

Thursday, 15 January 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return today to evidence in
4 relation to Phase 10 of this set of case study hearings
5 and we have now, as of yesterday afternoon, moved on to
6 looking at the provision of residential care for
7 children in Lagarie Children's Home in Rhu that was run
8 by the Sailors' Society.

9 Now, Ms Forbes.

10 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady. The first witness this
11 morning is an applicant who wishes to be anonymous and
12 to be known as 'Mary' and she is -- due to mobility
13 problems, she's already in the hearing suite.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Mary', good morning. Thank you for coming along
16 today. Welcome to our hearing suite in the Child Abuse
17 Inquiry here. It's probably been explained to you that
18 I chair the Inquiry, I'm Lady Smith.

19 Before we move to your evidence, I'd like you to
20 raise your right hand, if you would, as I've just done,
21 and repeat these words.

22 'Mary' (affirmed)

23 A. I'm hard of hearing.

24 LADY SMITH: You've got your hearing aids with you, have you
25 'Mary'?

1 A. Yeah, I've got them in.

2 LADY SMITH: Do let us know if, at any time, you're having
3 difficulty. The system should pick up all right.
4 Sometimes we're not in exactly the right place by the
5 microphone to make it work well for you. So don't guess
6 what we've said, do ask, because it's important that you
7 feel you can communicate properly with us.

8 Also, 'Mary', if at any time during your evidence
9 you want a break, that's not a problem. And don't worry
10 about the fact that that means that we've got to take
11 time. I can take as long as it takes for you to have
12 a break if you need it. And if you want us to explain
13 anything again, because we haven't explained it very
14 well, that's our fault, not yours, so just say. Okay?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: And don't worry if you find any of this
17 upsetting, that's not surprising at all. I am well
18 used, because of the subject matter we're dealing with
19 here, to people being taken by surprise by their own
20 emotions once they talk about what happened to them when
21 they were children. I know it was a long time ago, but
22 it doesn't mean that the emotions associated with it
23 can't be very real today. I do understand that.

24 If you're ready, 'Mary', I'll hand over to Ms Forbes
25 and she will take it from there; is that all right?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 Questions from Ms Forbes

4 MS FORBES: Good morning, 'Mary'.

5 A. Morning.

6 Q. If I don't speak loudly enough, just let me know and
7 I'll try and keep my volume up.

8 A. Right.

9 Q. 'Mary', you've provided a statement to the Inquiry
10 already, and that is your evidence already in the
11 Inquiry. And I think that's in front of you now in the
12 red folder that you have.

13 Now, for our purposes, that statement has
14 a reference number and I'm just going to read that out
15 just now for the transcript, but it's not something for
16 you to worry about, but it's WIT-1-000000325.

17 Now, 'Mary', if you could turn to the very last page
18 of your statement in that red folder, I think it's
19 page 21, and at paragraph 136, there's a paragraph that
20 says the following:

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

25 And then below that there's an area for signature

1 and you've signed that and it's dated 20 February 2020.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that still the position, 'Mary'?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Now, that's almost six years ago, since you gave
7 your statement. If we could just turn back then to the
8 beginning of your statement, and you can have that in
9 front of you, it will also be on the screen in front of
10 you, but you don't have to use either. It's up to you,
11 whatever you prefer.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. So, 'Mary', you tell us in your statement that you were
14 born in 1942, is that right?

15 A. Yes. Yes.

16 Q. Yes. And you go on then to tell us about your early
17 life before you went into care, and that's between
18 paragraphs 2 and 15. So I'm just going to go through
19 some of that with you now, just to understand how you
20 came to be in care, okay?

21 A. Fine.

22 Q. I think you tell us, 'Mary', you were brought up
23 initially in Govan in Glasgow?

24 A. In Govan, yeah.

25 Q. And you were with your parents, is that right?

1 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

2 Q. And eventually you were the oldest of three girls?

3 A. That's right, yeah.

4 Q. And you tell us that your father was a merchant seaman?

5 A. Yeah, he was.

6 Q. So he was away a lot, is that right?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. But your mother stayed home to look after you and your
9 sisters?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Mary', that life at home, when
12 you were young, was all right, but your impression was
13 that your mother and your sisters and you were quite
14 poor?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And you found things hard?

17 A. Yeah. Yes, that's true.

18 Q. I think the way that you've described it at paragraph 4
19 of your statement is that your mum would get some money
20 from your father and things could be all right for the
21 first week but after that, you would get hungry?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But I think, despite that, 'Mary', you tell us you grew
24 up happy?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Is that right?

2 A. Yes, that's true.

3 Q. But you tell us that unfortunately you suffered from
4 poor health and had a lot of illnesses, is that right?

5 A. What's that?

6 Q. Sorry, 'Mary', I'm not speaking loudly enough. I think
7 you tell us you suffered from ill-health when you were
8 young and had a lot of illnesses, is that right?

9 A. Is it on my statement here?

10 Q. Yes, I think at paragraph 5 you say that you spent a lot
11 of time in hospital when you were young?

12 A. I did, yeah. That's true.

13 Q. I think you were told by your mother later --

14 A. Oh, yes, it's here, uh-huh.

15 Q. Is that right, you see that? Yes.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. That you only spent a couple of Christmases at home
18 before you were 12?

19 A. Uh-huh, 12, that's right, that's true.

20 Q. You tell us, this is at paragraph 6 over the page, the
21 things that you suffered from were pneumonia, scarlet
22 fever and diphtheria?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Those types of things?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think you say at one point you were so ill that
2 they were worried that you were going to die?

3 A. True. Of diphtheria.

4 Q. And because of that, you spent time in hospital and then
5 you spent time recovering in convalescent homes?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you tell us you were in a number of different
8 convalescent homes, is that right?

9 A. Yeah, that's true.

10 Q. And you say that you were in one particular place, East
11 Park, at least twice, is that right?

12 A. Yeah, that's true.

13 Q. Once for about seven months and another time for about
14 a year?

15 A. That's right, yes, that's true.

16 Q. And then you were in another place in Milngavie?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly. And you remember
19 being in and out of these homes as well as hospital and
20 then, in between, being back home as well?

21 A. Uh-huh, yes.

22 Q. So it was a lot of moving back and forward?

23 A. Yes, yes, that's true.

24 Q. I think you also say, 'Mary', at paragraph 10 that your
25 mother moved house a lot as well?

1 A. Yeah, she did.

2 Q. So this seems to be a very unsettled childhood?

3 A. Yes, it was.

4 Q. But despite that, you say that you still had quite
5 a happy childhood at home?

6 A. We did have, yes.

7 Q. You tell us about an occasion, this is at paragraph 10,
8 'Mary', where you remember your father coming home from
9 sea and being quite drunk and arguing with your mum, but
10 you still felt it was happy at home?

11 A. Yes, that's true, it was still happy.

12 Q. And apart from your -- you being of poor health, 'Mary',
13 you tell us that your mum also had a heart condition?

14 A. That's true.

15 Q. And she would then be in hospital sometimes as well?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was this something that particularly came about or
18 raised its head when she was pregnant?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you tell us, I think, that sometimes you would both
21 be in hospital at the same time?

22 A. That's true, yes.

23 Q. And there was an occasion when you and the sister that's
24 closest in age to you were in care in Largs?

25 A. That's true.

1 Q. You were about 6, is that right?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And again, this was a convalescent home but this time
4 you were there because your mum was in hospital?

5 A. Hospital, that's true.

6 Q. And you describe that as being a lovely home, from what
7 you remember?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. But it was a place you were only there for about a month
10 or so, you tell us that at paragraph 12.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. 'Mary', you tell us also that you went to a home
13 somewhere near St Andrews at one point?

14 A. Yes, yes, St Andrews, yes.

15 Q. And you say that was a nice place as well?

16 A. It was a nice place, yes.

17 Q. And then there came a time when your mother was
18 expecting your youngest sister?

19 A. Yes, uh-huh.

20 Q. So this is the youngest sibling of the three of you and
21 she had to go into hospital again, is that right?

22 A. That's true.

23 Q. And this was when you and your younger sister had to go
24 into care; is that right?

25 A. Yes, that's true.

1 Q. And this is when you went to Rhu?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. That's the name that you knew it as, is that right

4 'Mary'? You knew it as Rhu?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. But I think you learned later in life that it was called

7 Lagarie House?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. I think you tell us that maybe at paragraph 15? It was

10 something you heard from Future Pathways. Do you recall

11 that?

12 A. I only knew it as Rhu. I didn't really name the home.

13 Q. So you didn't know it.

14 A. Because -- I just knew it as Rhu.

15 Q. So when you were young, and later on, you just knew it

16 as Rhu and that's how you referred to it as?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And because of that, we'll just refer to it as Rhu as we

19 go forward, if that's okay, 'Mary'?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But we know we are talking about Lagarie House?

22 A. Yes, uh-huh.

23 Q. And I think you say that you went to Rhu with your

24 sister because of the fact that your father was in the

25 Merchant Navy?

1 A. That's true, yes.

2 Q. Did you know that at the time when you were young, that
3 that's why you were going there?

4 A. We get told, we did get told we were going into a home
5 because my dad was at sea, yes.

6 Q. Okay. And did you know then that it was run by somebody
7 connected or something connected with merchant seamen?

8 A. I didn't really understand much about it, I just knew
9 that it was because your father's a seaman, they're
10 getting you into a home.

11 Q. I think you tell us you were about 7? This is at
12 paragraph 15.

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. That's what you remember your age?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. And your younger sister then, you say, would have been
17 about 3 and a half?

18 A. That's right, 3 and a half.

19 Q. So if we're looking at the sort of timeframe that you
20 went there, you estimate that as being about 1949?

21 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

22 Q. Is that right? But you haven't been able to find any
23 records or look at any records relating to your time at
24 Rhu, is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you think that you and your sister were there
2 together in Rhu for about two months?

3 A. About that, yeah. I don't really have a lot of
4 recollection of the time, you know.

5 Q. But that's your best estimate, is it?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Yes. You then go on, 'Mary', to tell us about your time
8 in Rhu in your statement, and that's between paragraphs
9 16 and 75. So now, I'm just going to move on to that
10 part of your statement, 'Mary', and I'm going to ask you
11 some questions about your time at Rhu.

12 A. Right.

13 Q. Okay?

14 You tell us some general things about the place from
15 paragraph 16. And I think you tell us this was a big
16 stately home?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. It was set in grounds, is that what you remember?

19 A. Yes, I remember that, mm-hmm.

20 Q. And it was fenced off with a wire fence at the back?

21 A. That's true.

22 Q. And in relation to the inside, you remember corridors
23 with dormitories and bathrooms and toilets, all
24 upstairs?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Is that right?

2 A. Yes, that's right.

3 Q. And then you remember a big open room with --

4 A. Windows.

5 Q. -- windows where you would all sit. Was that

6 downstairs? Was that room, the big open room with the

7 windows, where you would all sit, was that downstairs in

8 the building?

9 A. Downstairs, uh-huh.

10 Q. And you also recall a kitchen --

11 A. Kitchen.

12 Q. -- and a big dining room?

13 A. And a big dining room, uh-huh.

14 Q. Again, also downstairs?

15 A. Uh-huh, downstairs.

16 Q. In relation to those dormitories then, 'Mary', you tell

17 us that you and your sister were put into separate

18 dormitories?

19 A. That's right, yes.

20 Q. And you would only then see her during the day?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And I think you describe it, there were younger children

23 in one dormitory and older children in another and you

24 were in the older one?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think that at paragraph 18 you say that you
2 remember being separated from your sister quite a bit?
3 A. Yes, uh-huh.
4 Q. And you also say that you remember her crying a lot?
5 A. That's true, she did cry.
6 Q. And I think you describe, just going over the page, that
7 you think that this was because she was missing your
8 mum?
9 A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
10 Q. But in general, you tell us that you weren't happy at
11 all at Rhu?
12 A. No. No.
13 Q. And --
14 A. I hated it. I hated it. It was bad.
15 Q. I think you say also that your sister hated it too, is
16 that right?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And that she would follow you around a lot?
19 A. Yeah, she did, you know, 'cause she was missing our mum
20 all the time.
21 Q. And she was, as you say, only 3 and a half, so very
22 young?
23 A. I know. I know.
24 Q. And you go on, 'Mary', to tell us that there were boys
25 as well as girls at Rhu?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. So it was mixed, with at least two girl dormitories and
3 at least one dormitory for the boys. Is that what you
4 remember?

5 A. Yes, yeah, it did have the boys' dormitory, but I don't
6 remember too much about, really, the boys' dormitory,
7 you know.

8 Q. And I think you tell us that you don't really remember
9 much about the building, is that right?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. But you say that you do remember that in your dormitory
12 you had a single bed and it had a chair at the bottom?

13 A. Yes, where I would stay, uh-huh.

14 Q. I think you go on, 'Mary', to tell us a little bit about
15 staff in the home, this is at paragraph 21, and you tell
16 us particularly about somebody you remember, a staff
17 member. Is that somebody you called 'the Matron'?

18 A. The Matron, uh-huh.

19 Q. And what was she like?

20 A. She was, I just remember she was a big, big woman and
21 she shouted a lot. She was angry, angry all the time,
22 you know. Er, I don't remember her name, but she was
23 a big woman. She wore, she wore a white hat, like a hat
24 that flounced out. And a grey uniform. She was the
25 boss. Everybody knew that, she was the boss. She was

1 -- she just was -- when she just came in the room, it
2 went quiet.

3 Q. And you say when she came in the room, it went quiet.
4 Who would go quiet? Would that be the children or would
5 that be --

6 A. All the children, we'd all go quiet, yeah.

7 Q. What about the staff?

8 A. The staff were -- the staff were -- they'd be quiet as
9 well but the staff weren't -- I don't remember the staff
10 being friendly either. They were quite strict, you
11 know. But they were always strict because if any
12 problem went to Matron, it would be a bigger problem,
13 you know, so the staff were quite strict as well.

14 Q. I think you go on to tell us, 'Mary', that your
15 impression was that the staff at Rhu were afraid of the
16 Matron?

17 A. It did seem that way. It did seem that way. As if they
18 were frightened of her, they just ... you know.

19 Q. What made you form that impression, what made you think
20 that?

21 A. 'Cause -- because just the staff would say to you when
22 the Matron was coming, 'Behave yourself, Matron's
23 coming', and you just realised that they looked quite
24 frightened too, you know?

25 Q. I think you tell us --

1 A. I mean, I don't --

2 Q. Sorry, 'Mary'?

3 A. I don't remember actually we'd done anything that bad

4 anyway to behave ourselves, but just to keep quiet and

5 sit down, you know, whatever.

6 Q. So if she was coming, they would warn you to behave?

7 A. Yeah, uh-huh, to be quiet.

8 Q. I think at paragraph 22, you say something about the

9 fact you could hear it in their voices when she was

10 coming. So did you form an impression from how they

11 were saying things that they were a bit afraid of her?

12 A. Yeah, they made -- uh-huh. You could hear it in their

13 voices, you know, you'd hear sometimes, you'd hear the

14 maids talking to each other and you could hear them

15 sometimes saying things about the Matron, you know?

16 Q. You mention the teaching staff as well, and you say that

17 they knew the Matron was the boss.

18 A. Uh-huh. Oh, yeah.

19 Q. But you say that sometimes they would give her a look,

20 as if they weren't too happy with what was going on?

21 A. Yeah, yes, they did, yes, uh-huh.

22 Q. Did they ever say anything to her?

23 A. No, except I can remember one member of staff, every now

24 and again, would give her a look but they would actually

25 do whatever she said to have done, just go ahead and do

1 it, a bit gentler, when they done it, you know, whether
2 they were going to give you a row or taking you out the
3 room to give you a row for something, they would be
4 a bit softer than she would be. But they just carried
5 out her orders, you know?

6 Q. And when you noticed them giving these looks, what was
7 happening at that time --

8 A. What --

9 Q. -- that would make them give the look?

10 A. Give you --

11 Q. What would be going on that would make them give that
12 look, give her a look?

13 A. You didn't have to do much wrong. I just remember,
14 I remember certain things that -- I remember ... I just
15 remember at nighttime was the worst time, when she come
16 round the beds to check everybody. I remember that was
17 a time that was really quite a frightening time, because
18 I'd heard her -- beforehand when we'd first arrived
19 there, I heard her shouting at children in their bed,
20 and so we got to know that she goes and comes round at
21 nighttime to check that we would fold our clothes on a
22 chair at the bottom of our bed, you know?

23 Q. And I think, 'Mary', you tell us in a bit more detail
24 about that later in your statement. So we'll talk about
25 that in a little while --

1 A. All right.

2 Q. -- again.

3 But this was a nighttime thing she would do --

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. -- to check things were being done correctly in the
6 dormitories? Is that --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Is that really what we're talking about?

9 'Mary', you go on to talk about the routine at Rhu.
10 And you say that you remember learning quite quickly
11 what a very strict place it was. What was it, if you're
12 able to tell us, about the place that made you think
13 quite quickly that it was strict?

14 A. I don't know, er, I mean ... (Pause)

15 I remember very quickly knowing it was a strict
16 place because you just knew when you went in, you just,
17 you just -- you saw children, you met children, they
18 were all -- that look take wi' a newcomer, just looked
19 at you, but as if -- they looked at you quite
20 frightened, like. Well, they looked at you like --
21 I don't know, it's hard to explain it. It's like ...
22 I don't know, they just -- they were quiet. They would
23 be quiet and just look at you. They'd be very quiet
24 looking at you, and you'd be looking at them and it just
25 was a silence all the time and you just, I just -- you

1 just felt -- I just felt, watch what I'm doing here.
2 I didnae think that way, I just, but I just felt -- I
3 felt scared. Just being there, I felt scared. With the
4 situation. Just the quietness.

5 Q. Was it maybe the atmosphere, 'Mary'? Was it
6 an atmosphere in the place?

7 A. Yes, just a quietness, and the way the children just all
8 were quiet looking at each other, you know?

9 Q. You go on to tell us, 'Mary', this is over the page,
10 about -- a bit more about routine and the mornings and
11 bedtimes and I think you say you remember getting up
12 early and getting washed and ready for breakfast?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. And somebody would get you up?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. And then at bedtime you had to wash your face and neck
17 and brush your teeth?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. And then this was where I think you tell us that there
20 was a way you had to fold your clothes?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. At night before you got into bed; is that right?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. And there was a right way to do that. Was that
25 something you were taught how to do?

1 A. Yeah. Yeah. You had to -- you were taught that you put
2 your clothes on the table -- on a chair. The first
3 thing you took off your dress and to your last thing
4 would be your vest and your pants, and you had to have
5 your vest and pants on that chair. You couldn't go to
6 bed with them on. I remember that was a strict rule.
7 I remember that, being told that, where we had a strict
8 rule. I didn't know why but I knew that was a strict
9 rule, so you always laid your clothes neatly on the
10 chairs, folded, and your vest and pants at the top,
11 'cause that was the first thing you were going to put on
12 in the morning. You were told that that is how you done
13 it, in that way.

14 Q. Do you remember who told you about that rule, do you
15 remember who it was that told you?

16 A. It would be a worker that would tell us that, she were
17 in the dormitory, told me that.

18 Q. I think you say at night you wore a nightdress to bed?

19 A. Yeah, that's right.

20 Q. But as you've told us, the rule was no pants or vests
21 underneath it.

22 A. Uh-huh, that's --

23 Q. In bed.

24 A. Yeah, that was the rule, uh-huh.

25 Q. Going on then, 'Mary', to look at what you tell us about

1 the mealtimes, you say that there was a dining hall, is
2 that right?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. And that's the one that, it was downstairs in the
5 building?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. And you describe the food as being all right, was it?
8 The food being okay, is that right?

9 A. Erm, what, the Matron?

10 Q. Sorry, I just -- I'll say that again, 'Mary', you maybe
11 didn't hear properly what I was saying.

12 I think you describe at paragraph 27 that the food
13 in Rhu was okay?

14 A. It was all right, it was all right, uh-huh.

15 Q. And you describe in the dining room that there were big
16 long tables?

17 A. Big long tables, uh-huh.

18 Q. And that younger kids would sit at one end?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. And the older ones at another?

21 A. That's right. That's right.

22 Q. So you wouldn't normally be beside your sister, is that
23 right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you go on to tell us that kids knew that you just

1 had to eat whatever was put in front of you?

2 A. Was put in front of me, yeah, yeah, I remember.

3 Q. And that didn't matter if you liked it or not?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Is that something that you learned from watching what

6 happened at Rhu?

7 A. I learned it in there that -- yeah. You know, because

8 I do remember when I first went there, a child that

9 didnae want a meal and the Matron was bawling at the

10 child and the child was crying but eating the meals, you

11 know. And then, that's when I knew you just eat what

12 got put in front of you. Eat it.

13 Q. So would the Matron be there at mealtimes?

14 A. She wasn't there all the time. She come in during it,

15 she come in during the mealtime to see how -- and maybe

16 walk up and down to see have they eaten the meals and

17 all that and then she'd go out again.

18 Q. I think you tell us, 'Mary', that if you didn't clear

19 your plate, the Matron wouldn't be happy about that?

20 A. What?

21 Q. If you didn't finish what was on your plate, the Matron

22 wasn't happy about that, is that right?

23 A. Is that on the paragraph, do I see that somewhere?

24 Q. I think you say at paragraph 28, 'Mary' --

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. You would always clear your plate or the Matron would be
2 shouting at you to get it finished?
3 A. 'Always clear your plate...'
4 Q. Can you see that?
5 A. Uh-huh, yeah, yeah, she would be shouting at you if you
6 didn't finish it, uh-huh.
7 Q. And if you didn't eat it, she might pull you aside, pull
8 a child away?
9 A. Yes. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
10 Q. And you say that that's something that happened --
11 A. To [REDACTED] --
12 Q. -- to your sister?
13 A. 'Jane', 'Jane', uh-huh.
14 Q. And I think you tell us a bit more about that later in
15 your statement.
16 A. Yes, yeah.
17 Q. So we'll come to that a bit later, but that's something
18 you witnessed with your sister?
19 A. Yes. Yes.
20 Q. Looking at after breakfast then, I think you say that
21 kids would line up who were going to school?
22 A. Mm-hmm.
23 Q. And you say you don't remember lunchtimes, but you were
24 back in that dining room again at teatime?
25 A. That's right. That's right.

1 Q. And the way you describe it at paragraph 30, 'Mary', is
2 you say the Matron would shout at kids when she was
3 walking up and down the aisle, and you say she would
4 tell you to 'Hurry up and get it down you', if you were
5 eating too slowly?

6 A. That's true. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. And you say there that it was only the Matron that did
8 that?

