite a number of months if it
12 did spill into 1977.

13 MS MACLEOD: If it did, yes; it's not clear from what we've
14 got.

15 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

16 MS MACLEOD: 'The biggest thing I remember about Dunclutha
17 is feeling terrified all the time. I lied to my social
18 worker, Don Evans, and said that I wanted to go back and
19 live with my dad because I missed him so much. I knew
20 it would be hell with my father but I wanted to get out
21 of the home. It did get me out of Dunclutha, but just
22 put me in another situation.

23 'My sister and I went back to live with my father
24 when I was 12 years old. He now lived in a wee flat,
25 which was in a very rough area. We hadn't had any

1 visits with him beforehand. The place was run down.

2 'The social worker, Don Evans, never spoke to me
3 after I moved home to see how things were. The social
4 worker would sell furniture that had been donated and
5 used the money to go to the pub with my dad. I knew
6 this because neighbours phoned and told my auntie who
7 told me, and my dad would also say that he'd seen him.'

8 From paragraphs 82 to 149, the witness speaks about
9 a period she spent at another children's home called
10 Cathkin House Children's Home in Strathclyde, and I will
11 move to paragraph 150.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: From paragraph 150 to 156, the witness speaks
14 about leaving Cathkin House, and being in various other
15 care placements, including being in Broomhouse Hostel in
16 Glasgow, which she discusses from paragraph 157 to 201.

17 In paragraph 202, the witness speaks about being at
18 her aunt's house, before then being in Leaburn
19 Children's Home in Hamilton, which the witness discusses
20 between paragraph 203 and 271 of her statement.

21 From paragraph 272 onwards, the witness speaks about
22 her life after being in care during the period between
23 when she was aged 16 to 18, and I will touch upon a few
24 points that the witness makes there:

25 'When I left Leaburn, I went to stay with my aunt

1 ...'

2 The witness explains at that time the witness was
3 five or six months pregnant, and when she was 16 and
4 a half, her son was born.

5 The witness then goes on to speak in the next few
6 paragraphs about time she and her son spent, in various
7 homeless units.

8 I will move on to paragraph 296, where the witness
9 says the following in relation to her son during that
10 time:

11 'I suspected [my son] was deaf. I said this to my
12 aunt and she said I was overreacting. I said it to my
13 doctor, who said there was something wrong with him.
14 I took [him] for [the] six-month hearing test and they
15 told me I was being a neurotic teenage mother and
16 nothing was wrong with him. [My son] passed the hearing
17 test because they rang a bell from the side of the room
18 and [he] turned round. He turned because he could see
19 the shadow and I could tell that was what happened, but
20 they couldn't.

21 '[My son] was diagnosed as being profoundly deaf
22 when he was over a year old.'

23 Between paragraphs 298 and 355, the witness speaks
24 about her life as an adult, and I will read out a few
25 paragraphs from that section of the statement, starting

1 at 305:

2 'I started doing research into deaf education
3 because although the school could communicate with my
4 son, he and I couldn't communicate. There were no
5 classes for parents, so [my son] and I had a made-up
6 language and he was coming up for 4 years old at that
7 time.

8 'I knew I had to get him out of schemes and into the
9 best school. I did my research and the best school for
10 deaf kids at the time was Donaldson's, which was
11 a residential school for the deaf. I fought to get
12 [him] in there and he was accepted there.

13 '[My son] started Donaldson's and I later found out
14 he was abused there. He later died. The things
15 surrounding my son are far more difficult for me than
16 the things that happened to me because I feel like
17 I failed him.'

18 From paragraph 311, the witness explains that she
19 met the person that she went on to marry when she was
20 22. The relationship itself did not last but they did
21 have a daughter together.

22 At paragraph 314, the witness says:

23 'My husband and I [did have] a daughter and I had
24 gotten myself to university. I couldn't leave the
25 marriage because I had nowhere to go. I didn't want to

1 end up in a homeless shelter again. I needed to finish
2 my degree to give myself a chance to get out there.'

3 The witness goes on to explain that she was unable
4 to complete her degree because of ill-health.

5 At paragraph 322, the witness says:

6 '[REDACTED]. I got
7 a certain amount of records, which allow me to put the
8 memories I had into [the] context of time and place.
9 I focused on every detail because I was aware of false
10 memory syndrome [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED].

12 '[REDACTED] I have actually
13 forgotten a lot, which is a good thing. The memories
14 that went around in my head for my whole life, and were
15 so sharp and keen, have been forgotten. It is almost
16 like I don't need them anymore because I have made
17 a record.

18 'I never mentioned the abuse that happened to me
19 until I was in my later 30s. I always thought that
20 I would die if I spoke about it, but then I felt that
21 I would die if I didn't speak about it. That is because
22 [the man who abused me when I was 7 years old] told me
23 when I was 7 that I would be killed if I spoke about the
24 abuse.

25 'I know that other people suffered sexual abuse at

1 Dunclutha. That is something I have learned later, as
2 an adult, from other people.'

3 I'll now move on to the section of her statement
4 where the witness deals with the impact her time in care
5 has had on her life, and that's at paragraph 336:

6 'Coming from the kind of care background that I had
7 left me wide open to everything around me, from a lack
8 of education to issues with housing, finances, health,
9 family, friends, relationships and networks.

10 'Being in care has had an effect on my self-worth
11 and self-esteem. I grew up learning how I need to
12 appear to be in situations and what was expected of me.
13 I learned how to mask what I was feeling and not talking
14 about myself. I didn't communicate as me, but instead
15 tried to please other people. Nobody could tell that
16 from looking at me because I appear confident and I have
17 a comeback for everything, but that is because I learned
18 to do [this] to hide my vulnerabilities.

19 'I never realised how vulnerable I was and wasn't
20 able to protect myself. I never thought of my worth as
21 a person or my own purpose, just what I could do for
22 others. I got the [REDACTED] after I had my son
23 because I knew, for a person in my circumstances, sex
24 would be expected of me.

25 'My experience of care destroyed me sexually.

1 Intellectually, I could understand sex and could feel
2 sexual, but I shut down when it came to it. I always
3 felt it was my fault. I never knew what it was like to
4 be a sexual woman until I was 45 years old and after
5 I had been in a relationship for a year and a half.
6 I don't know if I could ever do that again or get that
7 close to anybody again. Nobody would guess that from
8 looking at me because I appear to be confident.

9 'The impact of my childhood on my relationships has
10 been huge. I stayed in a violent marriage because
11 I didn't have any money to leave and wanted to keep my
12 kids together.

13 'I never got a proper education in care. I moved
14 around so many schools and didn't even have any Highers.
15 This meant that as an adult, I had to work out
16 strategies on how to get out of a bad situation because
17 I had nowhere to go and no education to help me move
18 forward. I had to stay in abusive relationships because
19 I wanted to get an education so I could provide for my
20 kids and not end up in homeless units with them. [My
21 social worker] wrote in my records that I could be
22 anything I wanted to be.

23 'I didn't realise I was smart until I was told this
24 at university, that I was smart.

25 'I have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress

1 disorder. I have had night terrors my entire life and
2 I am paralysed by them when I have them. I didn't
3 realise until my mid-30s that it wasn't normal to have
4 these nightmares.

5 'I still live in constant fear and that doesn't go
6 away. My lack of trust won't ever go away.

7 'I hate having showers outwith my own home.
8 I believe this comes from vulnerability and not wanting
9 to undress.'

10 At paragraph 349, the witness says:

11 'I went to the police because I was feeling so much
12 rage after I got counselling and I knew I had to
13 challenge [the] anger.

14 'I went to [REDACTED] Police Station initially and
15 they sent me to another police station. I was referred
16 to a female and child unit. I was told [that] things
17 have moved on and I could trust them.'

18 At paragraph 352:

19 'I told them I knew of a boy who I had come to know
20 who was treated badly in Dunclutha in the 1980s. My
21 lawyer interviewed the boy and we took that to the
22 police as corroboration, but they said it was
23 a different timeframe from me.

24 'I don't see how my abuse in the 1970s at Dunclutha
25 is not related to someone else's abuse there in the

1 1980s. The police said if I wanted to do something
2 about it, I would have to go to Dunoon to report it to
3 the police there.

4 'My lawyers applied for criminal injuries
5 compensation for me for what happened at Dunclutha, but
6 I didn't get it. They said I needed corroboration.'

7 At paragraph 358, the witness says the following in
8 relation to records:

9 'I read my records in 2007. I applied for them and
10 someone phoned me to talk about them.

11 'I didn't feel much the first time I read my
12 records. I felt sad when I later used them as
13 a timeline [REDACTED].

14 'I wasn't cared about medically. All they did was
15 make sure us kids in care didn't have any contagious
16 working class diseases. Children need to have access to
17 the best medical care they can get. They are already
18 coming from a disadvantaged background, sometimes
19 without any genetic medical history.

20 'I know there is talk about a named person for
21 children, but there should be a named body who is
22 permanent that a child could go to at any time and any
23 age. If someone had been a permanent fixture in my
24 life, I could have spoken to them and worked things out
25 and my life would have been different. If you don't

1 have your health, physically or mentally, then you don't
2 have anything.

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

7 'Carol' signed the witness statement on
8 5 February 2020.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Mr MacAulay.

10 'Ruby' (read in)

11 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this witness is an applicant.

12 She wants to remain anonymous and use the name 'Ruby'.
13 Her witness statement is at WIT-1-000000527.

14 Now, 'Ruby' gave oral evidence in Phase 7, that's
15 the Foster Care case study, and that was on
16 8 December 2022. That was Day 292 of the evidence. Her
17 transcript is at TRN-10-000000024.

18 When 'Ruby' gave evidence, Ms Innes, who was leading
19 her evidence, indicated that we had no records for her.
20 But in fact shortly before she gave evidence, we had
21 recovered some records, not many, some seven pages in
22 total but they do help in relation to dates.

23 LADY SMITH: Good.

24 MR MACAULAY: And because 'Ruby' gave oral evidence, the
25 primary focus of that evidence was on foster care, and

1 other aspects of her statement were also looked at.

2 We're told at paragraph 1 that she was born in 1944
3 and she gives some evidence about life before going into
4 care. This was looked at when she gave oral evidence.
5 But in short, during the war, her mother met an American
6 soldier and she became pregnant and he soon said
7 goodbye.

8 Now, this American soldier was black --

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MR MACAULAY: -- and it was something of a scourge on
11 'Ruby', particularly during her time in care. But
12 essentially she tells us there that she was separated
13 from her mother, that her grandmother took her away from
14 her mother, and she seems to think that:

15 'My grandmother was probably right in a way, because
16 that's how they behaved in those days.'

17 And she was in a particular establishment for a few
18 weeks when she was just a baby.

19 Then at paragraph 4, she says:

20 'I went to Dunclutha Children's Home, then Gryffe
21 Castle until I was 11 before I went into foster care in
22 Stevenston, Ayrshire. I stayed there until I left
23 school. They didn't tell me anything when I was leaving
24 Dunclutha. They packed my bags and I was away.
25 I remember going to Gryffe Castle when I was 7.'

1 Now, the records tell us that she was admitted to
2 Dunclutha on [REDACTED] 1949, so she would be aged 5
3 at that time.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR MACAULAY: She goes on to say:

6 'I remember a few bits and pieces about Dunclutha
7 but I was very small when I went there. I remember
8 getting wakened up in the morning by a nurse and getting
9 the belt on the bare backside. I must have been very
10 young. I was taken into what was like a study with
11 a big fireplace. I don't know why she picked on me,
12 I don't know her name. It happened four or five times.
13 You were terrified to go to sleep in case she woke you
14 up and dragged you down and smacked you. We called all
15 the staff "nurses". I must have been 4 or 5 when this
16 was happening. There's a lot of things I don't
17 remember, I black out. I can't remember the
18 Christmases, things like that.

19 'I can't remember routines at Dunclutha. We got up
20 for breakfast about 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock and then went
21 to school. I think the school was in the home.'

22 And of course, this is the earlier period that we're
23 looking at, when it seems to have been the case that
24 children had an in-house school at the home.

25 LADY SMITH: Although as they got older, they could go on to

1 Dunoon High School, I think, post age 11 or something
2 like that.

3 MR MACAULAY: Yes, and I think also as the time went on,
4 they went to the local primary school:

5 'I remember walking to school at Gryffe Castle but
6 not at Dunclutha, I might be wrong. I remember going
7 out to play. I think we all went to bed about 6.00 or
8 7.00 pm.

9 'Both homes were mixed with boys and girls. We all
10 seemed to be little, then we went to Gryffe Castle, so
11 that must have been a place for kids when they got a bit
12 older. I can't remember the names of any of the nurses,
13 I was too small, but I do remember getting belted in the
14 middle of the night. I know it wasn't for anything too
15 bad, because you had to behave yourself, you wouldn't
16 get into trouble. You would never have a fight and you
17 had more respect then.

18 'There were about 12 kids in the dormitory I was in.
19 They had big baths and there were three or four in the
20 bath at a time. I can't remember a Christmas.
21 I remember playing on roundabouts and swings. I was
22 a right tomboy, climbing trees and things. I remember
23 more at Gryffe Castle.

24 'I remember in both these homes you were always
25 nicely dressed and well turned out. The school wasn't

1 too bad when I was at Dunclutha, it was in the home.
2 I can't remember much about it. I can't remember my
3 teacher. Gryffe Castle was a bigger place with a bigger
4 playground. We didn't go to church at Dunclutha but we
5 said prayers at school and before meals.

6 'I can't remember ever seeing a doctor or a dentist
7 at Dunclutha. I was only there until I was 6 or 7 years
8 old.'

9 In fact the records tell us that she left on
10 ██████████ 1952, when she would have been 7.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: 'I think we had to make our beds and that was
13 about it. I had no visits from anyone after my granny
14 stopped when I was about 6 months old but obviously
15 I can't remember that. I never thought of running away,
16 you always behaved. It was more out of respect than
17 anything else.

18 'It was the same nurse that hit me all the time.
19 She was a wee, fat, grey-haired lady in her 50s or 60s.
20 She would hit me and tell me, "You should be in the
21 jungle". I didn't realise then that it was because of
22 my colour. I'm not sure if it was racist because there
23 were a few coloured kids in the home then. She probably
24 didn't just pick on me. It was her hand on your bare
25 backside. She wouldn't be daft and mark you.

1 'I can't remember if I wet the bed at Dunclutha.
2 Maybe that's why I was wakened up and smacked, I don't
3 know. You didn't tell anyone about being beaten in case
4 you got it again, or they wouldn't believe you. I was
5 too terrified. If you spoke about it, the nurses would
6 probably go crazy.

7 'I was only young at Dunclutha. When I was at
8 school one day, there was a boy and me sitting in
9 a class with the nurse who smacked me. It was only the
10 three of us in the class who were kept back to do some
11 work. The boy and I were sitting at a desk and the
12 nurse told us both to touch each other inappropriately.
13 We had our clothes on, but she told us to touch each
14 other under our underwear. I don't know the boy's name,
15 he was a little plumpish lad. He was about the same age
16 as me. I think I was under 6 years old. The nurses
17 didn't sexually abuse us. I remember our hands under
18 the desk touching each other. The nurse told us what to
19 do. I've never told my daughters, I haven't told
20 anyone. This happened a couple of times with the same
21 lad. I've thought many times why she would do this.
22 I used to get angry about it, thinking it was my fault.
23 I'm glad I could push it to the back of my mind, or
24 I think I might have become a horrible, angry person.
25 I have no good memories of Dunclutha.'

1 And she goes on to tell us when she left -- and as
2 I've indicated, that was █████ 1952, when she was 7 --
3 and she moves to Gryffe. And she looks at Gryffe in the
4 next few paragraphs, paragraphs 15 through to 31.

5 There was one incident when she was there but
6 essentially she says at paragraph 30 that she enjoyed
7 Gryffe Castle.

8 It's then that she looks at her time in foster care
9 and this has been looked at in quite some detail when
10 she gave her oral evidence.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR MACAULAY: And she covers the period covered in
13 paragraphs 32 to 71 in connection with that, and she now
14 talks about leaving foster care.

15 And she moves on to talk about life after care.
16 Again, that has been looked at in her oral evidence and
17 if I go to paragraph 81 -- or perhaps go to
18 paragraph 78, when she talks about impact, which has
19 been looked at, but she talks about the way that she put
20 the abuse to the back of her mind. Otherwise, as she
21 said earlier:

22 'I think I would have been a horrible person. I've
23 never spoken to my daughters about it. I've never had
24 counselling.'

