

Friday, 16 January 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to our case
4 study hearings in Phase 10, where at the moment we are
5 considering the provision of residential care at Lagarie
6 Children's Home in Rhu.

7 Now, Mr Sheldon.

8 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this morning we have another
9 witness in person, she is anonymous and goes by the name
10 of 'Rosie'.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Rosie'. Thank you very much.

12 'Rosie' (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: 'Rosie', thank you for coming along here this
14 morning for us to hear your evidence in relation to your
15 time at Lagarie Children's Home in Rhu.

16 I know you've already given us a written statement,
17 and that's evidence before me already, and that's in the
18 red folder there. But it's really helpful to hear from
19 you in person in addition to that.

20 A. Okay.

21 LADY SMITH: So I'm grateful to you.

22 We'll go through your evidence, not line by line, as
23 in your written statement, but to focus on some
24 particular parts that we're interested in.

25 A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: And your statement can be brought up on the
2 screen as we're going through it, so you'll have that,
3 as well as the written copy in front of you, if you find
4 it useful. You don't have to use it, but if you do,
5 they're there.

6 Now, otherwise, 'Rosie', I want you to understand
7 that I do appreciate that it's really difficult doing
8 what you've agreed to do this morning, in essence,
9 coming into a public place to talk about things that are
10 very personal to you that happened a long, long time
11 ago, when you were just a child and your family were
12 young at the same time. I know you might mention
13 something about your brother, who you remember being in
14 care with you.

15 Do not worry if you find it upsetting, don't get
16 embarrassed. Some people are surprised at how emotional
17 they become when they're giving their evidence. Others
18 don't and it doesn't mean that I don't understand that
19 it's still very difficult to do and emotional, even if
20 it doesn't show on the outside.

21 If you need a break at any time, just let me know.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: That's not a problem, or if you just want to
24 pause where you are, we can do that. If you don't
25 understand our questions, that's not your fault, it's

1 easier for you to read; whatever works for you.

2 There's a couple of bits of housekeeping that we
3 need to do, so if I can just read into the transcript
4 the reference number for your statement, it's
5 WIT-1-000000563.

6 And, 'Rosie', if you could turn, please, just to the
7 last page of your statement, it's page 16. There it is,
8 flashing in front of you.

9 A. This here?

10 Q. Yes. Now, is that your signature, 'Rosie'? Can you see
11 that?

12 A. I can't see it, it says 'EQZ'.

13 LADY SMITH: Oh.

14 MR SHELDON: Oh, right. I'm sorry, it's my fault.

15 A. That's my writing for the date.

16 LADY SMITH: Right.

17 MR SHELDON: Do you recall signing your statement in 2020?

18 A. I cannae say I do but, you know, I probably did -- yeah,
19 I think so, 'cause I do definitely recognise my writing
20 on the date, so ...

21 Q. Right, okay, well, thank you.

22 A. I must have signed it.

23 Q. And at all events you say at paragraph 87 here --

24 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon, just to reassure 'Rosie', I want
25 her to see this. Now, there's still a black block over

1 your signature, but you should be able to see your
2 signature under that black block. Do you see that
3 'Rosie', is that you?

4 A. Oh yes, that's me. uh-huh.

5 Yeah, that's me.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR SHELTON: Thank you, my Lady, and 'Rosie', apologies,
8 that's my fault, I was making assumptions about what
9 you'd be able to see in your copy of the statement, but
10 I think we're happy that this is your statement, that
11 you signed it in 2020. And you say there, at
12 paragraph 87:

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

17 And is that right, 'Rosie'?

18 A. Yeah. Yeah.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 So we can turn back to the start of the statement
21 and, first of all, I don't need your date of birth but
22 I think you were born in 1949, is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you were born in Edinburgh and brought up in
25 Stockbridge, I think, is that right?

1 A. Until I was about 3 and a half or something, yeah.

2 Q. All right. So you were initially in Stockbridge, and
3 you talk about memories of your childhood at
4 paragraph 3. And certainly at that stage, the memories
5 that you talk about there seem to be quite good
6 memories, is that right?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

9 A. Well, I probably start with -- I'm not going to try and
10 draw it out too long, but, erm, I would say at that
11 time, we were with my mother and my auntie, 'cause their
12 mum had died. So my auntie stayed wi' us. She was
13 quite young at the time, maybe about 20. Aye, and we
14 just -- there was me and my sister and then my baby
15 sister was born there. And my mother, my mother was
16 a lovely mum. I mean, she loved us, she was proud of
17 us, but she had a hard life. I don't think it was quite
18 as hard at that point as it got later on.

19 Q. Sure.

20 A. Aye, so yeah, nice happy memories there, uh-huh.

21 Q. Okay. And I think one of the reasons it might have been
22 hard for your mum was that your dad was away a lot
23 because he worked at sea?

24 A. My dad was in the Merchant Navy, and Pathways asked me
25 if I wanted to write a book. And a lot of people would

1 have thought I would have wrote about all of this, but
2 actually, I realised when I got older and I'd had some
3 counselling that, you know, my dad wasnae a bad man but
4 he had an alcohol problem. But in my opinion he should
5 never have been allowed to go to the trawlers when he
6 was 14. He ran away when he was 14. It was the hungry
7 30s, it was just the war starting. He was actually --
8 I was told he was blasted out a ship. Erm, and the
9 drink problem apparently got worse as time went on and
10 his other three brothers didn't have a drink problem.
11 But at that time, the early part of their marriage,
12 I was only 3, so I just seemed okay and happy enough;
13 very close to my sister 'cause there was only 13 months
14 between us, so we were very close, we done everything
15 together.

16 So my dad was at sea most of the time. When I got
17 older, he was at sea, so he wasnae there, but when he
18 came home he was drunk, but he was never bad to us, we
19 wurnae frightened of my dad. Our house was safe to us.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Until the marriage blew up and there was a big --

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. My dad nearly killed my mum at one point.

24 Q. Yes, we'll come to that just in a --

25 A. So, you know, prior to that, we didnae feel unsafe until

1 we got to the home. Put it that way.

2 Q. Sure, okay.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And I think ultimately you had a number of brothers and
5 sisters?

6 A. Yes, there was -- my mother had nine children
7 altogether. But unfortunately back in they days, you
8 know, if my dad came home fae sea, there wasnae phones
9 or anything, you know, and ... you know, you were pretty
10 much stuck where you were, kind of thing, put it that
11 way.

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. But six, six of us when we were in the British Sailors'
14 Society.

15 Q. Yes. And I think you had a baby brother who died early
16 in life, is that right?

17 A. Yes, there was -- I'm not exactly sure whether it was --
18 exactly when it was, but that was when I was quite
19 small, that happened. And, erm, I don't exactly know
20 what happened, I just -- you know, but I think it
21 affected my mother terribly, really.

22 Q. Yes, well, unsurprisingly, I guess.

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. So, I mean, your mum had a number of children to bring
25 up, she'd had a child die, her husband was away at sea

1 a lot, so it's not perhaps surprising that things were
2 difficult?

3 A. No, and she got paid fortnightly and she got, I think it
4 was £4.10 shillings, that would be a week, but she got
5 it fortnightly. So when my dad came home from sea,
6 I mean, it wasnae very often, but the money was spent
7 and then she had about a fortnight to wait before she
8 got -- so she was always borrowing money and paying it
9 back, you know, and trying to get through everything.

10 But even through all of that, my mother was always
11 there for our breakfast in the morning, we got our tea
12 at night when we went home, there was a coal fire on if
13 she had coal. She always set the table at night and we
14 always helped her; one would go to the shops, one would
15 help with the table.

16 And my youngest brother, when we went to that
17 home -- I'm sorry to jump about.

18 Q. That's all right.

19 A. You can stop me if you want.

20 Q. No, it's all right.

21 A. He was always used to -- once the table was cleared, my
22 sister and I would do the dishes, my mother would be
23 seeing to the baby and the toddler, whatever, and then
24 we'd all sit down to watch Robin Hood or whatever it was
25 on the telly, or cartoons.

1 And my wee brother ██████, he'd be on the settee wi'
2 us, and my young brother ██████ would be on the settee
3 with me and my sister. So he was always used to
4 children round about him, playing wi' him, making him
5 laugh, you know, helping him to get to sleep, whatever
6 it might be, along with my mother.

7 So to go from that situation, although we were
8 really very poor, we were happy enough, and to go from
9 that to what seemed to me was -- it looked to me like he
10 was on his own all the time, you know?

11 Q. Well, we'll come to that in a few minutes, 'Rosie'.
12 I just wanted to ask you a little bit about your first
13 time in care. I think you say that you went to Polwarth
14 Children's Home --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- first of all. Would that have been Lord and Lady
17 Polwarth's, do you remember if that's what it was
18 called?

19 A. I don't know, I just know it was just called Polwarth.

20 Q. Polwarth, all right.

21 A. We weren't there very long, I remember our mother coming
22 back to get us.

23 Q. Right. How long would you say you were there?

24 A. Sorry?

25 Q. How long would you say that you were there?

1 A. Not for very long.

2 Q. Okay, and what age --

3 A. According to the dates, my mother must have been
4 pregnant with my brother [REDACTED] at the time.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Now, in the care package that I got, which is quite
7 difficult to read, it's tiny old writing, they said that
8 the reason we were in that home was that our mother had
9 abandoned us.

10 Now, according to the dates, she would have been
11 quite heavily pregnant and as I recall, my sister and
12 I were sitting in the living room in a house in Drylaw,
13 [REDACTED] in Drylaw, playing with some wee toy bricks.
14 Now, I got the feeling we were waiting on something.
15 I must have only been, I don't know, 4 or 5 or
16 something. I got the feeling we were waiting on
17 something, but I didnae know what it was.

18 But as far as I remember it, my mother was sitting
19 at the fire, and we were playing with these wee bricks.
20 And then, the next thing I remember, we were in a big
21 black car. And my auntie was asked if she could take
22 us.

23 Now, that was three of us then, two small children
24 and a baby, my sister [REDACTED]. And she couldnae 'cause
25 she just didn't have the room, she was only in a wee

1 house. So we went to Polmont.

2 But when we got there, they were looking through our
3 hair and shoved us across to a corner, you know, as if
4 you were a piece of muck. And then I remember wanting
5 to see my wee sister and I got shoved oot the road for
6 that. But apart fae that, it was okay, 'cause we wurnae
7 there that long.

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. But that was only --

10 Q. What age would you have been at that time, 'Rosie'?

11 A. I wasnae any more than 5. We were in a nursery within
12 the home, we were in a nursery bit. So I'm assuming 4
13 or 5, something like that.

14 Q. And were all of you there, all of you and your brothers
15 and sisters?

16 A. My older sister, she was a year older than me, myself,
17 and my younger sister [REDACTED], who, if I was 4, she was
18 a baby, she was in a pram, sitting-up age.

19 Q. Right. And you remember some of the treatment at
20 Polwarth being quite rough, but apart from that it was
21 all right?

22 A. Just from the -- we' only just arrived. So at that --
23 but apart fae these two instances where we were sort of
24 shoved oot the road, I can't remember anything else
25 being bad. You know, we were fed and had a wee sleep in

1 the afternoon, I remember I quite liked that.

2 Q. Okay. I mean, did you feel reasonably safe there?

3 A. Well, no -- well, I wouldnae say I felt particularly

4 threatened, like Lagarie. But it wasn't nice. It

5 was -- that getting shoved like that, I wasnae used to

6 that.

7 Q. Sure. And you'd been taken away from your mum and your

8 home?