9 A. Yeah, yes, yeah.

10 Q. So none of the other staff who were there --

11 A. No, no, they didn't.

12 Q. -- would do that?

13 A. I don't remember them shouting, it was always the
14 Matron.

15 Q. But I think you do say that the staff that were there
16 were strict, but they didn't shout and bawl at the kids?

17 A. That's right, that's right.

18 Q. Just moving on then, 'Mary', to what you tell us about
19 the washing and bathing situation. This is from
20 paragraph 32. You say that you remember having baths in
21 Rhu; is that right?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. And there would be a few girls in the bath at the same
24 time?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. But the water would be cold most of the time?

2 A. Mm-hmm. That's right. It ...

3 Q. And you say that the bathroom was also cold because the

4 windows would be open?

5 A. The windows were always opened, uh-huh. For fresh air.

6 Q. Sorry, 'Mary'? Just for fresh air?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. But you tell us I think, 'Mary', about a particular

9 occasion when you were in the bath, this is at

10 paragraph 33. You were in the bath with another girl

11 and a member of staff came in and popped a wee girl into

12 the bath with you.

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Can you tell us what happened?

15 A. Well, it was after the wee one was popped into the bath,

16 all of a sudden there was a big poo in the bath and

17 I remember another staff member came in and saw the poo

18 and went -- well, I've seen it was there, but at the

19 time she just went angry, shouting and screaming. Then

20 the Matron came in and she started calling us filthy,

21 dirty children. She was raging and the wee girl started

22 crying.

23 Q. This little girl, 'Mary', was -- I think you say she was

24 only about 2 or 3?

25 A. The wee girl?

1 Q. The wee girl, yes?

2 A. Oh, yeah, she'd only be about 2 or 3, uh-huh. ~~She was~~
3 only a baby, really.

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. And all the time, we were just sitting in the bath and
6 this poo was floating about, and me and the other girl
7 were like that, looking to it. But the Matron says,
8 'Just leave them there till they own up to it', but
9 nobody was going to say anything, and then another
10 member of staff came in and took us out the bath because
11 it was freezing by this time.

12 Q. And I think you say that you were just getting left
13 there and you were told you were going to be in there
14 until somebody admitted where the poo had come from?

15 A. Erm, did they admit it, did they admit it?

16 Q. I think that's at paragraph 34, 'Mary', you were saying
17 that you were just left in there with this poo and the
18 Matron was shouting that you were to be left there until
19 who said -- you said who had done the poo, but nobody
20 said anything? I think that's what --

21 A. That's true. That's true.

22 Q. Yes. But eventually, I think you were all taken out, as
23 you've told us?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And you say the staff then cleaned the bath?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. But one of the things you particularly mention is that
3 the Matron was calling you all filthy, dirty children
4 because of this?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. 'Mary', you go on to tell us about the leisure time that
7 you had at Rhu and you do say that there were toys and
8 games there and there was time for children to play, is
9 that right?

10 A. There was, uh-huh. Erm, I don't have much memory of
11 a pleasure time playing. There was toys there,
12 I remember that. But I don't have much memory of us
13 actually playing and I remember, when I made friends
14 with a girl and she would tell me how she hated being
15 there and she was going to be there for life 'cause she
16 had no parents, you know, but I know there was toys
17 there but I don't remember much playtime in it.

18 Q. Okay. But everything that was there had to be shared,
19 the toys were shared between the children and you
20 weren't allowed anything of your own?

21 A. No, that's true, uh-huh.

22 Q. I think you also say, 'Mary', that you weren't even
23 allowed any possessions in your room?

24 A. That's right, uh-huh.

25 Q. I think you later tell us that the clothes you wore in

1 Rhu were clothes provided by the home?

2 A. Uh-huh, provided by the home, uh-huh.

3 Q. And your own clothes were taken off you?

4 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

5 Q. And were they only given back when you were leaving?

6 A. When you went home, uh-huh.

7 Q. You tell us a little bit about the situation about

8 school, 'Mary', and you say at paragraph 38 that there

9 were kids from Rhu that went to the local school, but

10 you didn't go to the local school; is that right?

11 A. That's right, that's right.

12 Q. I think you say that you went to a room in the

13 building --

14 A. That's right, that was the schoolroom.

15 Q. -- and there was a teacher. But I think you say that

16 you don't remember too much about it, or getting too

17 much education, or much of an education?

18 A. No, I don't remember much of education. I remember --

19 I do remember you used to write a letter home and she'd

20 -- they'd put it on the blackboard what you had to write

21 in the letter home. I remember that.

22 Q. You tell us about that, 'Mary', at paragraph 41 and

23 I think you say, when you were writing letters home, the

24 teacher would write on the board what you had to put in

25 your letter?

1 A. Uh-huh, that's true.

2 Q. So were you told what you had to say in the letter?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And the phrases that you've told us about are things
5 like you'd had a nice day, you'd been out walking?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But I think you tell us, 'Mary', that these were things
8 you hadn't been doing?

9 A. No, I hadn't been doing 'em, uh-huh.

10 Q. Or certainly you didn't remember doing them?

11 A. Don't remember -- I mean, I remember that there was
12 a field at the back of the building. There was like
13 an open field sort of thing and we went out into the
14 fields in the afternoons quite often. But I don't
15 remember going on walks or anything like that, but we
16 were told in the letters home that we were going on
17 walks and doing things like that.

18 Q. And, 'Mary', do you remember when you wrote your letter,
19 would somebody read it over before you were allowed to
20 send it?

21 A. We handed the letter in to the teacher.

22 Q. Okay.

23 Do you remember, 'Mary', was there ever a time that
24 you wrote something in your letter and you were told
25 that you had to take it out or write it again?

1 A. Er ... (Pause)

2 Q. This isn't something that's in your statement, 'Mary',
3 it's just something I'm asking you about just now?

4 A. 'We wrote a letter home every week. The teacher would
5 write it up on the board', that's true, 'And we would
6 say that in the letter, things like we had a nice day
7 and we'd be out walking', and all the things that were
8 -- that I don't actually remember doing.

9 I must have wrote something about the letters to
10 home that I was told to take out, but I cannae recall it
11 right now.

12 Q. Don't worry, 'Mary'.

13 LADY SMITH: I think what you did remember --

14 A. Sorry?

15 LADY SMITH: I think what you did remember was seeing the
16 teacher write things on the board --

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 LADY SMITH: -- that you could then write into your letter.
19 So she would write on the board, 'Today we went to the
20 park', suggesting you should write, 'Today we went to
21 the park', for example, in your letter, something like
22 that?

23 A. I'm not hearing, sorry.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay. Okay. Can you hear me now, 'Mary'? Can
25 you hear me now?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Do you remember the teacher writing things on
3 the blackboard?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: For you to copy into your letter?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Did you do that?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

11 Now, 'Mary', you go on to tell us about the clothes
12 that were provided for you at Rhu, and we've talked
13 about that. And then a little bit further down at
14 paragraph 44, you say you don't remember much in the way
15 of chores, but you had to keep your own space tidy and
16 your beds tidy but that was about it.

17 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

18 Q. So you weren't made to do any chores in the home?

19 A. No, no, I don't remember doing -- no. We just had to
20 keep our own place tidy.

21 Q. And then looking at a section on your statement about
22 visits from paragraph 45, you say that you do remember
23 getting some visits when you were there from family; is
24 that right?

25 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

1 Q. You say your gran and your father --

2 A. My father came.

3 Q. -- came up to visit, and you remember being taken out

4 with your sister for the day to Helensburgh with them?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And spending the day there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that was a good day that you remember?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And you got sweets and things bought for you?

11 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

12 Q. And then you say that you remember travelling back to

13 Rhu on the bus with your dad and your gran and you

14 remember two staff members from Rhu getting on the bus.

15 I think you tell us that you reacted in a particular

16 way when that happened. This is at paragraph 46. When

17 those two staff members got on the bus, that affected

18 you and you tell us about it. Can you remember what

19 happened, 'Mary'?

20 A. Er, a member of staff on ... er, I have to think now.

21 'I remember travelling back to the home on the bus

22 and my dad and my gran after a day out in Helensburgh

23 ... I remember staff from Rhu got on the bus.'

24 I remember that, I remember when they came on, I can

25 remember, I still remember when I see 'em coming on, er,

1 well, we went rigid and when we saw -- I remember I was
2 talking to my gran and they came on and we were eating
3 sweets and then I just -- I said to [REDACTED] -- I said to
4 'Jane', 'Put your sweets back in your pocket, put them
5 back in your pocket', and I put my sweets back in my
6 pocket, and I stopped talking to my gran. And my gran
7 said, 'What's wrong wi' you?' I went, and I did tell my
8 gran, I said, 'Two ladies that work in the home', and
9 then she went, 'Oh, do they?' and I went, 'Uh-huh'.

10 But I don't remember -- I remember just sitting very
11 quiet and my gran going, 'What's wrong wi' you?' And
12 I'm saying, 'Nothing'. I just didn't want to say much
13 because these people were on the bus, you know.

14 Q. So you'd had this nice day out with your sister, your
15 gran and your father in Helensburgh and that was a good
16 day?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. And then you get on the bus to go back to Rhu and seeing
19 these two staff members made you have a reaction and go
20 rigid?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. I think you tell us that you think your gran picked up
23 on that?

24 A. She -- my mum has told me that years later on, that my
25 gran went home and said she'd picked up on something

1 wrong with the kids out there, 'Get them out of the
2 home'.

3 Q. You say that you think your gran told your mother that
4 you were frightened in Rhu?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. And you were frightened in Rhu, weren't you, 'Mary'?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Yes. But that's something I think you were told about
9 later, you didn't know at the time, is that right, that
10 your gran --

11 A. No, I didn't know that at the time, uh-huh.

12 Q. -- was speaking to your mum.

13 You tell us about another occasion that your dad
14 came to visit on his own, and you say that you think he
15 had a bit of drink in him?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. And he came another time with your gran as well. So
18 there was a few visits, but not many while you were
19 there, from family; is that right?

20 A. ' ... coming to see me ... drink in him ... my gran ...'

21 Yeah, he came twice. The first time he came there
22 were drink in him and even, although I was only 7,
23 I could tell when my father had drink in him, you know,
24 and he ... so, I would never tell him anything that
25 happened, you know. In fact, I didn't even tell my gran

1 what happened, 'cause we were frightened to tell
2 anybody, in case nobody believed you.

3 Q. And at paragraph 49, 'Mary', you say that you remember
4 feeling quite sad when you returned to Rhu after you'd
5 been visiting your family. So were there times that you
6 got to leave Rhu and go back home for a visit?

7 This is at paragraph 49, I think you're saying that
8 when you came back to Rhu after you'd been visiting your
9 family, you remember feeling quite sad?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. So I'm just wondering if you remember at all going --
12 getting to go home for a quick visit and then having to
13 come back to the home again after?

14 A. I remember feeling ...

15 '... feeling quite sad when I was returned to Rhu
16 after I'd been visiting my family.'

17 I mean -- but I mean, I meant by that I felt sad
18 because I was visiting my family, took us to Helensburgh
19 and then we were taken back to Rhu and leaved us there.

20 Q. So this was the day visits that you would be taken on?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. It wasn't you getting to go all the way home?

23 A. No, no, never a home visit.

24 Q. I understand what you're saying there, thank you,
25 'Mary'.

1 And I think you say that you remember going back and
2 asking how long your mum was going to be in hospital?
3 A. Uh-huh, that's -- yeah.
4 Q. But you say you don't remember any visits from the
5 Social Work Department or somebody checking up?
6 A. Oh, no. No.
7 Q. Officially?
8 A. No, no.
9 Q. It was just these family visits that you remember?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. I think you were asked about the potential for running
12 away, 'Mary', and you say at paragraph 51 that you
13 couldn't have run away because your little sister was
14 there? Is that right?
15 A. Uh-huh, that's right.
16 Q. You wouldn't have run away with her and you wouldn't
17 have left her there on her own?
18 A. No. Exactly.
19 Q. But you do tell us that running away was something you
20 heard kids talk about?
21 A. Uh-huh. When I was friends with that girl, she'd --
22 we'd would talk about running away. She would tell me
23 other folk had run away but they'd got caught, you know.
24 Q. So you did hear about kids running away?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. But being caught?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. And were they brought back to the home?

4 A. Yes, brought back to the home.

5 Q. Did you ever see that yourself, 'Mary', or was that just
6 something you heard?

7 A. No, no, I just heard the talk of it.

8 Q. Just going over to the next page, you talk about
9 bed-wetting?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. And you say that's not something that you had a problem
12 with but your little sister did?

13 A. Yeah, yes.

14 Q. And I think just in a minute you're going to go on to
15 a part of your statement that talks about a particular
16 incident involving your sister, when she wet the bed, so
17 we'll come to that in just a minute, 'Mary'.

18 This is where we move to a part of your statement
19 where you talk about the abuse at Rhu.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. So I'm now going to move on to that, okay?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. This is from paragraph 53. I think first of all you
24 talk about this situation in the dining room and the
25 rules about eating the dinner?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And I think you say there was a particular occasion,
3 this is at paragraph 53, where you had finished and you
4 went down to sit with your little sister to wait for her
5 to finish?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. Do you remember saying that, 'Mary', yes?
8 Sorry, this is at paragraph 53?

9 A. 53, yeah. 'I remember ... shouting that ...'
10 I remember Matron shouting to get the place cleared
11 up, the plates cleared. I was sitting further up the
12 table. Er, I'd finished, so I went to sit with 'Jane',
13 my sister, er, and waited for her to finish. She did
14 eat slowly. She couldn't eat fast, you know. But
15 Matron get really angry at that. So that's when she
16 pulled [REDACTED] off her chair and through to the kitchen.

17 Q. Okay. So you say she pulled your sister off her chair?
18 A. 'Jane' off.

19 Q. I think the way you've described it at paragraph 54 is
20 she yanked her out her seat?

21 A. That's right, she did.

22 Q. By her arm?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And did she tell you to bring the plate?
25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. And you go on to say that you were taken into the
2 kitchen?

3 A. That's true, uh-huh.

4 Q. And what happened when you got there?

5 A. Well, she just -- she sat my sister down, just sat her
6 down in this seat and banged a plate, 'Put that plate
7 down', and she said to my sister, 'Eat that, eat it'.
8 And 'Jane' was trying to eat it, trying to eat it, but
9 she eats slowly and I remember at one point she's
10 pushing the spoon up to her mouth and I said, 'She can't
11 eat fast', and I remember someone -- 'She'll have to
12 start learning', something like that.

13 But it was terrible, she was trying to make her eat
14 the -- this food. And then all of a sudden, I remember
15 somebody came in and said to the Matron, she was wanted
16 on the phone, and she went out and she said -- and
17 I remember this kitchen staff, the maid washing dishes
18 and she said to her, 'Make sure she finishes that',
19 and -- Matron on her way out. And once the Matron went
20 out, we were sitting and we were -- I was standing next
21 to my sister and the maid just came, leaned over, took
22 the plate away, she says, 'Give me that', and she dumped
23 it and washed the plate.

24 Q. So even though the Matron had told her, 'Make sure she
25 finishes that', once she'd left, the maid actually just

1 took the plate and washed it up?

2 A. Uh-huh. And then the Matron did come back in and she

3 said, 'Did she finish it?' and the -- she said, 'Yes,

4 yes, she finished it', you know.

5 Q. 'Mary', when you were describing what the Matron did to

6 your sister, you were saying that she was at one point

7 trying to put a spoon of food into her mouth?

8 A. Uh-huh, she was going, 'Get it in your mouth, get it

9 into your mouth'. She moved the spoon, puts into her

10 mouth, put it in and [REDACTED] -- 'Jane' was, started

11 choking a wee bit and she was spitting it out too, you

12 know. And Matron was getting worse, you know. But then

13 that's when, thankfully, somebody said she was wanted on

14 the phone.

15 Q. I think you tell us, 'Mary', that you were -- when this

16 was going on, you were trying to explain to the Matron

17 about your sister not being able to eat fast?

18 A. She can't eat fast. She can't eat fast.

19 Q. But I think you say she told you to shut up?

20 A. She told -- she just said to me, 'Keep quiet. She'll

21 just have to learn to eat fast, won't she'. She just,

22 you know, just ... she just kept saying, 'Get that down

23 you, get that down you', that thing.

24 Q. And when the Matron came back, she came to check that

25 the plate had been cleared?

1 A. Uh-huh, yes.

2 Q. And I think you tell us, this is at paragraph 58 now
3 over the page, that the maid said to her that it had all
4 been finished?

5 A. Uh-huh, yeah, she did say that.

6 Q. So she told a lie?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. To help your sister?

9 A. Uh-huh. And I don't even remember what happened after
10 that. We were probably taken back to the playroom or
11 something, but I don't remember.

12 Q. You go on then, 'Mary', to talk about another incident,
13 and this is related to what you tell us about this night
14 routine, folding up the clothes?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And I think you say that this was something the Matron
17 would come round and check had been done?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Is that right? So this is at paragraph 59. And that's
20 that rule that we talked about earlier, where you're not
21 allowed to wear the vest and pants during the night and
22 that all the clothes had to be folded neatly and put on
23 the chair at the bottom of the bed. I think you say
24 again the order, it was the dress, then the vest, and
25 then the pants?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Is that right?

3 And then this is at paragraph 60. You talk about

4 one particular night that the Matron stopped at the bed

5 next to you?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. And did she have a torch that she was using to shine

8 around? I think you say she was shining her torch on

9 the chair. This is at paragraph 60.

10 A. Say that again?

11 Q. Oh, apologies, 'Mary'. You tell us at paragraph 60 that

12 one night the Matron stopped at the bed next to yours?

13 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

14 Q. And she was shining her torch?

15 A. A torch on the chair, uh-huh.

16 Q. And this was not on your bed but the bed next to you?

17 A. Yes, that's right.

18 Q. But there was no pants there?

19 A. Pants, uh-huh, mm-hmm.

20 Q. And so you say that she then woke up the wee girl?

21 A. Yes, she just pulled the covers back and she sat down on

22 my bed. She just said to me, 'Move back', and she sat

23 doon on my bed and I just remember her smacking that wee

24 girl, smacking her and smacking her and smacking her.

25 It was terrible. The wee girl was smacked terrible

1 'cause she didn't have her pants on the chair, you know.

2 Q. And at paragraph 61, 'Mary', you say that she was really
3 smacking her?

4 A. Oh, she really was. I mean, she was smacking her,
5 really smacking her. It was horrible. I remember,
6 I remember I was just holding on to the blankets, I had
7 my head under the covers. It was horrible. And then
8 when she left, that wee girl cried for ages after that.

9 Q. And the way you've described it, 'Mary', is that you say
10 'that wee girl got a right leathering'?

11 A. She did, oh she did get a right leathering.

12 Q. And you say, you told us she was crying and I think you
13 also tell us she said she would never wear her pants in
14 bed again?

15 A. I know, yeah.

16 Q. Was she saying that to the Matron? Was she saying
17 'I won't wear my pants again'? Or is that something she
18 said to you?

19 A. No, she said that to me.

20 Q. Okay.

21 You tell us, 'Mary', about another night that you
22 were woken up by the Matron and you say that you were
23 taken out of your bed. This is at paragraph 62.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And I think you say she grabbed you and she yanked you

1 out your bed.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. Was this by a part of your body that she yanked you out,
4 was it by your arm or something?

5 A. I just remember I was sleeping. I just remember getting
6 pulled out of bed and it was Matron, and next thing
7 I know, I'm running down a corridor. And she's going,
8 'Your sister's --', she's shouting something like, 'Your
9 sister's wet herself, wet herself'. She's only a baby
10 at that time, you know, and when I go to the dorm,
11 'Jane' is standing there. She just took her nightdress
12 off but she's shivering and they're putting a clean
13 nightdress on her and they're making the bed and putting
14 sheets on the bed. And that's when the Matron tells me,
15 'Pick up these sheets tonight, get down to that bathroom
16 and get them washed'. So ...

17 Q. So you're yanked out of your bed, taken down the
18 corridor to your sister's dormitory?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. All because your sister had wet the bed?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And the Matron wanted you to deal with the sheets?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. I think you tell us she wanted you to go and wash the
25 sheets?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And this was in the middle of the night?

3 A. Yes. I know it was -- it was -- I remember, one of the
4 workers came up with me and put on the light in the
5 bathroom, it was horrible, because there was always
6 beetles in the bathroom and I was terrified of beetles
7 and they were everywhere. And I had to wash her sheets
8 and her nightgown in this big tub, a big sink with cold
9 water in and a bar of soap, you know. I remember I was
10 in there for a while with these beetles and trying to
11 wash the sheets. But I don't remember how long I was
12 there. Then I remember at one point, a worker came up
13 and said to me, 'Come on out now, leave the sheets in
14 there, leave them in the sink, leave them in there', you
15 know, to go back to my bed.

16 Q. I think you tell us, 'Mary', at paragraph 65 that you
17 were trying to wash these sheets with a big block of
18 soap? That you were trying to wash these sheets with
19 a big block of soap?

20 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

21 Q. And it was cold water from the taps as well?

22 A. Uh-huh, oh yeah.

23 Q. But you say, as you've told us, that someone eventually
24 came in and took it from you and told you to get back to
25 bed?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. But that wasn't the Matron who came in to let you go
3 back to bed, was it; it was somebody else?

4 A. No, it was one of the workers.

5 Q. Thinking about that incident with your sister, I think
6 you tell us, this is just a little bit back there at
7 paragraph 63, you've mentioned that she was shivering
8 and she didn't have her nightdress on?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And then you tell us that you have this lasting vision
11 of her -- this is at paragraph 64 -- climbing back into
12 bed and looking so frightened?

13 A. Aye, she was frightened, she was frightened, crying.
14 She was very upset. She was crying, climbing back in
15 her bed crying.

16 Q. Just going a little bit forward to paragraph 66 then,
17 'Mary', you tell us about an occasion when you and your
18 sister received a parcel?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. This was a parcel from home?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. And you describe that as being quite special.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. If you got mail. And as you've said, some of the
25 children in Rhu were orphans, so they didn't get mail at

1 all?

2 A. Uh-huh, that's right.

3 Q. And you say that the mail was handed out by the Matron

4 in a big open room.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. And you describe that everyone would be sitting there

7 and she would call out the names and hand out the mail?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And on this occasion, when you and your sister had

10 a parcel, she called out your name and said it was for

11 you and your sister. And then she opened up the parcel

12 in front of you and the other children; is that what you

13 remember?

14 A. That's right, I remember that, yes.

15 Q. You say there was a letter inside. Was this a letter,

16 I think you tell us, from your mother? And then she

17 opened it and started to read it out to everyone, and

18 I think you say:

19 'I remember her saying something like, "Look at this

20 everyone, she can't even spell, listen to how she

21 spells".'