25 And she goes on to say at 79:

1 'I have two good daughters, that helps. I've always
2 been close to my daughters and I have good friends.'

3 So she has that family support.

4 LADY SMITH: She has a significant extended family as well,
5 other generations.

6 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

7 So she then talks about the reporting of abuse:

8 'I have never reported the abuse I suffered to the
9 police. I think a lot of years ago they wouldn't have
10 listened.'

11 Again, at paragraph 81, she talks about the records.
12 This was looked at. What she said was:

13 'I have applied for my records but I got a letter
14 from NHS in Glasgow telling me they cannot find any
15 record of me being in care.'

16 As I've indicated, there is a short record of that.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes.

18 MR MACAULAY: At 82:

19 'Things should be noticed, abuse shouldn't happen.
20 People should be more aware [to] tell the appropriate
21 people if someone is getting abused. Nowadays it will
22 be a lot better, you will still get abuse but it is
23 a lot better. They've learnt a lot.'

24 'Ruby' signed her statement on 14 November 2020.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MACAULAY: Now, the next witness, who's an applicant, he
2 wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
3 'Peter' in giving his evidence, and his statement is at
4 WIT-1-000000917.

5 'Peter' (read in)

6 'Peter' was read in, in quite a significant way, for
7 Phase 9, the HAD case study.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR MACAULAY: That was on Day 529. His evidence can be
10 found in the transcript TRN-13-000000007.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: And from paragraphs 2 to 7, which have been
13 read in, he provides information about his background.
14 And because 'Peter' plainly recovered records, he's
15 actually able to provide fairly --

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR MACAULAY: -- specific dates in connection with his life
18 before and, indeed, in care.

19 He says at paragraph 4:

20 'My mother was a very sick lady, she had severe
21 psychiatric problems. She was housed at a hospital on
22 the Great Western Road in Glasgow, Gartnavel Royal.'

23 And had a number of admissions until her death in
24 1965.

25 And he says at paragraph 6:

1 'Some time before [REDACTED] 1960, my records indicate
2 that I was discharged from the Children's Hospital into
3 the Care Children's Department, known to me as 'The
4 Cruelty', based at 73 John Street in Glasgow. I was
5 under the Deputy Childcare Cruelty Officer at Glasgow
6 Corporation, James McLeish.'

7 And he goes on to talk about the relevant statutory
8 provisions.

9 He then starts -- he looks at Dunclutha at
10 paragraph 7. He was in Eglinton Children's Home for
11 a number of months before being transferred to
12 Blairvadach Children's Home in Rhu:

13 'In 1962, when I was 2 years old, a chief
14 superintendent medical officer came to assess my overall
15 condition at Blairvadach and it was decided that a place
16 would be made available and I was assessed as being of
17 "Lennox Castle standard". That offer was not taken up
18 and I remained at Blairvadach until 1965. On
19 [REDACTED] 1965, an order of transfer was made for me to
20 be housed at Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon.'

21 And it is the case that he was admitted there on
22 [REDACTED] 1965, which means he'd be aged 6 at the time
23 of admission.

24 Then moving on to his time at Dunclutha at
25 paragraph 9:

1 'I was in Dunclutha from 1965 until 1969, from the
2 age of 6 to the age of 9. It was very upsetting when
3 I got to Dunclutha. I was in many places for a young
4 child, from pillar to post, over a ... short period of
5 time. I was in three different places within a decade.
6 To do that to a child is bewildering, outwith the abuse
7 and the torture which I had to endure further down the
8 line. They allowed "foreign forces" to take me away and
9 abuse me physically and sexually. It was all wrong.

10 'RCN was SNR of Dunclutha. She was
11 a lovely lady. She was maybe 55 to 60 years old at the
12 time. Miss RCN had an enforcer called FFX who was
13 a brute. His role was general maintenance and keeping
14 discipline. I think he was also in charge of the
15 laundry. There were other staff, but they were just
16 people who lived round about. The cook came from up the
17 road. Some of the staff there were there for a few
18 months and then they were away. There were volunteers
19 who came from VSO but I'm not sure what that was. The
20 staff weren't social workers. They weren't trained.
21 There was a nursery at Dunclutha. They took children
22 from the age of 5 up until about 16.'

23 Describing children up to the age of 16 as being at
24 nursery is something of a misnomer.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR MACAULAY: 'I think there were about 20 children there,
2 maybe more. Life was blissful in the early stages [of]
3 my being there.

4 'After I was abused at Christmas time in 1967 or
5 1968, I wasn't a good eater. My whole life was
6 shattered. Physically and mentally, it was devastating.

7 'There was a lady called Chrissie who was employed
8 to work in the wash house. She washed all the clothes
9 and the bedding. She was my only friend at that time.
10 She was a very kind woman.

11 'We had a play area which was in something like
12 an air raid shelter. It was the main hall where the
13 children played in bad weather. In good weather, there
14 was a green to the side of the children's home.

15 'We got a penny pocket money. We had to spend all
16 the money in **FFX**'s tuckshop, so he profiteered quite
17 nicely. The tuckshop was at the back end of the play
18 area.

19 'Mr and Mrs Walker lived in Strachur, Argyll.
20 Mr Walker was a major in the British Army in India. He
21 and his wife were very nice people. They used to come
22 and visit me at Dunclutha. I was very wary of them. It
23 was thought it would be good for me to have this man and
24 lady spend time with me. They didn't have any children.
25 They used to come and visit me every month. They didn't

1 take me out at first. It took a long, long time. When
2 I did go out with them, I went with two other boys.
3 Then, they used to take me on little trips into the
4 village. Dunoon was a vibrant place. They were very
5 kind to me. It was just a pity it wasn't like that all
6 the time. People would turn up and they were allowed to
7 take children out willy-nilly. They were called
8 befrienders of the children's home.

9 'After I was abused at Christmas time 1967, I was
10 soiling myself and bleeding. I didn't get any medical
11 attention. I couldn't cope. My physical and mental
12 health deteriorated. Eventually I was seen by the local
13 physician and it was decided that I should leave
14 Dunclutha.

15 'They used to do a Christmas celebration in the
16 children's home. There was a big air raid shelter. The
17 US servicemen from the naval base paid for a tree. They
18 brought a big lorry full of presents up. It was
19 a public relations exercise. A lot of people were
20 against the Polaris naval base being there in the first
21 place. A lot of people campaigned for it to be removed
22 in the late 1960s, although I wasn't aware of that then.

23 'I was not aware of my mother's demise or death as
24 a small child. I remember May of 1965 very vividly.
25 Mr McLeish, the cruelty officer, came over to Dunclutha

1 by boat. He was about 6 feet tall, wearing a big long
2 coat and a trilby hat. He came to speak to RCN
3 about my mother's death and met with me in SNR's
4 sitting room. She was all in blue with a little hat.
5 Mr McLeish took my hand, shook it, and gave me half
6 a crown. I was just coming up for 6 years old.
7 I didn't know what it was. It meant nothing to me.
8 I don't know what happened to the half a crown. He
9 patted my [hand and he went away]. I wasn't informed
10 about my mother's death at that time. Mr McLeish didn't
11 come and visit me again. That was the only social work
12 visit I had at Dunclutha.

13 'In 1962, the Polaris Base of the United States of
14 America opened on the Holy Loch. Prior to my arrival at
15 Dunclutha, the base became involved in taking children
16 out of the children's home as a public relations
17 exercise. They had built up trust with the orphanage at
18 Dunclutha quite successfully. Prior to my arrival,
19 I can't speak to what happened.

20 'When I arrived, it was all set up. On a Saturday
21 and on holidays, they would come with a naval minibus.
22 It had the black writing on the side, "US Naval Base,
23 Holy Loch". They would pick up the children. I don't
24 recall any staff members accompanying us. They just had
25 carte blanche to pick us up and do what they wanted. It

1 was the norm when I was there. Sometimes you didn't go,
2 sometimes you went. They had all the American
3 razzmatazz on the premises. They had ten-pin bowling,
4 and what we called McDonald's. It was an adventure for
5 people like me who had never seen that kind of thing.
6 My favourite thing there was the milkshakes. They
7 started building a rapport and would play bowling with
8 us. They did events at Easter and that kind of thing.
9 On several occasions, I was taken onto a ship on the
10 naval base at the Holy Loch.'

11 And he goes on to mention that:

12 'That went on for some time. I got to know them and
13 they got to know me. Then they got to groom me. They
14 would ply me with all sorts of goodie bags when we went
15 out and then they started touching me. It didn't
16 register at that age. It went on for some considerable
17 time. They were then entrusted to take children away on
18 wee breaks. That's when I encountered my downfall.

19 'My downfall was with an officer. I know that he
20 was an officer because I remember distinctly his sword,
21 what he wore and the gold braid which he had on his hat.
22 I can't recall his name. I'm sure he was married, but
23 the woman wasn't there when the acts took place. She
24 was there and then she wasn't there. I can't really
25 describe her. They had no children. He took me on runs

1 in his big American car. It was like a big, beige
2 Cadillac type car. Sometimes the woman was there on
3 days out, here and there. He would touch me. This went
4 on for some time.

5 'The man was about 5 [foot] 9, maybe taller, heavy
6 build and maybe dark Mexican. He could have been mixed-
7 race, I don't know. He lived off base. He lived in
8 a large sandstone villa which was on a hill overlooking
9 the naval base. It was a very substantial property. He
10 could have been renting it, but a lot of American
11 servicemen did buy properties. He wasn't like the
12 ordinary soldiers who had to live on the boat or in
13 accommodation at the base. He would come now and again.
14 He went away for a while and then he came back.
15 I trusted him. I didn't know what grooming was then.

16 'I've tried to be very accurate with my legal team
17 in trying to pinpoint exactly when these next events
18 took place. I'm of the view that it was in 1967, but it
19 could have been 1968. Mrs **RCN** allowed the servicemen
20 to take us out for breaks. Christmas was coming up.
21 I was taken from the children's home by the individual
22 who had taken me out previously. He came and picked me
23 up with the woman. The first day was all right. We
24 went on a wee run out to the woods and forest part of
25 Argyll. They took me to a place just outside Arrochar.

1 I played about on the beach and things like that.

2 'I remember getting back to his villa on a very
3 frosty night. We got something to eat and then it was
4 bath time. In those days you had massive coal fires
5 with log burners. I was taken from the bath to the
6 fire, where he had laid out towels and things. The man
7 had stripped himself down to his underwear. He stood
8 over me and proceeded to perform a sexual act, which
9 I now know to be masturbation. There was another guy
10 sitting nearby. He didn't get involved with it at that
11 time but he was there. I didn't see him in uniform. He
12 just wore a denim shirt and trousers and that kind of
13 thing.

14 'The officer then got down and started rubbing all
15 this stuff over my body. He then parted my legs and
16 lifted my legs towards my head. He then put his fingers
17 in my rectum with the goo stuff. The pain was
18 excruciating. I was in so much pain. I soiled myself
19 and the blood went everywhere. He proceeded to perform
20 this sexual act. I was screaming with the pain.

21 'I don't know where the woman had gone. They then
22 got me cleaned up. They put my pyjamas on and I was put
23 into bed with these two bastards. The deeds were done
24 and it was hell for me. From there on, it was downhill
25 for me. I couldn't cope with it and I couldn't get out

1 of there quick enough. I couldn't leave because we were
2 far away from the home. They cleaned me up, made it all
3 look good and bought me toys. They were trying to take
4 the "derry" off them for what they had done to me over
5 the number of days that I was there. They were acts of
6 depravity beyond one's comprehension. I can't speak for
7 other children in that home who may have suffered the
8 same fate. I don't know.

9 'I was there for a number of days over Christmas.
10 I was still bleeding and soiling myself when I got back
11 to the home. I was very withdrawn. The housemaster,
12 **FFX**, was the enforcer of discipline in the children's
13 home. He was very abrupt, "What's the matter, boy?" He
14 was small, about 5 foot 5 or 6, he had dark hair and he
15 was a brutaliser of children in the home. He took great
16 pleasure using the cane and the belt for corporal
17 punishment. All the punishment of me and other children
18 took place in his tuckshop. In the days of corporal
19 punishment, they could do what they wanted with
20 impunity. The punishments were severe for many
21 children, including myself. He would pull your hair or
22 your ear, but he avoided punches to the face. All the
23 marks would be down below.

24 'I was forced to go back on the bus to the naval
25 base after I had been sexually abused. I did everything

1 I could to avoid it. I ran away. I would hide in the
2 woods. I was punished again for absconding. I would be
3 beaten again by FFX. Big Chrissie, the lady in the
4 wash house, tried to prevent it. She washed me and
5 looked after me. I didn't discuss what had happened but
6 she knew. She was a lovely lady.

7 'RCN's head was in the sand. She entrusted
8 FFX to deal with things. He was too authoritarian.
9 FFX called me a liar and repeatedly punished me. He
10 would send me to bed and I would urinate [in] my bed.
11 I was constantly urinating and soiling myself. I would
12 be beaten for that, but it was all because of what had
13 taken place. I was corporally punished for soiling the
14 bed. I was bleeding and no medical physician came to
15 see me. It continued for a long, long time, until the
16 pain and the bleeding receded.

17 'I recently found out that they shouldn't have been
18 giving me corporal punishment in the first place because
19 of my health issues. They should have had a log. If
20 you were disabled or troubled in any way, a physician
21 was supposed to make a decision about what punishment
22 was adequate for the offence. They didn't have that,
23 but the law states that they should have had it under
24 the provisions of the 1958 Act. The Social Work Act was
25 then introduced in 1968. It is all there, the standards

1 that were required of keeping logs and reports.

2 'FFX had a vested interest in what was happening at
3 the naval base. That was the impression that I formed
4 from it. In a child's way, I tried to tell him what had
5 happened that Christmas. I was pointing. He brought
6 out the cane and whacked me. I would have to take my
7 shorts down and he beat the hell out of me. I still
8 have scars on my legs from where he used the cane. He
9 would then use the belt, which was allowed in the times
10 of corporal punishment.

11 'After what happened at Christmas 1967, I went into
12 a downward spiral. I was unable to attend school.
13 I had terrible nightmares. I was soiling myself and
14 wetting myself. I wasn't coping at all with life. It
15 was getting a bit much for them at Dunclutha. You can't
16 keep beating a child about. My health faded badly when
17 I was there. Because of what happened to me, my mental
18 state of mind was failing badly. The physician came to
19 visit. He was a local physician, asked to give his
20 opinion. The decision was made that I would have to be
21 shipped out to another institution.

22 'The Chief Superintendent of Lennox Castle Hospital
23 was contacted again. He came to visit. The offer was
24 on the table again. By this time, my mental and
25 physical health had deteriorated badly. The impact of

1 the sexual abuse on me was devastating, because they
2 made the decision that they were going to lock me up.
3 Initially I went to Eversley Children's Home in
4 Pollokshields, in the south side of Glasgow.'

5 And that was probably in 1969 and he goes on to talk
6 about that.

7 He then talks about being in Orchardton Castle,
8 Dumfries & Galloway and he goes from there to
9 Lennox Castle.

10 If I could go on to paragraph 59, and this is where
11 he gives his evidence about Lennox Castle and this was
12 virtually read in verbatim when it was read in for the
13 HAD case study. So from paragraphs 59 up to
14 paragraph 74 for example was -- that was read in, as
15 I say, verbatim.

16 At paragraph 75, he talks about being in another
17 children's home, and if I move on to paragraph 87, he's
18 got a section dealing with the police and he says there:

19 'I don't want any dealings with the police. The
20 minute I hear that word it goes right through me. It
21 radiates. I was a 9-year-old child and they skelped me
22 in the Central Police Office. There was blood
23 everywhere. That was the Great Glasgow Polis for you.
24 That's what they did to me and to many other children.
25 I have no faith in them. We need the police, but with

1 regard to the things I've told the Inquiry, I have great
2 contempt for them. In the last year, there have
3 been eight convictions involving police officers
4 sexually abusing children in Scotland. How can you
5 trust police when they are doing that? I hold them in
6 such contempt after what they've done to me.

7 'It's not easy for any child to come in front of the
8 Inquiry. The Inquiry needs to investigate why it was
9 allowed to happen. There have been six case studies at
10 the Inquiry to date, all into the voluntary sector.
11 They've vindicated those who have come forward to the
12 Inquiry. That speaks volumes. It was all there
13 15 years ago and it was stopped from going ahead. The
14 only thing is that half the people who were there when
15 we started 20 years ago are now dead.'