9 A. Yeah, we didnae know what was going to happen. But she

10 came back for us, so -- they said she abandoned us and

11 I think, well, how could she have abandoned us when she

12 was heavily pregnant?

13 Q. Sure. You mention a few times that you have read things

14 in what's -- what you call 'the care package'. Is that

15 something that you got from the local authority?

16 A. When I heard -- when I got word that my adopted son was

17 looking for me, I went to -- it was a place called

18 Birthlink that had got in touch with me, so they'd got

19 that package for me.

20 Q. Okay, and what was in it, was this notes from --

21 A. There was lies in it, really, and some of it was blacked

22 out, you know, like you've got here. But they said my

23 mother was a woman of low morals. She said her house

24 was a mess and she wasn't interested in it and she

25 wasn't interested in her children.

1 Now, when they said that, I'm assuming my mother
2 must have been in hospital because there was this big
3 altercation with my mum and dad. I came home fae school
4 and my mother's lying on the tenement stairs with blood
5 coming out the back of her head.

6 Q. This is some years after Polwarth, is it?

7 A. Oh yes, aye, I think I was about 9 or 10 at this time.
8 And she was unconscious. My dad was looking over the
9 bannister, so, I got such a shock. I assumed he had
10 threw her over the bannister. [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] I hadnae actually seen him
13 throwing her, I'd just made that assumption and I just
14 ran for the police.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. And that -- it was after that that we went to Lagarie.
17 And according to my auntie, that was because my dad --
18 well, anybody would think it was a good place fae the
19 outside, I mean, it was a lovely big mansion house with
20 lawns and everything.

21 So he had to go back to work after whatever
22 happened, [REDACTED], and my
23 mother, I would assume, would have been in the hospital.

24 So when they came to see -- I get mixed -- I'm
25 sorry, but I do get mixed up with the Lagarie situation

1 and then the later on what happened to me when, you
2 know. I think it was ... I cannae remember.

3 I think --

4 LADY SMITH: 'Rosie', don't worry. Let us try and take you
5 through it little by little. But by all means if you
6 think we are missing out something that's important, you
7 tell us.

8 A. Yeah. Yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: So don't panic. Shall I get Mr Sheldon to
10 carry on where he was thinking of going next?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Is that okay?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

15 MR SHELDON: My Lady.

16 So, 'Rosie', just to recap, really, there's
17 an incident, it sounds like quite a serious incident,
18 involving your mum and dad.

19 A. Yeah.

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25 Q. Right.

1 A. But --

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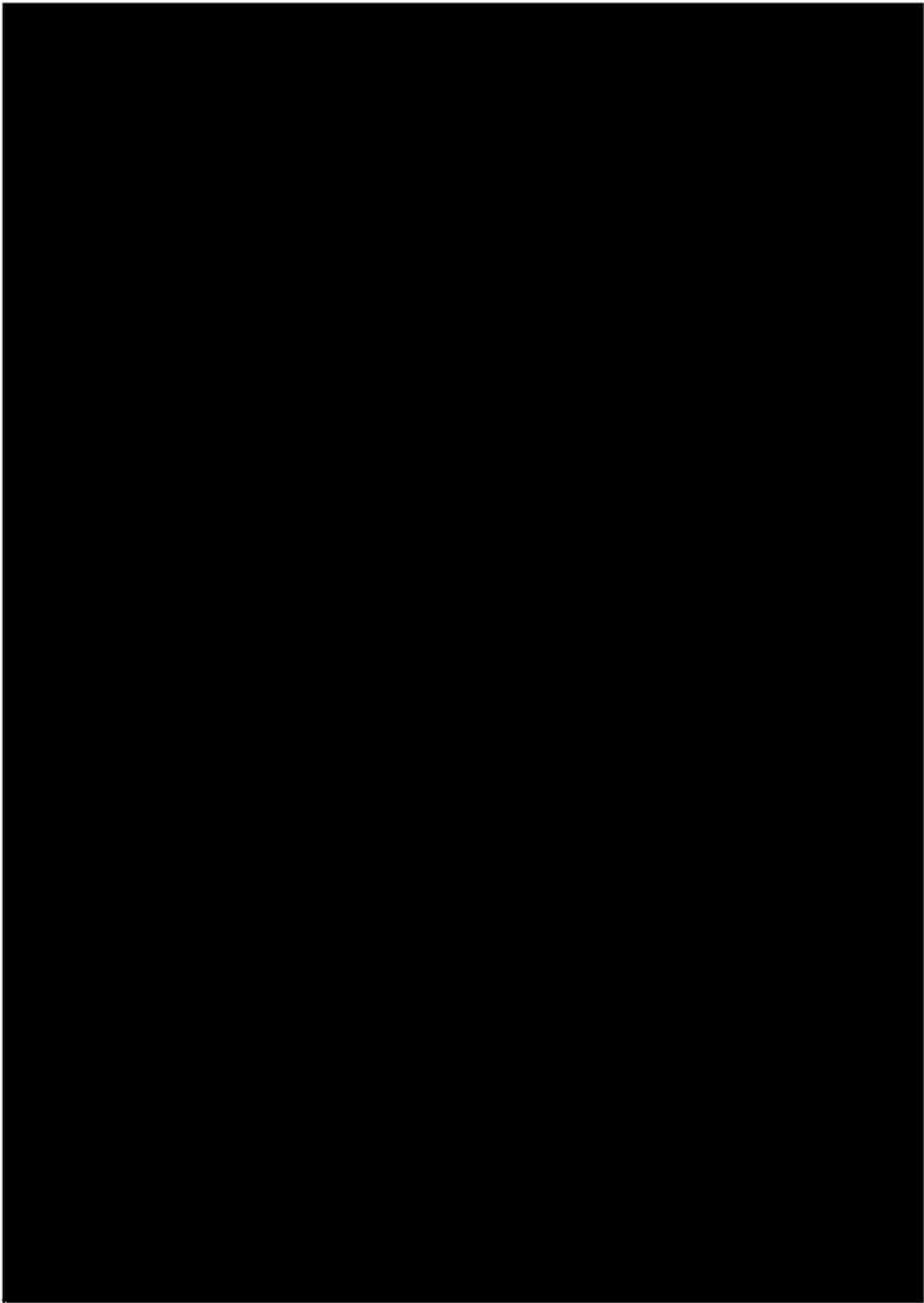
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LADY SMITH: What did you find out later then?

A. I found out later in the care package, 'cause in the care package they've got a letter from my mother to my dad, because -- it's difficult to explain, but, my mother knew he wasnae a bad man. She knew he had a severe drink problem, and she quite often tried to help him. But the stress just got too much and she wrote him a letter and said, '██████, we need to get the kids back, we need to get the bairns back', you know.



LADY SMITH: He went back to sea. Well, that's the answer then.

A. He was on a -- well, that went missing actually.

LADY SMITH: Don't worry, don't worry, let's stay where we are.

A. No, and --

LADY SMITH: Hang on a minute, 'Rosie'. You have got so

1 was all right? I mean, she'd, I guess, been injured in
2 this incident but she was okay?

3 A. She must have been, obviously, in hospital. She started
4 to come and see us at Lagarie, whenever she could.

5 Q. Sure. And I think you were still in touch with your dad
6 as well, is that right, from time to time?

7 A. My dad sent me a -- considering I started biting my
8 nails when I was there, he sent me a manicure set. So
9 he obviously didnae know I was biting my nails, he sent
10 me a manicure set.

11 Now -- but when I was in foster care, he used to
12 send me a wee postal order for 30 shillings which, when
13 you're young, that's really quite a lot of money.

14 Q. Indeed.

15 A. I was able to actually buy myself a pair of shoes.

16 Q. At all events, 'Rosie', because of this incident, you
17 end up being sent to Lagarie?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And you think you were probably about 10 at that stage?

20 A. I think at early stages of being 10, I think.

21 Q. So this would be about 1959, 1960, something like that?

22 A. 1959, 1960, 'cause I had my 11th birthday when I was
23 there. I'm not sure how many months I was there.

24 Q. Okay, well, that was my next question. Do you remember
25 how long you were there for?

1 A. I don't know, I thought I got there in [REDACTED], but
2 I'm not really sure when I got there really or how long
3 it was.

4 Q. It doesn't really matter, all we need to know is roughly
5 what period, what date it was, and I think we've
6 narrowed that down to 1959, 1960.

7 So you've told us already that you were quite
8 impressed in a way when you saw the place first, it's
9 a big mansion, nice grounds --

10 A. We thought we were going on holiday.

11 Q. Right. And there were, I think, a number of you,
12 a number of you, your brothers and sisters in Lagarie at
13 that time, is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay.

16 And you tell us at paragraph 16, this is just the
17 foot of page 3 and onto page 4, you'd met someone as you
18 came into Lagarie, and your sister asked how long she'd
19 been there and she said 12 years. How did that make you
20 feel?

21 A. That was -- it was horrible. My sister turned to me and
22 she says, 'Oh, this is no holiday, this is a home we're
23 in'. And there was -- the six of us were there and we
24 waited a while and then the Matron appeared.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Full regalia with the uniform and the Matron's big thing
2 that they wore, a big hat thing.

3 Q. This is a sort of white hat --

4 A. Yeah. Yeah.

5 Q. -- that sort of -- nurses used to wear in hospitals, is
6 that right?

7 A. Sorry?

8 Q. The sort of thing that nurses used to wear in hospitals?

9 A. Yes, matrons. It was like a big triangle thing.

10 Q. Right. And what were your first impressions of the
11 Matron, Miss Millar?

12 A. I just thought she was really rather large and ... we
13 just -- we were frightened, we just didnae know what was
14 going to happen. And she took us into the dining room
15 and she got a box out and -- we were used to secondhand
16 clothes. I mean, we come fae the tenements of
17 Scotland, you know, we wurnae bothered about that.

18 So we were to get changed out our own clothes into
19 the secondhand clothes that she was giving us, which was
20 fine. But I really -- I really wasnae getting a good
21 feeling off her at all. She didnae do anything bad at
22 that point but there was a -- just a, I don't know what,
23 you might call it a vibe coming off her that was
24 a bit -- a coldness or whatever, or brusqueness,
25 whatever word you want to use. But we were to find out

1 just what she was really like.

2 Q. Yes. And was it at that stage, just when you'd arrived,
3 that you had the bath with the carbolic soap, or was
4 that something that happened later?

5 A. No, that was later on that day, I think, we had the
6 bath, or, I don't know when we had the bath, but it was
7 that day at some -- probably the evening, I think.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But I heard my sister -- there was a woman that used to
10 work in the nursery and she was standing looking at me
11 when I was having the bath, which I was never used to,
12 and I was 10, it's not like I was 2. And then -- but it
13 was like wooden cubicles that were open at the top and
14 I could hear my sister screaming and shouting and ...
15 you know, I can bath myself, I dinnae need anybody --
16 'cause there was these big long bars of carbolic soap.
17 I quite liked the smell of carbolic soap, actually.

18 Q. Right.

19 A. But she was, she was really -- and I realise now, see,
20 looking back on it, 'cause I was always quite quiet, and
21 my mother used to say, 'Oh, you wurnae any bother'. But
22 my sister, I think, after that, we're talking about
23 after that home, I think -- I used to think my sister
24 was really brave. But looking over it, I think that's
25 how she dealt wi' her fears, she became aggressive. You

1 know, it was fear-based, I think, now, when I think
2 about it.