22 A. That's right, that's right, I remember that, yeah.

23 Q. And you can't remember what the letter said, but you

24 remember the Matron mocking --

25 A. My mother, yeah, uh-huh.

1 Q. -- your mother in front of the other children?
2 A. Yeah.
3 Q. And you tell us, 'Mary', you think there were sweets in
4 the parcel and they just went in a tin to be shared?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. So you and your sister didn't get them to keep for
7 yourselves. And there were some comics and pencils and
8 things like that as well.
9 A. Uh-huh.
10 Q. And you say that you got another letter not long after
11 that one, and again the Matron did the same thing with
12 that?
13 A. She did, that's right.
14 Q. And paragraph 68, you say:
15 'She was saying, "Let's see what's been written in
16 this one".'
17 A. I know.
18 Q. 'And she had the children all laughing at my mum's
19 letter.'
20 A. That's right, she did. Yeah. She did.
21 Q. How did that make you feel, 'Mary'?
22 A. Terrible. Terrible. I don't even remember much about
23 what was in the parcel or anything. All I remember was
24 her laughing at my mum's spelling and everybody else
25 laughing at it. I just hated her, I hated her all the

1 more for it all.

2 Q. You told us earlier, 'Mary', about a girl you were
3 friendly with. And you mention her at paragraph 69.
4 And I think you tell us that she was staying there until
5 she was 16?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. And she said to you that you and your sister were lucky
8 to be going home --

9 A. Yeah, that's true.

10 Q. -- when you did.

11 And you make the comment there, 'Mary', you say:
12 'I remember --'
13 This was in relation to her saying she told you she
14 was staying until she was 16. You say:
15 'I remember thinking how awful that would have
16 been.'

17 Because you and your sister were only there for
18 a few months.

19 A. Uh-huh, and it was terrible, so I just couldn't imagine
20 how horrible it would be for them.

21 Q. Just going on then, 'Mary', there's a section where you
22 talk about whether you reported any of the abuse at Rhu.
23 I think you tell us -- and you've mentioned this
24 already, this is at paragraph 70 -- that you didn't tell
25 anyone. You say you were frightened to tell your

1 grandmother, you were frightened to tell your dad. You
2 didn't think you'd be believed.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And you thought if you did tell somebody, you would
5 still have been going back to Rhu, so there was no
6 point?

7 A. I know. And I mean, I remember ... I remember as
8 a child knowing that no one would believe me. 'Cause
9 the staff acted so nice when the parents were there, my
10 granny was there and my father, they were so nice and
11 that, Matron, and folks were nice to them. And I just
12 felt they wouldnae believe you, naebody would believe
13 you if you tell 'em. So you just didn't tell them
14 because you might at some point have to go back to it,
15 you know. I kept thinking of the girl that I was
16 friendly with, how she was saying she'd got to stay
17 there until she was 16, you know?

18 Q. So you noticed, 'Mary' -- even though you were young,
19 you noticed that the staff acted differently when there
20 were parents or family members around, compared to how
21 they acted towards you when you were on your own, when
22 the children were on your own?

23 A. Yes, yeah.

24 Q. So they were a lot nicer when someone was around?

25 A. Oh yes, yes.

1 Q. And did that go for the Matron as well, did she change
2 how she acted if there were adults or parents around?

3 A. I don't seem to -- I remember my father going to the
4 Matron's room to talk to the Matron, but I wasn't in the
5 room, so I don't -- things like that I didn't know.
6 When he come out, he seemed to think she was a very nice
7 woman, you know?

8 Q. You do say, 'Mary', that you think you told your mum
9 about your sister wetting the bed and you having to wash
10 the sheets, but you don't think your mum would have
11 known who to speak to?

12 A. Oh, she wouldn't have known. And I know it sounds silly
13 of today, but in these days, no one spoke up to
14 authority of any kind, and my mother wouldnae know how
15 to go about anything like that. So there was no point
16 in saying that to her. My mother was quite a nervous
17 woman herself and she worried a lot and cried a lot. So
18 I was the oldest in the family, I was aware of trying to
19 keep her happy, 'cause I hated seeing her crying. So it
20 would upset her. She couldn't do anything about it
21 anyway. Not that I knew she could anyway.

22 Q. But you tell us, 'Mary', that you feel that -- as we've
23 talked about, that your granny picked up on your
24 reaction that day on the bus, and you say that it was
25 after that visit that the Matron called you in to see

1 her; is that right?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And she asked you what you'd been telling your granny
4 about being at Rhu. Do you remember that, that she
5 asked you about what you'd been telling your granny?

6 A. Uh-huh, she did ask me that.

7 Q. And she asked you if you had been telling your granny
8 that you didn't like it and that you weren't happy at
9 Rhu, so she asked you about that?

10 A. Er, I just, I remember just telling her that I just told
11 my granny that I'm just unhappy, I want to go home, with
12 my mum, you know?

13 Q. And I think you explained that the Matron also asked if
14 you had told your granny that your sister was crying all
15 the time and that you said that you had told your granny
16 that, because your sister missed your mum?

17 A. My mum, uh-huh, yeah.

18 Q. But that was the reason that you gave to the Matron?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And that after that, she told you to go, you weren't
21 punished or anything?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You say, 'Mary', at paragraph 74 that:
24 'The staff in Rhu Home knew what was going on. They
25 saw what was going on and saw how the Matron was

1 behaving but they did nothing about it.'

2 A. That's true. That's true.

3 Q. And is that just the way it was when you were there?

4 A. It's just the way it was. It's just ...

5 Q. And you comment:

6 'They just went along with whatever the Matron did.'

7 A. Whatever the Matron said.

8 Q. And you explain and say you think that was partly

9 because she was in charge and the staff had this fear of

10 her, but also because it was easier for the staff to

11 stay quiet and keep their jobs if they just did as they

12 were told?

13 A. As I get older, that's the way I thought, uh-huh.

14 Q. When you're looking back on it and reflecting, that's

15 what you think?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You tell us about a time when you left Rhu House,

18 'Mary', and you say that you do remember when you left

19 Rhu, but it all seemed to happen very abruptly?

20 A. Oh, it was so abrupt, uh-huh.

21 Q. So you weren't told before you left that you were going

22 to be leaving?

23 A. No.

24 Q. And I think you describe that you were told to go with

25 a member of staff, you went into the office and the

1 Matron said to you and your sister that you were going
2 home that day?

3 A. Uh-huh, that's the way it went.

4 Q. And you also say that you remember she said something
5 nasty to do with your mother, but you can't remember
6 what that was?

7 A. Er ...

8 Q. I think -- I don't know if you're referring to her
9 making a nasty comment or something?

10 A. She did say something, I know, I don't -- she said
11 something nasty about my mother, about -- I don't
12 remember exactly what it was, it was something to do
13 with, 'I wonder how much you'll learn from that mother
14 that you've got that can't even spell'. She said
15 something about her writing a letter, 'You can't even
16 read her writing; how are you going to learn much from
17 that mother you've got' -- something like that she said,
18 you know, but I don't know -- I didn't know why she
19 would say that, you know?

20 Q. So something you think going back to her reading out the
21 letters and mocking your mother?

22 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

23 Q. You say, 'Mary', that you think you leaving Rhu was only
24 a matter of days after you'd been called into the office
25 and asked about whether you had spoken to your granny

1 about things?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. So do you think it happened quite quickly after that?

4 A. Yes, it did happen very quickly, it did happen.

5 Q. And going over the page to paragraph 78, you say you

6 think it was to do with your granny?

7 A. It definitely was. I believe it definitely was.

8 Because the way that Matron referred to my granny, what

9 I said to her, and it was only days after that my granny

10 had visited and just came with we're going to go home.

11 Q. You say that after being told that you were going home,

12 one of the staff gave you your clothes and then it all

13 happened very quickly and you were taken back to Govan

14 in a minibus?

15 A. That's right. That's right. 'Cause I remember asking

16 if I could say farewell to my wee friend, but I was told

17 no. And a wee van was waiting for us. We went out into

18 the van, [REDACTED] and I -- 'Jane' and I went out into the

19 van.

20 Q. So you weren't even allowed to say goodbye to the girl

21 that you became friendly with?

22 A. No, no. No.

23 Q. I think you tell us, 'Mary', that you remember being

24 glad to be home?

25 A. Oh yes. Yes.

1 Q. And that your sister was crying because she was so happy
2 to be back with your mum?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. And you do tell us, 'Mary', that you did tell your mum
5 after a few days that you hadn't liked it at Rhu, and
6 that she told you your gran had been saying, 'Things
7 weren't going right in that home'. I think that's the
8 way it's put at paragraph 80?

9 A. Uh-huh, she did, uh-huh.

10 Q. But did you go into it in any more detail with her at
11 that time, or did you just say you didn't like it?

12 A. No, but, just something I didn't mention in my statement
13 and it's to do with -- my sister came home, she had
14 a sore arm and my mum took her to the doctors and the
15 doctor said her arm had been pulled out of the socket
16 and they corrected it, you know. And my mother couldn't
17 figure out how that could have happened. But now that
18 I'm older, I can think it's the way she got yanked
19 about. She was only young and they were yanking her
20 like that. Maybe she -- we don't know yet if that
21 caused it.

22 LADY SMITH: Your sister was about 3 and a half years old,
23 I think, when you went to Rhu, is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: So she was still quite wee.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 Ms Forbes.

4 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

5 But that's something you recall, that your sister

6 had to get treatment for her arm?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. And it was dislocated or out of its socket, something

9 like that?

10 A. Uh-huh, that's the word we used then.

11 Q. You go on, 'Mary', to tell us that you can't remember

12 all the dates and places you went to other than Rhu, and

13 you say that you get mixed up with the places but you

14 are certain they were all convalescent homes. And

15 I think you tell us that sometimes it was out in the

16 country or by the sea and they say it was good for you

17 to get out of the city for fresh air. But you don't

18 remember a lot about the ones that were good; it's more

19 the ones that were bad that stick in your mind. Is that

20 right?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And you say that you were in care on your own and you

23 were in care with the sister who's next in age to you,

24 but you were never in care with your younger sister.

25 But she was in care with your other sister, but you

1 don't remember where or when that was?

2 A. No, that's true.

3 Q. You go on then, 'Mary', to tell us about some of the
4 places that you remember, and that part of your
5 statement is redacted in many parts. We're not going to
6 go into that in any detail today because we're talking
7 about Rhu. However, we do have the detail of that in
8 your statement, so it's not that we're trying to ignore
9 it, we can see what it says there and take note of it.
10 But I'm not going to go through that with you today,
11 'Mary', other than to just in general say you remember
12 being at Hillfoot in Milngavie, we mentioned that
13 earlier. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

14 you were there for about six weeks, is that right?

15 A. Uh-huh, yes.

16 Q. And then if we go down to paragraph 90, you talk about
17 East Park Home. Again, that was a convalescing place,

18 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

19

20

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. But again, we're not going to go into that today, but we
23 do have the detail of that in your statement.

24 A. Yeah, that --

25 Q. So I don't want you to think we are ignoring it, okay?

1 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2

3

4

5

6

7 Q. 'Mary', this is from paragraph 106. You go on to tell
8 us about what happened to you after you were in care and
9 you tell us that you went and lived with your gran for
10 about a year and then you were back staying in Govan.
11 You tell us you left school when you were 14, is that
12 right?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. And you got a job at a box-making factory.

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. That was your first job.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. But then they found out you were only 14, so you lost
19 that job for a short period of time but they took you
20 back when you turned 15 again.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And you tell us that you've done different jobs. You
23 worked in a hosiery shop, you went back to the
24 box-making factory, did some seasonal work at Butlins?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Worked in a sweetie factory. You were on the buses as
2 a conductress, a bookbinding place. And you say that
3 you went back to the buses so you could save money to go
4 to America?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you did go to America and you worked there for
7 a year as a children's nanny?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. You go on, 'Mary', to tell us that by the time you met
10 your husband, you were working at Singer's factory and
11 you met him and got married quite quickly; is that
12 right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. But you divorced later in life, I think you tell us.
15 You say that he had a lovely nature but there was
16 problems when he was drinking and you tell us about
17 that?

18 A. That's true. Yes.

19 Q. You also worked in hospitals as an auxiliary and worked
20 with the elderly and did some childminding. And you
21 tell us that you have four children, three boys and
22 a girl?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And you then go on, 'Mary', to tell us about the impact
25 your time in care has had on you, and this is from

1 paragraph 114. So I am going to move on to that now.

2 In particular, you say at paragraph 117 that you
3 feel your education has been affected by being in care?

4 A. Yeah, that's true.

5 Q. You were hardly ever at school?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. And you say that you didn't get a proper education in
8 these homes?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. It was a 'makeshift thing', is the way you've described
11 it.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. I think, as you talked about, 'Mary', a lot of your
14 childhood was spent in and out of hospital and
15 convalescent homes?

16 A. Mm-hmm, that's right.

17 Q. And so that, you feel, has had an impact on your
18 education --

19 A. Yes, definitely has, yes.

20 Q. -- overall.

21 You say at paragraph 118, 'Mary', that trust is
22 a thing. You say 'especially with Rhu Home', and you
23 say 'I never trusted adults'?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. I think you tell us --

1 A. Yes, that's true.

2 Q. 'I still have that lack of trust and I get told that all
3 the time by people.'

4 A. And that's true.

5 Q. Do you feel that that's something that has come about
6 from your time in care?

7 A. Yes, I do think so. Yes.

8 Q. And you tell us that you always think you were hard on
9 yourself and feel that you didn't look after your kids,
10 but you say:

11 'They had food, the house was clean and they had
12 clothes.'

13 But, in your mind, you would think that you'd
14 neglected them?

15 A. I know -- and this, the strange thing is, my grownup
16 children keep saying to me, 'I don't know why you think
17 that 'cause we don't think it', you know. You know,
18 I don't know why I kept thinking they were neglected.
19 They said we were definitely not neglected, you know,
20 but, you know, spoiled at their Christmastime, you did
21 everything really, but I just had that feeling all the
22 time. I don't know why.

23 Q. Just the feeling that you weren't doing good enough?

24 A. Weren't doing enough, you know?

25 Q. But they have told you that that's not true?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. Yes.

3 I think you tell us, 'Mary', that you have suffered
4 from depression on and off in the past and you tell us
5 about migraines as well --

6 A. Yeah, yes.

7 Q. -- that you have had from when you were first in East
8 Park Home?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And then you say that you have had migraines and
11 headaches all your life since then?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You say that you have been told by people that you're
14 stressed all the time and you think that that is
15 something that's built up over the years?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. And you're not sure about why that is.

18 In relation to support and treatment, 'Mary', you
19 say you have sought counselling a few times, is that
20 right?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And, again, you tell us that there has been times where
23 you've been depressed.

24 We've talked about records and you said that you'd
25 never applied for records but you always wanted to see

1 them. But I think you were told by your sister that
2 Birthlink couldn't get any information from Rhu about
3 Lagarie House. But I think at the time you gave this
4 statement, you were trying still I think to get records,
5 but I take it, 'Mary', you haven't been able to get
6 records; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And certainly the Inquiry hasn't been able to get any
9 records either.

10 I think you talk about some medical records you
11 could get, but no records in relation to you being in
12 care; is that right?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. Just moving on then, 'Mary', to a section in your
15 statement that's called 'Lessons to be learned', and,
16 'Hopes for the Inquiry'. You tell us that people don't
17 know what goes on in some of these children's homes and
18 that is part of the reason why you've come forward; is
19 that right?

20 A. That's true, yes.

21 Q. And I think you go on to tell us that:

22 'People need to learn how important it is to make
23 a kid feel secure and how important it is to know that,
24 a lot of the time, the kids just don't know. They don't
25 actually know anything.'

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. You say:

3 'A kid needs to learn to trust an adult and then
4 they will get on better. If a kid knows you and trusts
5 that you're not going to make matters worse, then
6 they'll come to you but if they don't trust you, that
7 makes matters 10 times worse.'

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. I think that goes back to what you told us about you not
10 trusting people and you feeling that that relates to
11 your time in care; is that right, 'Mary'?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You tell us at paragraph 133 that:

14 'The Inquiry needs to vet staff that work in care
15 homes well. They need to want to work with children and
16 be there for the right reason. Children need to be
17 allowed to speak and they need to be listened to.
18 Children should be allowed to express themselves.'

19 And on that point of expressing themselves, 'Mary',
20 you go on to mention particularly the letters that you
21 wrote in Rhu and that those letters should be sent out
22 as they were written.

23 A. I know. That's true.

24 Q. And you make the comment:

25 'Children shouldn't be getting told what to write in

1 the letters.'

2 And you feel that was wrong?

3 A. It's wrong. That was -- yeah.

4 Q. Is that how you feel?

5 And you just finish in your statement, 'Mary', by
6 saying:

7 'Once you gain a child's trust, everything will be
8 all right, but it's getting that trust that's the most
9 important thing. They need to know that what they have
10 to say is important.'

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And is that how you feel?

13 A. Yes. Yes.

14 Q. 'Mary', that is all the questions that I have for you
15 today. But in giving your evidence today and going
16 through your statement, is there anything that you want
17 to say now that you haven't had a chance to say or
18 I haven't asked you about?

19 A. No, I cannae really think of anything right now.
20 I can't really think of anything. I think it's all been
21 covered, more or less. Yes.

22 Q. Well, thank you very much, 'Mary'.

23 A. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: 'Mary', I want to thank you as well. Don't
25 worry about not being able to think of anything else.

1 number, so just for the record, I'm going to read the
2 reference number in, but it's not something for you to
3 worry about. But the reference number is
4 WIT-1-000000251.

5 Now, 'Jane', there's a part at the very end of your
6 statement, which is page 10. If I could get you to turn
7 to the very last page, paragraph 41 on page 10, there's
8 a statement there that says:

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

13 And then you've signed that and it is dated
14 23 January 2020. Is that still the position, 'Jane'?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now, if you want to just go back to the beginning of
17 your statement again and have it in front of you, and
18 you can use that, if you want, or look at the screen or
19 neither. It's whatever you feel comfortable with,
20 'Jane'.

21 So, 'Jane', you tell us you were born in 1947, is
22 that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I am just going to start by asking you some
25 questions about your life before you went into care, and

1 you tell us about that in your statement from
2 paragraph 2 onwards.

3 You tell us that, I think you lived with your mother
4 and father in Govan; is that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And you had an older sister who was four years older
7 than you, and eventually you had a younger sister who
8 was three years younger than you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So you were the middle sister?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But you say that your older sister, you say, always had
13 to look after you?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Yes, and you've described yourself there, 'Jane' as
16 a difficult child?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why do you say that?

19 A. I was very boisterous.

20 Q. Okay.

21 And you tell us that your father was a seaman,
22 a merchant seaman, is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And he was in the navy and he was away a lot?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In the Merchant Navy. And you then were at home with
2 your older sister, and then later your younger sister,
3 and your mother?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Yes. And you describe that you stayed mostly in what
6 you call 'single ends', which were one-bedroomed houses
7 in Govan?

8 A. Yes, correct.

9 Q. And then you all slept and lived in the one room?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And some of them had outside toilets, but
12 sometimes you'd be fortunate to have an inside toilet?

13 A. Yes, rarely.

14 Q. I think you go on later to tell us that your mother
15 moved houses quite a few times?

16 A. Quite a lot.

17 Q. So sometimes you would be in a house with a toilet
18 inside, sometimes it was outside?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. And you describe your life when you were younger,
21 'Jane', as being quite -- you were quite poor. Is that
22 how you put it?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you say you think your mother found it difficult to
25 manage you?

1 A. She did.

2 Q. Her health wasn't great, and she was in and out of
3 hospital a lot; is that right?

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

5 Q. And you tell us a bit of background, 'Jane', that your
6 mother had been ill as a child and that as a result of
7 that, she'd been left with a lot of weaknesses as
8 an adult?

9 A. Yes, she was left with heart problems.

10 Q. And you think she suffered from heart disease?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. But you say she coped quite well for somebody in that
13 position?

14 A. Yes, she done her best.

15 Q. You describe her, 'Jane', as a very loving woman and
16 quite gentle; is that right? (Pause)

17 Don't worry, take a moment if you need to and there
18 are some tissues beside you as well, 'Jane'.

19 A. Yes, she was.

20 Q. Yes.

21 So you have fond memories of time with your mother
22 at home when you were younger?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But I think you explain, 'Jane', that she struggled
25 because your dad was away at sea a lot and she was alone

1 with you and your sisters?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But there were other family members nearby and you say
4 you remember family gatherings at your gran's, and you
5 talk about all the children playing together in a room
6 in the house, and also playing in old buildings which
7 used to be washhouses in the area. I think you tell us
8 that you in fact fell down the chimney in one of those
9 places and was scratched and cut -- this is at
10 paragraph 4 -- on one occasion when you were out and
11 about?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You remember going on holiday to Rossie, you say?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you say you were all bandaged up; was that as
16 a result of the fall down the chimney?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Yes. You tell us, 'Jane', that you think your mother
19 was sent there for a break and that you went with her?

20 A. I believe it was the church, I think, that sent her.

21 Q. And you remember your father turning up at one point and
22 you say that he was drunk? Yes.

23 And you make the comment that he was:

24 'Drunk as a lord, as seamen were in those days'?

25 A. That's true. That's what we thought, we always thought

1 seamen were drunk 'cause he was always drunk.

2 Q. But you tell us, 'Jane', that you first went into care

3 when you were about 3 and a half because your mother

4 went into hospital and your father was away at sea?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And you say you know this from -- you know that

7 background as to how you went into care from what you've

8 been told; you don't remember it at the time; is that

9 right?

10 A. I believe my mother was having [REDACTED] -- my younger

11 sister, and that's why she was in hospital.

12 Q. So as a result of her illnesses, if she was pregnant

13 with your younger sister, it meant that she was in

14 hospital being cared for?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you tell us you think you were in three homes before

17 you went to school, so before you started primary

18 school?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you remember one being in Largs and one being what

21 you call the 'Rhu Home'?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But you can't remember where you went first?

24 A. No. No, I can't.

25 Q. But you do tell us, 'Jane', you say you were terrified

1 in the homes?

2 A. In that home.

3 Q. When you say 'in that home', which one are you referring
4 to?

5 A. The Rhu Home.

6 Q. Okay, so it was the Rhu Home that you were terrified in?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You say at paragraph 5 you always felt something was
9 going to happen to you?