16 Here he is alluding, as your Ladyship will be aware,
17 to the campaign for an Inquiry, that he participated in.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, and this statement was signed in 2022,
19 early 2022.

20 MR MACAULAY: I think that was after the case study into the
21 Scottish Government.

22 LADY SMITH: That was the year after. Yes, it was.

23 MR MACAULAY: At paragraph 89, he says:

24 'What happened at Dunclutha was abuse by foreign
25 aliens.'

1 And by that he means the American servicemen.

2 And he goes on to talk about another establishment.

3 At 90:

4 'I can only talk about my experiences. I'm only
5 touching the tip of the iceberg because I don't trust
6 the Inquiry. There are a lot of things that I won't
7 reveal to the Inquiry because of my distrust of the
8 judiciary and of civic society, who allowed this to
9 happen and continue to happen. I was reluctant to give
10 evidence to the Inquiry, but unless I came forward,
11 nothing will be done about this.'

12 The next sections have been looked at when his
13 statement was read in, and if I can perhaps go on to
14 paragraph 102. Here he's talking about the treatment of
15 children at Ladyfield and other institutions in
16 Scotland, and again this is a section that was read in
17 verbatim up to paragraph 107.

18 And at 107, he starts looking at press articles that
19 he made available to the Inquiry about various events in
20 hospitals. At paragraph 111 onwards, he gives evidence
21 about his role in the campaign for a public inquiry and
22 indeed for redress and he goes on, talks about that up
23 until paragraph 133. Then, at paragraph 134, he talks
24 about the impact and I'll read some of that. That's at
25 paragraph 134:

1 'It's there on my records that they were trying to
2 label me as brain damaged. What was damaged was a child
3 who was sexually abused. It has caused me nothing but
4 mental trauma all my life. I still suffer with all the
5 trauma in my mind. It's not easy. Even today it's very
6 hard to cope with it. My children are 40, 38 and 29.
7 I love them dearly. I wouldn't harm a hair on their
8 heads and I wouldn't let anyone harm them. They know
9 nothing of this. They know that I had a troubled
10 background and I kept it at that. My daughter wanted to
11 come with me when I gave evidence to the Inquiry, but
12 I didn't want her to come.

13 'My experiences impacted me academically. Even
14 today I have great difficulty, not in reading and
15 researching, but with the written word. I have that
16 handicap. I've tried and I keep trying, but I keep
17 falling by the wayside. I find it very difficult.
18 I was very lucky because I had some good guidance.
19 Drink and drugs were prohibited and I didn't go down
20 that route.

21 'I don't trust anybody. I've been let down so many
22 times by the state. The state had a duty of care to
23 look after me under the 1948 Children's Act. It utterly
24 failed me and thousands of other children. That's why
25 I fought for 20 years to hold an inquiry, along with

1 many others who are now deceased.'

2 And he mentions Frank Docherty:

3 'Forming relationships has been extremely difficult
4 for me. My wife and I have had our ups and downs. At
5 the end of the day, she's dearly loved. I love my
6 children and I trust them implicitly. I do have a lot
7 of mistrust for everybody. I can count on one hand my
8 true friends. Others are just associates and people you
9 meet in daily life. The reason for that is plain. The
10 damage done to me as a child was profound and
11 everlasting. It will never go.

12 'What happened has been catastrophic to me
13 personally. The damage caused by those in the state has
14 been immeasurable. You cannot quantify it. It lives
15 with me every day. I have to put on a face. Inwardly,
16 I have my moments of sadness. In the two days I spent
17 giving evidence to the Inquiry, it brought it all back.'

18 And that of course is a reference to the private --

19 LADY SMITH: To his private session, yes.

20 MR MACAULAY: 'I didn't sleep well. I have these moments
21 when I go into discussions with my legal team as well.

22 'The state allowed these dreadful events to happen
23 to me. Many are dead who they killed at that age. It's
24 going through my head just now. It's very difficult,
25 even today.'

1 And he talks about his age and how he had to live
2 with it:

3 'All the other people that the Inquiry has seen
4 probably still have to live with it and it's so hard.
5 It isn't easy to bring it all back and live all these
6 experiences. I have read from official documents
7 because the Inquiry needs to know these things. The
8 detail has to be right for Lady Smith to look at. It is
9 imperative that the Inquiry has every bit of detail,
10 dates, times and names. It's difficult going through
11 it.

12 'There will be no Nelson Mandela moment for me.
13 There is no forgiveness. I can never forgive those who
14 inflicted the cruellest policy against people like
15 myself, only because of how I was born. That's what it
16 boils down to. It was because of where my mother was
17 and that was the practice of the day. I'm glad I was
18 spared. A lot of those who were with me are not. They
19 are deceased. I am a very lucky person.

20 'I live with this every day. I have three grown-up
21 children but I can't talk to them about it. It hurts,
22 the pain. I just had to suffer in silence like
23 everybody else. A child abused is a child damaged for
24 life. Some people couldn't cope with it. I know three
25 or four people in INCAS who took their own lives. They

1 LADY SMITH: Oh, yes. Thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Henry'. I was born in 1957. My
3 contact details are known to the Inquiry. I was born in
4 the Glasgow area.

5 'I have no memories of my life at home. I've been
6 trying to gather up stories from relatives to put
7 everything together. I don't think I got to see my mum
8 and dad. My dad used to go out and work. The story I've
9 heard is that he used to spend all his money on guitars,
10 leaving my mum and me without food.

11 'I ended up in the care of my paternal grandparents.
12 My memories of being at my gran's are great, until
13 I started to get myself into trouble. My grandparents
14 then turned quite evil. My grandad built a table and
15 chair to put in the corner. If I did anything bad,
16 I had to go and sit in the corner. I still got up to
17 tricks. If my grandad wasn't happy, I got caned across
18 the back by my gran. When I ask anybody, they tell me
19 that didn't happen. They're covering up for my
20 grandparents and I'm trying to uncover the truth. I've
21 been abused from when I was 5 years old right until
22 I was old enough to look after myself.

23 'I went to school, to primary school. School was
24 school. I didn't like being told what to do all the
25 time, so I'd end up suffering. I would go home with one

1 or two hundred lines, "I must not, I must not, I must
2 not". Then my gran would find out. It was the same
3 with the report cards. My gran read the report and
4 that's when things started with my gran. I started to
5 dodge school, and when I was about 6 or 7, I'd just walk
6 in and she'd say, "Where have you been?" I'd tell her
7 I'd been at school. She told me that the school had got
8 hold of her to tell her that I hadn't gone.

9 'I was about 5 or 6 years old and I was starting to
10 rebel. Who rebels at that age? I didn't want anybody
11 telling me what to do, even my grandparents. I couldn't
12 speak to people.

13 'I think I was dealing with a social worker
14 throughout that time. I think it was the social work
15 department who put me in my gran's care. I used to go
16 and do something wrong because I knew I'd get caned. My
17 gran bought me a lone ranger outfit. I sat in my room
18 with a razor blade and I slashed it all. I loved it,
19 but I was getting punished. I never, ever thought
20 things would turn out so badly.'

21 LADY SMITH: Or:

22 'I loved it because I was --'

23 MS MACLEOD: 'I loved it because I was getting punished.'

24 LADY SMITH: '-- getting punished.'

25 And that fits with something similarly odd he said

1 a little earlier.

2 MS MACLEOD: Yes:

3 'I loved it because I was getting punished.

4 I never, ever thought things would turn out so badly.

5 'My aunt had a boyfriend who stayed overnight. He
6 had a packet of fags. I took a fag out of the packet
7 and I smoked it. I was about 5 or 6. He found out one
8 was missing. I was made to smoke a cigarette and keep
9 swallowing the smoke. I wasn't allowed to blow it out.
10 My aunt thought it would teach me a lesson not to smoke
11 again. It actually taught me the lesson of how to
12 smoke. I was smoking at a very young age.

13 'I don't know exactly when I was taken into care.
14 I remember going to Lewis' department store with my
15 auntie in 1962 and getting my photo taken on a donkey,
16 so I know I was still with my gran then. I've never,
17 ever found out why I ended up in care. I've only got
18 one surviving aunt from my dad's side and my dad passed
19 away [a number of] years ago. The story I've been told
20 by my aunt is that the social work department took me
21 from my gran because she was unwell. She couldn't cope
22 with me because I was a bit of a rogue. However, I was
23 also telling people what my gran was doing to me, so
24 I don't know if someone reported her. I told my
25 classmates and [my] teachers at school. In school, you

1 got the belt. I used to say to the teachers, "Just bang
2 away because I'm getting it at home anyway". I can't
3 find out the truth because nobody will tell me.

4 'I can't be sure about how old I was when I went to
5 Dunclutha. I think it was sometime between 1963 and
6 1966 though.'

7 Records recovered by the Inquiry indicate that this
8 applicant was admitted to Dunclutha in [REDACTED] 1965.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: When he would have been aged 8.

11 'Dunclutha was just by Kirn in Dunoon. I don't know
12 whether it was ran by the council, so I'm not sure who
13 the staff worked for. It was a big mansion at the
14 front. It had an extension at the side. There were
15 bedrooms on the ground floor of the main building and
16 also upstairs. There were also bedrooms in the attic.
17 There was a big building at the back, like a war
18 shelter. That was where we sat and watched TV and
19 things. The housefather, FFX, had a room at the back
20 of that building. There was a piano in the room and
21 football stuff. I don't know FFX's second name.

22 SNR [REDACTED] was RCN [REDACTED]. She was probably in
23 her 40s, quite wee, with blonde hair. I'm sure there
24 was also a nurse called Nurse FGH [REDACTED]. She was there to
25 look after the boys and the girls. I think she was

1 RCN 's SNR . She was quite tall and thin. She
2 wore glasses and had curly blond hair. She was in her
3 late 40s, early 50s. RCN wore a blue nurse's
4 outfit and Nurse FGH wore a pink one. My mind goes
5 blank about any other staff. I think it's because those
6 three were most in the picture. There were quite a lot
7 of other staff there for cleaning and things like that.
8 We didn't have any cleaning or chores ourselves.

9 'There were roughly 20 boys and girls at Dunclutha
10 aged from 5 to 16. There were two separate parts. FFX
11 was in charge of the boys' section and RCN was
12 in charge of the girls' section. Boys and girls mixed,
13 but FFX was in charge of the boys and RCN was
14 in charge of the girls. Everybody met in the rec room.
15 I met my girlfriend in the rec room and we went
16 everywhere together. After I left, I would go over to
17 see her most weekends. One night when I was about 10 or
18 11, I couldn't get back home because the water was too
19 rough and the ferries were cancelled. I asked the staff
20 in Dunoon if I could stay the night, but they said I
21 couldn't, so I ended up sleeping rough in a shed in
22 Kirn.

23 'Nobody explained why I was going to Dunclutha.
24 I remember a social worker took me to Dunclutha. It
25 wasn't sinking in that I was going there. She was

1 talking away and I was doing my own thing. I think we
2 got the ferry from Gourock or Greenock to Dunoon. On
3 the ferry, the social worker told me that I would like
4 Dunclutha because they would look after me. She said
5 they would give me things that my grandparents might not
6 be able to afford, like school uniform. She made it
7 sound really, really good. I don't think a lot of
8 people knew what was really going down at Dunclutha.

9 'Dunclutha seemed quite nice at first. The social
10 worker came in with me. Right away, I was introduced to
11 FFX and RCN in SNR's sitting room. I was
12 told their roles, FFX was the housefather and RCN
13 RCN the girls' housekeeper. The social worker spoke
14 more to FFX and RCN, but I don't know what she
15 was saying. Then she went away.

16 'I was shown my bedroom. They showed me how my bed
17 was made and showed me the ropes with the hospital
18 corners and all that. I was then taken down to the air
19 raid shelter place and introduced to everyone else.
20 They said something like, "This is 'Henry', please take
21 care of him". [It] didn't feel right that day. [It]
22 didn't feel like I should be there. I told FFX that I
23 didn't want to be there. FFX said that I had no choice
24 in the matter.

25 'I can remember an older boy who was in one of the

1 attic rooms. He was in the home, but he was one of the
2 boys in charge. He helped out with sports and things
3 like that. His room had everything in it, but the other
4 bedrooms just had beds. There were about eight or nine
5 beds in the bedrooms upstairs, which were the
6 dormitories. The downstairs bedrooms were smaller.
7 I think I was in one of the bedrooms upstairs. It was
8 all boys in the dormitory. You were put wherever [you
9 were put], rather than according to age.

10 'We got up at 7.00 or 7.30 am. Sometimes we had to
11 make our beds and bed block it. If we didn't do it
12 right, they'd pull the place apart and we had to do it
13 again. They'd pull your clothes out of your wardrobe to
14 make sure you put everything back. We'd go for
15 breakfast, then go back to our room and get our school
16 uniforms on. We then went back to the rec room and
17 waited to be picked up for school.

18 'I didn't wet the bed but other people did. You
19 always knew the bed-wetters because they had a rubber
20 sheet under their bedsheet. I don't really know how
21 they were treated other than the rubber sheet. We went
22 to bed at around 8 o'clock. Bedtime depended on your
23 age. The boy who stayed in the attic was 15 or 16. He
24 had his own space so he could stay up until whenever he
25 wanted.

1 'We all ate our meals together in the dining room.
2 We got our dinner around 5 o'clock. The food was all
3 right. If you didn't like something, you just went
4 without.

5 'We had a wash in the morning. There were toilets
6 with sinks and baths in them. The baths were on one
7 side and the wash basins were on the other. There were
8 four or five baths at Dunclutha. We had a bath every
9 night but we had privacy. The water was lukewarm. We
10 shared water so if you were last in, it was freezing by
11 the time you got there. We would be in the rec room and
12 **FFX** would tell people to go for a bath. I was quite
13 quick, so I always made sure I was first to [go in] the
14 bath.

15 'They provided our clothing and our uniform for
16 school. We took our uniform off when we came in from
17 school. I wore a pair of shorts and a T-shirt. I think
18 the social work department supplied the home with
19 clothes. When you arrived, you were fitted out. They
20 gave you the biggest stuff when you were a wee thing,
21 big jackets and things like that.

22 'I went to Kirn Primary School. I didn't always
23 stay for the day. I didn't enjoy school. I just
24 couldn't take anything in. I got into trouble loads of
25 times for missing school. I'd get the belt from **FFX** at

1 home. Sometimes I got the belt at school as well. It
2 depended who your teacher was. A lot of the female
3 teachers couldn't strike you with the belt. The male
4 teachers used to hide the belt over their shoulder.
5 They'd pull it out. The belt had two wee legs. They
6 would make sure they hit you with the hardest part of
7 the belt. You'd walk around with two big red marks on
8 your hand. Once, I threw something at the teacher
9 because he was giving me the belt. I thought he was
10 being too rough. I got expelled. I think it was only
11 for two or three days and then I went back to the same
12 school. I got a bad mark for that at the home but
13 I didn't get whacked or anything.

14 'We got back from school about half past three. We
15 would get changed out of our school uniform and go to
16 the rec room to play games or watch TV. We could also
17 watch TV after dinner until bedtime. There were games
18 like Buckaroo and there was a case of books. [The older
19 boy, who I have spoken about] would do recreation and
20 sports with us. He arranged football, basketball,
21 racing and all different things. We did that on
22 Saturday. Sunday was a day of rest.

23 'The American Navy was based in Dunoon because the
24 HMS Hood was docked there. They used to take us out on
25 a Saturday. When you came off the boat, there was a big

1 leisure centre, ran by the Americans. They would get in
2 touch with SNR and ask for a number of kids who were
3 able to go. We went almost every Saturday. We would
4 see films. We were given candy. They were quite good
5 that way and those were good times.

6 'I never went on any trips or holidays with the
7 home. I just went out with my gran when she came to
8 visit. She wasn't allowed to leave Dunoon because I was
9 under the care of Dunclutha. Towards the end of my time
10 at Dunclutha, I was allowed to go and stay with my gran
11 for the weekend. That started when I was about 7 years
12 old. My gran was meant to meet me from the ferry at the
13 other side, but she never made it. I had to get the
14 train from Greenock or Gourock into Glasgow city centre
15 and then get a bus. I would never get a bus because
16 I would already have spent the half-crown I'd been
17 given. I'd spend the money on fags. I was given
18 tickets for the train into Glasgow, but I'd walk from
19 the city centre. Being at my gran's for the weekend was
20 good.