3 Q. Sure.

4 Were there other children there when you were being
5 bathed or was it just you in the cubicle?

6 A. Just me and my sister.

7 Q. All right, okay. With your sister in a separate
8 cubicle, you thought?

9 A. Sorry?

10 Q. With your sister in a separate cubicle?

11 A. Yes, aye, there was two baths and ... yeah.

12 Q. Sure.

13 Paragraph 18, you talk about a tower room and you
14 say it's a beautiful place but so sad when you think
15 about what happened there. What are you referring to in
16 that paragraph, 'Rosie'?

17 A. Well, I mean ... it would -- the only way I can describe
18 it is I kinda began to feel like a ghost. We're in
19 a big house, there's a lot of children in that house and
20 I thought, where are they? I mean, I seen them at
21 dinner times.

22 Q. So this is the other children, you mean?

23 A. Yeah, and I seen -- well, I seen my brother, [REDACTED] and
24 [REDACTED], getting ready to go to school or whatever, then,
25 and then breakfast and then tea, I seen them. But

1 I never seen a television.

2 Where did you go if you had homework or -- I cannae
3 remember having homework but if you did, there didnae
4 seem to be an area that you could go to. I was
5 wandering about that house and I thought, well -- and
6 I came across a child now and again. They didnae say
7 very much. It was a bit like that.

8 And then...

9 Q. So what was the atmosphere like, how would you describe
10 the atmosphere in the home?

11 A. Very frightening, we were frightened of the Matron
12 turning up. I spent a lot of my time just wandering
13 around to try and avoid her, I'd maybe go down the back
14 stairs as opposed to the front stairs or I'd have a look
15 in the dormitories, and there wouldnae be anybody there.
16 So just -- unless they maybe went up to the tower,
17 'cause there was a bedroom up a narrow staircase thing.

18 But it was very odd, in that I never saw any toys,
19 I never saw a scooter, I never saw a bike, I never saw
20 a colouring book or crayons or children sitting together
21 talking and laughing or playing. Nothing like that.

22 Q. Okay. You go on to talk about the routine, 'Rosie',
23 about the morning routine, and actually you say that the
24 bedding was all right, the dormitory was okay?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And the food was okay. Is that right?

2 A. Well, the food was a bit odd. For me, because the only
3 food I can actually remember is porridge and toast for
4 the breakfast, which was fine for me, my mother made us
5 that. But I had never come across cauliflower and
6 cheese sauce before and I'd never come across macaroni
7 and cheese sauce before, and that seemed to me all you
8 got. And you got a pudding which looked like custard,
9 only it was pure white. So when I got older, I thought
10 that must have been maybe made with cornflour. But it
11 tasted all right. And I cannae remember potatoes or
12 vegetables or anything. You know, my mother always used
13 to make cabbage or peas or something as an extra but ...
14 so that was a bit odd. But I didnae mind the food. But
15 I just thought, a bit odd.

16 Q. Yes. But you do talk about an incident that happened at
17 one of the mealtimes, this is paragraph 21, just at the
18 foot of page 4. You say that you remember an instance
19 where a wee girl came into the dining room?

20 A. Oh, yeah.

21 Q. 'I don't know why, but Miss Millar punched her in the
22 face, on the nose.'

23 A. She had a nice, wee T-shirt on and apparently it was
24 a wee bit damp. How the Matron knew it was damp,
25 I don't know, 'cause she never touched the T-shirt. And

1 she told her she shouldnae be wearing that T-shirt
2 anyway and the next thing she punched her right in her
3 nose and the blood just came -- we hadnae been there all
4 that long at that time, I don't think. And that was --
5 that was -- I just couldnae believe that, really, I
6 just -- it was horrendous.

7 Q. It must have been incredibly --

8 A. She was just a wee girl. I don't know what age she was.
9 I don't -- she wasnae a toddler or anything. She'd
10 maybe be similar ages to myself, I think.

11 Q. Right, okay, so maybe 9 or 10 at that point?

12 A. Yeah, and you know, and there's the Matron sitting at a
13 lovely round table looking out at a lovely lawn, and
14 she's got flowers on the table and, you know, silver
15 cutlery and yada yada, sitting there all dressed up.
16 And to punch a wee girl in the face like that was --
17 because although I came fae a poor family, I keep saying
18 it, we didnae feel unsafe in our house. And when that
19 happened to my mother between my mum and dad, I got
20 a shock. But it wasnae directed at me, if you know what
21 I mean.

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. My dad wasnae --

24 Q. But still a very disturbing thing to see?

25 A. Nobody was bad to us, put it that way, you know.

1 Q. Yes. So was this just one punch and that was it?

2 A. Yes, aye.

3 Q. Okay. Did anyone help this girl? I mean, she was

4 bleeding, you say, and --

5 A. I can't remember what happened after that to be honest,

6 'cause I think it was such a shock, but every child in

7 the dining room would have saw that.

8 So, you know, it wasnae a nice -- for us to not have

9 been there very long either, you know.

10 Q. Yes. Not a good first impression, really.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Do you remember how the other girl was, the girl who was

13 punched? Was she upset?

14 A. Well, again, I don't know where she went. You know,

15 I don't know what happened.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Nobody -- it's the strangest thing 'cause nobody really

18 spoke about things, and even when I got home, me and

19 [REDACTED] never discussed it even when he was older and

20 I never told my mother. I don't know if I didnae tell

21 my mother 'cause I felt guilty that I couldnae help him,

22 or it was just what it would do to my mother if I told

23 her that. 'Cause my sister didnae know 'cause she'd

24 already run away.

25 Q. Right. We'll come to that just in a moment or two.

1 You go on to talk, 'Rosie', about clothing and the
2 uniform that you got for school. But that was provided
3 by the home, was it, the skirt?

4 A. I didnae get a uniform.

5 Q. Right, okay.

6 A. I got a skirt.

7 Q. That was it? Okay.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And then the rest of it was just clothes that you'd also
10 got from the home, is that right?

11 A. Yeah, just secondhand clothes but that -- as I said,
12 I didnae mind secondhand clothes, that's just how it was
13 in thae days.

14 Q. Yes. You didn't have any of your own clothes?

15 A. No. No. We got them back when we were leaving.

16 Q. Right, okay.

17 You talked a moment ago a little bit about not
18 really seeing any children playing much or --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- playing with toys, whatever, going outside.

21 You do talk about an incident where you'd been asked
22 by the Matron to take the younger children out to
23 a grassy area outside?

24 A. Yeah, that was most unusual.

25 Q. Tell us about that?

1 A. I've got no idea what that was about but this again was
2 out of no -- I cannae remember if my sister had gone by
3 then or not if I'm honest, I can't remember. But
4 I remember thinking, I've got all these children. And
5 she said, 'Take them outside'. So I took them outside
6 and I didnae know what to do with them because there
7 wasnae any toys -- I mean, normally if you see small
8 children in a nursery, you see them with wee prams or
9 a wheelbarrow or something. There was nothing like
10 that, just, 'Take them out'. It was the only time she
11 ever asked me to do that.

12 Q. So these were young children. What age would they be,
13 sort of 4, 5?

14 A. Oh, it was a mixture, but young children out playing,
15 you know.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And there was a ... I started to play circular games,
18 like the Farmer's in his Den, I didn't know what to do
19 with them. And she shouted out the window, 'Stop
20 putting them round in circles'. I thought, well, what
21 the hell am I going to do with them. So I just started
22 to play chasey with 'em.

23 The next thing I seen my mother coming up the
24 driveway. So I wonder if that was to put on a show,
25 I've really no idea. It was very odd.

1 Q. Okay.

2 Your mum was obviously visiting you then. Were you
3 able to say anything to your mum about --

4 A. Sorry?

5 Q. Were you able to say anything to your mum about what the
6 Matron was like?

7 A. Funny, see, when my mother came to visit us, we never
8 told her. She used to bring us wee Milky Ways or
9 something else, and I think we were that pleased to see
10 her, we just ... I don't know, no, we never told her.
11 I never spoke to my mother about what happened to [REDACTED].
12 I just couldnae do it, I don't know why, but ... I still
13 cannae do it yet.

14 But that was kind of odd. Did she know people were
15 coming up the driveway and wanted it to look as if it
16 was ... I don't know.

17 Q. Sure.

18 You mentioned a moment ago that your sister had run
19 away. And perhaps you can just tell us about that,
20 'Rosie'. First of all why, do you know why your sister
21 ran away?

22 A. Well, it was probably a few incidents. I think she did
23 witness that girl getting her nose punched, but I think
24 maybe the reason she ran away eventually was there was
25 a wee Glasgow girl that was coming along the landing and

1 she said to me, 'You'll have to have a cold bath 'cause
2 there's nae hot water'. And I remember saying, which
3 would have been safe to say in my house, in my home,
4 'I'm not having a cold bath in cold water, that'll be
5 right'. And the next thing, the Matron, I never even
6 heard her coming, she had me up against the wall and she
7 was strangling me. I was absolutely terrified. And my
8 sister just happened to come up this big stairway and
9 jumped on her and stoped her fae strangling me and then
10 she was frightened, so she ran up the tower steps. And
11 the Matron sent somebody up after her, an older boy, and
12 he came doon with her, aye. So my sister like threw
13 something at him or something like that, and it was
14 after that that my sister ran away.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. But before she ran away, I mean, she was just a wee
17 girl, but there used to be -- maybe -- people in here
18 maybe wouldnae remember the newspaper but there used to
19 be a newspaper called the Pictorial, and people used to
20 get that on a Sunday. And my sister said to me, 'I'm
21 going to write to the Pictorial', and then I never heard
22 any more about it.

23 But after my -- I cannae mind if my sister was still
24 there or not, she might have been away by that time.

25 Q. Can I just stop you for a moment, 'Rosie'. You say your

1 sister said she wanted to write to the Pictorial paper.

2 What was that to do?

3 A. To tell them what was going on in the home.

4 Q. Right, okay.

5 A. And she did write to them, and we got a visit. I can't
6 remember who told us, 'The Pictorial people are coming
7 today.' And they took us to somewhere that might have
8 been a wee -- it felt like it might have been a wee glen
9 or something and they gave us some sandwiches. Now,
10 I can't remember if they asked us questions, I don't
11 think I told them anything. We just -- it was just like
12 we went on a wee picnic with 'em.

13 So whether anything came about with that, I really
14 don't know, I never heard any more about it.

15 But my sister must have been quite astute to have
16 done that, I think, at that young age.

17 Q. How old would she have been at that point?

18 A. Well, it's a bit difficult because I can't remember if
19 it was 9 or 10, but I had my 11th birthday in the home
20 and we got home not long after that.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. So we were there for quite a while, so I might have been
23 just into 10 and my sister might have been just coming
24 up for 11, I don't know. Because she went to her
25 secondary school from Lagarie, she hadnae been at

1 secondary school when we left, and after a while being
2 there, I had my 11th birthday there. So 10 or 11,
3 kinda. And I'd be 9 or 10, I'm not quite exact.

4 Q. Did you see the letter that she wrote, do you know
5 what --

6 A. To the Pictorial people?

7 Q. Yes?

8 A. No, I just remember the visit.

9 Q. Okay. But you understood from her that she had written
10 to tell them --

11 A. She said 'I'm going to tell them'. And she told
12 somebody called Miss Ferguson, who came to see to
13 medicines in this cupboard thing, and she had a white --
14 she wore a white coat, I don't know if she was a doctor
15 or a pharmacist, but she was a very nice lady, she was
16 really lovely, and she says, 'I'm going to tell that
17 Miss Ferguson'. And then she said to me one day,
18 'Miss Ferguson's taking me out'. And I thought, 'Can
19 I come?'.
20 I don't know why Miss Ferguson was taking her out,
21 I don't know what happened or what was said, but they
22 were the incidents that, not long after I think, that's
23 when my sister must have ran away, I think.