10 A. Very unsafe, uh-huh.

11 Q. Are you able to say what you thought might happen to
12 you?

13 A. I was just afraid, I was always afraid.

14 Q. You say you didn't like them, you mean the homes, you
15 didn't like the homes, and you followed your sister
16 around all the time?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You go on to tell us, 'Jane', that you remember country
19 walks in Largs, and that was when you were in the home
20 there?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. You don't know how long you were there for, and you
23 remember one of the homes being quite near the sea?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you remember a beach, and being at the beach a few

1 times?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. And you remember being in the homes with your older
4 sister, is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: I suppose your memory of the beach could be
7 Rhu, yes?

8 A. It might have been.

9 LADY SMITH: It could also be Largs.

10 A. It could have been. It might have been Largs because
11 I remember playing on a rock and I don't know if they
12 would have let me go to the rocks in Rhu. I don't think
13 they allowed you to do things like that. So I'm not
14 sure -- I'm not sure, actually.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS FORBES: And in being in the homes with your sister, you
17 say, 'Jane', that you were in the same dorm in one of
18 the homes at Christmas, because you remember you thought
19 that you heard Santa's sleigh bells, but you weren't in
20 the same dorm in Rhu Home?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So that was maybe the one in Largs?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Now, you go on then, 'Jane', to tell us about your time
25 at a place where you call 'the Rhu Home'. Now, for our

1 purposes, we refer to this place as Lagarie Home, but
2 when you were younger, did you ever know it as anything
3 other than Rhu Home?

4 A. I only knew it as Rhu Home.

5 Q. And has that name, Lagarie House or Lagarie Home -- is
6 that something that you've heard later in life or not?

7 A. I've only heard it when I came here.

8 Q. Okay. So from your point of view, it's Rhu Home?

9 A. It's Rhu.

10 Q. And we'll just continue to refer to it as that, if
11 that's okay with you?

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. But we know that that's what we're talking about?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. The home at Lagarie.

16 You tell us about your time there, 'Jane', from
17 paragraph 7 of your statement and at first you gave us
18 a bit of a description of the building. You say it was
19 a big, old-fashioned building of grey stone; is that how
20 you remember it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The word you've said is 'foreboding'; you say it looked
23 foreboding?

24 A. As an adult that's what I said, but I wouldn't have
25 known that then when I was young.

1 Q. Looking back, that's how you would describe it?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. To how you felt as a child looking at it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you say that this was a house in its own grounds?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did it have substantial grounds?

8 A. Oh yes.

9 Q. You tell us, 'Jane', that the staff there were strict,
10 but you explain it wasn't in a cruel manner?

11 A. No, they weren't really cruel, the staff, but from what
12 I can remember it, and it is shady because of my age,
13 they were efficient. I remember them being quite
14 efficient when they served you things. It was just they
15 were there and away again and everything had to be quick
16 and rushed and ... but it would be much worse if the
17 Matron was there. You could sense that even the staff
18 were quite frightened of her.

19 Q. Okay.

20 And you say that they weren't allowed to talk, the
21 staff?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Is that something that you were made aware of, you
24 became aware of the fact that they weren't allowed to
25 talk?

1 A. Well, I didn't know they weren't allowed to talk, but it
2 was always quiet. You know, nobody spoke to each other,
3 at mealtimes or anything.

4 Q. Yes. And you explain at paragraph 8:
5 'They just had to get on and do their jobs.'
6 Is that what it was about?

7 A. Yes. Yes.

8 Q. You say:
9 'They'd look at you quickly and then go on to do
10 their jobs, they didn't have time to spend with you or
11 talk to you.'

12 A. No. No. There was only one time when one of them was
13 kind to me, that I remember, and that was up in the
14 dormitory. I must have said to her I was hungry or
15 something and she went and got me a wee, like a quarter,
16 half slice of bread quartered over with jam in it. And
17 the Matron caught her. And that was quite a horrible
18 experience.

19 Q. So was this at night when you'd said to a member of
20 staff you were hungry?

21 A. It was at night, I don't know how late because I was
22 young and probably went to bed quite early, I don't
23 know.

24 Q. So she went to get you something to eat but she got
25 caught?

1 A. She got me this wee bit of bread I had to eat.

2 Q. Yes. You said the Matron --

3 A. I don't remember her speaking much to me, but she just
4 gave me this wee bit of bread to eat 'cause I'd said
5 I was hungry, I think I must have said.

6 Q. But you said that this was uncovered by the Matron?

7 A. She found out. She started stabbing it doon my throat.
8 I remember my mouth was so sore at the top. I don't
9 know if it was her nails that scratched it or not. But
10 she was really angry with staff. I remember her
11 shouting at the woman.

12 Q. This was in the dormitory then?

13 A. In the dormitory.

14 Q. And did she happen upon you when you were still trying
15 to eat this piece of bread? And you've said something
16 there, 'Jane', about her trying to push it into your
17 mouth?

18 A. Aye, she was shouting to me something about saying,
19 'You're hungry, you're hungry, well, eat it', and she
20 was forcing it in my throat.

21 Q. And you indicate that you felt her nails or something?

22 A. Uh-huh, because the top of, the roof of my mouth was all
23 sore.

24 Q. Yes. And did you have to eat it like that?

25 A. It was forced down my throat.

1 Q. And were you able to do that okay?

2 A. You had no option. It went down.

3 Q. You indicated that she wasn't happy with the member of
4 staff who had given you that piece of bread?

5 A. No, she was really angry.

6 Q. What was she doing?

7 A. Shouting at them all.

8 Q. Did anything else happen to you as a result of that?

9 A. Not on that occasion, no.

10 Q. But that's an incident that you remember now --

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. -- happening one night?

13 I think you say that the staff would be involved in
14 getting you -- this is at paragraph 8 -- getting you up
15 in the morning, putting you to bed at night and giving
16 you your dinner?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Would this be in a dining room?

19 A. It was a big dining room, yes, with big long tables.
20 I think.

21 Q. I think you remember -- was there a particular place you
22 had to sit in the dining room when you were having
23 meals?

24 A. I don't know. I don't know.

25 Q. You tell us that, 'Jane', that there were other staff

1 members there in the home day and night, but you don't
2 know if they lived at the home and you don't remember
3 any male members of staff; it was just female members of
4 staff, is that right?

5 A. That's right, uh-huh.

6 Q. And you remember them wearing grey uniforms?

7 A. Grey uniform.

8 Q. But you also tell us, 'Jane', about the Matron and you
9 say that she was in charge of the staff.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. At paragraph 9, you say, 'She was in control', and then
14 you go on to describe her.

15 What was she like? Can you remember what she was
16 like, 'Jane'?

17 A. I think she was quite -- I don't think she was -- she
18 was quite a small woman, I think. Now that I'm grown
19 up, I think, you know, I think she looked probably like
20 a giant then but she was quite a small woman, quite trim
21 built and she always wore this uniform, like she had
22 a nurse's hat, a white nurse's hat on, you know the
23 stiff ones, the stiff white ones, and the uniform was
24 blue but she had a kind of waspy belt wi' a big buckle
25 at the front o' it; I remember that. It probably wisnae

1 a waspy belt but it looked to me like an elasticky ...

2 But she always had that uniform on; never seen her
3 without it.

4 Q. What about the hat, is that something she wore all the
5 time as well?

6 A. Uh-huh, yes.

7 Q. I think you describe her at paragraph 9, at the end, you
8 are saying:

9 'The Matron wore some kind of hat on her head and I
10 seem to remember a belt with a buckle. I think she had
11 a cloak. She looked a bit like a nurse.'

12 A. That's right. That's right.

13 Q. Is that what you thought of when you think back, looking
14 at her, a nurse, a nurse's -- an old fashioned
15 nurse's --

16 A. Like a hospital, kind some of hospital procedure
17 uniform, uh-huh.

18 Q. But you tell us that the Matron, 'Jane', was somebody
19 that you were terrified of?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you tell us, 'She didn't speak to you, she would
22 shout'?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And is that what she did all the time?

25 A. Well, when she did speak, yes, it was a shouting.

1 Q. I think you say, 'Jane':
2 'She just shouted. I tried to stay out of her way.
3 She shouted for everything and she shouted at everybody.
4 If you moved, she would shout at you. If you looked the
5 wrong way, she would shout at you. She just came in
6 shouting and everybody, including the staff, froze. She
7 also screamed at the staff.'
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. So this is the impression we're getting from your
10 description of her, of someone who's going about
11 shouting, and even to members of staff, not just the
12 children?
13 A. Mm-hmm, that's right. She'd always find fault with
14 something.
15 Q. Okay.
16 You say at paragraph 10, 'Jane', that none of the
17 children ever spoke, never said a word.
18 A. I don't even remember -- I mean, I know I was young, but
19 I don't even remember having a friend, like, that we
20 played together. There was toys, there was a toy room
21 and there was toys, but I don't remember playing with
22 anybody and nobody did speak.
23 Q. You explain, 'Jane', at paragraph 10, you say, 'They
24 were terrified'.
25 A. Mm-hmm. Yes.

1 Q. And that relates to the children; is that what you
2 think, that they were terrified?
3 A. I think they were just all terrified.
4 Q. When you say 'terrified', terrified of what, or who?
5 A. I don't know. I don't know. She was just -- the anger
6 of this woman, just that anger we were frightened of;
7 didnae know what she was going to do and what was going
8 to happen to us. I know that's how I felt.
9 Q. So you think it was the Matron that you're referring to?
10 A. The Matron. It was the Matron. I couldnae say there
11 was anybody else that done any harm to me.
12 Q. And you describe her, 'Jane', at paragraph 10 as being
13 'like a witch'?
14 A. Mm-hmm. She was a witch to me.
15 Q. Yes, and you say she lived in the home, so she was
16 a member of staff who was always there?
17 A. Well, she were -- did always seem to be there.
18 Q. You tell us that you would know if she was nearby
19 because the staff would freeze; is that right?
20 A. You would just sense it.
21 Q. And again, you say the staff never spoke?
22 A. No.
23 Q. We talked about that but as well as the children not
24 speaking, the staff -- there wasn't an atmosphere in
25 this place of even the staff speaking to each other,

1 from what you remember?

2 A. From what I remember. As an adult now, it was -- I'd

3 say it was more like a regimental kind of atmosphere.

4 Q. And you say:

5 'It was as if, when she was there, nobody had

6 control but her. When anybody spoke, it was her that

7 spoke. She laid down the rules.'

8 A. Oh yes.

9 Q. And you tell us, 'Jane', that, mostly, what you remember

10 about Rhu Home was the fear?

11 A. The fear, uh-huh.

12 Q. Is that the lasting memory that you have from being

13 there? Being afraid?

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 But when I came home, my arm had been dislocated --

16 well, my shoulder had been dislocated and that was

17 through another incident that she was angry at.

18 Q. Yes. I think you talk about that a little bit more in

19 your statement --

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. -- so we'll come to that, 'Jane', about how that seemed

22 to come about.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. But you tell us at paragraph 11 that, whilst you were

25 there, you were terrified and you just cried all the

1 time?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. You describe yourself putting your head under the
4 blankets at night and just crying?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Is that right?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. And you say you would peek out to see if the Matron was
9 coming and you say:

10 'I kept thinking a nightmare was coming to visit.
11 Rhu was a place of fear and terror. There was no show
12 of emotions or human contact.'

13 A. That's true 'cause you just never knew when she was
14 going to appear; you were always watching for her.

15 Q. And were you worried at night that the Matron would come
16 into the dormitory that you were in?

17 A. Well, there was times she did come into the dorms
18 because the bedrooms were always inspected and they had
19 to make sure that we were in bed what we were supposed
20 to be in bed with, and we'd taken off what we were
21 supposed to take off, and -- but she used to check the
22 chairs that our clothes were on.

23 Q. I think you tell us about that, and we're about to come
24 to it, I think, about the sort of routine that was set
25 out for you there, about the clothes and the chair.

1 But just before we come to that, 'Jane', there's
2 a bit of your statement where you say, at paragraph 12,
3 that you were young in the home and there were older
4 children there, older than you; is that right?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And you remember that they would go to school and you
7 would be in a room with some of the younger children,
8 which had toys in it but, as you've already said, you
9 don't remember playing with the toys?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And you say that you just sat at the window and waited
12 for your sister to come back from school?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you remember your sister going to school from the
15 home or did you know where she was during the day?

16 A. I knew she was at school. She told me she went to
17 school and I just watched for her at the window at the
18 time.

19 Q. And was that in the home that she would go to school?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So she didn't go to the local primary school?

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. Okay.

24 And you tell us that you did have contact with your
25 sister when you were in the home but were you in

1 a separate dormitory from your sister at night?

2 A. I thought I was. I'm not sure.

3 Q. Okay. So if you were in a different dormitory at night,
4 you would maybe see her during the day sometimes?

5 A. Well I did see her during the day. I remember being --
6 I remember sitting beside her at mealtimes. I don't
7 remember if we'd have done that at all the mealtimes.
8 I don't know if there was a set seating system, but I do
9 remember sometimes sitting with her at mealtimes.

10 Q. And I think you say that you remember being in the Rhu
11 Home for a few weeks or a couple of months but you were
12 quite young at the time, so you don't know for sure how
13 long you were there?

14 A. Yes, I don't know for sure.

15 Q. And you don't remember the time of year but you remember
16 that the home was cold?

17 A. It was cold, uh-huh.

18 Q. And you remember the home having swings in the grounds.
19 So you think that that's something you had probably
20 played on at one point, but you don't have a memory of
21 that, do you?

22 A. No, I don't.

23 Q. Just going on then, 'Jane', to you telling us a bit of
24 what you remember of the routine at Rhu Home. I think
25 you say you don't remember the day you went there, you

1 just remember being there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you describe the set-up in the dormitories, and you

4 say that it was single beds for everyone --

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. -- and two rows of children, about eight or ten beds,

7 and you say you think it was just girls in your dorm.

8 You don't remember any boys in the home; is that right?

9 A. No, I don't remember.

10 Q. But you say that there must have been more than one

11 dormitory because your sister was in the other one?

12 A. Yes, must have been, uh-huh.

13 Q. Yes. And, again, you tell us about you having to look

14 out and watch for the Matron coming at night and you

15 tell us that the staff would come round at night and

16 check with a torch -- sorry, check everyone with

17 a torch, and you say sometimes staff came round and

18 sometimes it was the Matron.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. And you say that, when that happened, you didn't make

21 a sound because you didn't want to be spotted; is that

22 right?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And the children didn't even talk to each other, they

25 just lay there in silence?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. But if it was the Matron who came into the dorm and
3 anyone was awake, she would shout and bawl at the
4 children?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And she would wake the whole place up?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. So you have a memory of her doing that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did that happen often?

11 A. On a few occasions. I wouldn't say often. It wisnae
12 every night or every second night but it did happen
13 a few occasions.

14 Q. And you have a recollection, 'Jane', of you think
15 a staff member who would come in in the morning and tell
16 you to get up and get dressed but you would have to
17 dress yourself --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- even though you were very young at the time; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you tell us about going down for breakfast at
23 paragraph 16, you remember particularly toast and cocoa
24 and maybe cereal as well --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and I think you say that you loved the hot cocoa.
2 A. I loved it.
3 Q. And is that because it was so cold?
4 A. It heated yous up.
5 Q. But you explain, 'Jane', that mealtimes were a serious
6 time in the home?
7 A. Very. Very.
8 Q. You describe that you just went in, ate your meal and
9 got out?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And in relation to meals, you say that you can only
12 remember getting two a day. It would be breakfast and
13 dinner, is that --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. You don't recall lunchtime, or what happened?
16 A. I don't. I don't remember, no.
17 Q. But you go on to tell us that you ate what was put in
18 front of you?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Was that the rule?
21 A. Well, you didnae leave anything on your plate. That was
22 the rule.
23 Q. And whose rule was that?
24 A. That was the Matron's, I believe.
25 Q. Okay. And if you did leave anything on your plate, what

1 would happen?

2 A. Well, she would start shouting and bawling again.

3 Q. So she would shout at you; and I think you tell us,

4 'Jane', you say:

5 'We knew where we had to sit.'

6 So that maybe suggests that there was a particular

7 place that you had to sit in the dining room, but do you

8 just not remember, thinking back now, what that was?

9 A. No, I don't.

10 Q. Just looking, 'Jane', then at what you tell us about

11 washing and bathing, and you say that you would wash and

12 clean your teeth before breakfast and:

13 'The staff would stand over you at bedtime to make

14 sure you washed and cleaned your teeth.'

15 Is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And in relation to clothing at paragraph 18, there was

18 a routine and you mentioned this briefly earlier in your

19 evidence, 'Jane'. What was that routine with your

20 clothes?

21 A. Well, you had to take your clothes off and fold them in

22 a certain order and you had to definitely make sure you

23 took your underwear off and they -- 'cause they used to

24 inspect to make sure that they were lying on the chair

25 as well with the rest of your clothes and you darenae be

1 caught no having them off.

2 Q. So there was a rule about taking certain clothes off at

3 night --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and that was something that they checked on?

6 A. Yes. Oh, they did check. They would pull the blankets

7 up and check.

8 Q. Okay. You say they pulled the blankets up; would you be

9 wearing nightclothes?

10 A. Oh, you had a -- yes, you had a nightgown on. It was to

11 check you had no underwear on.

12 Q. When you say they would check you had no underwear, what

13 would they do?

14 A. Well, nobody kept their underwear on, I can assure you.

15 We all put our underwear on the chair.

16 Q. So did they have a look to see if you were wearing

17 underwear?

18 A. Oh yes.

19 Q. Would they have to move your nightdress to see whether

20 you were wearing pants?

21 A. They would just lift it up.

22 Q. Okay. But your recollection is there was this routine

23 about the clothes, there was an order in which the

24 clothes had to be -- I think you say:

25 'They had to be in the right place and in the right

1 order.'

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. And you certainly weren't allowed to wear your pants at
4 night.

5 A. Uh-huh, that's correct.

6 Q. You tell us, 'Jane', that you think the clothes you wore
7 whilst you were there were clothes given to you by the
8 home, because you don't think they were your own
9 clothes; is that right?

10 A. No, we weren't allowed to use our own clothes.

11 Q. You describe wearing 'a cotton thing and a pinafore'?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What was the cotton thing that you are talking about
14 there? Can you describe it at all?

15 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure but I remember the material.

16 Q. Okay. Was this something that went underneath the
17 pinafore or over the top?

18 A. Like a kind of smock thing?

19 Q. Okay. And you say that other people wore that too? So
20 other children wore the same thing?

21 A. Yes. Yes, we all wore the same.

22 Q. But you remember getting changes of those clothes
23 because you have a recollection of them being crisp?

24 A. Yes. Yes.

25 Q. As if they were laundered or something?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. About visits 'Jane', you tell us that you do recall some
3 visits when you were in the home, and in particular you
4 talk about a visit from your granny and your dad, and
5 that's at paragraph 19. And you say that you were taken
6 out for the day -- is this you, your older sister, along
7 with your granny and your dad? Is that what you
8 remember?

9 A. That's true.

10 Q. Do you remember where you went on the day out?

11 A. No.

12 Q. But I think you tell us you had a good day out of the
13 home --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and you enjoyed being away from the home?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And to get back you had to get a bus; is that right?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. And you tell us, 'Jane', about that bus journey home,
20 you say that the staff from the home got on to the bus?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you describe what happened then. What happened to
23 you and your sister when they got on the bus?

24 A. We just kinda froze. I didn't notice them at first, it
25 was my sister that says to me, 'Oh, there's two women

1 fae the home'. So we -- we just sat quiet, we never
2 said anything. My gran was like that, looking at us,
3 'What's the matter?' We just said nothing.

4 Q. You say, 'Jane', your granny saw that you looked -- the
5 way you've put it, you looked 'terrified'. Is that how
6 you remember feeling?

7 A. I remember she was aware that there was something wrong
8 and she spoke -- she says to [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]
9 I think says to her we were frightened to say anything
10 'cause they were on that bus.

11 Q. And you say that your sister told your granny, when she
12 was asking what the matter was, to be quiet because
13 staff from the home were on the bus --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- and you were frightened to talk?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So you remember something being said by your sister to
18 your granny like that?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. And you then go on to tell us, 'Jane', that apparently
21 your granny went home and told your mother about that --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- incident.

24 But this is something you weren't aware of at the
25 time; you learned about that later, is that right?

1 A. Yes. Yes.

2 Q. And did you find that out from your granny or your mum,
3 or was this something you found out from your sister,
4 about the fact that your granny had told your mum?

5 A. I found that out from my mum, when we were home.

6 Q. Okay. And you say, 'Jane', that there was a reason you
7 were frightened and that was because the staff were part
8 of, the way you've it, 'that place', 'that place' being
9 Rhu Home?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is that right?

12 And you say they were under the control of the
13 Matron, so they couldn't do anything for you, those
14 staff; is that right?

15 A. Well that's what I felt.

16 Q. Yes, and you felt that you couldn't go to them for help?

17 A. No, 'cause I felt it would just have caused more
18 problems.

19 Q. You say, 'Jane', at paragraph 20:
20 'I believe they felt useless because some of them
21 looked quite kindly, you could see a kindness in their
22 eyes, but they couldn't do anything.'

23 So is that how you felt?

24 A. That's how I felt, 'cause you got the sense that they
25 were frightened as well. And it's hard to understand

1 what fear is as a child, but you know the feeling, if
2 you know what I mean. It's ... you just know fear.

3 Q. And the fact that you're saying that, 'Jane', did you
4 form the impression that they maybe wanted to do
5 something but felt they couldn't?

6 A. Looking back, yes, I would think that.

7 Q. And when you felt like that, what type of thing would be
8 happening in the home to you or other children when you
9 felt that staff might have wanted to help but couldn't?
10 What sort of things were going on at that time?

11 A. I can't really remember but I -- it could be simple
12 things like if you dropped your cutlery and if ... you'd
13 see they'd try to help you but they would be like that,
14 looking to see, you know, if they were getting watched.
15 If they were getting watched as well. You got that
16 impression.

17 Q. And you've made that point, that they were really under
18 the control of the Matron, who you've described as --

19 A. Yeah, that's what I felt.

20 Q. -- as being the person that --

21 A. 'Cause there was a kinda ... there was a softness in
22 their eyes, you know what I mean, that you never seen in
23 her eyes, and you could sometimes see them looking at
24 you like that, and it wisnae an angry look, but they
25 never done anything.

1 Q. So they never went against what she said?

2 A. No. Never. Never.

3 Q. What she said went?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. And everybody had to follow that.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us, 'Jane', that when you were young in Rhu
8 Home, that sometimes you wet the bed. This is at
9 paragraph 22. And that there was one particular night
10 that had happened and the staff got you up during the
11 night to change you. And you describe standing in your
12 dormitory, I think you say, paragraph 22, with no
13 clothes on?