21 'At Christmas at Dunclutha we were given a toy and
22 a selection pack. I got Buckaroo. I dismantled it.
23 I was just one of those children. I demolished
24 everything. We had Christmas dinner in the dining room
25 with the usual things. The Americans did well. They

1 used to take us at Christmas. They would give us toys
2 and candies. We would watch movies. Only certain
3 people got picked for that. There were the "goods" and
4 the "bads" in the home. I always thought I was in with
5 the bads. I must not have been in the bads because
6 I got picked two or three times. If you did anything
7 wrong, you didn't get the good things. If I got the
8 belt four times in the week, I had been a bad boy that
9 week. I'd get left out of treats like that and all the
10 goody-goodies would get to go. I can't remember any
11 birthdays being celebrated at Dunclutha.

12 'We didn't get any pocket money but my gran used to
13 buy me the best of stuff. We got to keep our own
14 things. My gran would ask me what I'd like her to bring
15 me next and I'd ask for something I knew was worth
16 something. [The older boy I mentioned] had a big
17 gramophone in his attic room [and] I used to love it.

18 'We had to go to church on a Sunday, which I hated.
19 We went to the Church of Scotland church in Kirn. We
20 didn't have a choice. We had to put on our glad rags
21 and I hated wearing a suit. I also hated it because it
22 was boring. In those days they sang hymns and the
23 minister would go on and on and on and on. All the boys
24 in the home sat on the balcony above the rest of the
25 congregation, so everybody knew exactly where we were

1 from. I used to say to the boys around me, "I wish he'd
2 hurry up".

3 'My maternal grandmother used to come and visit me
4 nearly every weekend. She'd always ask me what
5 I wanted. She would buy me something every weekend.
6 She would take me into Dunoon, so the staff weren't
7 around. She used to take me to the funfair and things
8 like that. Sometimes, we would go to the tea room and
9 the amusements. We'd then get a couple of ice creams
10 and sit on the pier. We'd watch the boats going up and
11 down. When I got back, FFX would usually come up and
12 ask, all nicey-nicey, "How was your day?" It was all
13 for show.

14 'FFX used to threaten me. Because I kept getting
15 the belt, he said that he'd get in touch with my gran
16 and tell her not come and visit me because I'd been bad.
17 It never happened because she always came. My paternal
18 grandmother didn't come to visit me. I never had any
19 visits from social workers while I was at Dunclutha. We
20 weren't allowed into the main part of the building, so
21 I never saw any official visitors come in from the
22 outside.

23 'I remember Nurse FGH well, because she used to
24 give us our medicine at night. She gave us Milk of
25 Magnesia and black stuff, which was Syrup of Figs. We

1 were given that every night before bed in a wee room
2 where [she] kept the medication. I never got ill in
3 Dunclutha. Maybe it was because I got that medicine
4 every night. I don't remember going to the dentist at
5 Dunclutha.

6 'I think I ran away three or four times. There was
7 an old scrapyard in Dunoon. I used to hide and sleep in
8 there. I got found out because I lifted a torch from
9 the scrapyard. I was caught by the cops and taken back
10 to Dunclutha. When the police were there, FFX would
11 say, "Don't you ever do that again". After the police
12 left, he would say, "Right, move, you know what's going
13 to happen". You either got a cold shower and sent to
14 your bed without any tea, or you were left to sit in
15 a room by yourself staring at the four walls. You would
16 be left there for an hour or two hours before being sent
17 to bed. All the other children would be watching TV.
18 I had an uncle in Dunoon, but staying with someone would
19 have made it too handy for the police to catch me.

20 'One week, my gran didn't turn up for her visit.
21 I was broken-hearted. I started getting worried.
22 I decided to do a runner. I was trying to get to [where
23 my gran lived] to make sure she was okay. I got as far
24 as Gourock or Greenock, wherever the boat goes. The
25 police caught me there and took me back to Dunclutha.

1 My aunt came up the next day and told me not to worry,
2 that my gran had taken unwell.

3 'There were three seats outside FFX 's room at
4 Dunclutha, which was within the rec room. Every time
5 I did something wrong, the first thing FFX would say is
6 "Take a seat, you know what's going to happen". I would
7 sit there in front of all the other children and they'd
8 take the mickey out of me. They would slag me off,
9 saying, "We know what's going to happen, you're going to
10 come out with a sore arse". I was left to sit there for
11 10 or 15 minutes. I think FFX made us sit there in
12 those seats because he got a kick out of it.

13 FFX would then come down and take me into the wee
14 room. It was only ever him in the room. He would say
15 that he'd make sure I'd never sit again. He'd tell me
16 to pull my trousers and underwear down. There was
17 a piano in there and FFX would get the piano stool out
18 and tell me to bend over it. I got about six or seven
19 lashes of the belt on my backside. He used a school
20 belt. After he was finished he'd tell me to leave.
21 A lot of the time I knew what I was getting it for, but
22 it was never ever said. He did turn round at one point
23 and say, "This will be good for you because it will
24 teach you a lesson". Little did he know ... it just
25 made me worse.

1 'I was given the belt in FFX's room four or five
2 times in my first couple of weeks at Dunclutha. It
3 continued to happen throughout my time there. I saw
4 other children sitting on the seats as well, but once
5 they were in that room, I don't know what went on.
6 Girls were taken into the room as well. I don't think
7 there was any sexual abuse, but he was heavy-handed with
8 the belt. You'd hear screams. I don't know why FFX
9 was involved in doing that to the girls because RCN
10 RCN was in charge of them.

11 RCN must have known what was happening
12 because of the way FFX acted. They must have discussed
13 things. FFX was a bad person. I think he used to get
14 a kick out of it because he belted you on the bare
15 backside. You'd walk out holding your backside because
16 it was sore. Everybody would know what had happened.

17 'If you were fighting with other children and FFX
18 found out, he would say "Time for boxing gloves". He
19 would then make you box in front of all the other
20 children in the rec room until someone got hurt. FFX
21 was probably in his 40s. He wasn't skinny and he wasn't
22 fat. He had jet-black hair and one of those faces you
23 can never forget. He always wore a black suit and
24 a white shirt. I kept thinking it was my fault because
25 of the things I was doing. The very first time I was

1 beaten, I rebelled. I swore nobody would ever do that
2 again. That was me at the age of 5 or 6 years old.
3 When I went to Dunclutha, I felt like I wanted to kill
4 [FFX] because of what he was doing.'

5 LADY SMITH: Judging by what we've seen from the records, he
6 was probably a little bit older, but maybe only about 8.

7 MS MACLEOD: Yes, at least 8, yes:

8 'The lesson I learnt was to run away.

9 'After I ran away, the police would take me back to
10 the home. I was too frightened to tell the police what
11 was happening in Dunclutha. I knew that if I grassed
12 [FFX] up, I'd probably get it worse. At that time of my
13 life, I thought it was the usual thing and that it was
14 meant to happen. They looked after you like your
15 parents and they'd do what your parents would do. It's
16 all coming out now because I know that they've done
17 wrong. It was just a nightmare.

18 'My maternal gran used to come and visit me every
19 weekend. One weekend we were sitting on the pier and
20 she asked me why I was so quiet. I told her that [FFX]
21 seemed to be taking the law into his own hands. I told
22 her that he was giving me the belt. She asked me if it
23 was on the hands and I told her it was on the bare
24 backside. She wasn't too happy about it. She took me
25 back to the home, but [FFX] wasn't around at that time.

1 I don't know whether she went to the social work
2 department or where it went from there. It may have
3 been why I left Dunclutha and went to stay with her, but
4 I don't know.

5 'One weekend, my gran asked if I could go and stay
6 with her. My gran was in her 50s or early 60s. She
7 told me she had spoken to RCN and FFX and
8 they'd let me go to her for the weekend. The social
9 work department decided I might go and stay with my gran
10 for good, but it wasn't going to happen there and then.
11 I was to go and stay with her at weekends to see how
12 things would work out. I think everything went okay.
13 Even though I was quite nasty, I think my gran
14 understood the reasons why. FFX took me into a room
15 and sat me down. He said that he had good news and
16 I was going to be going to stay with my granny. I then
17 went to stay there for good about three or four months
18 later.'

19 Records suggest, my Lady, that this witness was
20 discharged from Dunclutha in 1968 when he was
21 aged 11.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS MACLEOD: 'I was excited to go to my gran's. It was
24 great to go to grandparents who I belonged to and who
25 didn't whack me about. In a family, you have the good

1 bit and the bad bit. My father's parents were the bad
2 bit, my mother's parents were the good bit. My dad's
3 mum had put me into care. I ended up staying with my
4 mother's parents. My mum's mum would never hit me. My
5 granda had an accident and lost the use [of two of his
6 limbs], but he would sit [in] the window and throw his
7 voice. They were great times.'

8 In the next few paragraphs, from paragraph 43
9 onwards, my Lady, the witness speaks about living with
10 his grandparents in Glasgow and in particular that
11 during that time, a friend of his drowned while they
12 were out playing together, and he says of that:

13 'My wee pal drowned, which is the worst part of what
14 happened to me.'

15 From paragraph 48 to 80, the witness speaks about
16 his time in Gryffe Castle Children's Home, where records
17 indicated he was admitted in [REDACTED] 1969.

18 At paragraph 81, the witness speaks about leaving
19 Gryffe and he says:

20 'When I reached the age of 15, the next step would
21 be to go somewhere else, like a hostel or go to a family
22 member.'

23 Records indicate that he left Gryffe in [REDACTED] 1972,
24 when he would have been 15, my Lady:

25 'My father got in contact with the social work

1 department. The social work then came in to see me.
2 They told me that my father was going to take me.
3 I never knew my father the way that I should have done.
4 I was then told that I was going to stay in London with
5 him. I was quite hyped up about it. I left the home
6 about a week later.'

7 In paragraphs 83 to 92, the witness speaks about his
8 life after care, including initially a period of time he
9 spent in London with his father while he was -- from the
10 age of 15. That lasted about a year or so and he
11 describes it as a very tough year.

12 He then returned to Scotland and he tells us at
13 paragraph 87 that he was put into Ardoch Hostel in Ibrox
14 and he was there, he recalls, for just over a year and
15 he says at paragraph 88:

16 'That was then me down and out, sleeping rough on
17 the streets. I was then living on the streets from the
18 age of about 19 until my late 20s.'

19 In the following paragraphs the witness speaks about
20 times when he was homeless and at times sleeping on the
21 streets, and also in homeless shelters for some of the
22 time.

23 From paragraph 92, at paragraph 92, the witness
24 says:

25 'I was on streets until I joined the army at the age

1 of 29. I was in the Scots Guards for about a year.
2 I didn't last too long. When I was in the army, I had
3 to ask the commander for permission to get married.
4 I've always worked. I worked as a manager for a company
5 in Glasgow that had [a number of] sites, and I then
6 worked in security for about 15 years. I had to leave
7 because of my physical health.'

8 He says they paid him off or he would still be there
9 and he got two months' wages, which he says was not very
10 much.

11 In the next and final part of his statement, the
12 witness speaks about the impact that his time in care
13 has had on him and I will pick that up from
14 paragraph 93:

15 'I used to watch people getting abused and you think
16 that was just the way people lived back then, did they
17 deserve it or did they not deserve it? That was the way
18 that I used to look at it. When I saw it come up on the
19 TV about the Inquiry, and abuse by nuns, I thought that
20 maybe I was a victim. For years, I'd been trying to get
21 this off my case but I didn't know where to [turn].
22 Then, all of a sudden, the thing about the nuns came up
23 and I wondered how I could go about reporting the abuse
24 that happened to me in my younger days.

25 'I sit and tell my kids what happened to me and

1 I feel rotten because of what I went through. I have
2 three sons and a daughter. I always swore that it
3 didn't matter what my life was like; I would never touch
4 or harm my kids. It worked [out the way I wanted]. My
5 grandparents were really, really rough. My dad was
6 quite a bully as well. I was afraid that I'd take that
7 off him and end up the wrong way, a bully. I swore
8 through my whole life that I would never abuse a child.
9 The only thing I've done is cuddle my children.

10 'I turned out really bad when I was [in] Gryffe.
11 I would steal at school. At that time, I was proud of
12 myself for behaving like that. Sometimes, I think God
13 works in mysterious ways. Maybe this is him getting me
14 back, but I know that's just probably my mind. I've
15 hurt a lot of people.

16 'I think being put in care made me bad and nasty.
17 Nobody can say I haven't been bad and nasty, because
18 I have. Now I regret it. I sit and think to myself,
19 that wasn't me and that shouldn't have been me. I was
20 quite quiet as a boy. I wouldn't talk to anybody and
21 I was quite a shy person. I turned into a rock for the
22 sake of what? People kept beating me up all the time.
23 I was getting doings for the slightest mistakes, when
24 I got a bit drunk. I was always stealing.

25 'I think my experience in care had an impact on me

1 offending. The pattern started when I was a kid.
2 I always rebelled. The stealing and the going to jail
3 meant a roof and meals. I had nobody to turn to,
4 nothing to do. I'd go into a shop and steal a packet of
5 biscuits and get caught. I don't know how many times I
6 got the jail for stealing packets of biscuits and things
7 like that. I think being in care made me like that.
8 I learned in my down-and-out days that I had to steal to
9 eat.

10 'Nowadays, young people get their Job Seekers'
11 Allowance, but they sleep on the streets. Nobody
12 understands. They sleep on the streets because they
13 can't take houses on. It's too much. They have to pay
14 rent and things like that. The money they get, they'll
15 drink it or buy drugs. They don't want to be in charge
16 of a house, where they have to pay this and buy that.
17 I was like that when I was young. I used to get my giro
18 from the Post Office at the top of the town. The first
19 thing I'd do was buy a bottle of El Dorado wine.
20 I didn't know what I wanted in those days. I wanted
21 somewhere to sleep, but I wasn't stable enough to have
22 somewhere to sleep.

23 'I went to AA meetings when I was younger and they'd
24 talk about one day at a time. We've all got a choice to
25 make in life. I didn't make choices. I had choices

1 made for me when I was a child.

2 'I can't put it back in a box. All I do is think
3 about what happened. My whole life, I've messed things
4 up. I've now got a life with my wife and my kids.
5 I feel quite good, but I don't feel brilliant. I've got
6 all this going on in my head, dragging me down. I am
7 trying to talk to people because it's driving me nuts.
8 I'm talking to a psychologist to see if that can help.
9 I was referred there by Future Pathways. I told the
10 psychologist that sometimes I can't be bothered.

11 'My marriage has not been straightforward. Because
12 of the way that I was when I was younger. Things have
13 settled down in the last 10 years. Things still go on.
14 If I wasn't physically unwell. I don't think I'd still
15 be married. I have suicidal thoughts. The hospital has
16 told me to stop smoking. The doctor has told me to stop
17 smoking. I'm smoking to kill myself. Everything has
18 just built up, the past and the future.

19 'If I had known that I could have these people
20 prosecuted earlier, then I would have done it. Nobody
21 told me how to go about doing it. It was only when
22 I saw all the homes coming up as part of the Inquiry
23 that I realised I could come forward. Dunclutha
24 appeared on the list of homes. I spoke to the Inquiry
25 first and then the police got in touch with me.

1 'A police officer from Dunoon came to see me in my
2 house. He took a statement from me. He said he would
3 put it in a file. He told me that it was likely nothing
4 would come of it because the perpetrators are all
5 deceased. The police said they had traced a guy that
6 might be FFX [but he died quite a number of years ago].
7 I wanted to tell my story and I'm quite happy for people
8 to know where I've been in my life. There's not a lot
9 that can be done, because the people are all dead.

10 'I remember the layout of everything at Dunclutha
11 and Gryffe.

12 'The police can only do what they can do. If the
13 people were still alive, then they would go for it. You
14 can't bring them up from the graves. The important
15 thing to me is that I know that my story is right.
16 I know the people who ran it, I know the layout of the
17 building.

18 'I'd like to know how to get my records. I don't
19 know whether to approach Glasgow City Council or Dunoon
20 or Bridge of Weir.'

21 In terms of lessons to be learned, the witness says
22 the following:

23 'I think there needs to be better care for children.
24 No child should be slapped about. Children need to be
25 better looked after and their families should be

1 involved. A lot of families put children into care and
2 then forget about them. It's all about the system. The
3 system has to change.