24 Q. Right, okay. And what happened? First of all, where
25 did she go?

1 A. Well, I don't know the full story, but there was a wee
2 girl -- I'm maybe no allowed to say her name, a wee
3 Glasgow girl.

4 LADY SMITH: We don't need her name but if you want to, it's
5 all right.

6 A. Wee ██████████, her name was. She was lovely. And
7 my sister and her ran away to Glasgow.

8 Now, I don't know how they got to Glasgow, but they
9 got to Glasgow anyway, and they went to the wee girl's
10 parents. And my sister told me, no long before she
11 passed away, she died of cancer a few years ago, that --
12 I think it was the wee girl's granny that gave my sister
13 money to get on a bus to Edinburgh. And, the next thing
14 I knew, my two aunties came to the door at Lagarie.
15 Now, they had to come all the way fae Edinburgh, through
16 Glasgow and then Helensburgh, so it was quite a journey
17 in thae days for people that didn't have much. And
18 I was at the top of the stairs and I thought, 'Oh,
19 there's my aunties', so I was listening in. And the
20 Matron wasnae letting them in and they tried -- they
21 tried to force the issue withoot being aggressive. Just
22 saying, 'We've came a long way, you know, we wurnae able
23 to phone,' and yada yada, 'and we just want --' and had
24 brought us sweeties, a whole load of sweeties for us
25 all.

1 Well, we never got the sweeties and my aunties
2 didnae get in.

3 MR SHELDON: The Matron didn't let your aunties into the
4 home?

5 A. She didn't let them over the door, no. But my sister
6 must have told my aunties and my mother exactly what
7 happened.

8 My mother might have been with 'em, I don't know.
9 Maybe they've came to the door.

10 Q. Okay, but they didn't get to see you?

11 A. No. And we didnae get the sweeties either.

12 Q. Okay.

13 You talk a little bit about school -- sorry, I'll
14 finish that point.

15 So, your sister got back, obviously. Did anything
16 happen to her when she came back?

17 A. She didnae come back.

18 Q. Oh, she didn't come back?

19 A. I think one of my aunties hid her in a cupboard.
20 Because they didnae want her to go back.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. It wasnae long -- I don't think it was that long after
23 my sister ran away that we got home. Now, I don't know
24 if that was because of the letter to the paper or
25 because she spoke to Miss Ferguson or because she ran

1 away and my auntie hid her, I really don't know. But
2 she didnae come back. But what happened after -- that's
3 when the incident happened with my brother.

4 Q. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: So your sister didn't come back?

6 A. My sister didn't come back, no.

7 LADY SMITH: Did the wee girl that she ran away with come
8 back?

9 A. Well, that's something -- there was an incident there.

10 LADY SMITH: Right, well, hang on, we'll get to that.

11 A. Yes, it is a lot.

12 LADY SMITH: But you think she did come back to Lagarie?

13 A. She was taken back.

14 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

15 MR SHELDON: And what happened to her?

16 A. Well, I was coming along -- again, I don't know why
17 I went along that corridor 'cause that was where the
18 Matron's bedroom was. I can't remember why I went along
19 there. But when I was coming back, I don't know why
20 I never noticed it on the way, but when I was coming
21 back, I noticed wee [REDACTED] was on the floor. And there's
22 the double bed there, the Matron's double bed, and she's
23 on the floor in front of that with not a stitch of
24 clothing on.

25 And the bed, strangely enough, was covered in money.

1 It was covered in -- 'cause the Matron sent us oot
2 trying to collect money, to houses that we didnae know
3 people. But it was covered in half crowns, 2 shillings,
4 10 shillings, right over the double bed, which I think
5 would have amounted to an awful lot of money in thae
6 days. So why was that, I don't know, and why was the
7 wee girl on the floor withoot clothes on, I don't know.
8 I just saw it and, and, quite ashamed of myself that
9 I didnae go and speak to her.

10 Q. Was the wee girl awake or did she seem to be asleep?

11 A. Yeah, she was awake, but she never had any clothes on.

12 Q. Right. Was she lying face up or face down?

13 A. Face up.

14 Q. Okay. And just quite motionless?

15 A. Just sort of, you know, how you would be if you didn't
16 have any clothes on, kind of thing.

17 Q. Right, okay. So she was trying to cover herself?

18 A. Yeah, but I was terrified the Matron was going to come,
19 so I just kept running, ran past.

20 LADY SMITH: And that was the Matron's bedroom that you
21 remember her being in?

22 A. Matron's bedroom, uh-huh.

23 LADY SMITH: Okay. And the door was open, was it?

24 A. Door was open.

25 LADY SMITH: So you could see in?

1 A. It's very strange, I know, but yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Okay.

3 MR SHELTON: And any sign of the Matron in the room as well,
4 or did she seem to be somewhere else?

5 A. Sorry?

6 Q. Was there any sign of the Matron in that room as well?

7 A. No, I didnae see the Matron.

8 Q. Right, okay. But you just saw the girl and hurried past
9 because you were frightened?

10 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. The only thing I can think of is,
11 because there was the Matron's bedroom and there was
12 a bathroom next -- just across from it. Whether she'd
13 been in the bath, or whether -- I don't know, but she
14 wasnae there anyway. But it was a bit odd that she'd
15 left that situation for somebody to walk past and see.
16 Unless she thought people wouldnae go there. I really
17 don't know.

18 Q. Sure.

19 I want to ask you a little bit about schooling. You
20 talk about that in paragraph 28. You say that you went
21 to St Joseph's in Helensburgh. Was that a primary or
22 secondary school?

23 A. It was a primary school, aye.

24 Q. Right, okay. But you started going to secondary when
25 you were at Lagarie?

1 A. No.

2 Q. No, all right, I'm sorry.

3 A. I didnae go to secondary until I was home for a good
4 while.

5 Q. Right, I misunderstood that, sorry. Okay.

6 You tell us there that:

7 'School was fine but I felt quite disconnected from
8 people, I just felt detached.'

9 Can you explain that for us, please?

10 A. Well, it's a bit difficult to explain. It's -- I found
11 I couldnae concentrate, I really couldnae. I could hear
12 what the teacher was saying and I could hear what it was
13 about, but I couldnae really focus on it very well, on
14 school work. And I didnae know anybody at the school
15 either, and I was quite happy at my own school.

16 You know, I think it's probably, when you think --
17 I was taken away fae my mum, all my relatives, my
18 school, my teacher, my pals in the next tenement, you
19 know, so I went oot to play and that. And I'm not
20 saying life was perfect, but I was safe. Because
21 I didnae feel safe there, so I couldnae concentrate on
22 what I was supposed to be doing, you know?

23 Q. You talk a little bit about some work, at the foot of
24 that page, page 6. You remember being made to polish
25 the floor with a brush --

1 A. That was --

2 Q. -- which you describe as a big pole?

3 A. -- odd as well. I've never came across a brush like it,
4 or since.

5 Q. Might it have been --

6 A. It was, it was oblong shaped at the bottom, with sort of
7 brush bits round the side. I never looked underneath
8 'cause it was too heavy, but it had a big metal thing
9 that the pole could twist it round. And she gave me,
10 she gave me the --

11 Q. Might it have been called a bumper, 'Rosie'?

12 A. Sorry?

13 Q. Might it have been called a bumper, 'Rosie'?

14 A. Yeah, and she gave me a big tin of polish and you were
15 to do this with this thing, wooden thing, and slap it on
16 the floor and then push it up and down.

17 LADY SMITH: Or a bumper? A bumper, do you remember that
18 word?

19 A. Yeah, I think for polishing the floor.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes. Quite a heavy, heavy thing?

21 A. It was really -- I mean, it was so heavy, I was -- I've
22 never came across anything and you really had to put
23 your into the... And I just walked away and left it
24 after a while. And I don't know what happened to it
25 or -- I just -- it was odd. It was really odd.

1 I hadnae been given any work to do before.

2 Q. And were you asked to do that again after that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And nobody mentioned the fact that I'd walked away and
6 left it.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. Unless somebody's went in and saved it for me and
9 finished the job and never told her; I've no idea.

10 Q. Okay. And you tell us, paragraph 32, the Matron used to
11 send your sister and you out by yourselves to collect
12 money. What was that about?

13 A. Well, we got canisters to go, and you went up -- well,
14 if you imagine, there's Lagarie, and then you went oot
15 the gate and up this hill where there was a lot of
16 really beautiful houses, must have been very wealthy
17 people. But, I mean, looking back on it, that -- you
18 dinnae send children oot on their own collecting money
19 fae people that they don't know. You wouldnae be
20 allowed that today.

21 Q. Do you know who the money was for? Was it for the --

22 A. Well, it was collected for the home, I would assume.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. But --

25 Q. But you weren't told what it was for?

1 A. Sorry?

2 Q. You weren't told what it was for?

3 A. No, they just gave us the collection tins, and my sister
4 and I went up, but we only went to one or two houses and
5 then we just came back and nothing seemed to be said
6 about it.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. I found quite often that seemed to happen. We'd be in
9 a situation that was odd and we'd just eventually, just
10 walk -- like when she sent me out with the children and
11 I seen my mother coming up the drive. I just went and
12 spoke to my mother and forgot about the children. It
13 was a bit odd, you know?

14 Q. Mm-hmm. You then go on to talk about birthdays and
15 Christmases. You say that you turned 11 when you were
16 there, you didn't get a card or a cake?

17 A. Well, no, not from -- not from anybody in the home.
18 What I did get was a manicure set for my dad, it was
19 a musical thing with a wee ballet dancer in it. But at
20 Christmas -- no, there was no birthday cake or candles
21 or anything like that or happy birthday.

22 Q. But there was a party at Christmas?

23 A. No, I'm talking about my birthday.

24 Q. Oh, I'm sorry.

25 A. Again, at Christmas, because [REDACTED]

1 Christmas, at Christmas there was pillowcases in this
2 room where the carousel that nobody got to play on was
3 there, and you -- there wasnae Christmas paper or
4 anything that I recall. And there was nothing to say
5 who the presents were from. I mean, did my mum buy
6 stuff and hand it in or did it come fae donations?
7 I don't know.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So that was that. I don't remember a Christmas dinner.
10 I do remember a party, but that was on a submarine and
11 it was the navy that paid for it. But it was just --
12 they were dressed up as pirates, which really I was
13 probably by that time a wee bit old for, but it was nice
14 for the wee kids. And there was a nice meal and then we
15 left. There wasnae any games or anything. But it was
16 quite nice.

17 Q. Did you get to keep the things that you got at -- that
18 you were given at Christmas time?

19 A. Well, I can't remember what else there was. I do
20 remember there was a nice underskirt which had rainbow
21 colours on it. But I didnae get to keep that, no.

22 Q. You didn't get to keep it?

23 A. No.

24 Q. What happened --

25 A. I don't know if I didnae get to keep it or I just didnae

1 keep it, I don't know. But when we got home, my mother
2 had bought wee rainbow-coloured scarves for me and my
3 sister. They were really a bit small for us, but
4 I kinda thought maybe it was my mum that bought the
5 rainbow skirt but I've no idea.

6 It wasnae -- there wasnae a -- I can't remember
7 a Christmas tree or a Christmas dinner or a party or
8 anything like that.