14 A. Right. That's true.

15 Q. And I think you say you were cold, you were frozen.

16 A. I was frozen.

17 Q. What do you remember then happening on that occasion?

18 A. I just remember standing there being so cold, and my bed
19 getting stripped off, and I felt bad. 'Cause I knew I'd
20 done wrong, I'd wet the bed. And ... I thought I had
21 went with my sister to go wash the sheets, but then
22 [REDACTED] says 'No, you got put back to bed', and my
23 sister was sent down to wash the sheets.

24 Q. But you say, 'Jane', you knew you had done wrong, but
25 you hadn't done anything wrong. You were only a little

1 girl and you'd wet the bed. You hadn't done anything
2 wrong, had you?

3 A. But I felt I had done something wrong because ...

4 Q. Yes, that's how you were made to feel?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And you describe a little bit more detail, 'Jane', in
7 your statement, this is at paragraph 22, and you say
8 that, during this incident when you were standing there,
9 the next thing, you say:

10 'The next thing, my sister appeared beside me and
11 the Matron was shouting at the two of us that I had wet
12 the bed. The other staff were there but they didn't say
13 anything. The sheets were lying on the floor and the
14 Matron told my sister to take the sheets into the toilet
15 and wash them.'

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. And you say that she had to wash the sheets and you felt
18 terrible about that?

19 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

20 Q. And you'd go on to tell us that your sister told you --
21 this must have been later, she told you the water was
22 cold, and she was trying to wash the sheets, and then
23 you tell us they then put a nightgown on you and put you
24 back into bed?

25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. But you felt that you would rather have gone and washed
2 the sheets with your sister. And the way you have put
3 it, 'Jane', is you say:

4 'At least I would have felt I was getting punished
5 as well. I felt that she was getting punished because
6 I had wet the bed.'

7 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

8 Q. Yes. So you feel her having to wash your sheets was
9 a punishment for you wetting the bed?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay.

12 'Jane', you go on then to talk about some abuse that
13 you remember whilst you were at Rhu. And this is from
14 paragraph 23. And what you tell us is about an occasion
15 when you were eating dinner or supper and you describe
16 the fact that you've always been a slow eater?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you were taking too long to finish up and the staff
19 were trying to clear up and the Matron came in.

20 Now, I know -- if you're not able to, just say and
21 I could read out this part of your statement, but if you
22 feel able, 'Jane', can you tell us what happened when
23 the Matron came in and saw that you were taking too
24 long?

25 A. She just rushed me and says, 'Come on, hurry up, you're

1 always slow'. And my sister's tried to talk to her to
2 say to her I was a slow eater. And, er, she says, well,
3 I don't know, she says something like, 'We'll sort
4 that', or something, or, 'Well, we've not got time for
5 that', I think she said. And she started ramming the
6 spoon in my mouth and forcing stuff down my throat
7 again, and, 'We don't waste things in this place', you
8 know. 'It's all empty plates here, finish everything on
9 the plate'.
10 Q. You said, 'Jane', that she said something -- was it 'Sod
11 that'? Was that what you said? I just want to make
12 sure we've got it correctly, that the Matron said first
13 of all, was it 'Sod that' that you said or was it
14 something different?
15 A. Sorry, what was that?
16 LADY SMITH: Or was it -- I think you said that you were
17 a slow eater and the Matron says:
18 '... well, I don't know, something like, it was ...
19 "Sort that", or something, "We haven't got time for
20 that".'
21 Something sort of, 'We haven't got time for that'.
22 A. Probably, probably, uh-huh.
23 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think that was it.
24 A. Because I was trying to clear everything away quickly.
25 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would make sense.

1 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady, that was my mistake.

2 So she said something, you were trying to describe

3 sort of what she was saying?

4 A. Right, right.

5 Q. So you describe there, 'Jane', that she started sticking

6 the spoon into your mouth?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. It was hitting the back of your throat, is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And how did that feel?

11 A. It was horrible.

12 Q. Was it sore?

13 A. It was sore and it was choking me and I was trying to

14 get this food down, but she was ramming this spoon into

15 my mouth.

16 Q. And then I think you go on to tell us then, 'Jane', that

17 she then started to shake you?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. Do you remember that?

20 A. I remember that.

21 Q. And you say that:

22 'She started shaking me really viciously all over

23 the place. The shaking went on for ages.'

24 And you say:

25 'She hurt my left arm and it was really sore.'

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. So that's something you particularly remember?

3 A. I remember that.

4 Q. And you remember being hurt on your left arm after that
5 incident?

6 A. Yes. Yes, I do.

7 Q. You then tell us, 'Jane', I think this is not something
8 that you recall but I think you know from your sister,
9 and what she said to you. You say that your sister
10 remembers that the Matron either told you to go to the
11 kitchen or one of the staff was told to take you into
12 the kitchen to finish your food, and your sister
13 remembers that a member of staff took the food off you
14 and put it in the bin, so you didn't have to finish it.
15 Is that right?

16 A. No, bless them. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. But I think that's something that you don't remember
18 yourself, but you remember from what your sister has
19 told you?

20 A. I don't remember, no. I don't remember much after the
21 shaking.

22 Q. And, again, your sister, I think, told you that the
23 Matron came in then asking whether the food had been
24 finished and the member of staff nodded and you got
25 away, but you didn't actually have to finish it.

1 A. Right. That's true, absolutely.

2 Q. So something happened to interrupt her during what was
3 going on here, that she told the member of staff to
4 finish giving you the food?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. But you don't recall now what that was?

7 A. No, I don't remember.

8 Q. You tell us then, 'Jane', that that night you still felt
9 the injury from your arm and you say you couldn't lie on
10 it?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Because it was so sore.

13 So you particularly remember that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you say you had to lie on the other side.

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. And you also remember not being able to lift up your arm
18 to use it to get dressed --

19 A. That's correct. That's right.

20 Q. -- the next morning.

21 You've described it there, 'Jane' and you say, 'It
22 was just hanging'?

23 A. Uh-huh. Just like I couldn't use it.

24 Q. And you say:
25 'We went home not long after that incident.'

1 So you went back to stay with your mother?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know how long that was roughly, after that

4 incident? It might be difficult to remember now.

5 A. I don't know. I don't know, but I can imagine now it

6 couldn't have been that long because I wouldnae have

7 managed with that arm to do what I was supposed to do,

8 like get dressed and eat and do things.

9 Q. And your arm, was it still injured when you went home?

10 A. When I went home it was still injured and it was my

11 gran, I believe that -- I was told this, I don't know

12 this, that my gran says to my mum, 'You need to take her

13 to the doctors, there's something wrong with her arm',

14 and that's when they found out there was an injury.

15 Q. But that's not something you remember but you've been

16 told since?

17 A. I was told that.

18 Q. And have you been told what treatment you got for that?

19 A. I actually don't remember the treatment but I was just

20 told it was a dislocated shoulder.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And the doctor had to put it back in. That's all

23 I remember.

24 Q. So that's what you know now about it?

25 A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

1 Q. And from what you've told us, 'Jane', you injured your
2 arm in that incident you have described with the Matron
3 and her shaking you?

4 A. Uh-huh -- well, I remember I couldn't use it after that.

5 Q. And then later in life, you know now that it was
6 dislocated?

7 A. Dislocated, uh-huh.

8 Q. 'Jane', still in this part of your statement, where
9 you're talking about things that happened at Rhu, at the
10 Rhu Home, you say one night you were punished for
11 something and you were sent to your dorm, and this is
12 what we've talked about already earlier in your
13 evidence. This was when you asked for something to eat.

14 A. Oh right, uh-huh.

15 Q. And one of the staff members got you this half slice of
16 bread, and you say that Matron came in, caught you
17 eating it and stuffed it down your throat.

18 LADY SMITH: Is this what you were telling me about earlier
19 on in your evidence?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, I thought it was. Thank you, 'Jane'.

22 MS FORBES: So this is the same incident and you're just
23 telling us a bit more detail here, 'Jane', at
24 paragraph 26, and you say:
25 'I remember her nails scratching the back of my

1 throat.'

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. 'It was horrible. I just kept crying.'

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. You say, 'All I did in that place was cry'.

6 A. I believe I did, I know. It was horrible. I just hated

7 it, all of it.

8 Q. And looking back, is that how you feel?

9 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

10 Q. You tell us again, just lastly, about one other thing.

11 You were out walking in the country and picking brambles

12 and you say that you put your brambles in a hankie and

13 these were hankies that you were given, these freshly

14 laundered hankies, every day?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. And you were told that you were going to get in trouble

17 about that.

18 Why was that? Why were you going to get in trouble?

19 A. 'Cause you weren't to stain your hankies, you werenae to

20 get them in a mess -- I don't know what they gave them

21 to us for -- but I did, I put my brambles in them and

22 they were all stained. There was all black on.

23 Q. And you say that you were worried about that.

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And you say you were terrified?

1 A. I know. I wisnae that terrified or I wouldnae have done
2 it but I did do it. That was the kind of kid I was.

3 Q. I think you say that you thought the Matron was going to
4 get you again?

5 A. I know, aye, yeah.

6 Q. But I take it you don't remember anything happening as
7 a result of that?

8 A. No. No, I don't.

9 Q. 'Jane', you then talk about after being in Rhu and you
10 say you don't remember leaving, you just remember being
11 back at home; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And this is when your granny noticed something wrong
14 with your arm and took you to the doctor -- sorry, your
15 mum took you to the doctor.

16 A. My mum.

17 Q. That's something you say you can't remember but you were
18 told later.

19 And again, you were told it was just that your
20 shoulder was dislocated; is that something that they
21 told you had happened?

22 A. I was told, uh-huh.

23 Q. And it had to be pushed back in?

24 A. The doctor had to put it back in, uh-huh. Yes.

25 Q. You remember, 'Jane', a home in Largs after you left Rhu

1 and you say you [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
2 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later], but you were only there
3 for three or four weeks --
4 A. Mm-hmm.
5 Q. -- because your mum wasn't well again.
6 You then go on, 'Jane', to tell us about your life
7 after your time in care, and that's from paragraph 30.
8 You say -- and we've talked about this already -- you
9 moved house quite a lot --
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. -- when you were growing up, and this was for various
12 different reasons, and you say your education was poor?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. You feel it was disrupted by being in care and moving
15 house regularly as well?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. And you talk about your parents splitting up for
18 a period due to your father's drinking but they got back
19 together, and you describe your family, 'Jane', as
20 being:
21 'A typical family who had regular contact with aunts
22 and uncles,' and 'all the family stayed in Govan.'
23 So you met up regularly?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. That's what you remember about growing up there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But there came a time -- I think you say you were 8 --
3 there was a housing scheme at Drumchapel that was built
4 and your mum was persuaded to move there, into a new
5 house --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- which had a bedroom for you and your sisters?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Hot and cold water.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And a bath.

12 A. A big thing.

13 Q. These were things that you'd never had before?

14 A. Aye, that's true.

15 Q. But, sadly, moving there to this new house was not great
16 for your mother, and that, you say, was her downfall?

17 A. It was.

18 Q. And that she went downhill fast?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And this was -- she was away from her family?

21 A. That's what it was.

22 Q. She wasn't able to travel easily to see them because she
23 didn't have the money to do that.

24 A. No.

25 Q. And she was cut off from the family and she was

1 depressed.

2 A. Yes. Very.

3 Q. But the way you describe it, 'Jane', is you say that:

4 'The three of us mucked along.'

5 Was that you and your two sisters?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Your father at that time was still at sea but you say:

8 'At least we three girls had each other.'

9 A. We did.

10 Q. And you describe you and your sisters as being very

11 close --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- growing up.

14 You say:

15 '... although we fought and argued like most

16 families.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you're still very close?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you describe that you've always been a rock for one

21 another?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You say, 'Jane':

24 'Life wasn't bad but it was a struggle to get

25 through and keep going but it prepared us for life.'

1 A. It did.

2 Q. So you feel like it was a hard upbringing?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Yes. And particularly, I think, you talk about your
5 mother and the struggles she had with medication, and
6 what that did to her, and also she had rheumatoid
7 arthritis as well and was in pain, and that you and your
8 sisters had to do most of the housework?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And later the cooking as well?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. 'Jane', you tell us you left school at 15 and your
13 parents had got you a job in Littlewoods?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you worked in the catering department but you hated
16 it.

17 A. Didn't like it.

18 Q. You tell us that there were some other shops you worked
19 in and then you went to work in the box-making factory
20 along with your sister?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And some of your friends worked there too, is that
23 right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you say that that was a hard job though, physically?

1 A. It was a physically hard job, uh-huh.

2 Q. But you did that for a number of years?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. 'Jane', you tell us got married at 18?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you had your daughter shortly afterwards but, sadly,

7 you say your husband was a drinker --

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. -- and the marriage fell apart.

10 You make the point that your sisters got married too

11 and all divorced as well, and you say that's because the

12 husbands were all heavy drinkers --

13 A. I know.

14 Q. -- like your father.

15 A. I know.

16 Q. So you make that point in your statement.

17 A. I know.

18 Q. And sadly, 'Jane', you say your mum died when you were

19 quite young, you were only 20?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And she was only 49?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And your dad was still at sea for a while after that,

24 I think?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then he lived with your sister, and then you for
2 a period of time, before he moved to his own house; is
3 that right?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And then he died as well.

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And I think you tell us that, even after your daughter
8 was born, you worked night shifts?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. And you worked right up until you retired?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you're retired now?

13 A. I'm retired now.

14 Q. 'Jane', you tell us about impact a little bit, at
15 paragraph 36 onwards. And you say:

16 'I don't think I functioned properly when I was in
17 Rhu. I don't know how I got through it and it damaged
18 me. I find it very difficult to trust people. I'm not
19 a very confident person and I think this is as a result
20 of my time in care. I have anxieties about things.
21 I always think something terrible is going to happen.'

22 Is that how you feel, 'Jane'?

23 A. Not so much now. I have changed as I've got older and,
24 where I am now, I've got a lot more confidence but then,
25 yes, my life was very confused at times and I did have

1 a lot of anxieties.

2 Q. And you do say, 'Jane', that you have had some
3 counselling but you didn't talk during that counselling
4 about your time in care?

5 A. No. No. My family doesn't even know about it. I've
6 never told my family.

7 Q. I think you say the only person you've spoken to about
8 it is your sister?

9 A. My sister.

10 Q. You say:
11 'My family doesn't even know about it. I don't want
12 to put those horrors on them.'

13 A. That's true.

14 Q. So you feel you don't want to burden them?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Looking back, 'Jane', you're saying as an adult -- this
17 is at paragraph 37 -- you can see that Matron there at
18 Rhu loved her control; the way you've put it is:
19 'She relished it.'
20 You say:
21 'She loved to see people shaking.'
22 And you make the point:
23 'I hope she never had children of her own or God
24 help them.'

25 A. That's true, I do wish that. It's a terrible thing to

1 say but I do wish that.

2 Q. Just looking then at what you tell us, 'Jane', about
3 lessons to be learned, this is from paragraph 39,
4 I think you're hopeful that, in speaking about your
5 experiences now, that lessons will be learned and that
6 people won't suffer -- you say they, 'won't suffer like
7 we did', like you did?

8 A. That's true.

9 Q. And you say:

10 'It's hard though to make individuals act like
11 humans.'

12 Do you feel that the Matron at Rhu Home acted like
13 a human when you were there?

14 A. I didnae know the make-up of humans at that age, really.
15 I just know she was the worst person I ever met and, as
16 an adult now, she probably was quite a sad person; she
17 must have been. Must have had something wrong with that
18 woman, but it wasn't nice what we suffered.

19 Q. No.

20 You go on to say, 'Jane':

21 'People in authority should be taught how to look
22 after children in care and treat children like they
23 would like their own children to be treated. Just
24 because you're a child, doesn't mean you don't have
25 feelings and you don't suffer pain and hurt which you

1 carry through the rest of your life.'

2 And you comment this affects the kind of parent you
3 are; yes?

4 Your hope for the Inquiry is that it can achieve
5 an awareness of the damage -- and you say that the
6 damage is done to children in care?

7 A. Yes, and myself at times.

8 Q. Yes. And you say, 'Jane':

9 'I don't think staff like the Matron should be left
10 in control for the period of time that she was. She
11 knew she had total control of the home for as long as
12 she wanted. She was in control of everything.'

13 And you make the point that people should be
14 checked, monitored and moved, moved from different
15 places?

16 A. Aye, I don't think they should be in one place as long
17 as that 'cause they get -- and this is an adult
18 speaking -- I feel they get too complacent of their
19 power and it should be watched.

20 Q. You say people should have to write reports --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- and other people should check on them?

23 A. Yes, it should be monitored more.

24 Q. So this is people coming in from the outside who are
25 independent --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- to inspect?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I know you were very young at the time, 'Jane', and it
5 was a long time ago, but when you were in Rhu Home, do
6 you remember anyone coming in from outside to inspect
7 the home?

8 A. No. No.

9 Q. You don't remember anybody trying to speak to you about
10 being in the home?

11 A. No.

12 Q. So nobody from social work, or anything like that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You make the point, 'Jane', just at the end of
15 paragraph 40:

16 'Questions should be asked. Children should be
17 spoken to as they grow up and are able to answer.'

18 A. Yes. Yes. I believe that.

19 Q. So they should be asked their opinions and their
20 views --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- about being in the home?

23 A. Yes. Yes.

24 Q. Well, 'Jane', that's all the questions I have for you
25 today, so thank you very much for your time and for your

1 answers.

2 But is there anything that you want to say that
3 I haven't asked you about or you haven't had a chance to
4 say today?

5 A. Not really, but just to thank everybody for taking these
6 things so seriously.

7 MS FORBES: Thank you.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Jane', let me add my thanks.

10 A. Sorry?

11 LADY SMITH: Let me add my thanks to you for coming here
12 today.

13 You're absolutely right, these are serious matters,
14 and we do take them seriously. We're learning all the
15 time and you have added to my learning by coming here
16 yourself and letting me hear from you directly what your
17 experience was like all these years ago.

18 I'm grateful to you for doing that. As I said,
19 I knew it wouldn't be easy but I'm glad to say that I'm
20 able to let you go before lunchtime and I hope the rest
21 of the day is better for you than the morning has been.

22 A. Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

23 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the lunch break, there are
24 a couple of names I want to mention of people whose
25 names have been used in evidence this morning but whose

1 identities are protected by my General Restriction
2 Order, which means they cannot be identified as referred
3 to in our evidence outside this room.

4 One was [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The first witness
5 used that name, it may just have been '[REDACTED]', she said,
6 but neither can be used outside this room. And the
7 other was the witness who's just left referred to her
8 younger sister by either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], and she's
9 not to be identified outside this room as referred to in
10 our evidence either.

11 Thank you all very much for that.

12 And the next witness should be ready at 2.00; is
13 that right, Ms Forbes?

14 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 (12.50 pm)

17 (The luncheon adjournment)

18 (2.03 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

20 Now, I understand the next witness is ready to give
21 evidence; is that right, Mr Sheldon?

22 MR SHELDON: That's correct, my Lady. This is a witness who
23 wishes to be anonymous and he goes by the name of
24 'Raymond'.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. (Pause)

1 'Raymond', good afternoon. Could you raise your
2 right hand, please, and then repeat after me.

3 'Raymond' (sworn)

4 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

5 'Raymond', thank you for coming along this afternoon
6 to help us with your evidence. It's really good to have
7 you here to talk in person about what you can tell us
8 regarding Lagarie. That is what we are particularly
9 interested in, as you know, at the moment.

10 Now, I do, of course, already have your written
11 evidence and thank you for that. It's in the red folder
12 in front of you.

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: And it will be there for you to use if you'd
15 find that helpful.

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: We can also bring the statement up on screen,
18 that might be useful to you as well.

19 But other than that, 'Raymond', I just want to
20 reassure you that I know what we're asking you to do is
21 difficult, you are in a public forum, and we are going
22 to ask you questions about your own personal life when
23 you were a young child.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: And about things that, on the face of it, look

1 quite upsetting, having read your statement. I do
2 understand that and I do understand that it may feel
3 quite emotional at times. That's not a problem, don't
4 worry. If you need a break, it's absolutely fine by me,
5 just tell me --

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. -- or if you just want to pause where you are, tell me
8 that.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Sometimes, we are very bad at asking questions
11 and the way we ask them doesn't make sense to people
12 because we come from a different background and so on.
13 If you don't understand what we're asking, that's our
14 fault and not yours, so don't hesitate to tell us.

15 A. Okay.

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

17 A. Not at the moment, no.

18 LADY SMITH: Well, speak up if you do. No question --

19 A. I may be a bit deaf, just slightly.

20 LADY SMITH: Do you wear hearing aids?

21 A. Pardon?

22 LADY SMITH: Do you wear hearing aids?

23 A. Yeah, but they're broke.

24 LADY SMITH: Ah, right, because the system would help you
25 with that. Well, thank you for telling me that. We

1 will make sure that we make good use of the microphones.

2 A. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: But tell us if we're straying away from them,
4 because it's really important that you hear everything.

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

7 Questions from Mr Sheldon

8 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

9 'Raymond', I don't need to know your date of birth
10 but I think you were born in 1950, is that right?

11 A. Yes, [REDACTED] 1950.

12 Q. Thank you. And you don't need to concern yourself with
13 this particular bit, this is just for our records, but
14 your witness statement is numbered WIT-1-000000743.

15 And, 'Raymond', if you could look at the back page,
16 it's page 18 of your statement, please. Is that your
17 signature?

18 A. That's it, yeah.

19 Q. So you signed that in 2021. And you say:

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

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Is that right?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 So you can turn back to the start then, 'Raymond',
4 and you tell us in the first section of your statement,
5 'Life before going into care', that you were born in
6 Glasgow and that -- you give your dad's name but you
7 don't know what your mum's name was?

8 A. That's right, yeah.

9 Q. You'd been told, and I'm looking at paragraph 4, that as
10 far as you knew, she was dead and she'd disappeared and
11 you never knew her.

12 A. Yeah, that's right, yeah.

13 Q. But you later found out she was still alive, is that
14 right?

15 A. Yeah. I was under the impression she was dead, 'cause
16 one of my sisters said it, but then we found out that
17 she was alive, but I never, ever met her. I don't know
18 who she was. It was my oldest sister, she's the one
19 that had talk -- had met her and talked to her. And
20 that was it.