4 'The whole system is wrong. The way that people
5 were employed to look after children was wrong. When
6 I was in care, the staff should have been questioned.
7 When children were getting the belt, they should have
8 been asked why and whether that was the only reasonable
9 punishment that they could give you. They never gave
10 you cleaning or anything like that as a punishment. It
11 was always the belt and straight to bed without anything
12 to eat. They were really treating you like a pig.

13 'If I was a social worker and I put a child in
14 a home, I'd like to know how the child was progressing.
15 If the child came to me and told me [they were] getting
16 beaten, he is either getting beaten by other children or
17 getting beaten by the staff. I didn't have anybody that
18 I could speak to. If I spoke to anybody, it would get
19 back to the person who was beating me. It would have
20 helped me if there had been someone to speak to at
21 school. All I got at school was people from the army
22 trying to get you to join the army. At the age of 14,
23 15, the army was the last thing on my mind.

24 'I hope that the Inquiry lets people know what
25 really happened. It can't be on the TV all the time.

1 It doesn't tell you the whole story, it just tells part
2 of it. If a child is put into a home and then he says
3 that he's being beaten, he shouldn't be sent back to the
4 home. If he gets sent back, the one who's doing the
5 beating is just going to do it again. In those days the
6 boys told me to tell somebody at school because it was
7 happening to me so much. [I was frightened] because the
8 school would then get in touch with the home. What
9 would happen after that?

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

14 'Henry' signed the statement on 4 February 2020.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 Mr MacAulay.

17 'Zach' (read in)

18 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this applicant wishes to remain
19 anonymous and to be referred to as 'Zach' in his
20 evidence.

21 His witness statement is at WIT.001.002.0769.

22 'Zach' tells us that he was born in 1963 and he goes
23 on to talk about his life before going into care:

24 'I don't remember anything about my life before
25 I was in care. I have been told by the social work

1 department that I was brought up in Bellshill just
2 outside Glasgow. My mother was an alcoholic and
3 a prostitute. She is dead now. I don't even know my
4 dad's name. I was introduced to a man when I was 12 and
5 I was told he was my dad. I ran away from him and have
6 had nothing to do with him since. I have one brother
7 who is two years younger than me and a sister who is six
8 years younger than me. When I was in Dunclutha, a boy
9 was brought to the home ...'

10 And I think that probably means on a visit; it's not
11 clear.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR MACAULAY: '... and I was told he was my brother. Social
14 workers also told me that my mum had fostered or adopted
15 another girl. I have been told I was put in care when
16 I was 3 or 4.'

17 The records that have been recovered indicate that
18 he was admitted to Dunclutha in [REDACTED] 1969, which
19 would mean that he would be 6 at that time.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

21 MR MACAULAY: 'The only place I know I was in care was
22 Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon. Dunclutha had
23 a long driveway. There was one main building. Attached
24 to the main building was a long extension and then
25 another long part which we called the back hut. The

1 main building had a big door and inside a hall. It was
2 run by Glasgow Corporation. There were over 60
3 children, both boys and girls, living there. Downstairs
4 were two girls' dorms and upstairs three boys' dorms.
5 In my dorm, which was called the McDonald dorm, there
6 were about ten beds. The boys in the dorms were all
7 different ages and were not put in dorms according to
8 age. The dining rooms were downstairs.

9 'There was a smaller pink building, which is just
10 a short distance away from the main house. It was
11 a long building. That's where the younger children
12 lived up until the age of 5. At 5 they left the nursery
13 to go to primary school and they would then move up to
14 the big house.

15 [RCN] was [SNR] of Dunclutha.
16 She lived in the middle of the big house. The other
17 staff were called nurses, although they weren't actual
18 nurses. There was [RCO] and her sister [RCP]
19 [RCP]. Their mum worked in the kitchen. There was
20 also Mrs [RCR], [RCS], [FFX] and
21 [RCT]. When I was around 11 or 12 years old,
22 [RCN] left, and Mr [FGG] and his wife took
23 over. They moved into the big house. [FGG]
24 previously worked at Larchgrove Children's Home before
25 Dunclutha. The staff didn't wear any type of uniform.

1 There was always staff on duty. There was a staff room
2 where I assume they slept at night.'

3 And then he goes on to talk about other children
4 that he knew at Dunclutha.

5 And looking at routine at paragraph 7:

6 'My first memory of Dunclutha is being in the little
7 house. It was a long building and there was a sheep
8 field and the beach opposite. I am not quite sure why
9 it was called a sheep field because there were no sheep
10 in it. I would have been there until I was 5 and then
11 moved to the big house. I can recall more about the big
12 house.'

13 And he talks about the routine in the mornings and
14 at bedtime. And at 9 he says:

15 'There were no baths at Dunclutha. There was a row
16 of three or four showers but there was no shower curtain
17 or door on the cubicle. The nurses would sit opposite
18 and supervise us. This happened all the time I was in
19 Dunclutha up until I left at 15.'

20 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I'm going to have to interrupt
21 you. My real-time feed stopped five minutes ago; is
22 there a problem?

23 Well, I do need to see what's coming up. Could you
24 do that now? If you could, thank you.

25 (12.30 pm)

1 (The luncheon adjournment)

2 (2.00 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Ms MacLeod.

4 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, my Lady. An applicant who
5 wishes to remain anonymous and uses the pseudonym
6 'Jessica' will now join by video link.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 (Evidence given via video link)

9 LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', thank you for joining us over the
10 link this afternoon.

11 'Jessica' (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: Now, 'Jessica', practicalities first. If at
13 any time you're having a problem with the link, don't
14 hesitate to let us know, because it's important that we
15 can communicate clearly throughout the time you're
16 giving your evidence and, again, thank you for agreeing
17 to do that this afternoon.

18 I also want to assure you that I know that what
19 we're asking you to do, which is cast your mind back
20 decades, to times in your early life that involved
21 things that were quite distressing at times, is
22 difficult. This is a big ask, and people are all too
23 often taken by surprise at how their own emotions kick
24 in, and it's hard. It could happen to any of you,
25 including you, at any time.

1 You must let me know if you need a break or if you
2 just want a pause, and please be assured that I know
3 people do find this difficult; it's very personal. It's
4 very important to the work we are doing here that people
5 are able to do that, but if there's anything I can do to
6 make it a bit easier for you, you mustn't hesitate to
7 tell me.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: If you don't understand what we're asking, it's
10 our fault, not yours, so don't be afraid to ask us to
11 repeat a question or explain ourselves better.

12 All right?

13 A. Okay.

14 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod
15 and she'll take it from there.

16 Ms MacLeod.

17 Questions from Ms MacLeod

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

19 'Jessica', you've provided a statement to the
20 Inquiry. I'm just going to give the reference of the
21 statement, which is WIT-1-000000745.

22 Do you have a copy of the statement, 'Jessica'?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. Could you please turn to the final paragraph of the
25 statement. Do you say there:

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. And have you signed the statement, 'Jessica'?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, if we go back to the beginning of what you tell us
9 in your statement, and the beginning of your evidence,
10 you give some background information about your life,
11 'Jessica', before you went into care, and I think you
12 tell us that you were born in Glasgow in 1959; is that
13 right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that you initially lived with your family in
16 Glasgow?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you go on to tell us that you were the middle child
19 of seven children?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And that you had three sisters and three brothers?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. You give a bit of background about your parents and you
24 explain that your family moved to England at a certain
25 point?

1 A. To Coventry.

2 Q. And you say that you lived in a decent, clean house and
3 had food?

4 A. I believe back when my mother was alive.

5 Q. And indeed you go on to tell us that your mum became
6 unwell?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that she passed away when she was just 34 years old?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you remember how old, just roughly speaking, you were
11 at that time, 'Jessica'?

12 A. I would have thought maybe 5, 6, that's what I remember,
13 maybe about that age.

14 LADY SMITH: Well, I can take it from that, 'Jessica',
15 you're telling me your feel of when it happened was.
16 You were still very young.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: That can't have been easy.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

21 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

22 Your father and yourself and your siblings were then
23 in England and I think there came a time when, I think,
24 most of the siblings moved to live with other family
25 members; is that right?

1 A. Yes. We were kind of picked on behaviour, namesakes.
2 There were seven, but the two oldest kinda went their
3 own way and we were just divided by relatives,
4 basically.

5 Q. Okay. And did you initially go to live with your mum's
6 sister in Glasgow?

7 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

8 Q. And from there, I think, you went to live with your
9 paternal grandmother, your dad's mum; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Was that with a brother?

12 A. [REDACTED], yes.

13 Q. A younger brother, I think you tell us; he was younger
14 than you?

15 A. Yeah. He's already, yep, passed away, mm-hmm.

16 Q. In your statement you explain that that was not
17 a positive experience, living with your grandmother?

18 A. Mm, I would say the best way would be hell.

19 Q. I think, for example, you tell us that you would be
20 locked in the kitchen when she went out?

21 A. Yes. So --

22 Q. And -- carry on?

23 A. -- the house wouldn't get messed --

24 Q. Sorry, we lost you there, that was my fault, 'Jessica'.
25 I'll just ask that again. You would be locked in the

1 kitchen when your grandmother went out?

2 A. Yes, so as we couldn't touch anything or sit on the
3 furniture or just get out. Just stayed there until she
4 had to come back.

5 Q. And indeed you say that it would be very cold, because
6 there would be no heating?

7 A. Yeah. Erm, I remember there was no heating. There was
8 a fire, one that was on the wall, and she would take the
9 plug off so that we couldn't plug it in, and at one
10 point it was so cold, [REDACTED] -- I don't know, my dad was
11 an electrician I guess, and, erm, [REDACTED] tried to wire
12 the plug into the wall, the live wires, and got
13 electrocuted. I remember that pretty well.

14 Q. Did you then, after some time, move to live with another
15 aunt, your dad's sister this time?

16 A. Erm, yeah. Yeah.

17 Q. And was --

18 A. I believe her name was [REDACTED]. I can't really
19 remember. There was quite a few moves from different --
20 yeah.

21 Q. And again, I think you tell us that that was not
22 a positive experience either?

23 A. No. No.

24 Q. You describe your aunt as a cruel lady?

25 A. Very cruel. I think the distraught of everything

1 happened, I just remember her getting welfare money or
2 some sort of a aid, but she would put us out in the
3 morning and me and my sister would just go down the
4 railroad tracks and pick food. I remember it was right
5 across from Celtic football field, and we would go on
6 Saturdays and ask the men if we could watch their car
7 and earn a few pence or even, I just remember all this
8 weird stuff, and that was just how we would make money.
9 And times when we were -- I believe I was a wet-bedder
10 from stress, possibly. But she would be so angry, she
11 would put us in the wardrobe.

12 So, it was a lot.

13 Q. Was it while you were living there, 'Jessica', that the
14 welfare department, as you say in your statement, the
15 welfare department got involved and you ended up
16 ultimately going into care?

17 A. I believe I stayed with my aunt, [REDACTED], for a while.
18 I just remember the three different locations, and these
19 were my dad's mum, my dad's sister and then my mum's
20 sister, but she had already had three of her own kids,
21 her husband was an alcoholic and used to get beaten
22 quite often. So I think at one point, me even being
23 there was adding more stress to the family.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. So I believe that's when I was taken. And mind you,

1 I just remember bits and pieces, you know. What was
2 done, I don't remember too many good things.

3 Q. And in terms of social workers, the welfare department,
4 becoming involved, you tell us in paragraph 16 of your
5 statement, 'Jessica', that you and your brother were
6 taken on the ferry to Dunoon?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And at that time, were you told why you were going to
9 Dunoon, where you were going, how long you were going to
10 be there?

11 A. You know, possibly, but I can't recollect the whole
12 conversation. I just remember two kids going on a ferry
13 and ending up in -- I still believe it was called
14 Catherine Mary or Margaret Mary, a home that was pretty
15 much run by nuns and we were there for a bit.

16 Q. And you mention that you were there with a brother. In
17 your statement you say there may have also been a sister
18 with you but you're not sure. What's your memory of
19 that at the moment?

20 A. [REDACTED] was there but the only real memory I have of
21 that is a picture when she was doing something in the
22 town, a play or something, but she doesn't remember
23 either. But I remember [REDACTED], more so [REDACTED] than
24 anybody.

25 Q. Okay.

1 So you were taken to a home in Dunoon and you
2 mention there that there were nuns, so was it your
3 understanding that it was a Catholic home of some kind?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6

7 A.

8

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13

14 Q. Okay. Do you remember roughly how long you were in that
15 home before you were moved?

16 A. I don't. I don't know if it was a couple of weeks,
17 a couple of months. I really don't remember. It could
18 have been based on space in Dunclutha, I don't know.

19 Q. And you've just mentioned Dunclutha there, and was it --
20 were you then moved from that initial home in Dunoon to
21 Dunclutha Children's Home, also in Dunoon?

22 A. Yes. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Now, how old do you recall, roughly, that you were at
24 the time that you went into Dunclutha?

25 A. I would have thought between 6 and 8, but I believe

1 I could have been older, erm, than this.

2 Q. Okay. I think you are aware that the Inquiry has
3 recovered records which suggest that you may have been
4 a little bit older, about 11 or so, when you went in,
5 but we don't need to get too fixated on dates. Could
6 that be so, in accordance with your own memory?

7 A. Possibly. I mean, I was just trying to remember, I was
8 in Kirn Primary School, so I was trying to put dates at
9 what age would you have been in a primary school versus
10 the high school.

11 Q. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes. Well you could, at the age of 11, have
13 been in your final year at primary school, I suppose.

14 A. Possibly, yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: I think you tell us that your brother went to
17 Dunclutha with you at the same time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Do you have a memory of arriving at Dunclutha,
20 your initial thoughts about the place?

21 A. Erm, I can remember the entrance, I can remember the
22 dorms, Daffodil Dorm, Rose Dorm, erm, the long hallways
23 going down into the annex. I mean, I can remember going
24 in the dorms and seeing the rows of beds. Erm, I mean,
25 I can clearly visualise everything at the home.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. The dining room, yeah. But I don't imagine like I was
3 like 'whoa', you know, I don't know, I can't recollect,
4 like, what's going on. I mean, you just know that
5 you've been taken from one thing to another, you don't
6 know what's ahead. So even at 11, 12, if that was the
7 case, I can't remember what my thoughts would be.

8 LADY SMITH: I suppose, 'Jessica', by then, you'd moved
9 quite a few times already in your life?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: So it wasn't as if moving was a new experience
12 for you?

13 A. No.

14 LADY SMITH: No.
15 Ms MacLeod.

16 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
17 Were there a number of boys and a number of girls at
18 Dunclutha?

19 A. Yeah, the boys were separated by the upstairs dorms and
20 the girls were downstairs, and then I believe the babies
21 to 3, 4 or 5, maybe, in another area outside of the
22 home, behind us.

23 Q. And I think you tell us about that in your statement,
24 that there was an area behind the main house for younger
25 children --

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. -- and then in the main house, maybe 5 upwards?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So what was the age range then in the main house where
5 you were, between the youngest and the oldest children?

6 A. Er, I would say primary school age, because I remember
7 the one dorm was little kids and then it kind of went
8 maybe 10 to maybe an older age group, and then some of
9 the older-older girls were upstairs in the lofts.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. There was ... yeah.

12 Q. Do you have any idea, looking back, on how many children
13 were there, even roughly, overall?

14 A. I would have thought about 50. In my head, you know, it
15 was quite big, erm, you know, but once again, as a kid,
16 everything can look big.

17 Q. You've mentioned the dorms there, and the age range in
18 the dorms. You mention in your statement the names of
19 some of the dorms. You say the youngest girls, that
20 there was a dorm called Snowdrop?

21 A. Snowdrop, that's the one I couldn't remember.
22 I remember Daffodil and ... yeah.

23 Q. And Daffodil and another one you mention is Rose?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. God knows why they called them those lovely names.

2 Q. Okay.

3 And [REDACTED] Dunclutha, who was [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] when you
4 arrived there?

5 A. At that time, [REDACTED] RCN [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] FFX [REDACTED], which was
6 referred to as the housemaster.

7 Q. Okay. So was it your impression that they were equally
8 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] or was one of them [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] or what
9 was the situation there?

10 A. [REDACTED] RCN [REDACTED], I believe, would be the [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], [REDACTED] FFX [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED].