9 Q. Okay.

10 You've told us that your mum did come to visit you.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. But in paragraph 37, you say that you were worried about
13 your brothers and sisters.

14 A. Oh, yes.

15 Q. Why was that?

16 A. Well, because -- it's funny, but the times that I was --
17 I didn't know about the things that were coming, but
18 I was told about it by -- I don't know if it was one of
19 the twinnies maybe, 'cause they were sort of our age or
20 a wee bit older. One girl was coming doon the stairs
21 and she says to me, 'Your brother, your wee brother
22 ██████'s took a sandwich off a dining room table and
23 he's got to stay in a room hissel' and he's no getting
24 any tea'. How she knew, that I don't know. Well, that
25 really upset me 'cause ██████ was a quiet, wee boy. So

1 to put him in a room on his own with no tea... and, I
2 mean, he was only about -- I don't know what age [REDACTED]
3 was, he must have only been about 3, 'cause there was
4 only a year between him and [REDACTED].

5 So that -- that really -- I don't know, she might
6 have put him in that room with the carousel, I don't
7 know.

8 And then the other incident was [REDACTED], my brother
9 [REDACTED], I'm no sure if he was 4 or 5, was jumping on the
10 beds. Which he shouldn't have been doing, but, yeah.
11 He was having a rare old time jumping fae one bed to the
12 other. So the Matron says to me, 'Your brother's
13 jumping on the beds, get up and stop him'. So I went up
14 and I just remember his pyjama jacket flying out the
15 back of him, he's jumping on these beds. And I pleaded
16 with him, I says, 'Please, [REDACTED]' ... (Pause) 'Please be
17 quiet', I says, 'You cannae jump on the beds, you'll be
18 in trouble'. I seen him and I tucked him in, but ...
19 anyway.

20 Q. It's all right, take your time, 'Rosie'. Do you need
21 a moment?

22 A. It must have been the following day, I think. I reckon
23 because my sister run away, this Matron's no been happy
24 about that at all. 'Cause she was, I think, to be
25 honest, I think she was quite scared of my sister.

1 I think she knew this was one wee girl she couldnae
2 bully, kind of thing.

3 LADY SMITH: So, just to be clear, then, 'Rosie', by this
4 time, your sister, who was a little bit older than you,
5 had run away, and that left you as the oldest of the
6 group of children in Lagarie?

7 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Which would explain why the Matron comes to you
9 and says, 'Do something about your little brother, he's
10 jumping on the bed'. And did that make you feel
11 responsible for doing things to try and --

12 A. I just didnae want him to get --

13 LADY SMITH: -- protect the children?

14 A. I didnae want him to get punched in the face, put it
15 that way.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 A. You know? I was just terrified of something happening
18 to him, and I was right to be terrified. She called me
19 -- I don't know if I can go on further or if you want
20 to ...

21 LADY SMITH: Well, let Mr Sheldon ask what he's interested
22 in hearing about next, and if there's anything you want
23 to add, you can add that afterwards.

24 Mr Sheldon.

25 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

1 'Rosie', you were telling us about this incident
2 with your little brother, he's jumping on the bed,
3 you've tried to get him to stop. What happened next?
4 A. The following day, I was called in to the Matron's
5 sitting room, which is a small -- it was a lovely,
6 done-up wee room but it was small, and ██████ was there.
7 And the next thing, she put him over her knee. And she
8 leathered him on his backside continuously, with a --
9 a canvas shoe that had a thick hard sole. And he didnae
10 cry at first. And then he said he was sorry. And then
11 he was screaming, keeping saying he was sorry. And
12 I've felt guilty all my days because I didnae do what
13 ██████ done and I didnae save him, you know, so that's
14 kind of haunted me really.
15 Q. You were just a child too, 'Rosie'.
16 A. And his backside was like just black and blue and red
17 and just ... aye. So that's something I -- even -- I'm
18 76 now and I still cannae think about it withoot getting
19 in a state. And we never spoke it about it, ██████ and I.
20 LADY SMITH: 'Rosie', would I be right in thinking ██████ was
21 about 5 years old then?
22 A. 4 or 5, yeah.
23 LADY SMITH: Yes. Because if you were 11, he would be about
24 that --
25 A. I don't think I was 11 at that time, I think I was

1 probably still 10 at that time.

2 LADY SMITH: All right, but nearly 11, he would be about 5

3 years old. As you say, a wee boy, with a wee bottom.

4 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MR SHELDON: Did she take ██████'s trousers down to do that --

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. -- was it on his bare bottom?

9 A. Yes, uh-huh. I thought maybe when I got older that she

10 was that angry at ██████ getting away, she's took it oot

11 on me and ██████.

12 Q. Mm. Yes, you say --

13 A. Or she was making sure I wasnae going to make

14 an attempt. Which I did but I got caught right away.

15 I wasnae quite as wily as ██████, I don't think.

16 Q. Yes. So you think it might have been an attempt to

17 intimidate you, to stop you from doing anything?

18 A. Yeah. It was horrific. It was horrific.

19 Q. You say at page 10, actually, at paragraph 50, you say:

20 'I can't understand why anyone would force a child

21 to watch that.'

22 A. Yeah. I spoke about it in counselling one time and they

23 explained to me that some people, when they're

24 frightened, they'll attack, and some people freeze, you

25 know. But I just could feel myself diminishing, just,

1 you know, it's difficult to explain, but it was just ...

2 yeah.

3 Q. You felt she was humiliating you as well as hurting

4 ██████?

5 A. No -- yeah. I think she's been angry at ██████ getting

6 away. See, the thing is, there was a few times when my

7 sister really stood up to her. I don't think -- I don't

8 know if she's came across that before. You know.

9 Because my sister just really was aggressive towards

10 her. But I realise now that's been fear-based, you

11 know, I thought she was just a really brave girl, kinda

12 thing, and I wished I could be. But looking back on it,

13 it's probably been her way of dealing with her fear as

14 well, you know.

15 Q. You talk about a few other incidents involving the

16 Matron and there's two occasions I think you talk about,

17 and this is the same page, where the Matron locked your

18 little brothers in a room?

19 A. One brother, ██████.

20 Q. Right. But I think you say there was another occasion

21 where you put your other brother in a room when he was

22 only a baby? This is paragraph --

23 A. Sorry?

24 Q. This is paragraph 52.

25 A. Oh, that was my brother ██████. It wasnae at walking

1 age, he was still in nappies, but he was kind of getting
2 to that age, maybe. I don't know, maybe about 11 months
3 or I don't know if he was -- I don't know what age he
4 was, but he was still a baby. And she put him in that
5 room where the big carousel was, which was quite a big
6 room, on his own. And again, it was one of the other
7 children that told me that: 'Your wee brother's in that
8 room hissel', she's wanting him to walk'.

9 So, I used to go round the side of the house,
10 because there's the main door. You go round that way
11 and there's the nursery. And just past that was this
12 room with the carousel in it, and I noticed the window
13 was open about that -- you know these big sash windows?

14 Q. Mm-hmm.

15 A. It was open about that bit (indicated). So I would talk
16 him to a wee bit and he would crawl over and go up on
17 the wee bench in front of the window, and I'd sort of
18 talk to him and try and make him laugh a wee bit, and
19 then run away 'cause in case the Matron was coming, kind
20 of thing.

21 But to put a baby in a room on its own, to me, you
22 know, for hours on end, does -- what does that do to
23 a baby that's been used to a lot of company?

24 Q. Yes, I was just going to ask you, how long was he in the
25 room on his own?

1 A. Sorry?

2 Q. How long was he in the room on his own?

3 A. I don't know exactly how long it was, but I know it

4 was -- I know it was most of the day, but I don't know

5 how long, if I'm honest.

6 Q. Right. But a number of hours, anyway?

7 A. Yes. Aye.

8 Q. And the other incident you talk about, this is

9 paragraph 51, your other brother was also locked in

10 a room on his own, and all day and overnight?

11 A. That was [REDACTED], aye, that was 'cause he took a sandwich

12 off a table.

13 Q. Right.

14 And at that time, he was also just very young?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You say he was a toddler?

17 A. Well, there's only a year between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

18 Q. Right.

19 A. And a year between me and [REDACTED].

20 Q. So he was, what, 3, something like that?

21 A. About 3, aye.

22 Q. All right. You also mentioned earlier an incident at

23 bath time where the Matron took you by the neck and put

24 you against the wall; is that right?

25 A. That was when the wee girl -- the wee girl' coming along

1 the landing, the wee Glasgow girl, and she's, 'You'll
2 need to have a -- you'll need to have a bath in cold
3 water'. She says, 'There's nae hot water, so you'll
4 have to get a cold bath'. I said, 'Well, I'm not having
5 a cold bath, that'll be right'. I remember it as clear
6 as anything. And I don't know where the Matron came
7 fae, I never heard her coming, and she just really had
8 me right against the wall and she was just strangling
9 me, I couldnae breathe. I was absolutely terrified.
10 And my sister stopped her.

11 Q. Can you explain how she did that, 'Rosie'? What did she
12 do to you?

13 A. Well, she just had her hands right round my neck and
14 just really --

15 Q. Both hands?

16 A. Both hands, aye, and my sister stopped her.

17 So, often, when I can think --

18 Q. How did your sister --

19 A. Sorry?

20 Q. First of all, the Matron has both her hands round your
21 neck and you're up against the wall?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. All right. How long did that last?

24 A. I've no idea. It lasted long enough for me to be
25 feeling like I couldnae -- I just couldnae breathe,

1 I was terrified.

2 Q. You also told us then that your sister stopped her. How
3 did she do that?

4 A. Well, she jumped on her, and then the Matron let me go.
5 And then my sister started shouting at her and then ran
6 up -- there was this -- I keep saying about this wee
7 stairway to a tower, which -- the stairs were only about
8 that width, and the Matron was a big woman, so she
9 couldnae go up the stairs herself, so she sent a boy up
10 to bring my sister down. But I think he had a bit of
11 a hard time with my sister as well.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. But maybe that laddie didnae want to do anything about
14 it, because I don't think he would have liked the Matron
15 much either, I don't know, but -- yeah, that's --
16 that's... yeah.

17 Q. And this was your older sister, the sister that ran
18 away?

19 A. Yeah, [REDACTED], aye.

20 Q. Oh right. And did she run away fairly shortly after
21 that incident?

22 A. Yeah. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 At paragraph 53, and I think we can -- in the light
25 of what you've told us, I think we can understand what

1 you say, that it was a terrifying place to be, you
2 always felt anxious and on edge?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Is that how you felt?

5 A. Anxious and?

6 Q. Anxious and on edge?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And this was because of the way the Matron was?

9 A. Yeah. Yeah. And because I believe we came fae a kind
10 home, even though something terrible happened at home.
11 But that -- but on a daily basis, we had a mother that
12 loved us and made us laugh and we had pals and -- we
13 just went fae feeling okay to just being absolutely
14 terrified -- we hadnae, we hadnae experienced that kind
15 of violence fae our parents towards us, you know.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Yeah.

18 (Pause)

19 LADY SMITH: Let's carry on.

20 MR SHELDON: Just going back in your statement a little bit
21 'Rosie', it's page 9, paragraph 45, I mean, you've told
22 us how the Matron was, that you've seen her punch this
23 little girl, she's choked you, she's given your little
24 brother a leathering, as you told us. But I think you
25 say, beyond that, there was no love or affection in the

1 home, is that right?