21 Q. How did it make you feel, that your mum had just gone
22 missing like that?

23 A. Well ... Just felt I wisnae loved or anything like
24 that, no parent, you're a ... (Pause)

25 Q. All right, take your time.

1 A. Just -- it'd have been nice to have her there.

2 Q. Yes. So you tell us that you had three sisters.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. One older, and twins who were one year older. And one
5 of your sisters died a couple of years ago.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you tell us that -- this is paragraph 5 -- that you
8 also only found out later that you and your sisters were
9 put into care because your dad couldn't cope. Can you
10 tell us a wee bit about that, 'Raymond'?

11 A. That's right, yeah. My dad was always working away and
12 he was an alcoholic. And just -- my gran, my dad's mum,
13 that's who was -- they -- we went to stay with later on
14 and they -- she couldn't cope with it. So we get taken
15 up to John Street, the welfare people in John Street,
16 and then taken to Lagarie.

17 Q. Right. But this was while you were still very, very
18 young?

19 A. Pardon?

20 Q. I think that was while you were still very young, is
21 that right?

22 A. I was 1 year old when I went into Lagarie.

23 Q. Okay. 'Raymond', the records that we've got suggested
24 it might have been in [REDACTED] 1952, so that would make you
25 2 years old, does that sound right?

1 A. Yeah, 'cause my sisters were a year older than me.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And my oldest sister was a year older again, so they
4 would put '52, because they were that year older than
5 me, before they went in.

6 Q. Right, okay.

7 A. So that would work out at '52.

8 Q. I get you. At all events --

9 A. But I was told I was only 1 year old when I went in
10 there, anyway.

11 Q. You were very, very young, anyway?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you say you don't know why you were taken there, but
14 you were at Lagarie -- I'm sorry, Lagarie -- till you
15 were about 11 or 12?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So you were there for --

18 A. I was about 12 or -- I ended up going to secondary
19 school there for about nine month and then I was out of
20 there. And went to a different place.

21 Q. We'll come to that. You go on to talk about Lagarie.
22 Just to ask you, some witnesses that we've had say that
23 the place was known to them as 'Rhu' or the 'Rhu Home'.
24 Did you know it as that or as Lagarie?

25 A. Lagarie was on the border, on the boundary, it was like,

1 of Rhu and Helensburgh.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. Right next to the actual home was a big hotel and that

4 was -- I think the kids classed it is a boundary.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Right next to the home.

7 So we always knew it as Lagarie, Rhu. 'Cause we had

8 to go to Rhu to go to school.

9 Q. Okay.

10 You tell us that, as far as you knew, Lagarie was

11 run by the British Sailors' Society and you were right

12 about that?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

14 Q. And that your dad had been a gunner on ships during the

15 war?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. So I suppose that would explain why --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- why you were taken there, why you were sent there?

20 A. Yeah, I know.

21 Q. And you then go on to tell us a bit about Lagarie being

22 in its own grounds, Rhu, just as you've told us, on the

23 border with Helensburgh. There's a big driveway,

24 there's the gardener's bungalow, which was like

25 a gatehouse?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. And then the driveway took you round to the right and
3 left before you got to the main building. And you tell
4 us that the building itself was like a big mansion in
5 a half-moon shape?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. With a massive -- this is paragraph 9 of your
8 statement -- with a massive brown door in the middle at
9 the front.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Now, can I show you a photograph --

12 A. Yes, sure.

13 Q. -- 'Raymond'? Our reference for it is SSS-000000 -- no,
14 I beg your pardon, sorry. Scratch that. It's
15 INQ-0000001252.

16 A. That's it, yep.

17 Q. That's Lagarie, is it?

18 A. That's Lagarie. Yeah. It's not changed any. I know
19 it's an old photo, but I could tell you every part of
20 that. Where it goes to round the back.

21 Q. I'm hoping you can help us with the internal layout of
22 it as well.

23 A. Yeah, sure, sure. Yeah.

24 Q. But is that the big door that you're talking about in
25 paragraph 9?

1 A. Right, yeah. There's a long driveway up to it.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. And there's a sort of footpath goes along the front of
4 it, then there's a footpath goes up to the back of it,
5 there's the back door and that goes into the building
6 itself.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. And up just round about where the trees are, there's the
9 gardener's huts and gardens.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. And behind that, there's a like a big washroom. You've
12 got a wee sorta passageway, there's a big washroom
13 there. There's woods on the right-hand side.

14 And coming back to the front, if you go along the
15 front of the building, that was like playrooms and that
16 along there.

17 Q. All right. Can I stop you for a second, 'Raymond',
18 because we are not familiar with this and you obviously
19 are and we need to try to understand --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- which bit is which.

22 So we're looking at the photograph and this is, is
23 this what you would call the front of the building?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right.

1 A. That was the main door in.

2 Q. Okay, and there's what seems to be a kind of rounded
3 room beside the door?

4 A. Yes, that was a cloakroom.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Inside.

7 Q. Sorry?

8 A. When you go in -- the -- you go in the front, the front
9 sort of porch, that was a porch. And then there was
10 a big -- a big door into the building itself.

11 Q. All right. So if we look at the photograph and we look
12 at the part of the building to the left of the
13 photograph, sorry, to the left of the door --

14 A. To the left of the door --

15 Q. -- what are the rooms we can see along that stretch of
16 the ground floor?

17 A. When you go in the front -- the main door itself,
18 there's a big bench, like a big pew that you'd see from
19 a church, but it was an antique sort of type thing, that
20 sat there.

21 And then when you come along, there's a wee nursery
22 for the younger kids.

23 Q. Right. Would that be where the second sort of curved
24 window is?

25 A. Yes, you can see the windows there. Where the windows

1 are there, just to the left of the main door, that's
2 where the bench was.

3 Q. Okay. Right.

4 A. And then you walk along a wee bit where this other
5 window is, that's where the nursery was, in that bit
6 there. That area.

7 Q. All right, thank you. We'll look at a plan just in
8 a minute --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- 'Raymond', but I just want to keep looking for
11 a minute at this photograph. The building seems to be
12 on a number of levels, a number of different levels?

13 A. Yes, that's right, yeah.

14 Q. So there's the first floor?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And then if you look at just above the door, there's
17 a sort of tower part?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. And then an even higher bit, or what seems to be an even
20 higher bit to the right?

21 A. The top of that tower was the windows going up to a
22 dormitory.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. And that was a big dormitory up there.

25 Q. Okay. This is the one in front of the -- sorry, above

1 the door?

2 A. Yes, straight above the door.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Now, on the other side where the cloakroom is, on the
5 right-hand side, there's four windows there.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. That was the dining rooms.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. That was a big dining room. Above that, where the fire
10 escape goes to, that was the dormitory.

11 Q. So on the first floor, it's a dormitory there?

12 A. Yes, that was a dormitory there, and above that to the
13 top of the fire escapes, that was a dormitory and all.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. So, if you were standing in that dormitory, down to the
16 left of it was a big massive dormitory, but you can't
17 see that from the outside. You can't see it till you get
18 inside and go up the stairs.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Well, can we look then, please, at another document.
21 It is SSS-000000062. It should flash up in front of
22 you.

23 Now, can you see that or can you --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you scroll it up a little bit, please.

1 Can you see that all right, 'Raymond', because it's
2 quite -- it's quite faded?

3 A. Yes. Yeah.

4 Q. This is quite an old plan, we think it is from about
5 1945. But if you can just have a look at that.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And if we scroll right to the foot of the plan, do we
8 see on the right-hand side there's, in quite faint
9 writing, 'Entrance'. Do you see that?

10 A. The main entrance.

11 Q. Was that the main entrance that you've been talking
12 about?

13 A. That looks like the main entrance 'cause that was --
14 that was the actual shape of it. That's it on the
15 left-hand side. That looks like it, by the bay windows.

16 Q. Yes. And just beside the entrance, there's a staircase
17 marked. Now --

18 A. Going up the front of the building?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. That was a fire escape you're talking about?

21 Q. No, sorry, I'm still looking at the plan and if you look
22 just to the left of the entrance that we've just had
23 a look at?

24 A. Oh right, sorry, sorry.

25 Q. There's a staircase marked?

1 A. That's the staircase that goes up to the first floor,
2 second floor.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Well, actually it goes to the first floor and stops
5 there.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. That was a big, like -- what do we call it? I could say
8 antique staircase --

9 Q. Right.

10 A. -- mahogany staircase that took you from the front door.
11 It started where the nursery was. It went up, sort of
12 like that, (indicated), that kind of angle, up to the
13 first floor.

14 Q. Am I right in thinking that that was a staircase that
15 only the Matron was allowed to use?

16 A. That's right, that's right.

17 Q. Okay. And children had to go up the back stairs?

18 A. There was a -- that's right, yeah, yeah.

19 Q. So if we can just scroll back to the top of the plan,
20 please, can we see the back stairs at the area at the
21 top?

22 A. Right, to get to the back stairs, when you come in the
23 front door of the building, as I say, you had the
24 cloakroom on the right-hand side.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Next to that there was a door into the -- where you took
2 your lunch and that, the dining room. And then the
3 stairs. And then there was a door there. That's
4 where -- that took you into what was the kitchen and
5 that.

6 Q. I think we see --

7 A. That stairs.

8 Q. -- on the plan that -- I think we can see the kitchen,
9 sort of round about the middle of the plan, really?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. And then just above that, there's what seems to be a set
12 of stairs?

13 A. That's right, that's right.

14 Q. Would that be the back stairs there?

15 A. Right. There was a ... the ... just beside the big
16 stairs, there was a big antique door, massive. When
17 you're through that, that's where you would -- that took
18 you along to the kitchen.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. But the first part of it that you come to, it looks like
21 storage there, that was where they washed all the dishes
22 and that kind of stuff, and then you had the stairs, the
23 back stairs to take you up into the dormitories and all.
24 And then the kitchen part of it.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. On the right-hand side, when you went through that door,
2 there was a, like a wee store for -- they kept the food
3 and that in.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. And you'd a big hatch for the kitchen, where the meals
6 were served out of, into the dining room. Now, beside
7 the hatch, across from the hatch, there was a passageway
8 that took you into the dining room. And that's where
9 they used to bring the meals in.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Can we see the -- can you see the dining room, what
12 was the dining room on the plan? Can you point that out
13 for us?

14 A. See, if you put it back down again? So if you see where
15 the kitchen part was?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Bring that back down to there. Right, see where this
18 kitchen is?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. The dining room was more or less right across from it.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. There's a wee passageway.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. It took you into the dining room.

25 Q. So can we actually see the dining room on this plan?

1 A. I'm looking for it but ... (Pause)
2 I can't actually ...
3 Q. Okay, but it clearly must be around there somewhere if
4 the kitchen is close by.
5 A. 'Cause it's right across from -- the kitchen door is
6 right up the end of the corridor, but the hatch is right
7 across from the passageway that takes you into the
8 dining room.
9 Q. Might it have been the --
10 A. It was just to the -- as you were looking on to the
11 steps to take you up the back, it was just to the
12 right-hand side, next to the wee storeroom. That's
13 where the passageway was.
14 Q. Okay, right.
15 So we can see some steps --
16 A. I think you can see -- you see where it tells you
17 'store' here, down at the bottom?
18 Q. Yes?
19 A. There's a possibility that could be it there. But it
20 was definitely right across from the dining room.
21 Q. Okay, thank you.
22 And if we can go to page 4 of this document, please.
23 Actually I'm sorry, can we look at page 3, first,
24 please.
25 And if we scroll down, I think this appears to be

1 a more complete form of the plan, so that we can see
2 beside the entrance that we saw in the last slide, as it
3 were, do you see above that, 'Children's dining room'?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. So I think that must be the answer to the riddle.

6 A. Yeah, because there was ... there's a wee passageway
7 that takes you into that.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. Into the dining room, with the kitchen window right at
10 the door.

11 Q. Sure.

12 A. And it was only a wee narrow -- it was only about 3 feet
13 wide, 4 feet wide.

14 Q. And if we can, I think briefly -- we'll look at page 4,
15 please.

16 A. Yeah.

17 And after you leave the dining room, on the same
18 passage, there was -- to the right, there was a -- a wee
19 passage took you doon to the back door to go round the
20 back and a coal cellar and a place where you put your
21 Wellington boots and that. There was a big store if you
22 needed.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. That's where they took you to get them. And then the
25 kitchen main door was at the top.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. With the staff's tearoom or -- next to that.

3 Q. Okay.

4 If we can look, as I say, briefly, please, at --

5 it's page 4, which I think is now up. Again, if we look

6 towards the right of the drawing, do you see there,

7 almost as if it's jutting out, there's a room marked

8 'Boys' dormitory'?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So that would be above the dining room, is that right?

11 Do you see that, 'Raymond'?

12 A. Yeah, I've got it, I've got it. Yep, yep.

13 Q. You've got it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So would that have been above the dining room?

16 A. Yeah. (Pause)

17 You had the dining room, and then there was a --

18 above the dining room there was a dormitory.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. About five beds in it. And then at the very top, there

21 was another dormitory with about three or four beds in

22 it.

23 Q. Sure. That was where the tower was that we saw in the

24 photograph?

25 A. That's right. That's it, right at the very top of the

1 fire escape.

2 Q. One more question about the layout, 'Raymond'. You
3 mentioned the fire escape that we can see in the
4 photograph?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Was it possible for children to get onto the fire
7 escape?

8 A. Yes, 'cause there was a door at the dormitories --

9 Q. Right, and that was left open, was it?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. All right, thank you.

12 So -- sorry, go on?

13 A. Sometimes, when you had to stay in your dormitory, you
14 opened the door and stood at the top of the fire escape
15 until somebody came and then you'd just shut it again
16 and went back in. It was odd.

17 Q. Well, thank you for helping us with that.

18 Can we turn back to your statement, please, and
19 you've described the inside of Lagarie. And you give us
20 quite a bit of detail about that over the page and
21 I think we can understand that better, having looked at
22 these plans.

23 And you tell us at paragraph 16 -- this is page 3 of
24 your statement -- that there were about 60 to 80
25 children staying at Lagarie at any one time, ranging in

1 age from babies to 12 years old.

2 I just wonder, could it have been a bit less than
3 that, 'Raymond'? I think we understand the capacity was
4 probably about 40. Would that sound about right or was
5 there more than --

6 A. Say that again?

7 Q. We think the capacity of the place was about 40 children
8 at any one time, but would that sound about right or did
9 you feel it was more than that?

10 A. I would say it was roughly about that, yeah, but -- but
11 no more than that. Roughly about 40.

12 Q. All right. And you then go on to talk about the Matron,
13 Anne Millar?

14 A. It all depends. Sometimes kids came in every week, you
15 know, but they were all -- but you never, ever counted.
16 Just the amount of kids that were there, you know,
17 right.

18 Q. So numbers could fluctuate a bit?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Okay.

21 Did it ever feel crowded? Did it ever feel
22 overcrowded?

23 A. No. No.

24 Q. It was all right?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay.

2 You go on to talk about the Matron, Anne Millar, who

3 was in charge, and you say:

4 'She was probably in her 50s and she was a pure

5 witch.'

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And I'll go on to ask you in some more detail about why

8 you might say that --

9 A. Right, that's ...

10 Q. -- but I just want to ask you first of all about what

11 you say in the second part of that paragraph.

12 You say:

13 'She was like a "Jekyll and Hyde" character.'

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Can you explain to us what you mean by that, please?

16 A. Well, when she was sort of hitting you or anything like

17 that, she was -- when we -- and when people came to

18 visit, and stayed for a day and had their meals, she's

19 ninepence -- nice as ninepence to everybody. It's as

20 if -- and then once they were away, she would change

21 again. So that's how, in my mind, I just called her a

22 'Jekyll and Hyde' sort of person. You know what I mean.

23 Q. That's a very vivid way of putting it.

24 A. One minute she's nasty, the next minute she's nice. You

25 know, only if people were there, visiting.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. 'Cause people used to come up, and in the dining room
3 there was a big round table and the kids' tables were
4 doon the side. And they used to sit there at this big
5 table and have their meal while we were there and having
6 our meals and she was nice as ninepence, or I says, such
7 and such a nice person, and soon as they were away, that
8 was it.

9 Q. Back to the old --

10 A. Finished again, back to the old ways.

11 Q. What sort of people are you talking about when you're
12 talking about visitors, 'Raymond'?

13 A. Yeah. Yeah, we got the impression they were family.
14 But we didn't know. We didn't know. They just ...

15 Q. Okay. Were you ever aware of people visiting from the
16 Sailors' Society or social workers or anything like?

17 A. They could have been, they could have been from that.
18 But you never get told.

19 Q. Okay, you couldn't be sure?

20 A. No, we never, ever got told. She'd her own, own sort of
21 sitting room where people like that would go. The only
22 time we seen these people, if they were going to have
23 their meal while we were having our meal. So that was
24 the only time.

25 Q. Okay.

1 And in the next paragraph -- sorry?

2 A. I was just under the impression it was relatives of some
3 sort.

4 Q. Okay.

5 In the next paragraph you say:

6 'Things were better when she was away.'

7 A. Pardon?

8 Q. In the next paragraph of your statement you say:

9 'Things were better when she was away.'

10 A. Yeah. Yeah. 'Cause one of the staff that we knew, she
11 was nice to all the kids, she used to bring them sweets
12 and that in. You know, we weren't allowed any sweets
13 unless the Matron said we could have one, and it was one
14 and only one, you know. And they were just dished out
15 with all the kids and that was it.

16 Q. This was Liz, is that right?

17 A. Pardon?

18 Q. This was Liz?

19 A. Christmas?

20 Q. This was Liz, who gave you sweeties?

21 A. Yes, Liz. We knew her -- that's what we knew her as,
22 Liz.

23 Q. In the next paragraph, you talk about some other staff,
24 the gardener, and you say that you don't know what the
25 rest of the staff were called. How many staff were

1 there?

2 A. There was -- we had three or four but there was the, the
3 gardener's there and his son and his wife who stayed in
4 ██████████, the wee bungalow ██████████, and
5 they were there all the time.

6 I used to go up on a Saturday and help in the
7 garden. I would sneak oot, go up the back and help the
8 gardener and then get back in again before I got caught.

9 Q. And I think you tell us later in your statement that you
10 quite enjoyed working in the garden? You quite enjoyed
11 working in the garden?

12 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

13 Q. What were the other staff like? The ones that worked in
14 the home?

15 A. They were okay. They were okay.

16 Q. They were all right?

17 A. It was just ... and we -- all the kids called her Annie
18 Millar, and she was just ... you didn't know how to take
19 her, you know what I mean? You didn't know if the next
20 minute she was going to... you're going to get walloped
21 or you're going to get put in a bath or ... you know,
22 things like that.

23 But she, when she was trying to, sorta hitting you
24 or anything like that, and ducking your head under the
25 water, and the water's absolutely filthy 'cause she

1 didn't gi' a kid a bath and change the water. She'd
2 put -- it was maybe about ten kids had been put in that
3 bath.

4 Q. And always the same water?

5 A. Yeah, before it get changed.

6 Q. I'll come on to that in just a minute, 'Raymond', but
7 I just want to ask you, what was the Matron like, what
8 was Annie Millar like with the other staff?

9 A. As far as we know, she was okay with them, you know.
10 But what was done before that, or what was done behind
11 closed doors, the kids wouldn't know about it. It's
12 just when she was told that we -- we'd done something
13 wrong, then she would take appropriate action.

14 Q. I guess also, did the other staff see or know what
15 Millar was doing?

16 A. I don't -- I don't know.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I don't know. They must have seen, but they never said
19 anything to the kids. You know what I mean?

20 The kids were just too scared to say anything to
21 anybody. In thae days nobody would believe what you
22 were saying anyway.

23 Q. Sure.

24 So, moving on in your statement, you talk about the
25 routine at morning and bedtime and about -- something

1 about the dormitories. And you say that you'd have to
2 get up usually between 6.00 and 7.00; is that right?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. And you would all get washed and dressed:

5 'The staff changed the sheets every so often, and we
6 had to make them.'

7 But they were quite strict about how you did that.
8 In what way were they strict about that?

9 A. About making the beds?

10 Q. Yes?

11 A. It was like an army thing. You know, all the corners
12 have got to be put in properly.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And if they were hanging out, and she'd just strip the
15 bed again, to start again. That kinda thing.

16 Q. Right. It felt a bit army-like?

17 A. It had to be perfect. It had to be perfect.

18 Q. Okay. And then you tell us that -- this is paragraph 25
19 now -- after breakfast, you'd have to walk to the
20 school?

21 A. That's right, yeah.

22 Q. Was that initially Rhu Primary School?

23 A. Rhu Primary School, yeah.

24 Q. Okay. And then later on you said you went to secondary.
25 Which secondary was that you went to?

1 A. That was in Helensburgh.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And it was called the Hermitage at that time. It was
4 called the Hermitage. But just before I left, that got
5 shut down and they built a new one. Just at the edge of
6 Dumbarton and Helensburgh. They built a new secondary
7 school there, so they all got moved there.

8 Q. What was the attitude of the teachers like to children
9 from Lagarie?

10 A. To the kids?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. They were okay.

13 Q. They were all right?

14 A. In Rhu, in actual Rhu Primary School, the teachers were
15 okay with you. You know, I was sort of -- I might have
16 got into trouble a few times because I was a wee bit
17 slow at work, reading and writing and that kinda stuff,
18 and they would sort of pressure you. But they'd do it
19 in front of the other kids, instead of taking you aside,
20 but you had to just cope with it.

21 Q. Yes. Would you ever have thought about telling the
22 teachers about what was happening at Lagarie?

23 A. Never told anybody. I never -- me specifically, never
24 said anything to anybody, because I'm not the kind of
25 person that -- I keep everything to myself. I'm too

1 laid-back with myself. I don't like talking about these
2 kind of things. But it's when --

3 I'm 75 now, and I was in that home when I was 1, for
4 the so many years. And when I got that letter through
5 my door, that -- what was happening, I couldn't believe
6 it. 'Cause I thought nobody would ever get back to you
7 on whatever happened. It was all these years ago.

8 Q. And was that -- I think you said to us a moment ago that
9 you felt that no one would ever believe you anyway?

10 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

11 Q. So did you feel that no one would ever believe you?

12 A. Yeah. At the time nobody'd ever believe us. But then
13 this letter came through my door one day and that was
14 it. I never even told my wife, never told my -- I was
15 married before and I never told her. And it was just
16 when I got the letter through my doors about it.

17 Q. Who was the letter from, 'Raymond'?

18 A. It was from the Redress people from -- the Redress
19 people. I think that's what you call it, I don't know.
20 But when I got that letter through, that's when I first
21 told my wife, [REDACTED].

22 LADY SMITH: So if I suggested to you it was from Redress,
23 would that have been it?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: Redress Scotland?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: That would make sense, thank you.