12 Q. And looking at [REDACTED] RCN [REDACTED] then, can you give us
13 an indication of what she was like?

14 A. Erm, I remember she had a little sweet shop and, you
15 know, we got pocket money, we could go and -- I don't
16 remember how I got pocket money at that age, or maybe if
17 we were good we would get to go in and get a candy.
18 I remember her as being pleasant. Nothing -- I don't
19 remember too much personality-wise.

20 Q. And [REDACTED] FFX [REDACTED], we'll come to look at him a little
21 bit later, but how would you describe him as a person,
22 how did he come across?

23 A. I just remember he was a big old man and probably that
24 could have been intimidating to me. Erm, he could be
25 described as nice-nasty in this day and age. You know,

1 you could be okay in front of people and then if you
2 were in trouble, you would ... Yeah.

3 Q. And you say of the place overall that it was
4 a regimented place with lots of rules and order; is that
5 your recollection?

6 A. Yeah, and I understand that rules and regulations have
7 to be applied.

8 Q. Okay. And you say that it was less dismal **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
9 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you just tell me about that, what was the difference
12 there that you're thinking of?

13 A. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

14 I remember the staff, some of them were very young, some
15 maybe more relatable to younger kids. As the years went
16 on, you know, you could get cigarettes and, you know,
17 stuff from them. But it was more relatable, more free,
18 as far as, you know, the big field, it would ... you
19 know. I think it was certain times it was very
20 regimented, from waking up, to getting your bed
21 straight, to getting to school. I mean, there was
22 rules. I understand the rules.

23 Q. In terms of the environment, you've mentioned there,
24 I think you tell us in your statement that there was,
25 for example, a conservatory where plants were grown?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And a wooded area outside and a farm?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Okay.

5 Okay, so looking at the staff then, you've told us
6 a little bit there about RCN and FFX.
7 But in terms of the other staff, you tell us in your
8 statement that other staff tended to be called nurses.
9 Is that right?

10 A. Yeah. Yes.

11 Q. And do you know if they were actually nurses, as in
12 medical nurses?

13 A. No.

14 Q. No?

15 A. No. No, this was just, I mean, who calls somebody
16 a housemaster and, you know, what is a housemaster? Who
17 is a nurse? I mean, I remember I was so sick that my
18 appendix ruptured. Those were not nurses, that was just
19 how you addressed them. Maybe a respect thing.

20 Q. And did they wear nurses' uniforms, do you know?

21 A. Yes. There was a uniform. I believe I have a picture
22 of it somewhere with them in uniform.

23 Q. And you provide us with some names of the nurses that
24 you remember. Are you able to help us with any of these
25 today that have come to mind?

1 A. Maybe Nurse RCS ? Erm, and Nurse FGH ? Yeah,
2 I would have to be reminded of some of their names, but
3 ...

4 Q. Nurse RCS and Nurse FGH you mention in your
5 statement and also you mention a Nurse Ratchet?

6 A. That's probably what we would address her, you know, or
7 we would -- I don't remember who it was. I remember
8 there was some of them were nice. Erm, it seemed like
9 the older ones were a bit fierce.

10 Q. And you also mention a Nurse FGH, but you say that
11 may have been another name for Nurse FGH ?

12 A. Yeah, yeah. As kids you would, you know, attach some
13 names to them.

14 Q. And is there anything about any of these nurses in
15 particular that stand out to you? For example, Nurse
16 RCS, did she have a particular role? Did they all
17 have the same role?

18 A. I think Nurse RCS, I just remember being a short
19 little lady. Could be fierce, you know, it could have
20 been that. I just remember she was about 4 foot 5,
21 4 foot 6, tiny, but you didn't mess with her. But it
22 wasn't. I think she was just a rule abider and wouldn't
23 let you slide.

24 I don't remember, you know, the parts where -- who
25 was in the shower rooms, who was, you know, mean.

1 I just have kind of -- this has been 40 or 50 years that
2 I have learned to block all this out.

3 Q. And what about Nurse FGH? Do you remember anything
4 in particular about her?

5 A. No, other than in my head, I just remember her being
6 a redhead and just kinda, yeah, not so nice.

7 Q. You've alluded there to that there may have been quite
8 an age difference between some of the nurses. In your
9 statement you say that some of the nurses may have been
10 the same age as some of the older girls in the home?

11 A. Correct. Correct.

12 Q. But that the nurses who were older, I think what you say
13 is they were just miserable?

14 A. Yeah, they were probably there just, you know, it's
15 a career you've done all your life and you're going to
16 finish. I mean, I know one of my current friends -- I'm
17 not going to mention their name -- there's a two years
18 difference with me and we're still friends. Erm, and
19 she was a nurse and she was 16. So we used to get
20 cigarettes and, you know, all this stuff you weren't
21 supposed to do, we could get through her.

22 Q. Okay.

23 Now, you say that during your time in Dunclutha,
24 that a Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO came to the home?

25 A. Yeah, I believe RCN retired and then FGG-SPO

1 came. They had two kids, erm, [REDACTED], and I forget the
2 other boy's name, but it was totally different. It
3 would make RCN [REDACTED] look soft, compared to him.

4 Q. So were they then SNR [REDACTED] then, Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO,
5 once they arrived?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay.

8 Now, in terms of the daily routine in Dunclutha, you
9 give us a bit of information about that, that you would
10 be woken, perhaps about 5.30 or 6.00 in the morning and
11 then you got washed and dressed for school?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then that there was a particular routine: you made
14 your beds, went into the dining room for breakfast,
15 walked to school, had lunch at school, and then walked
16 back to the home?

17 A. Mm-hmm, yes. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And in terms of bedtime, you tell us that that
19 was 8 o'clock?

20 A. 8 o'clock, mm-hmm.

21 Q. And that there would be nurses on night duty and the
22 girls would look out to see if there was nurses coming,
23 because you would be talking and playing games and
24 things after lights out; is that right?

25 A. Yeah, there was a lot of dare games, stealing of food.

1 Erm, I don't know, just silly things that kids do.

2 Q. Okay.

3 I want to ask you now about the food at Dunclutha
4 and the dining room experience. I think you tell us
5 that everybody ate in the dining room together. Is that
6 right, all the children?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say the dining tables were round --

9 A. Round tables of eight to ten, I believe.

10 Q. And that there was no talking. Are you saying there
11 that you weren't allowed to talk in the dining room?

12 A. I don't know, it was just one of those things. Eat up
13 and get out so it could be cleaned up. I just remember
14 the kitchen being to the side. So I think with a lot of
15 kids, maybe that was the reason.

16 Q. And how was the food?

17 A. Well, for me, erm, it wasn't so good. I believe I had
18 maybe a food issue, and possibly textures. I remember
19 a lot of times putting my food in my shoes or in my
20 pockets or up my sleeve. Erm, and obviously I get
21 caught a couple of times. I believe I was pretty much
22 underweight and so **FFX** would make an example
23 of me if he caught me not eating the food. And
24 I remember I had to get cod liver oil for -- to build me
25 up, but literally it would just make me more sick.

1 Q. So if FFX caught you then, not eating your
2 food or trying to put the food into your shoes or your
3 pockets, what did he do?

4 A. Erm, he would pretty much make an example of me by
5 pulling me -- not -- by the back, you know, of your
6 shirt, and you know, making you eat it in front of
7 people, or if you couldn't, then he would just shove it
8 in your mouth, erm, to the point you were just sick.

9 Q. And did he do that to you?

10 A. Yes. On many occasions.

11 Q. Okay. So did he put food in your mouth to the point of
12 you being sick in front of the other children?

13 A. Erm, yes. It was more of me being defiant, I believe,
14 or I'm thinking I'm defiant, but I believe, you know, to
15 this day and age, I have -- I had a food issue, but
16 I don't think back then it was pretty much understood.
17 I didn't like textures, I didn't like things touching
18 each other, I didn't like -- I would literally just
19 rather do without than eat the porridge and the stuff
20 that -- I don't know, just -- and maybe some kids were
21 okay with it but for me it wasn't a diet, for me.

22 Q. And as you've indicated in your evidence there, you tell
23 us in your statement about FFX, you say:
24 'He would grab me by the hair and force feed me.'

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. If I -- carry on?

2 A. Like -- yeah, I'm sorry. You know, trying to go back
3 and remember all of this. Erm, I think it was more of
4 a power play with him and possibly because when I would
5 go to doctors, I was anaemic or I was, you know,
6 skinny-skinny. Erm, I don't know, I don't know what the
7 whole food thing was, but I know that I was pretty
8 defiant as well and I know he was pretty power --
9 I mean, he just, I don't know the reasons why he would
10 do it.

11 Q. And the cod liver oil you mentioned, did he force-feed
12 you the cod liver oil?

13 A. It would be spoonfuls. Erm, I just remember it was
14 spoonfuls of it and I think some of the kids that were
15 maybe possibly underweight, we would have to get that.
16 And some days you would just hold your nose and try and
17 take it, and some days you would just -- literally make
18 you sick and then he would be angry.

19 Q. And if that happened and he was angry, what did he do?

20 A. Erm, just shove it down your throat, basically. I mean,
21 there was no getting away from it. And I think a couple
22 of occasions that if I couldn't eat, it would be there
23 on the next meal. It was just how things were run back
24 then. There's no rhyme or reason, I can't give you
25 an explanation as to why it was like that. It just was.

1 Q. And this process that you've been describing of him
2 treating you in this way, how often did this happen to
3 you? Was it a weekly occurrence or more often than
4 that, less often than that?

5 A. I think more if I get caught, you know, shoving food.
6 And there was kids that would take my food because they
7 knew I couldn't eat it, so it was kind of 'Let me help
8 you out'. You know, you had some healthy kids there and
9 unfortunately they would want more food. So if I could
10 get away with it, FFX couldn't oversee
11 everybody at one time, so sometimes foods would be
12 swapped, you know, 'Here, you take this and I'll take
13 your potatoes'.

14 Q. Did you see FFX force-feed other children?

15 A. Not that I can recall. I was probably just stuck in my
16 own little world at that time.

17 Q. Okay.

18 I now want to ask you, please, about the showering
19 arrangements at Dunclutha, and what you remember about
20 that.

21 How often was showering, did showering take place?
22 What was the routine for that?

23 A. Erm, jeez, I remember the nurses, or nurse, whoever it
24 was in charge at that time, it would be curtains, and
25 sometimes you would be in there and sometimes they would

1 peel the curtain back and, you know, say things like,
2 "Look, it's skinny-minnie", and, you know, just kinda
3 derogatory things, and not mean it like in a sexual, but
4 more in a demoralising way. Yeah.

5 Q. So did the nurses then, the female staff, did they
6 supervise the girls showering?

7 A. I think they would come in and out, but I don't know if
8 it was to monitor, or maybe not for kids to play in
9 there. Yeah, I don't know. I don't know what the whole
10 purpose of that was.

11 Q. Okay. And something you say about the showering is that
12 there was no privacy. Is that how you felt about the
13 showering?

14 A. Yeah, because it was almost like a prison shower where
15 it was open, but obviously curtains were there so the
16 water, I guess, but you have, you know, a few girls
17 going in and, I don't know, maybe if people were playing
18 around, maybe the nurses came in. I don't really
19 remember, other than always trying to get in the shower
20 before everybody, so that I wouldn't be ridiculed
21 because of my skinny body or no breasts or no whatever
22 it was that fascinated people at that time, who was
23 developing, who wasn't developing. I don't know.

24 Q. And the sort of comments that you mentioned that the
25 nurses might make, the humiliating comments, was that

1 comments they made about your body?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Derogatory comments?

4 A. Derogatory, but was it ignorance on their part? I don't

5 know, it was just, you know, you grew up and you kinda

6 think, wow, if I said that to a kid nowadays, what, you

7 know, derogatory meaning, you had no breasts or you had

8 no -- part of your bodies wasn't developing or you look

9 like a boy or -- you know, it was just things that would

10 mentally mess with you.

11 Q. So is that the sort of things they said, the things

12 you've mentioned there?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. And was that done in front of or in earshot of

15 other girls?

16 A. Oh yeah, I'm sure it was. Like I said, when you're like

17 a wild animal sometimes and you're not worried about

18 what others are being done to them, you're more worried

19 on yourself, hiding yourself, protecting yourself.

20 I mean, I hate saying that, but, you know, you're

21 very vulnerable with no clothes on. If I had clothes

22 on, I could fight all day; no clothes on, you're

23 vulnerable.

24 Q. And you say that the girls had to dry off all together

25 outside the showers?

1 A. Yeah. There was an area where the -- you know, the
2 sinks were or whatever and you would get out the shower
3 and everybody would dry themselves, you know, in front.
4 I don't think it was the girls looking at each other,
5 I think it was just more an uncomfortable situation for
6 a lot of people. I mean, even in schools, when you went
7 to school, you had PE. It would be the same situation.
8 You know, you have a private locker and you all kinda
9 dressed and undressed in front of each other.

10 Q. And was it the female staff only who were in charge of
11 the showering? Were there male staff ever involved?

12 A. No, I don't believe the male staff came in, if any.
13 I don't recall -- I don't even recall a male staff other
14 than FFX and whether he would come in, if he
15 did, I don't remember. I don't remember if he would
16 come in and shout, you know, but I don't think --
17 I don't think he actually come in and was saying things.
18 I think it was more the females.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Now, you talk about schooling in your statement and
21 you tell us that you went out to a local school?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. And how did you find school? How was that experience
24 for you?

25 A. Erm, it was fine, I guess. It seemed like I struggled

1 a lot in school. I believe me and [REDACTED] went to the
2 Kirn Primary School and I think that's when [REDACTED] was
3 removed from the home, when we were in the primary
4 school. It was always, you know, the usual: if you're
5 not doing your homework, you're not doing this or not
6 comprehending, you know, there was just that.

7 Q. Were you provided with any support at the home for
8 schooling, you know, if you needed to do -- help with
9 anything? Was that something that was offered? At
10 Dunclutha, I mean?

11 A. Not that I remember.

12 Q. And one thing you say about school is that it was
13 a means of escape from the home?

14 A. Probably, especially when I got into the high school, I
15 did gymnastics and cross-country running for quite
16 a time. So it was a way of avoiding going back to the
17 home.

18 Q. Okay. And you tell us that you left school just before
19 you were 16?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I think I became of the age where I could leave school.
23 I didn't leave with any degree, I don't even remember
24 what year, fourth year or something? I don't even know
25 if I passed school at this time.

1 Q. In terms of leisure activities and things that you did
2 at Dunclutha, you mention a playroom in the home and
3 that there was sometimes gymnastics on offer.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Is that something you remember?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you also remember playing in the wooded area,
8 football and swinging on trees?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. Are these some of the more happy memories that you have,
11 happier memories from there?

12 A. Yeah, I think it was mostly with other kids, erm, you
13 know, you could just be yourself. I mean, I was more of
14 a tomboy, so the woods and the trees was my thing.
15 Football, anything active, I was definitely part of it.
16 Erm, yeah, I was probably not a good person inside
17 because once again it was the rules, regulations, so to
18 get out was my escape.

19 Q. And another point you make in your statement about being
20 outside, is that it was an opportunity to see your
21 brother?

22 A. Yeah. Yeah.

23 Q. Because when you were in the home, were you very much
24 separated from your brother?

25 A. I don't believe [REDACTED] was there long enough. Erm,

1 I don't even know when [REDACTED] came, I don't know when
2 [REDACTED] left. I don't know. I just know he was there,
3 then he wasn't there. And probably described as
4 difficult or whatever the case may be. I don't know.
5 Still trying to piece those together.

6 Q. Now, at a point in time, was there an expectation at
7 Dunclutha that children would go out and get a job,
8 a part-time job?

9 A. I started working when I was 13. 12, 13.

10 Q. And what job did you get at that time?

11 A. Er, there was a little teashop down at the waterfront
12 which was right outside the home, and it was called [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]. I didn't stay there too long. I just remember it
14 was deckchairs and a sweet shop and an older gentleman
15 running it, but he was a bit of a creepy weirdo. So
16 I didn't stay there too long.

17 Yeah, I was -- worked in, I believe, [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] as a dishwasher for a while.

19 Q. So the shop you mentioned, [REDACTED], the man who ran
20 that shop, do you recall his name?

21 A. No.

22 Q. At the time of your statement, you thought he may have
23 been called [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or something like that; does
24 that ring any bells?

25 A. Um, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] ... maybe at that time I thought his

1 name, but I couldn't be 100 per cent sure.