2 A. No, but, again, looking back on it, she was -- she
3 wasnae just physically violent, it was psychological as
4 well, 'cause she had -- there was a wee girl there
5 called [REDACTED] -- no harm to wee [REDACTED], she was only just
6 a wee girl, 4 or something -- but she got a birthday
7 cake and cards and candles and she made this wee girl
8 her pet, like this wee girl was the favourite, kind of
9 thing. Which I think wasnae very nice, really,
10 considering the way she treated the rest of us, or
11 certainly me and my family anyway.

12 So that, to me, was a kind of psychological thing.
13 You know, this wee girl was better than anybody else,
14 kind of thing.

15 Q. Yes. And that made you feel less?

16 A. I just, I keep using that word, but I just thought it
17 was odd. 'Cause I hadnae -- because we didnae get much
18 for birthdays at home, but we always got a wee something
19 and a bit of attention, you know?

20 Q. Well, the time came, 'Rosie', that you left Lagarie.
21 And this, I think, was because your mum was keen to get
22 you out of it, is that right?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. This is paragraph 54 in your statement, page 10. You
25 got your own stuff back, and you weren't really told

1 anything, they just gave you your possessions and a car
2 came to take you away.

3 Do you know where the car came from, whose car was
4 it?

5 A. Well, when we went to the home, when we were driven
6 there fae our house to the home, it was a naval
7 gentleman with a -- he must have been an officer 'cause
8 it was a fancy uniform with a white bit around the cap,
9 a lovely gentleman. So he took us for pyjamas. Wore
10 them once and never saw them again. But ... so I don't
11 know if it was somebody like that or ... I cannae really
12 remember, I think I was that glad to get home. Sat in
13 the back of the car and couldnae wait to get home. So
14 I don't know who was driving, really, if I'm honest.

15 Q. And when you got home, you found that your dad was away
16 and your mother by this point had a boyfriend?

17 A. Yeah. Well, that was the whole upset of the -- that's
18 how the -- my dad attacked and he was very, very, very
19 drunk. I don't think he had an idea what he was doing.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. But there was the attitude of people. Now, the way
22 I see it now, my mother was young, she had all us kids,
23 my dad was at sea, when he was home he was drunk, and
24 she finished up having an affair, but it took her until
25 I was about 8 before that happened.

1 Now, this man seemed plausible enough, nobody seemed
2 to think anything wrong wi' him, but actually he was
3 a paedophile. But like most paedophiles he was
4 secretive, so my mother didnae know.

5 And he assaulted me and I had no clue, I was
6 pregnant, I had no idea. I mean, I was at school, I was
7 about five months pregnant, I didnae know. I was just
8 to go to the doctor and then I was sent home, and that's
9 when I found out, you know?

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. So, and that's -- I don't know if that's anything to do
12 with -- now, I get mixed up because when my mother --
13 when I found my mother like that on the stairs, that was
14 just prior to going to Lagarie. And then the other
15 incident was when the school found out that I was
16 pregnant.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. I was only 12. I hadnae a clue, really. And I had no
19 idea -- I tried several times to tell my mum, but
20 I just -- I just didnae know what to say. You know?

21 Q. Sure. Very -- very difficult.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you tell us that, paragraph 58, you completely shut
24 down:

25 'I was scared that I would be sent to jail.'

1 Why were you scared that you would be sent to jail,
2 'Rosie'?

3 A. Well, I don't know what I thought. I was frightened but
4 I just -- I was just frightened and I didn't -- I didnae
5 know I was pregnant, didnae know what would happen,
6 didnae know how to tell anybody.

7 I tried to tell one of my aunties as well, but
8 I just -- it just wouldnae come out, you know?

9 Q. Mm. But you did see a family doctor and ultimately this
10 boyfriend was arrested and imprisoned for what happened.
11 Is that right?

12 A. 18 months he got, apparently, according to my care
13 package.

14 Q. Right.

15 LADY SMITH: So -- and just to be clear, when Mr Sheldon
16 uses the word 'boyfriend', that was your mother's
17 boyfriend.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, who you said earlier was a paedophile.

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR SHELDON: And having raped you, I think, he got 18 months
23 in prison?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So, the baby ultimately is born, and initially you

1 weren't allowed to see him, but you tell us:
2 'He was a big, beautiful, baby boy.'
3 And you remember looking down at him and saying,
4 'I'm sorry I can't keep you'. And at this point you're
5 still -- are you still 12 then?
6 A. I was just turned 13 by then.
7 Q. Okay.
8 LADY SMITH: So you would've been 12 when you were made
9 pregnant?
10 A. Yep. Yep. And the baby was 8 pounds 11 and a half and
11 he was born double breech. So -- but they gave me
12 an anaesthetic for that, so -- but ... yeah.
13 Q. Difficult.
14 A. Sometimes I get mixed up with the two crisis situations.
15 So ... yeah.
16 Q. Yes, a lot was happening to you in quite a short space
17 of time.
18 A. Yeah. Yeah. But then again, when you look back, this
19 man was -- I mean, you would hear my dad coming.
20 I mean... but this man was quiet spoken. People thought
21 he was pleasant. Didn't seem to -- so I mean, nobody
22 knew really what he was like, so -- but the trouble with
23 that is ... well, I'd better not go too far. I'll wait
24 to see what you've got to say.
25 Q. At paragraph 63, I think it's clear that you've had

1 a chance to reflect on all this, 'Rosie', to think back
2 on it. And you tell us, I think this is about halfway
3 down paragraph 63:

4 'I think if I hadn't been so terrified in that
5 children's home ...'

6 And I think you mean Lagarie:

7 '... I might have been able to stand up for myself.'

8 A. Yeah, I wish I'd been like [REDACTED].

9 Q. Right.

10 A. You know. I'm glad in a way I'm not like that 'cause
11 she could be very -- not violent, but she could be
12 aggressive. She was also very kind and compassionate,
13 but, you know, I just wish I ... I think the home put
14 a lot of fear in me and I think I maybe would have been
15 able to defend myself if -- if I'd -- maybe that --
16 I don't know. I think that situation did make me
17 nervous and maybe no always able to speak up when
18 I should, kind of thing.

19 Q. Mm-hmm. Yes, you said that you felt the strangling
20 incident with Miss Millar might have affected your
21 ability to speak and you just couldn't find the words to
22 speak at times?

23 A. Yeah. I think so.

24 Q. You then are put into foster care?

25 A. Yep.

1 Q. Why was that, 'Rosie'?

2 A. Well, the -- see, most of the time I didnae know what
3 was happening. I mean, they didnae tell me I was going
4 to be fostered -- sorry -- and they just -- I was in the
5 mother and baby home and I was in the room most of the
6 time because I thought I might see somebody taking the
7 baby away.

8 I learned through my care package the baby wasnae
9 there, he must have been taken right fae the hospital.
10 And the woman that was running the place said, 'She
11 sleeps a lot'. I wasnae sleeping, I was looking to see
12 if the baby was going away. Because although I hadnae
13 asked for the situation, he was still a lovely wee
14 baby -- big baby.

15 But it was just, 'Could you get your coat'. I never
16 had -- do you know, I never had a coat, I remember that,
17 in that mother and baby home.

18 And there was a lovely girl there, she was American,
19 and she was just beautiful, she was like -- you know how
20 you think o' Mrs -- Miss Peaches and Cream, she was
21 lovely. And she gave me her coat. And I never, ever
22 forgot that, you know.

23 Anyway, I loved that coat for years, but next thing,
24 this woman's taken me, I can't remember a taxi or a car,
25 to the Waverley station, and we were on a train for what

1 seemed like a couple of hours. She never spoke to me.

2 I got a cup of tea.

3 And then we arrived at this house in Brechin. Now,
4 this is the Highlands, and I hadnae really been much oot
5 of Edinburgh really or Leith or just round about local
6 places. And they had quite a strong Highland accent
7 kind of thing, what we used to call Teuchters.

8 Now, when I got there, the woman's middle-aged
9 daughter was there, and she had this son, who was huge.
10 But he was very -- I don't ken, always ken how to use
11 the word, but he was mentally wrong, something wrong
12 with him. He had a great big sort of roond face, hat
13 pulled doon and this big raincoat on. But he was big.

14 They went in the kitchen and left me sitting with
15 this chap by myself, I was absolutely terrified of him.
16 So I just went to the toilet until I could hear this
17 middle-aged daughter going away, and then I came oot the
18 toilet.

19 I was to learn later on that that big man was -- he
20 was really only about 4 or 5 in age. And he was
21 harmless. And I just, I really liked him after that,
22 you know, I felt sorry for him and I just liked him.

23 But I was terrified at first. Which I thought was
24 an odd thing, again, to leave somebody that's never been
25 in your house before, like that.

1 And then she took me up the stairs, showed me the
2 bedroom. It was really nice, nice cover on it. Then,
3 once the social worker was away, she just whipped that
4 nice cover off and I finished up in a wee single room in
5 the back.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. But that was okay.

8 I would say she treated me like a fish. She just
9 wasn't interested. I was fed. And I got to go to
10 school and things.

11 Q. But it wasn't a particularly loving environment?

12 A. No, she wasn't interested. And also, I was supposed to
13 get four shillings pocket money, I never got that. Far
14 as I remember. I don't think I got it anyway. And
15 then -- but my dad used to send me postal orders now and
16 again, so I wasnae really bothered about that.

17 And then, I remember being at school and I seen this
18 register on the teacher's desk and there was two big
19 lines on it and then it said 'Tattie holidays'. And
20 I said to her, 'What kind of holiday is a tattie
21 holiday?' And she says, 'Oh, the children get holidays
22 from school and they go and pick potatoes'. Which
23 I done. And I couldnae believe it, I worked for
24 a fortnight and I got handed £14. Can you imagine it,
25 1963, I've never had any money before and I've got this

1 £14.

2 So I went to Aberdeen to see my brothers and sisters
3 in Nazareth House, took them out for a wee while, and
4 went to C&As and bought myself some clothes.

5 Because I'm assuming, if I was fostered, when I got
6 older, I thought, 'That woman must have got money for me
7 to get clothes'. She bought me a coat, a dress and a
8 hat, and I wore the coat and the hat once, to church.
9 I wore the dress the rest of the time. Never seen the
10 coat and the hat again. She didnae get me shoes or
11 anything like that, you know, I bought them myself.

12 LADY SMITH: And so that was the shop C&As that you went to?

13 A. Yeah. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: They don't exist anymore.

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: People used to refer to them as Coats and 'Ats,
17 do you remember that?

18 A. Coats and?

19 LADY SMITH: 'Ats?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: As in hats.

22 A. Aye, aye.

23 So I was able to go in there and I was able to --
24 Gerry and the Pacemakers were coming to the Viaduct's
25 Hall or something, and my sister had came to visit, so

1 I was able to take her, and the two of us went to see
2 Gerry and the Pacemakers.

3 Q. Very good.

4 So you were in foster care, 'Rosie', for about
5 10 months, I think you tell us? Do you think it was
6 about 10 months?

7 A. Aye, I think, so, aye. Aye.

8 Q. Okay. And then after that you go and stay with your
9 auntie for a little, and then back --

10 A. I ran away.

11 Q. And then back with your mum?

12 A. I ran away.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. I didnae have any money at that point, it was just after
15 Christmas, but, again, there wasnae a Christmas dinner.
16 Can't remember a Christmas tree.

17 And then I thought to myself, after my sister had
18 visited me, 'I'm going home, what am I doing up here'.

19 So I said to a wee girl in the school, I says, 'I'm
20 going to go back home'. She went, 'Are you?' I says,
21 'Aye,' I says, 'But I've went to the station and
22 it's 11 shillings for me to get there and I've not got
23 11 shillings'. She says, 'I'll give you 11 shillings,
24 I got money for Christmas'. I says, 'Well, I promise
25 I'll send you it right back'.