3 MR SHELTON: Sorry, 'Raymond', excuse me a second.

4 At paragraph 27, you tell us that some of the kids
5 managed to sneak comics into the dormitory and hide them
6 under their mattresses, and you'd read them at night
7 under the sheets with a torch.

8 Why did you have to sneak them about like that?

9 A. Sorry, can you --

10 Q. Why did you have to sneak comics into your dormitories
11 at night?

12 A. Sneaked?

13 Q. I think you used the words:

14 'Some of the kids managed to sneak comics into the
15 dormitories'?

16 A. Oh yeah, yeah, because if you didn't, you'd get
17 everything taken off you. You weren't allowed to have
18 your toys that were given to you, comics or books.
19 Everything got taken off you. It didn't matter what it
20 was.

21 So some of the kids used to sneak them in, put them
22 in their bags and no tell 'em, and take them to their
23 dormitory and hide under the sheets and read it at night
24 time.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. When you were in your bed.

2 Q. Who took these things off you?

3 A. The staff.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. But they had been told to do that, 'Don't let them have
6 anything like that', and they just took the comics and
7 that kind of stuff off you.

8 Q. What happened to them, do you know?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You never saw them again?

11 A. Never seen them again. Never seen them again.

12 You'll get the sort of drift of that a wee bit later
13 on when it comes to the likes of Christmastime and that.

14 Q. You go on then to talk about mealtimes and food, and
15 I just want to ask you about paragraph 29. You say that
16 in the dining room:

17 'There were tables up both sides' and 'a big round
18 table'.

19 And I think you've mentioned that already --

20 A. That was -- we never ever sat at that table.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. That was there just -- that was for the Matron. That
23 was her table, as such.

24 Q. And you say that if anyone came to visit, all the
25 tablecloths and silverware were out.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. But usually the tables were uncovered.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. So, again, was this the Matron putting on a show?

5 A. A big white -- a big white tablecloth on her table and
6 then another one went on top of it like a triangle sort
7 of shape, and that was when people came to visit.

8 Q. Okay, so she was again putting on a show for the
9 visitors, is that right?

10 A. Yeah. When there was no visitors and she was having
11 a meal herself, there'd be no tablecloths.

12 Q. What was the food like, 'Raymond'?

13 A. Horrible. It was -- if I could say, it was like
14 hospital food. It wasn't very nice at all.

15 No -- I don't ... a lot of people can eat hospital
16 food, but this stuff, they made you porridge for your
17 breakfast. It was just -- it wasn't made properly, it
18 was just all lumps, you know, and if I tried to eat it,
19 it would just make you sick. I would just bring it back
20 up again.

21 And sometimes you got cornflakes and sometimes you
22 got porridge. They sort of changed it to suit. And if
23 you never ate it, it was left there and you got it the
24 next meal.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. You come in, that could be your dinner.

2 Q. And you weren't given anything else?

3 A. No. No. Not until you ate it, but I never, ever ate

4 it.

5 Q. Okay. And you tell us then that if you didn't eat it,

6 and you've just said that you didn't --

7 A. It was just left for you until you ate it.

8 Q. She used to --

9 A. I never, ever touched it and I got punished for that.

10 Q. Yes. And the punishment was being sent to your

11 dormitory?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you had to stand at the end of your bed with no

14 clothes on?

15 A. That's right. That's right. Yeah.

16 Q. Why did you have to take your clothes off?

17 A. You'd -- that was her ... that was her way of sort of

18 punishing you.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. You know, 'cause it would be freezing.

21 Q. I was just going to ask you?

22 A. It would be really cold and that was her way of

23 punishing you. Instead of verbally punishing you,

24 that's what she'd do.

25 Q. Okay. And how long would you have to stand there?

1 A. It could be two hours, could be three hours, until such
2 times as she sent somebody up to tell you to come down.
3 Q. And would other people be around, other adults, other
4 children, when you were standing there?
5 A. Oh, it happened to other children and all.
6 Q. Okay.
7 So it must have been pretty embarrassing for you?
8 A. Humiliating, I would say.
9 Q. Yes.
10 A. I would call it humiliating.
11 Q. You tell us about washing and bathing and I think you've
12 mentioned this already, 'Raymond', but that really the
13 same water would be used for a number of children, is
14 that right?
15 A. That's right, it was -- where you got the bath was on
16 the first floor. When you got up the big -- up the big
17 stairs, the big brown stairs, which -- I mean, we never
18 used it, we came up the back stairs. But when you come
19 up the back stairs, you've got to walk along to the
20 other end of the building, and on the first floor. So
21 you're passing the Matron's bedroom or toilet, and then
22 you come through the wee door and then you're at the big
23 stairs, big brown stairs. There's a dormitory there, at
24 the top of the stairs, and you go through this other wee
25 bit, there's a big glass partition. That's down to the

1 left, that's where the toilets were, where the two baths
2 were. And the kids had to -- so many kids had to stand
3 there until each of them get put in this bath.

4 The only time she came up, the only time she came up
5 was to -- the Matron came up when she was wanting to get
6 hold of somebody to sort of punish them or give them a
7 bath, because they were a wee bit harder to boss doon
8 than what other kids were. Because some of the kids
9 were -- used to maybe swear at them or something like
10 that, then she would come up, and she would do it. And
11 I was one of these kids, you know, wee kids that -- she
12 used to scrub your back with not ordinary soap, carbolic
13 soap, and then she'd put your head under the water, and
14 hold your head under the water and so you're struggling.
15 And when you come up, you'd start screaming and you'd
16 swear at her, then she'd just put the soap right in the
17 mouth, the carbolic soap in the mouth. She said
18 'That'll wash it oot of you'. And that... that was it.
19 You'd get up and get oot and get -- get oot of there and
20 get dried away fae her.

21 Q. How long would she hold you under the water?

22 A. Probably about 15, 20 seconds, 30 seconds? Until you
23 struggled to get your head back up again.

24 Q. It must have been very scary.

25 A. Yeah. She was a big lady.

1 Q. I mean, you tell us that because of the number of kids
2 that were using this water --

3 A. She was a big lady.

4 Q. -- the water could be black by the time it got to you,
5 so --

6 A. Yeah, yeah. That's right. That's right. By the time
7 it get to your turn.

8 Q. Even worse having your head held under the water.

9 A. Yeah, it could be some other kids' turn. By the time it
10 gets to your turn, the water was black, so they've got
11 to go into that same water that everybody else get
12 washed in. And then the water would be changed for the
13 next lot to come in.

14 But there was two baths there, there wisnae just the
15 one, there was two there. So there's -- using the both
16 of them.

17 Ones that were a wee bit older, they would sort of
18 bath theirself, and it was the younger ones that the
19 staff's obviously got to be there, in case anything
20 happened, or the Matron would be there and she would do
21 it.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And she just done what she done and ... disgraceful.

24 Q. Did any of the other staff do this?

25 A. Pardon?

1 Q. Did any of the other staff do the same thing?
2 A. No. No. Not to any of the kids that I knew, anyway.
3 Q. You go on --
4 A. And the lady --
5 Q. Sorry, 'Raymond'.
6 A. The lady, Liz, she was very good with the kids, you
7 know, even getting them bathed and that. She stayed
8 outside the building, but she had -- if she was there,
9 sort of like a night shift, an emergency nurse, person,
10 she would -- she had a room of her own on the first
11 floor. And then when somebody else came in, if she
12 wisnae on, they would use that room. And that was the
13 first floor, just along fae the toilets before you got
14 to the top.
15 Q. How old a lady was Liz?
16 A. Pardon?
17 Q. How old a person was Liz?
18 A. Er, I think Liz would be in her 40s.
19 Q. Right.
20 A. Something like that.
21 Q. Okay. And did she know what the Matron was doing?
22 A. Well, I would say yeah.
23 Q. Okay.
24 A. I would say yeah. But it's -- if she'd done anything
25 like that, said anything, nothing was said to her or

1 anything like that. But she knew something must be
2 going on. Know what I mean?

3 Q. What makes you say that?

4 A. Just, 'cause she was so nice to people, you'd think
5 she'd know the nastiness. But she never brought it out,
6 what was getting done to us. Maybe that's why she was
7 so nice to us, because she knew. If we were unhappy
8 with what was happening to us, when you talked to her,
9 she was sympathetic. She would give you sweeties or
10 something like that to calm you doon.

11 Q. Okay.

12 'Raymond', you go on to talk about clothes and you
13 tell us that --

14 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

15 Q. -- you didn't have any of your own clothes. But I want
16 to ask you particularly about your shoes because I think
17 that became quite a problem for you.

18 A. Oh. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. Can you just tell us about that, please?

20 A. Yeah, right.

21 What they'd do is, they give you shoes to wear,
22 right, for going to school and that. But I was quite --
23 if you were heavy on your shoes or -- some of the kids
24 had to -- they got sandals, the old-fashioned sandals.
25 Now, myself, I was very heavy, didn't matter what shoes

1 you gave me, on the heels. And she would check them
2 every week, everybody's. She would check them every
3 week and if they were down, she would hit you with the
4 shoes.

5 Q. If you'd worn the heels down, you mean?

6 A. Yeah, worn through, would hit you with the shoes. You
7 know, and she'd either throw them at you, hit you wi'
8 them, or whatever.

9 Now, myself, I was particularly heavy and she'd seen
10 my shoes were away down the heels. So I obviously got
11 hit with them. Then the next minute, she came oot with
12 these boots, a pair of boots.

13 Now, I don't know --

14 Q. You describe them in your statement as being like army
15 boots, is that right?

16 A. Ex-army boots. Ex-army boots. But I don't think they
17 use them nowadays. Maybe they do, some of the
18 regiments. But it's the ones you got with the tacks on
19 the bottom of them, big studs on the bottom of them, and
20 toecaps, steel toecaps, with the studs underneath the
21 toecap. And I had to wear a size too small for me, and
22 I ended up with really -- blisters and all sorts on my
23 feet. And they never, ever healed up properly for
24 a long time. But all she done is put iodine on them.
25 If there was blisters, she'd burst them, put iodine on

1 'em.

2 Q. So the Matron knew you were getting blisters from the
3 boots?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So I had to walk the two-mile to
5 school, two-mile back, back and forward to school in Rhu
6 with thae boots on.

7 Q. It must have been incredibly painful, wasn't it?

8 A. And a pair of shorts. A humiliating pair of shorts. We
9 all had to wear shorts. We didnae get long trousers to
10 wear. And some of the looks you got in school, we were
11 just kids --

12 LADY SMITH: 'Raymond', were you given any plasters for the
13 blisters?

14 A. No. No.

15 LADY SMITH: No?

16 A. There wisnae actually a plaster. A bit of pink lint or
17 something like that.

18 LADY SMITH: Okay.

19 A. Or white lint. I think it was pink lint they call it.
20 A bit of that was put on, but no plaster.

21 LADY SMITH: Oh right, so you got the lint to put over the
22 blister.

23 A. You'd put your socks back on and put your boots back
24 on --

25 LADY SMITH: And that should hold it --

1 A. -- and it was just going to move away, off it.

2 LADY SMITH: All right. So the sock was supposed to hold it
3 in place but it didn't.

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: Got you.

6 MR SHELDON: And I guess the boots would make quite a noise
7 when you walked on them because of the --

8 A. Yeah, very heavy. Noisy when you were in the
9 classrooms, when it's stone floors, you know what I
10 mean. They heard you coming before they seen you.

11 Q. You go on to talk about leisure time and, I think you
12 mentioned this before, but you say although there were
13 toys for you to play with, you never had your own toys?

14 A. No, no. When you went into the home, your own stuff was
15 taken off you completely. Wrapped up in brown paper and
16 put away somewhere. Until you left. And you were given
17 their clothes. Now, it was a pair of grey shorts, like
18 school shorts. Like trousers, not shorts, but trousers
19 and these socks and a pair of either sandals or
20 sandshoes, I think they called them, in thae days.

21 And that's what -- that was your stuff. You had
22 to -- you looked after it and you got a change of
23 clothes maybe once a fortnight or something like that?
24 All depends. I mean ...

25 Q. Sure. And you say that you were only ever allowed out

1 'when the Matron told us' you could. So --

2 A. You were only?

3 Q. -- you couldn't just go out and play in the garden when
4 you felt like it?

5 A. Can you say that again?

6 Q. Do we understand correctly that you couldn't just go out
7 to the garden to play when you felt like it?

8 A. No. You had to get permission off her. Even the staff
9 couldn't tell you to do it. It was just if she gave you
10 permission, then fair enough, but it wasn't very often.
11 And I used to sneak out myself, out of the back door,
12 and go up and help the gardener do a bit of digging or
13 something like that. And when I came back down I used
14 to scrub my boots before I put them back in again, any
15 mud off them.

16 But there was one time the -- I was helping the
17 gardener and he said, 'Right, do this for me', and I did
18 it the wrong, sort of the wrong way, and he would just
19 go like that on the back of my head, a clout on the back
20 of --

21 Q. He'd give you a clout?

22 A. He had hands like shovels. But it wisnae malice or
23 anything like that, you know, he wisnae bad to us, he
24 was good to -- he was okay.

25 Q. In spite of that, you quite enjoyed the gardening?

1 A. Yeah. Yeah.

2 Q. Do you still enjoy it, 'Raymond'?

3 A. Yeah. Well, I worked with the Council, the Parks
4 Department and the Cleansing for 52 years until
5 I retired. And those are the only things that I know to
6 do, you know.

7 Q. Over the page, page 8, you say that you were sometimes
8 taken on trips -- sorry. There was swimming in Paisley,
9 but the only trip with the home was when you went to
10 Faslane?

11 A. That's right. This was at --

12 Q. Faslane must have been pretty close by, is that right?

13 A. That's right. It was maybe half an hour's drive.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. It was just a straight road through Rhu, Garelochhead to
16 Faslane where the army base -- the navy base was.

17 Q. Did the sailors ever come to you, were there visits by
18 the sailors to the home?

19 A. Not a lot. Not a lot but we went --

20 Q. But there were some?

21 A. At Christmastime they put a party on for so many of the
22 kids, and it was quite a few kids went to it, on one of
23 the boats. And they took you on the submarines, at
24 Christmastime. And then at the end of that, they would
25 give you a present to bring home for you. You would

1 take back to the home.

2 Q. But this was kids going to Faslane rather than sailors
3 coming to you?

4 A. Yeah, yeah. You would get the odd sailor coming just to
5 see the kids, but not very often.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Every Christmas, you went to Faslane to have a party on
8 the boat and see the submarines, and then you'd get --
9 you got brought back.

10 Q. You have told us a bit about your schooling and some of
11 the issues with that. You tell us at paragraph 47 that
12 once a week or maybe once a fortnight, you'd have to go
13 and get a big tablespoonful of castor oil or syrup of
14 figs from the Matron?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Did you understand why that was?

17 A. She said it keeps you healthy.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. You know, so this is to keep you healthy, or if -- see,
20 if you were bad or anything like that, that's what she
21 would do, give you that syrup of figs as a punishment.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Sort of type thing. And it was like a serving spoon.
24 It wasn't an ordinary spoon you'd use for your soup or
25 anything like that. It was a spoon, it was about that

1 size, a big serving spoon.

2 Q. Right. Yes.

3 A. And where the kitchen, the kitchen thingmy was to go
4 into the dining room, there was a wee dispensary there,
5 and that's where you all lined up to get this, this
6 medicine that she'd call it, you know. But she made
7 sure you swallowed it.

8 So it was one or the other. Sometimes it was castor
9 oil, sometimes it was the syrup of figs. All depends.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I'll never forget it, it was a big bottle about that
12 size. Big, a big bottle.

13 Q. Right.

14 You also tell us that the Matron would -- I mean
15 you've told us about the Matron putting iodine on your
16 feet, on the blisters on your feet?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But she also used it for other things, and the colour of
19 it would make you stand out?

20 A. Yeah, and I -- when I was just as a kid, I used to have
21 sort of bad skin, and I'd take a lot of sores on my
22 face.

23 Now, what she used to do is get white lint and make
24 a mask out of it and put this iodine on my face, on all
25 my sores, and put this mask on it, right. But obviously

1 I'm not going to school, I've got to stay there, and
2 that was on you for a couple of days.

3 And then, when she come to check it, she would just
4 rip it off your face. She wouldnae try and take it off
5 gently. She would just rip it off. The sores would
6 come off with it. And any sores that never came off,
7 she picked them off with tweezers and then put more
8 iodine on your face to cover it again.

9 And then for a couple of weeks out, that was going
10 for a couple of weeks until the skin started healing
11 a wee bit, so she didn't bother with the mask but you'd
12 still get the iodine, and, you know, she would pick the
13 sores off when they got too big. And they were -- it
14 was treacherous, it was sore.

15 Q. You go on again in your statement, 'Raymond', to talk
16 about Christmases.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you say there was a big Christmas tree at the door
19 and you got up in the morning and there would be some
20 presents in pillow cases for children?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But when it was time to go to bed, the presents were
23 taken off you again. How did that work?

24 A. At night time, all the kids went to their bed and,
25 I don't know, it was ... any young kid would think that

1 Santa Claus had brought your presents to you, but we
2 knew that it was the staff that brought them in. And
3 this was stuff that obviously came from the British
4 Sailors' Society.

5 So you'd get a pillow slip with your name on it in
6 the playroom on the bottom floor, and it'd be just next
7 to the Matron's office, and they were filled with fruit
8 and toys and all that kind of stuff, so in the morning
9 when you got up, you got your breakfast and then you'd
10 get -- you were allowed to go into the playroom where
11 all your toys were.

12 Now, when your lunchtime came, after you've seen
13 what you've got, you came back from your lunch to play.
14 No toys. Everything was away. And you'd ask where the
15 toys were, 'Oh, they've been put away, they're not
16 yours'. So nobody had anything of their own.

17 Every kid loves to have something of their own and
18 that wisnae the case. They were put away in a cupboard,
19 and they were forgotten aboot. You never seen 'em
20 again.

21 Q. You never saw them again?

22 A. Never seen 'em again.

23 Q. And I think you tell us that at birthdays, it was the
24 same kind of thing, is that right?

25 A. The what?

1 Q. At birthdays --

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. -- the same kind of thing happened, is that right?

4 A. Yeah. Yeah.

5 Q. Do you know what she did with the presents that were

6 taken?

7 A. No. Nobody knew what she done with them. You -- if

8 everything -- if stuff was put in a room, or in

9 a cupboard, it was locked. You never had keys to

10 anything. You know, she wouldnae -- there were never

11 any cupboards left opened, unless it was a staff thing.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. Access to go into cupboards.

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. But you never seen them again. Don't know if she gave

16 'em away to people or what she done with them, but the

17 kids definitely didn't have them.

18 Q. Right.

19 A. There was just all the old stuff that was there when you

20 went into the place, lying about the playroom, things

21 like that. That was all.

22 Q. Right. And the same thing happened --

23 A. It was quite humiliating -- it was heartbreaking for

24 kids at that time of year, you know?

25 Q. The same thing happened with money as well?

1 A. Pardon?

2 Q. If people gave you money --

3 A. Yeah, right.

4 Q. -- the Matron would take money from you?

5 A. Sometimes my granny would come up, or my dad would come
6 up to see us, maybe once a month, and you were allowed
7 to go into the -- Helensburgh for an hour. That was all
8 you were allowed, an hour out and then back again. And
9 they would used -- they used to give us half a crown
10 each, my three sisters. So when we got back into the
11 home again, she would take it off us, the money off us,
12 and never -- you never seen it again. You didnae get it
13 as a pocket money or anything like that. You never,
14 ever got pocket money. So you didn't know about that.

15 So, the kids got wise to it and they would say, if
16 their mum and dads were coming up, just to give 'em
17 change, and don't give them like half a crown, which was
18 two and six at the time, a lot of money in thae days.
19 And the thing would be -- we would put it doon our sock.
20 It may be five old pence, put it doon your sock. And
21 when you go to school, there's a wee -- shops beside the
22 school in the village of Rhu, in -- the Wee Cabin, it
23 was called. That's where we got our penny caramels and
24 that, and that was it. That's how we managed to keep
25 hold of our money.

1 Q. You found a way round it?

2 A. Yeah. Yeah.

3 Q. I just want to ask you a bit about your sisters, who
4 were at Lagarie with you.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. But I think we understand from your statement that you
7 weren't able to spend much time with them?

8 A. No. No. They were away usually playing with the girls
9 and that. That kind of thing. So never -- they only
10 talked to me now and again. But we were still brother
11 and sisters, so when you get the chance to talk to 'em,
12 you talk to 'em. But when you're oot playing, you're
13 either playing with boys or you're playing with the
14 girls, one or the other. So usually the girls didnae
15 like going with the boys and vice versa. So they just
16 sort of -- kept theirselves to theirselves, you know.

17 But the thing with the two twins, I'll tell you,
18 they were hard work. They were hard work. They ran
19 away a couple of times and one get caught in Paisley and
20 I think the other one get caught in Glenwood. So --

21 Q. They got quite a long way then?

22 A. Yeah, yeah, they got -- they done not bad, and that was
23 just on foot. 'Cause they had no money or no nothing,
24 no jacket on or anything. So the police caught up with
25 one of them and took 'em into the police station and

1 kept them overnight just to give them a fright,
2 apparently. Give them a fright fae running away from
3 their home. But when they got back to their home --
4 I don't know if you like me using the word, but they got
5 a doing for it off the Matron.

6 Q. We understand that, yes.

7 A. They get a doing. But my older sister, she was more,
8 let's say, the wise one. But she's not here today to
9 sorta tell you, you know.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. But ... That's what happened to them, but ...

12 Q. Okay.

13 Did they tell you about the doing or did you see it?

14 Did they tell you about the doing they got, or did
15 you see it? Did you see it happening?

16 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. When they came back, I've seen
17 them -- are you talking about when they came back and
18 got caught?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. When they came back in, I just seen the Matron having
21 a go at her, and that was when you had to get out of the
22 road, in case you got caught having a look, you know
23 what I mean, or you'd get the same.

24 Q. How was she doing it, how was the Matron doing it? Was
25 she using hands, fists?

1 A. She'd wear her uniform, like a nurse's uniform, the blue
2 outfit. One of these big old-fashioned nurse's hats,
3 hanging doon here, you know, it's all folded neatly,
4 like they do in the hospital, some of them in the
5 hospital. And that was a -- she had this belt on, but
6 it was like an elastic belt wi' a buckle on it. That's
7 what she used.

8 But she never, ever bruised you, so you couldnae --
9 you couldnae -- if somebody get caught or seen your
10 bruises, what happened, she'd make sure she never
11 bruised you. You know, if she was going to hit you or
12 something, you had -- your trousers were on or your
13 jumper on or whatever. But she'd hit you about the head
14 and the body and the legs. You know. She never ever
15 bruised you, that was her way out. So you cannae prove
16 anything, you know what I mean, didnae leave bruises.
17 Or marks.