2 Q. Okay. You've described him in your evidence as 'creepy'

3 and in your statement you describe him as a 'dirty old

4 man'?

5 A. Mm-hmm, yep.

6 Q. What is it that makes you describe him in those terms?

7 A. Erm, hearing other kids talk about him. A lot of kids

8 got, you know, they go work in [REDACTED] and they get to

9 eat sweets and ... I believe he had a preference for who

10 worked there, you know, I think -- there were some young

11 boys because we had to pull all the deckchairs out and

12 put them on the bay or whatever. Just girls maybe

13 telling, you know, what had been done. Do I recall all

14 those details? No. I just know that if, you know, he

15 touched your back, like, I don't know, he was just -- he

16 just had that weird, creepy -- he was just a dirty old

17 man. I don't know how else -- and once again, that

18 could be in my perception, but that was listening to

19 girls' stories as well.

20 Q. Okay. And was there an incident that made you stop

21 working at the shop?

22 A. I don't know if it was his approach with me, I don't

23 know if he tried to touch me, I don't -- I don't -- and

24 I haven't re-read all these statements. I'm just going

25 on memory as of now.

1 I don't remember -- just being with him, if you were
2 by yourself, sometimes, he would try and schedule you,
3 you know, after school and you were the only one there.
4 There was just something uneasy about him, whether it
5 was his touch, his stare, his ...

6 Q. And was it because of those sort of impressions or
7 feelings about the situation that you had at the time
8 that you left and got a job elsewhere?

9 A. I don't know if I was fired or I left on my own.
10 I don't remember, I ...

11 Q. Okay.

12 Now, you tell us in your statement that you were
13 made to go to church on Sundays?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay. And you say that the staff from Dunclutha didn't
16 accompany you to church?

17 A. No, they -- yeah, we were just -- we were -- we all
18 walked down together and it was pretty much forced
19 church. Erm, I do remember getting, I don't know how
20 much, 5 pence, tuppence, 10 pence, I couldn't tell you,
21 that possibly we were supposed to put in the
22 collections, but most of us would either keep the money
23 or take a little money or go and buy Kojak lollipops.
24 Sounds stupid, but that was what we did.

25 Q. And you tell us in your statement that you remember

1 Christmas times in the home in Dunclutha. Did you spend
2 Christmases there?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And was Christmas celebrated?

5 A. Erm, I believe so. I think I more so remember when the
6 Americans came, it was more you got stuff. I don't
7 remember -- I'm pretty sure in the home we did get
8 stuff. I don't remember. I more so remember when the
9 Americans came.

10 Q. And indeed you do say that, 'Jessica', you say that
11 Christmases got better when the American navy ships came
12 into Dunoon?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. And that the Americans got involved in charity services
15 and tried to do good things for the community around
16 that time?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. But you say that you don't remember anything about
21 birthdays, or birthdays being celebrated at all?

22 A. I don't remember.

23 Q. Okay.

24 Now, in terms of visitors, did you get many visitors
25 when you were at Dunclutha?

1 A. Erm, mostly my sister [REDACTED], when she got married, or
2 even prior to her getting married, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would
3 come visit as often as they could, maybe once a month or
4 twice a month, erm, not sure.

5 Q. Okay.

6 You've already mentioned I think near the beginning
7 of your evidence that you became seriously unwell at
8 a point when you were in Dunclutha?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And what you say is that you had reported to the staff
11 in the home that you were feeling unwell, but that you
12 weren't believed and that you were sent to school. Is
13 that what happened?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And once you were in school, did things deteriorate for
16 you?

17 A. Erm, yes.

18 Q. And I think you tell us indeed that you collapsed and
19 were taken to Dunoon Hospital and that your appendix had
20 ruptured?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you tell us that your appendix was removed and that
23 you spent weeks in hospital in Dunoon?

24 A. I did, mm-hmm. Or it seemed like weeks to me, but I do
25 remember, erm, yeah, being quite ill that time.

1 Q. Okay, and you also provide evidence about dentistry
2 while you were in Dunclutha?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And that you had some distressing experiences at the
5 dentist. Can you tell me about that?

6 A. Erm, even to this day I have a fear of dentists. So
7 I used to get toothache and earache all the time and
8 I used to pretty much bang my head off the walls from
9 the earache, but apparently, now that I'm older,
10 I understand it was infections in my teeth. I was taken
11 to the dentist and pretty much your teeth were yanked
12 out of your head. Erm, unfortunately, what they did was
13 left a lot of broken roots in my gums, so tooth
14 extractions were pretty painful. At this time, you
15 know, I've lost all my teeth in the back due to
16 unhealthy ways that it was done, where the roots,
17 basically the tooth was just broken in half and the
18 roots were left in your gums. So I had a lot of dental
19 issues and when I actually came to America, I had to go
20 to a dentist that, you know, pretty much to trust.
21 I remember it was called 'We Cater to Cowards', but it
22 was to try and get used to the smell, to get over the
23 fear of dentists, that we're not living in the dark ages
24 anymore. Er, yeah.

25 Q. Now, did you run away while you were at Dunclutha?

1 A. Many times.

2 Q. And why were you running away?

3 A. Erm, I must have been unhappy, must have been -- I mean,
4 people don't run away from nice situations. I would
5 climb. I would get sheets, tie them, climb out windows.
6 I would ... stole a rowing boat and would run away.
7 I ran away so many times that I really don't even think
8 anybody took it seriously anymore. It could have been
9 the whole situation.

10 I believe I ran away only when FGG-SPO were
11 there. I don't recall when RCN was there, but
12 I do remember FGG-SPO. And I remember him finding
13 me and that, you know, caused a lot of problems.

14 Q. And are you thinking of a specific occasion there, where
15 you were found by Mr FGG?

16 A. Erm, I was probably just walking, thinking and walking,
17 I don't know where I would be walking to, but him --
18 I don't know how he got me back, I don't know if it was
19 walking, but I remember him being so angry. It wasn't,
20 'Hey, let's talk about why are you running away'.
21 I think there was probably more problems than what I can
22 recall. It could have been lots of things then. You
23 know, why does somebody run away.

24 Q. Okay.

25 Now, on these occasions that you ran away and you

1 were brought back to Dunclutha, were you ever asked why
2 you were running away?

3 A. If I was, I don't recall. It was more, yeah, what
4 I caused, not what caused it.

5 Q. And were you punished for running away?

6 A. Erm, yeah, probably, FGG-SPO . He was pretty rough.
7 I know I was slapped a few times, but I believe that
8 they were very careful in how you were treated, because
9 I believe that maybe a social worker was involved and
10 would probably ask me some of those questions. Do
11 I recall everything? I don't.

12 I believe I had to admit that I was wrong in order
13 not to get moved anywhere else. I don't recall the
14 whole situation but it was mostly reversed, it was me
15 that was the problem, and not them.

16 Q. In your statement, you mention that Mr FGG would beat
17 you up when you were brought --

18 A. Yeah --

19 Q. -- back after running away?

20 A. -- the slapping, the punching. Erm, everything was
21 always done behind closed doors, so there was no
22 verification of anything. It was, you know, a kid's
23 word against this, you know, upstanding citizen that ran
24 a home. I don't know, it was just -- I know Mrs ██████
25 would kind of be there but, disciplinary, a lot of times

1 she would look away.

2 Q. So, on occasions then when you were brought back and

3 Mr FGG was -- you mentioned there that he punched

4 you, I think you said, and slapped you; is that right?

5 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

6 Q. Where did this happen? Which part -- were you taken to

7 a particular part of the home?

8 A. Their office there. There was an office with the sweet

9 shop and then there was like their -- I don't know,

10 maybe their living room area that was his office. But

11 it was more of a comfort setting, more like a living

12 room style with an office in it.

13 Q. And do I understand from what you said a few moments ago

14 that you would be there with Mr FGG and also

15 Mrs [REDACTED] but she would look away?

16 A. Yeah. Yeah, I don't think it was something that maybe

17 she would condone. I think most of the times that she

18 would be upset is if the kids were messing with their

19 kids, and then she would be more involved.

20 Q. Okay. So just looking then to Mr FGG and what he did

21 to you in response to running away and being returned to

22 the home. When you say he punched you, can you just

23 help me with that: where did he punch you?

24 A. I remember getting slapped in the face or a punch in the

25 stomach, but not to the point that you were passing out,

1 just -- I don't know, I don't know how to describe it.

2 Or --

3 Q. How old were you, 'Jessica'?

4 A. -- what I would do.

5 Erm, maybe by then, 14 or so. I was probably
6 described as the unruly kid, possibly.

7 Q. And did Mr FGG say anything to you when he punched
8 you or slapped you in this way?

9 A. I can't really remember, I guess, you know, because
10 anytime somebody would run away, I'm pretty sure it had
11 to be reported that -- you know, in case anything
12 happens so -- I think he was careful in how he would do
13 things, if he knew that somebody was coming to visit.
14 It was almost like once again being nice but being
15 nasty. I don't know.

16 Q. So how many times do you think you were taken into his
17 office and he punched or slapped you? How many are we
18 talking -- how many times did that happen roughly?

19 A. I don't remember how many times. I mean, I was
20 pretty ... I would say I was probably, to them, more in
21 trouble more often than not, and that was, you know, the
22 defiances, they would describe me as being defiant, the
23 not eating the food, the -- you know, the not doing good
24 in school. I don't remember all of the details as far
25 as why or how.

1 Q. So you're describing here what would happen if you ran
2 away and were returned to Dunclutha. Were you taken
3 into the office and treated in this way, physically
4 slapped and punched, for other things as well as running
5 away?

6 A. I'm pretty sure, you know, I was always testing the
7 limits maybe. Erm, yeah, pretty sure. And like I said,
8 it's been a long time, so I couldn't remember how many
9 times or how often. I just know I was pretty much
10 slapped around a few times by him.

11 Q. So you've described there, for example, this is a grown
12 man punching a 14-year-old girl in the stomach. Were
13 you injured?

14 A. No, I mean I'm sure pride was more injured than body.
15 Erm, I mean, obviously, being in a home, you were a bit
16 of a scrapper, so you were used to fighting. It almost
17 became a normalcy, you know, that if you were in a fight
18 and you got beaten or if you -- I don't know how to
19 describe it, because it just seemed part of how it was.

20 LADY SMITH: So, 'Jessica', are you telling me this was
21 happening to other people as well, other children?

22 A. Erm, I'm not so sure. There probably was other kids.
23 I know that I was pretty much a defiant kid. I mean,
24 even what is, you know, described as defiance, not
25 following the rules, not going straight line, not --

1 I don't know what made me that way.

2 LADY SMITH: Well, there may be a number of causes,
3 'Jessica', but perhaps most importantly is that you
4 understand that defiance or waywardness or being unruly
5 couldn't be said to have justified punching a teenage
6 girl in the stomach or slapping her around, the way that
7 you've described. Has anyone talked to you about that?

8 A. No, it's just how it was, and I don't -- I don't dwell
9 on it. I just remember they were probably happy when
10 I turned 16 and I was put out. And I mean, like I said,
11 I'm not excusing them, but I'm not excusing my behaviour
12 either.

13 LADY SMITH: But you were a child. You were a child and
14 they had a responsibility to do their best to take care
15 of you. Guide you appropriately. Make sure you felt
16 safe and secure. It doesn't sound as though you felt
17 safe and secure.

18 A. Mm, it feels like you were unwanted.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, I can get that from your descriptions.
20 Thank you.

21 Ms MacLeod.

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, it's 3.00 pm. I do have a little bit
23 to go with this witness.

24 LADY SMITH: Just let me explain, 'Jessica'. We normally
25 take a break at about this stage and we have been

1 grilling you with questions for an hour or so now. What
2 if we take my usual five, ten minutes just now and then
3 get back to your evidence after that; would that work
4 all right for you?

5 A. That's fine.

6 LADY SMITH: Let's do that then. Thank you.

7 (3.03 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (3.10 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', welcome back. Are you ready for us
11 to carry on?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 Ms MacLeod.

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

16 We were speaking just before the break, 'Jessica',
17 about Mr FGG and how he dealt with children and
18 particularly yourself when you returned from running
19 away and other matters where he felt children needed to
20 be disciplined.

21 Can I ask you about FFX now and how he
22 dealt with disciplining children.

23 You've spoken already about the force-feeding in the
24 dining room but can I ask you more generally about FFX
25 FFX. Did he physically discipline children in the

1 home?

2 A. Erm, I can't speak for others. I can only speak for me.

3 Q. Did he physically discipline you in the home, as
4 punishment for things?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. What sort of things would lead to FFX
7 feeling that he needed to punish you?

8 A. I don't know if it was the non-compliance, the not
9 eating, the -- my face maybe have irritated them, the
10 picking on their kids. It could be 101 things. I think
11 a lot of it was me in general. I don't -- you know,
12 I can't go back and think of one thing that I did just
13 to annoy them. I think my mere existence annoyed them.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I don't know how else to say it.

16 Q. Okay.

17 And how did FFX discipline you then? What
18 did he do?

19 A. FFX was rough. Um, he was a big -- kind of a big man,
20 a stocky man. He was more grab you by the shirt, you
21 know, by the neck, or, once again, I -- mostly what
22 I remember with FFX is with either FGG-SPO, when I had
23 ran away, you know, the being kinda knocked around. And
24 I can't say, you know, every detail 'cause honestly
25 I just remember being knocked around. Whether it was

1 with FFX or with FGG, you know, respectively, which
2 one did what, I don't remember.

3 FFX -- and I just remember FGG-SPO, like,
4 I never tried to get on their good side. I think I
5 was -- it was pretty known that we disliked each other,
6 probably --

7 Q. And you describe --

8 A. -- and mine's more fear from him. Whether it was FFX
9 or whether it was FGG, I think FFX could have been
10 just as bad as FGG, erm, but that could have been
11 him trying to be compliant with FGG-SPO; I don't
12 know.

13 Q. So are you describing there, 'Jessica', certain
14 occasions when FGG-SPO and FFX were
15 together when you were physically disciplined,
16 physically touched?

17 A. I think it was more when I ran away.

18 You know, when I say, you know, I got beaten, you
19 know, what do you describe as a beating? I remember the
20 belt. I remember, just as a kid, I would say you were
21 knocked around, and is that any more than what your
22 family member would have done back then? I don't know,
23 it just became a norm. So it wasn't like 'poor me', it
24 was just this was the norm. So that's all I knew was
25 the norm, because from families to the home, it was

1 the norm.

2 Q. Okay. Did FFX physically punish you in front
3 of Mr FGG?

4 A. Erm, I don't know that he would do it on his own but, if
5 he did, it would be more of FGG's approval, you know,
6 a nod on the head, you know, if you fought back maybe.
7 I don't know if it was an approval thing -- really,
8 couldn't tell me ...

9 Q. So were there occasions then when FFX
10 physically punished you and Mr FGG was present, he
11 was there too, the two of them were there?

12 A. I believe so.

13 Q. Okay. And were there occasions where Mr FGG
14 physically punished you and FFX was there?

15 A. I believe so.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Now, you mentioned a belt there, 'Jessica'. Who
18 used the belt on you at Dunclutha?

19 A. Erm, I would say FFX but, also, I remember that being
20 done in school, where you would cross your hands over
21 and they put the books on your wrist. So that was, once
22 again, the normal punishment when you were not doing
23 right.

24 Q. So you're describing there at school the belt being used
25 on your hands. Were the books put there to protect your

1 wrists; is that what that was for?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And when FFX used the belt on you,

4 where -- first of all, where in Dunclutha did that

5 happen? Which part of the home?

6 A. It would be probably in the dining room area. Erm, that

7 would, you know --

8 Q. Did he carry -- sorry, carry on?

9 A. I don't know if he carried it or it was just available

10 when he needed it.

11 Q. What would lead FFX to belting you?

12 A. I would probably most likely say the food seemed to be

13 a big issue.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Erm, once again, you know, the kids at night, we would,

16 you know, when the night nurses come, we would probably

17 do stupid things like dares, go steal the night nurses'

18 food, erm, go do stupid things. So, obviously, if we

19 get caught, then we would suffer the consequences. I

20 mean, that was just --

21 Q. And what were the consequences?

22 A. Probably the belt, a slap.

23 Q. And who was doing the belting or the slapping on those

24 occasions, when it was something that --

25 A. It would either be, mostly, I would say FFX and FGG,

1 Mr FGG . I don't remember the nurses -- the nurses
2 could be quite cruel. I don't remember them belting,
3 you know, I don't remember.