1 So I went on the train, found out the times, went to
2 Montrose, got on the train. I was thinking the police
3 would be waiting, maybe to take me to jail or something
4 when I got off, but they wurnae.

5 And I can remember just being so happy to see the
6 maroon Edinburgh buses and the wide streets.

7 Q. How old would you be at that point, 'Rosie'?

8 A. Still 13.

9 Q. About 13?

10 A. Oh, no, I was 14 [REDACTED] and this was just

11 [REDACTED].

12 And I was so excited approaching my auntie's house
13 and I thought, well, maybe there'll no be anybody in.
14 But my cousin answered the door and she put Del
15 Shannon's record on, 'My Little Runaway'. That was
16 a happy memory that, so.

17 Q. So you were back with your mum for a bit and then when
18 you were 16 you tell us you got married, but although
19 you were together for 15 years, that was difficult?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. But you were terrified to leave, you tell us, because
22 you didn't want your children growing up in a children's
23 home?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And you had, really, some depression after that. You

1 say it had been very difficult getting away from your
2 husband.

3 But at some stage, you were reunited with your son
4 who'd been adopted?

5 A. Well, that was in 2018.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And he had been looking for me from he was 18 years old,
8 right up until he was 57, when he, when he found where
9 I was.

10 And he's had a wonderful life in Australia. He had
11 amazing adoptive parents. But -- and I was glad, really
12 glad he was well looked after and had nice parents. But
13 I was kind of sad that I wasnae able to do it, you know,
14 even though I knew I couldnae but, you know ...

15 Q. You say that you had, I'm looking at page 15 now, you
16 had two other children.

17 And just thinking about your children, your own
18 life, what do you feel is the impact, the result of your
19 times in care, 'Rosie'?

20 A. Well, I would say in the late '70s and early '80s when
21 my -- I had five younger brothers and they're all
22 growing up. Only three that were in the home.

23 Now, at that time, there wasn't any work, there
24 was -- the drug scene arrived, the liberal licensing
25 laws arrived, you know, there was no money, and really

1 the tenements of Edinburgh became real ghettos by that
2 time. And I'm afraid my brothers got caught up in it.

3 And the impact on our family as a whole, we've had
4 suicide, attempted suicide, prison, a fight between
5 my -- two of my brothers. And both, both lost their
6 lives eventually in that.

7 An inability to really sustain a marriage, or even
8 in the workplace, because I think that situation leaves
9 you with a short fuse, under stress. You know, you're
10 either getting angry or you're bursting into tears,
11 which doesn't work in the workplace, you know, so ...

12 And my mother was still struggling by that time. My
13 dad died in 1967, when he was still chronically
14 alcoholic all the way up, you know.

15 So a devastating effect on the family, I would say.

16 Q. And you yourself have been diagnosed with post-traumatic
17 stress disorder?

18 A. Yeah. I never knew I had that. But actually, funnily
19 enough, once they told me that, I thought, well -- it
20 sort of made me think, aye, well, that's probably what's
21 been wrong with me, really. You know?

22 Q. It sounds right to you, does it?

23 A. Instead of sort of blaming myself for maybe no managing
24 or whatever it might be, you know.

25 Q. You tell us that you have what you feel are something

1 a bit like a panic attack at times?

2 A. It's kind of like if you've ... how I would say it is
3 I remember my mother and my aunties -- I was quite
4 clumsy, I remember, when I came back fae that home, the
5 Lagarie one. And I remember that, and quite nervy and
6 forgetful. And sometimes, sometimes my mother would
7 kind of laugh a bit and she'd say, 'Well, she's nae
8 sense of direction, really', that kind of thing. It's
9 not funny really but, aye, nervous. Nervous and anxious
10 and a bit clumsy, I would say, more than I had been
11 before, you know?

12 Q. Right.

13 Just on the last page of your statement, 'Rosie',
14 you talk about lessons to be learned from all this, and
15 I wonder if you can just tell us what you think this
16 Inquiry should be doing, and what lessons we should be
17 learning from the kind of experiences that you and your
18 brothers and sisters had?

19 A. Well, I think I've said this before but I was once asked
20 if I would do a video to help small children if they're
21 giving evidence in a court. I would assume mini wee
22 toddlers, or something like that, in the case of child
23 abuse. [REDACTED] but it wasn't done
24 publicly. And I told them my story, and it helped to
25 stop children having to go into court and be questioned.

1 And they would do it on video with somebody that was
2 trained in talking to small children.

3 Q. When was this, 'Rosie'?

4 A. This was away back in the '80s after my mother died.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So I found it very stressful but I was quite glad I was
7 able to do that. And I think, when there's institutions
8 and it's vulnerable children, or even vulnerable older
9 people, there has to be, I think, more training, if
10 you're going to be looking after vulnerable people in
11 a kinda enclosed situation or an institution. And
12 letting -- having somebody that children can go and talk
13 to, you know, somebody that they can say, this is
14 happening or that's happening, or somebody that even
15 just every now and again comes and asks them, you know,
16 'How are you getting on, are you all right here, do you
17 enjoy the food?', you know, that kind of thing, instead
18 of just, 'Away you go', shutting the door and just left
19 to people that are -- well, that Matron, I don't know if
20 she was a psychopath or what she was, but there was
21 certainly something very disturbing in her nature, you
22 know?

23 Q. It certainly sounds like it.

24 A. Yeah.

25 MR SHELDON: Well, 'Rosie', thank you. That's all the

1 questions that I have for you. Is there anything else
2 that you'd like to add that I haven't asked you about?
3 A. That's always quite difficult when you're making a kind
4 of statement. But I would say the biggest thing is
5 somebody -- somebody that's going to listen to children.
6 Somebody that they can go to or that regularly goes and
7 checks in some way or other, you know? And maybe
8 children and -- training, people to get good training to
9 look after vulnerable children and adults. Whether it's
10 mental health or, you know. Because people in mental
11 health institutions or old people or children, very,
12 very vulnerable. And a lot more attention paid when
13 people are getting fostered and no looking at just the
14 outside, if somebody's got a nice house or the place is
15 a nice building or something, and looking beyond that,
16 you know?

17 MR SHELDON: Thank you very much, 'Rosie'.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Rosie', I want to add my thanks. You've given
19 us so much this morning in the rich and detailed
20 information you were prepared to share, and that was
21 very good of you to do that. It's made your statement
22 come alive, but it's gone beyond what is in your written
23 statement.

24 Other than that, I want to recognise you've worked
25 hard this morning with us and I know that will have been

1 very tiring. So I hope you're going to be able to
2 reward yourself with a restful time for the rest of
3 today.

4 A. Thank you. Thank you very much.

5 LADY SMITH: And feel free to go.

6 A. Okay, thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 A. Thank you.

9 I'd better go now.

10 LADY SMITH: Bye bye.

11 Before I stop for the break, there's some names I'd
12 like to mention that have been used in the course of
13 evidence this morning, and they're of people whose
14 identities are protected by my General Restriction
15 Order. So these people can't be identified as referred
16 to in our evidence outside this room.

17 The ones I have noted were ██████████, ██████,
18 ██████, ██████, ██████ and ██████. There's also
19 ██████████ -- I'm not entirely sure about that one but,
20 for the time being, assume that he is also protected by
21 my General Restriction Order and if anyone wants to name
22 him, please check with us first of all.

23 Thank you very much. I'll rise now for the morning
24 break and we will sit again, when we move on to read-in
25 evidence after the break?

1 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: Very well, thank you.

3 (11.30 am)

4 (A short break)

5 (11.45 am)

6 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, good morning.

8 'Frank' (read in)

9 MS FORBES: The first read-in is from an applicant who is

10 anonymous and is known as 'Frank', and the reference for

11 his statement is WIT-1-000000429.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Frank' was born in 1945 and he tells

14 us about his life before going into care from

15 paragraph 2 and, in summary, he says he lived with his

16 parents, an older brother, and a younger sister, and he

17 describes himself as a 'war wean'.

18 And he says that when all the soldiers came back

19 from the war, they had nowhere to stay and people were

20 farmed out to army camps. He tells us in those

21 paragraphs, from paragraph 2 onwards, about his life

22 growing up in different camps, and he describes the

23 Nissen huts that they stayed in.

24 He tells us in paragraph 5 that his father worked on

25 a farm and they were called 'squatters', but then at

1 paragraph 6 he tells us:

2 'In 1949, my mother went into hospital and my father
3 was at sea. My brother, sister and I went into the
4 Seamen's Mission at Rhu. Because my father was at sea,
5 it was the place to go. I don't remember anybody
6 explaining what was happening but weans weren't
7 consulted in those days.'

8 And he then goes on to tell us about his time in
9 what he refers to as the 'Seamen's Mission' at Rhu
10 between paragraphs 7 and 29.

11 He states that:

12 'The place I went to was known to me as the Seamen's
13 Mission at Rhu. I didn't know that the Gaelic name for
14 it was Lagarie. It was only when I saw Lagarie
15 described as the Seamen's Mission in the newspaper that
16 I realised it was the same place. I've spoken to my
17 sister about Rhu but she can't remember anything about
18 it. She was only 2 and a half, 3 years old when we went
19 there. I reckon I was about 3 and a half, 4 years old
20 when I went there.

21 'I don't remember being taken to Rhu or who took us.
22 I just remember the big house with the old-fashioned
23 dark oak furniture. I think there were three floors.
24 I remember going in and seeing the staircases for the
25 first time. There was no consultation or talking to

1 you, you were just in and told, "That's your bed".
2 I didn't know what I was going into. I don't really
3 remember how I felt. It was all new. I didn't know
4 that I was going to be abused. I didn't know what abuse
5 was. I didn't know about these things. The next
6 minute, someone was being bad to you and giving you
7 doings at that age.

8 'There was a matron in charge but I don't remember
9 her name. I can't really remember what she looked like.
10 She wore one of those matron's hats and she got called
11 "Matron". If you saw her, you kept out of her road.
12 She was a bad person. I don't remember the names of any
13 of the staff. I don't remember any of the staff being
14 considerate, not one.'

15 LADY SMITH: Her headgear obviously made considerable impact
16 on these children.

17 MS FORBES: Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: They're still remembering it all these years
19 on. These are people largely who were born in the 1940s
20 that we've been listening to.

21 MS FORBES: It's consistently mentioned in the statements,
22 my Lady, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: And we don't really -- I think there's the one
24 picture of her on the roundabout, which is slightly
25 blurry, but other than that, we haven't got photographs.

1 MS FORBES: I don't think so my Lady, no.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS FORBES: 'I don't remember any of the staff talking to me
4 like I was a child. You watched them and you kept them
5 at arm's length. I think the staff were all women,
6 apart from the gardener. I remember seeing him when we
7 were put out in the big park. I don't know whether he
8 lived on the grounds.

9 'There were quite a few children there. I think
10 there were possibly more than 20. I don't remember any
11 of the other children. I must have talked to other
12 children but I don't remember it. There were children
13 who were older than me. I don't know whether they were
14 10 years old or teenagers, but they were big boys and
15 lassies. Everybody was old to me at that age. The
16 children that are a wee bit older are likely to be dead
17 now. I don't know how long they were in there. Their
18 fathers maybe died in the war and the people who put
19 them in there didn't know what they were doing, didn't
20 know what was going on.'