18 Q. Is that what she said or is that what you --

19 A. No, that's what we knew.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. She never said that. Well, but we knew she's not
22 wanting to leave bruises because that'll get her into
23 trouble --

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. -- if she -- if we get questioned about, 'Where did you

1 to carry on?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 Mr Sheldon.

5 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

6 'Raymond', you were telling us before we had our

7 break about your sisters running away --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and about them getting a doing from the Matron.

10 One other thing I wanted to ask you from this part

11 of your statement was about inspections or visitors.

12 You tell us at paragraph 63 that sometimes people from

13 the authorities came to see how the home was getting

14 run?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Do you know who these people were?

17 A. No.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. Well, we used ... if it was anybody, we would think it

20 was somebody from John Street.

21 Q. Sorry, from?

22 A. John Street in Glasgow.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Which was the authorities that put you into the homes.

25 Q. Was this Glasgow Corporation?

1 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So we'd take it as just people like that. We didn't
4 know, we weren't told who they were. They just --

5 Q. That was what you thought but you didn't know?

6 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. Just visitors coming to check the place out. They were
9 taken round, shown round the grounds. That's what we
10 thought, we took that --

11 Q. So you saw them being shown round and looking at things?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. But they didn't speak to you?

14 A. No. No.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. No.

17 Q. And you said that:
18 'We couldn't speak to them because the Matron was
19 always there.'

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. If the Matron hadn't been there, do you think you would
22 have spoken to them about what was happening?

23 A. No. You'd probably speak to them, just talk to them for
24 the sake of talking to them, but you'd never tell 'em
25 anything that's happened, because you were too scared to

1 tell anybody. And in thae days, nobody would believe
2 what you said. The Matron, if she had her own way,
3 she'd punish you if you said anything, in the way that
4 she does.

5 So we just let it go.

6 Q. Yes. She was the one in charge, she was the one with
7 the power over you?

8 A. She was -- yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

9 Q. Just in relation to another topic, 'Raymond', you talk
10 about bed-wetting and that some kids had a problem with
11 wetting the bed.

12 A. Yeah. Yeah.

13 Q. What happened to them?

14 A. Right. When they wet the bed, they were taken up to
15 their bedroom, or their dormitory, where their bed was,
16 and their face was rubbed in it.

17 Q. In the wet patch of the bed?

18 A. Yeah, and sometimes for punishment, she made that kid
19 lie in that bed the next day, the next night.

20 Q. All right.

21 A. And that was their punishment.

22 Q. Just for one night or for several nights?

23 A. Yeah, put them -- you done it so you're sleeping in it,
24 more or less. And rubbed your face in it.

25 Q. Okay.

1 You said that the sheets would only be changed in
2 the morning?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But the sheets were changed eventually, were they?

5 A. Eventually, yeah. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay.

7 We then come -- and I'm looking at page 12 of your
8 statement, 'Raymond', we then come to the part of your
9 statement about abuse at Lagarie House.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. You've already told us quite a lot about that.

12 A. Pardon?

13 Q. You've already told us quite a lot about that.

14 A. Yeah. Yeah.

15 Q. But I just want to pick out one or two things.

16 You say that if you did anything wrong, even petty
17 things like swearing or fighting, the Matron would hit
18 you?

19 A. Yeah, you got punished for that.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. You either get hit with her shoe or whatever's --
22 whatever's near to hand, you'd get hit with it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Sometimes with a -- just her hand.

25 Q. You said that she was probably worst with kids between

1 the ages of 5 and 8?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Why do you think that was? Did you know why?

4 A. Kids around about that age, she was more angry with them

5 because they couldnae fight back, or swear at her or

6 something like that, because they didn't know what that

7 meant. But if they did, that made the Matron more

8 angrier. So she took it oot on certain middle-age kids,

9 because they know with the older kids, then they would

10 fight back in such a -- different ways. You know what

11 I mean?

12 Q. Yes. Did that happen, 'Raymond', did the older kids

13 fight back sometimes?

14 A. Sometimes, yeah, but they came oot the worst.

15 Q. What happened to them?

16 A. They'd get taken into her office and they were hit wi'

17 a belt, hit wi' a shoe. Anything that was there, they'd

18 get hit with it until they were red.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. And then they were put back oot into the play area or

21 whatever, or sent to their dormitory.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. If they were really bad they were sent to the dormitory.

24 And that was them.

25 Q. Did that happen to you, 'Raymond', were you taken to

1 her sitting room?

2 A. Yeah. A couple of times, yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And how was this done, did you have to take your
4 trousers down to be hit?

5 A. No, one of the staff would come and say, 'Right, you're
6 wanted noo in the office, the Matron's office', so you'd
7 go down to the office and that's, doors shut, nobody
8 about, and you ... you got what you got. Yeah.

9 Q. How did she do it? Did she do it over your clothes or
10 did you have to take your trousers down?

11 A. No. 'Cause you wore shorts, you'd get it in the back of
12 the legs and on the back, the bottom of your spine,
13 you'd get hit there with shoes, or up here (indicated).
14 And then sometimes, it would be her hand on the side of
15 the face.

16 Q. Right. But if she was using something, she'd use
17 a belt, did you say?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. Did you say that she'd use a belt --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- or would she use a shoe?

22 A. No, she had both, she had both of them, a belt and
23 a shoe. It all depends on the circumstances, or the --
24 how bad the thing was.

25 Q. Right.

1 Which was worse, the shoe or the belt?

2 A. The shoe. The shoe, because they were hard. The sole

3 was hard. But if you -- if she hit me with the belt,

4 there was the buckle on it, but that would be with your

5 clothes on.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. So it didn't leave any marks.

8 Q. Okay. So this wasn't like a tawse, like you would get

9 in a school?

10 A. No, it was an elastic belt they wore with their uniform,

11 the nurses' sort of uniform.

12 Q. Right. And were there any other members of staff there

13 when she did that?

14 A. No. It was always when she was on her own.

15 Q. You talk in paragraph 71 about this being -- this

16 happening to you quite a few times, and you talk about

17 your twin sisters again and an occasion when they

18 couldn't get into the bath?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And they were punished for that. How did that happen?

21 A. That's right. That's right. This was when they were

22 younger. Especially when they first went into the

23 place, they were telling me that they got bathed, they

24 got stripped, they got put in a bath. But they couldn't

25 get -- they were too small to get up into the bath,

1 'cause the baths were quite big. And she would just
2 slap the back of their legs or their backside to get in
3 and they were screaming. And that made it worse and
4 just clout them again.

5 Q. She didn't help them to get into the bath?

6 A. No. No. No. They had to do it theirself. And if she
7 did help them, she would more or less throw them in,
8 rather than help them in. But they had to try and climb
9 in theirself.

10 Q. Your sister -- one of your sisters also told you that
11 when -- when you were older, she told you that she had
12 been sexually abused at Lagarie?

13 A. Sorry?

14 Q. One of your other sisters told you that she'd been
15 sexually abused at Lagarie?

16 A. That's right, yeah, yeah.

17 Q. What did she tell you about that?

18 A. Just everything came out at one time and she'd never,
19 ever told me before that. Before all this started.
20 That's when she come out with it. On her statement that
21 she'd wrote. And she said that the -- she touched --
22 she'd touched her on her private parts and that was it,
23 that was the last I was told. That was all I was told.

24 Q. Did she say who this was?

25 A. The Matron. Annie Millar.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And did she say anything about the circumstances, you
4 know, where were they or anything like that?

5 A. No. No. No.

6 Q. Okay, she just said the Matron had touched her --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- on her private parts?

9 A. Yeah. That was all.

10 Q. And did this happen just the once or more than once, do
11 you know?

12 A. I don't know. She never told me any more than that.

13 Q. Okay.

14 And you've told us about being held under the water.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And about being made to stand by the bed with no clothes
17 on. We heard about that a few minutes ago.

18 In relation to reporting, you say at paragraph 76
19 that:

20 'I knew I couldn't say anything about what the
21 Matron was like because it would just make things worse
22 for me.'

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. What do you mean by that, 'Raymond'?

25 A. Because if I'd said anything, obviously I was going to

1 get -- it was going to make it worse for myself with
2 Anne Millar. 'Cause she would call you a liar and all
3 that kind of stuff. 'Cause there's things you -- if you
4 said a couple of things to her, she'd go, 'That didn't
5 happen, you're a liar', and all that kind of stuff.
6 That's what you're thinking at that time.

7 So you're thinking she's going to get you into
8 trouble more, or abuse you more.

9 Q. Yes.

10 You say that you might have been tempted to tell
11 Liz, but you were too scared to?

12 A. That's right, yeah.

13 Q. But in any event, I think you felt anyway that Liz knew
14 what was going on anyway?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. And wasn't doing anything?

17 A. Yeah. Nothing was done. No.

18 I don't think any of the staff that was there told
19 anybody what happened, because I was convinced that they
20 were too scared to say it against this -- this woman.
21 And that was it.

22 Q. So I suppose there'd be no point in telling the other
23 staff about it?

24 A. No. No, no. In thae days, if you mentioned anything,
25 nobody would believe you anyway, you know what I mean.

1 Or they would -- they knew that they'd done something
2 wrong to a kid, but then maybe if they'd not done
3 anything to them, then the kid's the one that suffers
4 for it.

5 Q. 'Raymond', at page 14 of your statement, you talk about
6 leaving Lagarie, and that would be about 1961, when you
7 were 11 or so?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And you stayed with your gran for a bit and you started
10 school when you were staying with her?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. But you say your gran couldn't cope and your dad was
13 still drinking, so eventually you were sent to another
14 home; is that right?

15 A. Yes. Gryffe Home.

16 Q. Gryffe?

17 A. In Bridge of Weir.

18 Q. We don't know how to pronounce it here.

19 A. 'Grafe'.

20 Q. Gryffe?

21 A. Gryffe, yeah.

22 Q. And --

23 A. That's in Bridge of Weir.

24 Q. Sure, and you tell us that that was your gran's decision
25 and that Gryffe was another mansion house in its own

1 grounds. But that you had a bit more freedom there.

2 Can you tell us about that a bit?

3 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

4 Albeit it being a home, it was like a home from

5 home. You were better looked after.

6 Q. It felt more like a home?

7 A. You were definitely -- well, there was nothing untowards

8 going on. You were allowed out to play. You could go

9 walk round the ground, things like that, and nobody

10 questioned it. You were -- you just said to one of the

11 staff that you wanted to go walk, and they let you go

12 out and play.

13 So, now, if you were punished in any way, if you

14 swore or something like that, the staff always reported

15 you to the man that ran the place -- him and his wife.

16 Now, I am not 100 per cent sure of the name, but

17 I think his name was Mr Campbell. I'm not 100 per cent

18 about that. But it was definitely the ... the man and

19 his wife. And they were in about their 50s.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. But they were lovely people and if you got -- if you

22 were punished, you got the belt --

23 Q. Sorry, can I just stop you for a second. If you were

24 punched? Who would be punching you?

25 A. The man that run the house.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. The home.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. He would punish you, but when they punished you --

5 Q. Oh, 'punish'. Sorry, did you say 'punish'?

6 A. Punish.

7 Q. Okay, I thought you said 'punch'.

8 A. No, no, no, no, no.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. No, no, nothing like that, sorry.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. When he punished you, he'd give you the belt, and it

13 would always be on the hands, they -- nowhere else on

14 your body. They would give it you on the hand, put your

15 hand -- just like in school.

16 Q. Mm-hmm.

17 A. And that was the end of it, 'Right, away you go, back

18 and play, don't do it again'. That was it.

19 Q. Right. Okay.

20 A. It was nice as ninepence. You know, you got on well

21 with them, but I was only there for nine months,

22 something like that, when I left.

23 Q. So overall, how did it compare with Lagarie?

24 A. Oh, like chalk and cheese. You know, it was a good

25 place to be in. You felt safe. You felt safe.

1 Q. Was it all boys at Gryffe?

2 A. It was all boys.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. All boys, yeah.

5 Q. And over the page, you talk again a bit about the
6 routine at Gryffe and you've told us about the grounds.
7 And you went to school locally at Houston Academy?

8 A. That's right. I got sent to Houston Primary. Well, it
9 was a primary school and secondary school together.

10 Q. Right. I see. And at one point you even got to go on
11 a cruise? You even got to go on a cruise?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. Can you tell us about that?

14 A. Yes, that was good, yeah. So many of the boys get
15 picked to go on the cruise. I was one of the lucky ones
16 to go on that.

17 And you got your pocket money, you sort of saved
18 some of your pocket money up. The person that ran the
19 house, they looked after it for you. And when the
20 cruise came up, the staff that went on the cruise with
21 you to look after you, they kept your money and gave you
22 so much a day, so you didn't -- you didnae loss it or
23 anything like that.

24 And what did I do? Go ashore and lost my money.
25 You just had wee shorts on wi' quite narrow pockets, and

1 I ended up bolting along the road and getting
2 pick-pocketed. So that was my cruise -- my good day.

3 Q. Right. The cruise took you to Lisbon and then to
4 Madeira?

5 A. Lisbon, Madeira, Vigo and Brest. That was with the
6 school.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Yeah, that was good.

9 Q. Good.

10 A. I enjoyed it.

11 Q. Good.

12 You told us a moment ago that you felt that Lagarie
13 and Gryffe were like chalk and cheese?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 89 that the difference
16 between Lagarie and Gryffe was the person in charge?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that, please?

19 A. Well, he was a nice -- you could sit and talk to him and
20 tell you -- the man in Gryffe, you could sit and talk to
21 him, him and his wife, and they would -- you could ...

22 In Lagarie you couldn't sit and talk to Matron,
23 Annie Millar. Just completely different people. You
24 could give your problems to the people that run Gryffe,
25 but you couldnae give your problems to the people that

1 ran Lagarie.

2 And they'd listen to you and solved your problem in
3 Gryffe. In Lagarie, they just made the problem worse,
4 by abuse. They could abuse you by mouth or hit you or
5 whatever.

6 Q. Sure.

7 A. That's how it was completely different.

8 Q. So did that ability to talk to people at Gryffe, was
9 that one of the things that helped make you feel safer?

10 A. Yeah, definitely. Definitely. Definitely. But
11 I never, ever said anything to them about Lagarie.
12 Because you don't know if you're doing the right thing
13 or not, you know what I mean, in thae days, when you
14 were younger. But naebody believed us anyway, so ...

15 Q. You were very young and it's very difficult to know --

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. -- what to do in that circumstance like that.

18 A. I was very laid-back, I still am to this day, quite
19 laid-back and I hate confrontation, or walk away from
20 it. You know what I mean? I just keep myself to
21 myself.

22 Q. You talk about leaving Gryffe. In the statement, you
23 say you thought you were there for about a year.

24 A moment ago you said you thought it was about nine
25 months?

1 A. Gryffe?

2 Q. Yes?

3 A. Yeah, it was about nine month to a year I was there,
4 roughly about that.

5 Q. Okay.

6 And then after that you got a job in a warehouse?

7 A. Yeah. I went to --

8 Q. And then after that to the Parks Department?

9 A. -- I went to stay with my gran. I was 14 at the time,
10 and I got my first job on my 15th birthday.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. So since then, I've never been idle, never been on the
13 brew or anything like that. I worked with the City
14 Council, the Parks Department, the Cleansing Department
15 for 52 years. And that's 10 year ago when I retired.

16 Q. Good.

17 A. That was me since then.

18 Q. Great.

19 A. I've got a good life.

20 Q. Yes, you tell us that you've been married twice?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But you married again, happily I think. And you tell us
23 that you lost contact with your sisters for some time.
24 Why was that?

25 A. 36 years since I'd seen them, since I came oot of that

1 home.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And one of my sisters married a sailor from Faslane who
4 was an engineer, a technical engineer, and he was
5 offered a job in South Africa, so she moved over to
6 South Africa with him to work there.

7 He was British, he wasn't from South Africa. Now
8 he's retired. She's a nurses' school teacher over in
9 South Africa.

10 Q. But I think you've got back in touch with at least one
11 of your sisters; is that right?

12 A. I hadn't seen them for 36 year, and what it was was my
13 sister that stays in South Africa, we'd seen an advert
14 in the Times, or somebody had seen an advert in the
15 Times, and it was my name. It was my niece from South
16 Africa that I didn't even know, looking for me. And it
17 was something -- one of [REDACTED]'s pals had told her. She
18 looked it up and it was me. It was my niece. My
19 sister's daughter, that I had never seen.

20 So on my 50th birthday, [REDACTED] and the family put
21 a wee party on for me and she turned up.

22 Q. Oh, great. That must have been a great surprise.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You talk about the impact of all this on you, 'Raymond',
25 and you told us that you don't like really any type of

1 confrontation.

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. After your experiences. What else has had an effect on
4 you and what effect has it had?

5 A. I don't ... I don't go out, I don't socialise. But I --
6 the only places I really go is my club, it's what you
7 call the Men's Shed in [REDACTED], in Glasgow. And that's --
8 gives yourself purpose to do things, and it's for people
9 that's retired and we get -- there's a group and we go
10 out -- outings and all that kind of stuff. We go
11 different places. We've got a wee minibus that takes us
12 to different places and that gives you -- but I don't go
13 out drinking, I don't drink. The only time I will go
14 out is maybe the New Year with [REDACTED], we'll go to the
15 pub for the bells or something like that. But very
16 seldom do I go out. I just -- quite happy sitting,
17 watching my telly.

18 Q. Yes, you say you're not a person who likes to get
19 involved with other people?

20 A. I'll get involved with the right people.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. I don't like to ... if people are rowdy, or -- I'd
23 rather be oot the road. 'Cause, you know, you get it in
24 your mind that something's going to happen to you. So
25 you just stay -- stay away fae it.

1 Q. You feel like in those sorts of situations there might
2 be violence?

3 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

4 Q. You tell us that Lagarie has been with you all your days
5 and you think about it every day. And I think you need
6 or you want to get the monkey of Lagarie off your back?

7 A. That's right, yeah.

8 Q. And you say:
9 'I think I felt ashamed.'
10 And you thought people wouldn't believe you?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Can I just ask you why you would feel ashamed?

13 A. Just what -- 'cause what happened to me, I feel ashamed
14 that people wouldn't listen to you, when you tell them
15 it.

16 This is the first time I've talked about this, to
17 yourselves, apart from when the Redress people and that
18 came up to me and I went for interviews with them. But
19 before that, I never told my wife, I never told [REDACTED],
20 anything like that, and it -- just 'cause I was ashamed.

21 She would have believed me when I showed her, but
22 the only thing -- I had to wait till a letter came to my
23 house, 60 years later.

24 Q. Well, back in the day, you couldn't speak to people
25 because --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- they were the people that were abusing you?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. But they're the ones that should be ashamed, surely?

5 A. Yeah. These people, they'd make you out the badjin, the
6 bad person, rather than them being the bad person. And
7 that's the way you thought, 'Oh, if I done it, if I'm
8 getting this, I must be the bad person'.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I mean, that's when you're a kid, you think these
11 things, you know what I mean? But, it is what it is
12 now.

13 Q. Well, I think we can see that, you know, they have put
14 their shame on you and that's --

15 A. Yeah. Yeah.

16 Q. -- not right.

17 A. And I just don't want it to happen to any more kids, you
18 know --

19 Q. Just thinking about that, 'Raymond' --

20 A. -- if I had my way, then that's the way I would go.
21 I think if ... just jump in, I just think if --
22 these kind of people who look after kids should be
23 vetted, maybe once every two years. People should be
24 going to thae homes and checking them, how the kids are
25 getting on, and hopefully the kids would be strong

1 enough to say to these people. And just make life
2 easier for these kids, so there's nothing going to
3 happen to them. But the way that is ... going to take
4 a lot of people to do that, you know what I mean?
5 Q. And making sure that there's someone that kids --
6 A. Yeah, they're safe.
7 Q. -- can speak to?
8 A. People are safe.
9 Q. Like at Gryffe that you described?
10 A. Yeah, like kids, kids are safe, yes.
11 Q. Well, 'Raymond', thank you very much.
12 A. But I honestly think that the people that run the place
13 are the ones that needs to be checked out, once, twice
14 a year. But, whatever.
15 Q. Sure.
16 A. And that's up to the higher authorities to try and sort
17 that out.
18 Q. Yes. Well, 'Raymond', I don't have any more questions
19 for you, but is there anything that I've not asked you
20 that you want to talk about or to say?
21 A. No. No, not really. I'm just -- I think I've managed
22 to -- I apologise if I've not heard you sometimes.
23 Q. No, if you've not heard me, it's my fault, 'Raymond',
24 don't worry about that.
25 A. I've went beyond the question that you've been asking

1 me, I went a wee bit too quick for -- with that
2 question, you know, but ...

3 Everything, aye, swear on my -- everything that I've
4 told you is the truth.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MR SHELDON: Thank you very much.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Raymond', I want to thank you as well, and
8 please be assured, I have heard everything that you have
9 told me, you've been very clear, don't worry about that.
10 And don't be ashamed. As Mr Sheldon has said, you have
11 nothing to be ashamed of, particularly not when you've
12 been prepared to come and talk so frankly and openly
13 about your memories in public today to help this
14 Inquiry.

15 A. Yeah, okay.

16 LADY SMITH: Go away being proud of yourself and go away and
17 now rest, will you.

18 A. Yeah, thank you very much.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 LADY SMITH: Now, a few final names for today. For the same
22 reasons as I've been mentioning specific names already,
23 these are individuals who have the protection of my
24 General Restriction Order, so can't be identified as
25 referred to in our evidence outside this room.

1 And this witness, I think, made reference to [REDACTED]
2 or [REDACTED], he certainly made reference to [REDACTED] and
3 there may have been a reference to [REDACTED], and also to
4 somebody called [REDACTED]. So they are protected by my
5 General Restriction Order and please could that be borne
6 in mind.

7 So that takes me to Mr Sheldon, and an invitation to
8 give us a preview of what tomorrow holds in store.

9 MR SHELDON: We have I think two -- I beg your pardon, one
10 oral witness, my Lady, and we'll try and fit in as many
11 read-ins then as we possibly can after that.

12 LADY SMITH: There we are. And that oral witness is
13 a morning witness, is that right?

14 MR SHELDON: That's right, she's first thing now. She was,
15 I think, to be in the afternoon, but is now in the
16 morning.

17 LADY SMITH: But is now first thing. Good.

18 Well, I'll rise now until tomorrow morning and
19 I look forward to seeing everybody who is intending to
20 be here at that time.

21 Thank you.

22 (3.53 pm)

23 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

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