4 Q. So when FFX used a belt on you, which part of
5 your body did he hit with the belt?

6 A. Erm, it would be your hands. You know, you would cross
7 them over and, yeah -- that's, you know, as best as
8 I can remember. I don't think he just ran down
9 the halls beating me or whatever. I think it was more
10 in front of people, so the -- an intimidation to prove,
11 you know, he's in charge, sort of a thing.

12 Q. Do you recall how many times you would be hit with the
13 belt?

14 A. No, I couldn't even recall that in school.

15 Q. And Mr FGG, when he used the belt on you, which part
16 of your body did he hit with the belt?

17 A. Erm, I more so remember FFX . I believe FGG was more
18 physical in -- and I'm pretty sure, back then, most
19 people you crossed your hands. It wasn't you walk
20 around and they just beat you with the belt. They were
21 very smart in how they could get away with things, I'm
22 pretty sure.

23 Q. Now, we've spoken there about Mr FGG and FFX
24 FFX . Did any of the other staff physically punish
25 you, the nurses or anybody else like that?

1 A. If they -- if they did, or when they did, I don't think
2 it was as severe as these two. I think it would just
3 be, I don't know, more name-calling or, you know --
4 I don't know, I can't really recall everything.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Something you say in your statement about Mr FGG
7 and FFX is you say, at paragraph 102, you
8 could smell the fear when FGG and FFX came
9 near you to hit you.

10 A. Erm, if they came near me to hit me, then it was because
11 either I've done something -- but it was like I can
12 explain going to the dentist, I smelt that fear. So it
13 wasn't a smell that they could have put out, it was --
14 I would smell, you know -- it was just a sense.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 A. -- you know, that it's -- I can't explain it.

17 LADY SMITH: You seem to be telling me it's how you felt and
18 how you felt was like a frightening smell.

19 A. Yep. Yeah, it was almost like going to the dentist and
20 you had that smell that you just, like, I would smell,
21 you know, like, the fear was in me but I could smell it
22 from them. I can't describe it.

23 LADY SMITH: I think I know what you mean. Thank you,
24 'Jessica'.

25 Ms MacLeod.

1 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. I think you explain in your
2 statement, 'Jessica', that when you felt that fear
3 coming near you, that you learned to run?
4 A. Mm-hmm.
5 Q. Okay, and is that what you did, would you run?
6 A. Well, like most people, if somebody is coming to hit
7 you, you run. I think that's just -- you're more like
8 a feral cat, you just run.
9 Q. You say that all the kids did the same?
10 A. I would -- we all had our fears. I mean, I can't relate
11 to every kid. There was just some of us that may have
12 been more rowdier or defiant, or whatever, you know,
13 people want to call it, whatever name they want to call
14 it but we would probably be described as -- to them, as
15 the problem kids. I don't know.
16 Q. You say that:
17 'If a kid was being battered, the rest would scatter
18 and run so that they wouldn't be next.'
19 A. Yeah, and I mean if you -- if FGG got in a, I would
20 imagine, you know, a rage about his kids -- I'm pretty
21 sure we weren't, you know, too nice to his kids.
22 Obviously, you've seen the preferential treatment,
23 the -- you know, all this, they want them to intermingle
24 with us. They were nothing like us. They were
25 absolutely nothing like us. So you'd get these rough

1 kids from Glasgow or, you know, Gourock that was put in
2 this situation, of course you're going to go for
3 somebody that was of your same age. And that's not to
4 say we were all like wild animals and we were going
5 beating up their kids: it didn't matter what we said to
6 them, they would run back and tell their mummy and daddy
7 or whatever. So there was consequences and that, but
8 there was also risks that we probably knew doing it.

9 So whether we were right, whether we were wrong,
10 yeah, as Lady Smith said, we were kids but in some facts
11 we probably should have understood, you know, right and
12 wrong but then that makes it even worse for the people
13 that was running it, because they didn't know right from
14 wrong themselves.

15 Q. Now, moving on to another part of your statement,
16 'Jessica', you talk about wetting the bed. Did you wet
17 the bed when you were in Dunclutha?

18 A. Erm, probably quite often as a young kid, yeah.

19 Q. And how was that dealt with by the staff?

20 A. A lot of times you would try and hide it. The same
21 thing, the strip your bed, sometimes throw the sheet on
22 your face, call you names, P-I-S-H-Y. Just stuff that
23 would make you -- there was never a solution: why is she
24 wetting the bed? Or why is this kid doing that? It was
25 just the name-calling, the shame, so that was a lot of

1 reasons for me trying to get in showers before anybody,
2 or I believe, at some point, I probably stole some extra
3 linen so that, you know, if it did happen I would try
4 and get up in the middle of the night and change the bed
5 without being, you know, caught.

6 Q. And was it when the nurses came into the room in the
7 morning that they would check and see sometimes that you
8 had wet the bed?

9 A. Yeah, if they especially knew or, you know, somebody
10 would say they could smell it, and it would be probably
11 the same kids that had the issue, and obviously, me, you
12 know, before I went there obviously had these problems
13 from, you know, relatives or whatever the case may be.

14 Q. I think as you've told us there in evidence, in your
15 statement, you speak of if you'd wet the bed, you were
16 made to strip the bed in front of everyone --

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. -- you say:

19 'Then my face would be stuck in it and I would be
20 made to walk down the hall with my sheets whilst being
21 shouted at.'

22 A. Mm, more the walk of shame, I would imagine.

23 Q. And was it staff who were shouting at you?

24 A. Mostly staff but, obviously, a few -- you know, probably
25 some kids would join to maybe feel like ...

1 It's a weird way to explain it but, if you were on
2 their side, less trouble. I don't know how ...

3 Q. And during shower time in the morning, you say that some
4 staff would continue to say -- to call you names in
5 relation to wetting the bed?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. At the time, 'Jessica', how did that make you feel?

8 A. Well, obviously, the running away, the not wanting to
9 live, the -- it was almost like they would break your
10 spirit.

11 Q. Was there anybody at Dunclutha that you could tell about
12 the way in which you were being treated?

13 A. Erm, I would say I was pretty much of a loner, other
14 than when I was with the boys, 'cause then it was almost
15 like a release. I could be the tomboy, I could jump in,
16 you know, lakes, I could -- God knows, I just ran away
17 all the time; I just ran away.

18 Q. Did you ever report at the time what was happening to
19 you to any social workers or teachers, or anything like
20 that?

21 A. No. Maybe a social worker at one time, but it was kind
22 of made like I was the problem, so I believe I had to
23 apologise and say the blame was me --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- in order to maybe keep the peace, because at that

1 time I wouldn't have wanted to be relocated to another
2 home, to another place. I knew that I either didn't
3 have long there and just would much rather stay there
4 than going somewhere else. I knew what it was.

5 Q. Do you remember which part of what was happening to you
6 that you may have reported to social work or what sort
7 of thing you might have said?

8 A. Probably, I don't remember it exactly; maybe when FGG-SF
9 FGG-SPO wanted me out of the home. And I believe at
10 some point I went to stay with an aunt in some little
11 island. Erm, I don't remember where but it didn't last
12 long. So the home became my home. That's what I knew
13 as home; that, you know, I was familiar with it, I knew
14 what to expect and probably at that time I just wanted
15 to hurry up and finish school and leave and go work,
16 move.

17 Q. And I think that you tell us in your statement,
18 'Jessica', that when you were 16, that you left
19 Dunclutha?

20 A. Yeah, I think I aged out -- at that time anyway.

21 Q. And indeed records which the Inquiry has recovered
22 coincide with that, that you left shortly after your
23 16th birthday. You say you finished school and that was
24 the age everybody left Dunclutha, at that time.

25 A. Unless maybe they had the opportunity if they did

1 O-Levels, or whatever the case may be. I don't know if
2 it was an age-out thing or people got to stay. I just
3 know when I left, I didn't look back.

4 Q. And were you given any support by social work or the
5 home itself or anybody when you left, in terms of what
6 you might do next?

7 A. Erm, I think I was met with a social worker at one time
8 with my sister but, other than that, I don't remember.

9 Q. Okay. I think you tell us, 'Jessica', that you worked
10 in a hotel in Dunoon for a while and got room and board;
11 is that right?

12 A. [REDACTED], uh-huh.

13 Q. And then I think you say you went to Glasgow for a while
14 and worked in an office in a factory there, and then
15 returned to Dunoon?

16 A. Mm-hmm, correct.

17 Q. And that you worked in a few hotels in Dunoon and that
18 you met your husband in Dunoon when you were around
19 19 years old; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you tell us that your husband was an American
22 sailor?

23 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

24 Q. And that you got married when you were 19 and that you
25 moved to America when you were about 20 years old?

1 A. Erm, yeah, I think we stayed there for a couple of years
2 and then moved to America, and then returned on a duty
3 assignment.

4 Q. And did you live in New York for a while, and I think
5 you say, after some time, you moved to Puerto Rico?

6 A. Yeah, I believe the first place I went was Guam, after
7 Scotland. New York was his home base, so we stayed
8 there not long, it was just the transitional.

9 Q. And in your statement you provide evidence that you had
10 two children together.

11 A. Mm-hmm, correct.

12 Q. And that a few years later, the marriage broke down.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And in terms of your own life, I think you've lived in
15 the area where you live now for quite a number of years,
16 over 20 years; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay, and that you've had the same job for a long time?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. I think you explain that you're a managing director of
21 a company -- is that in the construction industry?

22 A. Yeah, I'm a general manager of a day labour company.
23 So, basically, we provide workers to job sites and
24 retail, greenhouse.

25 Erm, how I got into that, I have no idea but usually

1 it seems like I'm always for the underdog. And the
2 underdog, I mean by that is people that have had hard
3 knocks in life, people transitioning out of facilities,
4 jails, people who've just been knocked down by everyday
5 situations.

6 Q. Okay. And your son and daughter I think you tell us
7 both work in the military and have both done really well
8 and excelled in their careers?

9 A. Both retired, 20 years' active duty, daughter has two
10 Master's degrees in Social Studies, Social Science. My
11 son, he was Special Forces, [REDACTED]. Erm, so, yeah, I think
12 they have done remarkably well.

13 Q. And you tell the Inquiry, 'Jessica', that you've never
14 reported to the police anything that happened to you
15 while you were in care?

16 A. No, I don't believe so. I mean, just like I said,
17 I believe it was just the way of life and it's -- it
18 didn't seem anything different from everybody else's
19 life at that time.

20 Q. Okay, I now want to move on to the part of your
21 statement where you provide some information about the
22 impact that you consider your time in care has had on
23 your life and just ask you a little bit about that.

24 One thing you say is that you say:

25 'I wasn't slow as a kid but I was never properly

1 guided at school or in the home.'

2 And that you weren't given the same opportunities as
3 other children, which meant that you didn't go on to get
4 academic qualifications. Is that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. But you do say that, despite that, you've done well for
7 yourself because you had the drive to do so?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Anywhere that I've ever worked I have managed to
10 exceed up to upper mobility, as far as, you know, worked
11 in a bank, worked in hotels, night management, lots of
12 accolades, same as this job, just was a dispatcher.
13 I've been the general manager for 15 years, making, you
14 know, the company money, making, you know, finding
15 employment for people.

16 So I think it wasn't -- I think, looking back,
17 I never wanted that life for me or for my kids; never
18 once wished I could go back and live those lovely days
19 in the home or with relatives. Never wanted it.

20 Q. Okay.

21 And indeed, something you say at paragraph 140, you
22 say:

23 'There are two ways to look at what being in care
24 did to me. There are the things it did to me but also
25 what it did for me. It has made me strong to the point

1 where I can face anything.'

2 A. Yeah.

3 Once again, is that the defiance in me? Is that the
4 drive in me? Is that -- and over the years I did keep
5 in touch with some people from the home. Some people
6 have excelled, some people have went down the road of
7 drugs and, you know, unfortunately that's -- is that
8 what it's done to me?

9 I mean, the sad part is I don't have too much
10 compassion. Erm, I probably have more compassion for
11 animals than people.

12 Q. Okay.

13 Now, in terms of lessons to be learnt, the very
14 final part of your statement, something you say is that:

15 'Families need to be kept together, even if they are
16 a big family. That is the only way they stand a chance
17 of being able to be a family.'

18 A. Absolutely. I have a brother that was put with
19 a relative, I believe at the age of 4. We've tried to
20 reconnect but I have no emotional connection; zero.
21 Tried, but he's a stranger to me.

22 Obviously, I've had, you know, a lot of deaths in
23 the family. A young brother that was so wrongly done by
24 the homes, so wrongly, that he took his own life at 29,
25 doing drugs, the same thing, and I thank God I never did

1 any of it.

2 Q. Another point you make is that you say:

3 'Staff need to learn to talk about things with kids
4 and ask what they want and how they feel.'

5 A. I think that they should -- I'm not saying you have to
6 be in the situation to understand what a kid's going
7 through, but at least be educated enough to have the
8 capacity to sympathise or empathise or, you know, have
9 some empathy of what these kids have come from, you
10 know, to relate. I mean, you get one kid's this way,
11 and one kid's that way. We had seven in our family and
12 only three of us ever kept in touch. Three was taken,
13 you know, from bad situations, drugs or whatever the
14 case may be, but, after all the years of being
15 separated, there was no really coming together; that
16 bond was broken.

17 Q. Okay.

18 And the final point you make under 'Lessons to be
19 learned', you say:

20 'Not everything about being in care was bad. There
21 were good times with other kids but bad people had been
22 put in positions of power.'

23 A. And that's even true to this day, that people of power
24 are not always good.

25 Q. Well, thank you, 'Jessica'. That's all the questions

1 that I have for you today, and thank you for answering
2 them.

3 I would now just like to give you the opportunity,
4 is there anything that you would like to add at this
5 point?

6 A. Erm, I could probably add a lot of things but, once
7 again, just speaking from the heart, I don't think just
8 the home broke our spirits, I believe families,
9 I believe, you know, the times back then, it was
10 pretty -- pretty bad, from a mother that died at 34,
11 from kids being separated, whether it was family or, you
12 know, that did the damage or whether it was the home
13 that continued the damage.

14 And like I say, hopefully in this day and age,
15 there's better ways to reach kids. It's not locking
16 them up, it's not giving them medicine, it's
17 communication; communication and finding what each kid
18 works for them. We're not all in the same box. You
19 can't treat one kid the same as another kid, based on
20 circumstances that many of the kids that were there were
21 there because parents died, because parents abused,
22 because of unfortunate circumstances, but putting all
23 these kids in the same box and treating them all the
24 same never worked; never will work.

25 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Jessica', for those thoughts.

1 referred to in our evidence outside this room.

2 I think I have the list correct and up to date.

3 I have on it FFX ; PQZ ; FGG-SPO ,
4 possibly FGG was one of them; somebody called
5 RCN or RCN ; Nurse FGH or FGH or
6 FGH , according to one witness; Nurse RCS or RCS
7 RCS ; Mrs RCR ; RCO-RCP , and I think that's
8 both RCP and RCO ; and somebody called RCT ;
9 also, various members of the last witness's family were
10 referred to, brothers, sisters and at least one of her
11 parents, if not the other parent as well. And they all
12 have the protection of my General Restriction Order.

13 Now, I just want to check with my experts on my left
14 whether I've missed anybody on that list? I have,
15 haven't I?

16 MS MACLEOD: I think the only other one, my Lady, is that
17 I think the last witness here mentioned one of Mr and
18 Mrs FGG-SPO 's children by name.

19 LADY SMITH: That's right. And any of these people's family
20 members are also protected by my order, so they
21 shouldn't be referred to.

22 If anyone has any queries or doubts before
23 disclosure of these identities are made, please check
24 with us and we'll confirm one way or the other.

25 So that is it for today and we move on tomorrow to

1 a single witness, I think; is that right?

2 MS MACLEOD: Tomorrow morning, it will be read-ins. There's

3 the continuation of one read-in which is part-heard from

4 before lunchtime today.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MS MACLEOD: And another two read-ins -- sorry, another

7 three read-ins after that, my Lady. That will then

8 finish the evidence for Dunclutha tomorrow, and then we

9 will move on in the afternoon to Lagarie, when there is

10 a live witness.

11 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes. So Dunclutha round-up tomorrow

12 morning and start Lagarie in the afternoon.

13 Thank you all very much for that, and I'll see you

14 tomorrow. Thank you.

15 (3.49 pm)

16 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

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