21 He then talks about routine from paragraph 11:

22 'My brother and I shared a room. It was the last
23 room at the top of the house. It was just the two of us
24 in there. I can't remember whether my sister was in
25 a room on her own but she wasn't with us. Our room

1 wasn't that big. It had the two beds in it. We could
2 look out of the window to the main gate, right out
3 towards Helensburgh. We could see people coming into
4 the grounds. I don't remember who or what woke us up in
5 the morning. I suppose I might have been able to dress
6 myself at that age but I don't know. I remember going
7 up to bed and the bed was made. I don't remember cocoa
8 or anything like that.'

9 He then talks about washing and bathing at paragraph
10 12:

11 'I don't know how often we got a bath but I remember
12 going into dirty water. There would be two or three in
13 the bath at the one time. That water would be used for
14 four or five of us. You never got a fresh bath. It was
15 as if we were cattle. There would be two nurses washing
16 us. We wore the clothes we went in with. I don't
17 remember getting any clothes there.'

18 'Frank' then talks about mealtimes from
19 paragraph 13:

20 'We ate at a big long table in a dining hall, like
21 in Oliver Twist. I don't watch Oliver Twist because
22 I can relate to it and it brings back bad memories.
23 That's what the matron was like, something out of Oliver
24 Twist. I don't remember supper or anything like that.
25 The only meal that I remember is the porridge and how it

1 was served. At breakfast time, if you weren't first,
2 you didn't get anything. We were given porridge.
3 Children at that age would normally be encouraged to put
4 sugar in it. We didn't get anything like that.

5 'The older children, who were at the top of the
6 table, got the milk. The matron didn't bother. There
7 was nobody making sure that the younger ones got enough.
8 It was just plain porridge and no milk, because the
9 older ones got it all. Nobody went round putting it in
10 for the younger ones. The wee ones like myself were
11 left to fend for ourselves. Porridge is rotten without
12 milk. You wouldn't give a wean porridge at that age or
13 any age unless it had something in it to make it worth
14 eating. I ate the porridge and that was it. I don't
15 know what happened if you didn't eat it. I just know it
16 was rotten.'

17 'Frank' then talks about daytime activities and
18 leisure time at paragraph 15:

19 'I was too young to go to school. We would be put
20 out to play in the big field on the grounds. We
21 couldn't play on the swings because the big children
22 played on the swings. It was just like we were cattle,
23 putting us out in the big field. We were stuck out
24 there at 3 years old and that was that, making your own
25 entertainment.

1 'When it was raining, they put us in a big room.
2 There was a ball which had segments with different
3 colours. It was full of paper. The older ones would
4 kick that about. The wee ones had nothing. I don't
5 remember the staff being involved or organising any
6 games or activities. The matron would come in and play
7 the piano. Her two songs were Lavender Blue and Tiptoe
8 the Tulips. I hate those songs. It was miserable.
9 Nobody read to us or let us draw or anything like that.
10 If they had read books to us, I would remember them the
11 way I remember those two songs. There was no religious
12 element at the home.

13 'My brother got into a room. I don't know how he
14 got in but he did. It was absolutely full of brand new
15 toys. You had to walk between them, there were so many
16 toys. I remember one was a wee carousel with aeroplanes
17 on it. The aeroplanes were at different heights, so
18 that when you spun it, it looked as if they were flying.
19 That was what I used to play with. We had to do it dead
20 quietly, shut the door and not tell anybody. Those toys
21 were never put out for the children. Nobody else knew
22 that they were there. There were no trips out or
23 anything like that. If we'd gone on a trip, I'd have
24 done a runner.'

25 He then talks about Christmas and birthdays at

1 paragraph 18:

2 'I don't know whether I was there over Christmas.
3 I didn't have a birthday till I was 7, so I don't know
4 whether I was there for a birthday either. I do
5 remember getting a wee train. I think it came from Rhu.
6 They might have given it to me when I went in but I'm
7 not sure. I had it with me when I went to school in
8 Auchinairn, after I left Rhu.'

9 'Frank' then talks about visits from paragraph 19:

10 'I remember that my uncles, my mum's brothers, came
11 down to visit. They must have been teenagers at the
12 time. They brought us socks. I don't know why, when I
13 think back. They brought us oranges. They took us out
14 for a wee walk along the beach. There was a big navy
15 shed on the waterside outside the home. We had our
16 oranges while we were out. We couldn't take them back
17 to the home in case the staff took them off us. The
18 hardest part was when my uncles went away. I remember
19 greeting. They said they'd come and get us and they
20 gave us hope.

21 'There must have been other visitors but I don't
22 remember them. I don't remember seeing a doctor or
23 anything like that. Nobody ever explained anything to
24 us or sat down and spoke to us. I remember my mum
25 coming. I think it was when we were about to go home.

1 I don't know whether she went away and then came back
2 again. I'm really not too sure about that.'

3 'Frank' then talks about running away from
4 paragraph 21:

5 'My brother and I tried to get away three times. My
6 brother was the instigator of us running away. He was
7 older than me. One of the times, me and my brother
8 decided to run away, we got through the gate and ran.
9 The police got a hold of us along the promenade. We
10 were greeting. We told him what was going to happen to
11 us if he took us back. He didn't hold us by our hands,
12 he held the two of us by the wrists, as if he was taking
13 a prisoner. The first policeman I ever met, and he was
14 holding us by the wrists and dragging us. We were
15 panicking and screaming, "Don't take us back". He
16 didn't care. We got taken back to the home, taken up
17 the stairs and we were battered by the matron.

18 'That didn't stop us from running away a second
19 time. We got outside the gates on two occasions and we
20 were caught by the police both times. We got battered
21 the second time as well. We ran away again a third
22 time. We didn't even get out of the main gate before
23 one of the members of staff caught us as she was coming
24 in. She seemed to know that we were going. She wasn't
25 polite either. I thought she might be a wee bit

1 concerned but we were taken right into the home and she
2 said, "I caught them trying to get out the main gate".
3 We were taken up the stairs and we got another doing
4 from the matron. The staff member who brought us back
5 knew what was going to happen to us. She could have
6 just taken us back and told us not to do it again. She
7 must have heard us screaming when the matron was hitting
8 us. That's the sore part. I couldn't say anything
9 decent about any of the staff. They knew what was
10 happening.'

11 'Frank' then talks about 'Abuse at Rhu', as it's
12 headed, from paragraph 23:

13 'On one occasion, we were stuck out in the big area
14 at the back of the home. There was an outside toilet.
15 I couldn't reach the handle on the toilet door.
16 I couldn't get in and I soiled myself. There was no
17 care. There was no concern. I got a doing. I remember
18 them mouthing off at me, shouting. One of the nurses
19 dragged me. I was rough-handled but I don't remember
20 being hit. I remember being flung in a cold bath with
21 cold water. I was getting washed down. She wasn't good
22 about it. I was then flung up to bed for the rest of
23 the day. I didn't get any tea or anything. I was in
24 this room and put to bed and told to stay there. It
25 happened again on another occasion, because I still

1 couldn't reach the toilet handle.

2 'When I was left in the room after soiling myself,
3 I never got fed. I can't remember the teas at any time,
4 but I never got fed in that room. I didn't get out
5 until the next morning. I don't know whether the room
6 was locked. I don't remember anybody coming in to check
7 on me. I didn't want anybody coming in anyway, because
8 I never knew when I would get another doing. I remember
9 that I was quite happy if I didn't hear anybody coming
10 up those stairs.

11 'My sister was always wetting the bed. The matron
12 took me out and I had to go into my sister's room and
13 I had to use her bed. It was soaking wet. I had to lie
14 in that for about three nights. I was trying to sleep
15 in the dry bit. My sister had been taken out of that
16 room and I was put in there, away from my brother.
17 I don't know why the matron did that, you'd have to ask
18 her that. It was just what happened.

19 'When we ran away and the policeman took us back to
20 the home, my brother and I were beaten by the matron.
21 She held us by the wrist. I remember when she was
22 dragging us up the stairs, and I knew what was going to
23 happen. I can still imagine that and remember it. She
24 had a long, thin belt. She laid into my brother with
25 it. She used it like a whip. It didn't matter where it

1 hit you. I was standing there watching it and then
2 I was next. I got belted wherever it hit me, my bare
3 legs, my back, everywhere. She was shouting abuse while
4 she hit us. We were then flung into bed and left.
5 I think the matron took pleasure in beating us. You
6 couldn't hit people like that unless you enjoyed it.
7 I don't remember seeing a doctor while I was there. If
8 I had, the marks would have been there. I remember
9 being marked.

10 'I think the staff were all as one. I don't
11 remember a kind member of staff. There was no running
12 up to get a cuddle, the way weans do. We were always
13 wary of the staff. It was just a miserable place to be.
14 I have no pleasant memories from my time there. You
15 never knew what was coming. I'm thinking like an adult
16 now and I was 3 or 4 at the time. I can't turn around
17 and say how I felt because I didn't know how to feel.
18 I was just scared. I had blind trust in adults and it
19 didn't work out. I learned that adults were to be
20 avoided.

21 'I don't know how long I was in there. I don't know
22 whether it was months or longer. I didn't even know the
23 names of the days at that age. It was long enough to
24 imprint on my brain what a horrible place it was. It
25 was just a hellish place to be. I can't even think of

1 a sunny day in Rhu. That sums it up. There was only
2 animosity. I don't remember a kind word.

3 'Nobody sat children down and explained things to
4 them in those days. You were merchandise. You weren't
5 considered as a person but I was too young to know these
6 things at the time. I didn't know when I was going to
7 be leaving. It wasn't a case of someone sitting us down
8 and telling us that we were going home in a number of
9 days' time. I think my mother and uncle came for us in
10 a car but I don't really know. I didn't know what I was
11 going out to. At that age, I just lived for the moment.
12 It's just a blank but I ended up in my own house. If
13 I soiled myself there [it says] but I didn't get
14 a doing.'

15 It might say 'I didn't get doing'.

16 'Frank' then talks his life after leaving care from
17 paragraph 20 and says, after leaving Rhu, he was back
18 living at a camp with his mum and dad and his brother
19 and sister.

20 At paragraph 30, he says.

21 'I look back on it and realise that I was lucky.
22 I didn't know I was enjoying the camp at the time.'

23 Then he explains at paragraph 31 that he didn't know
24 he had a birthday until he was 7, because these things
25 were kept secret, and he goes on to explain that they

1 moved from one end of Glasgow to another and they moved
2 to Castlemilk. He explains that this was into a brand
3 new house with an inside toilet, but it was badly
4 designed and they were cold houses.

5 'Frank' also says he didn't get a chance to sit the
6 exam that decided which secondary school you went to, so
7 he ended up being sent to a junior secondary school but
8 he tells us that he did well and he was made a prefect
9 and was nominated to go to a lodge in the Cairngorms for
10 a month, which was brilliant.

11 He then tells us at paragraph 34 that he left school
12 at the age of 14 and got a job as a fireplace builder,
13 although that the wage was terrible. He explains that
14 he was supposed to be an apprentice but was just
15 a labourer and says that his hands would hurt as
16 a result of the dust and dirt. He then worked in
17 leather works and went on to become a joiner and says
18 that that was his forte and he enjoyed it.

19 He tells us at paragraph 35 that he married his wife
20 and they lived in Castlemilk but he states that his wife
21 was prescribed Valium which ended up ruining the
22 marriage.

23 He goes on to tell us that his children to his wife
24 were taken into care, into Quarriers, and he explains
25 that in those times it meant the man didn't really get

1 the chance to have the children and he says that they
2 were in Quarriers for about five years and he visited
3 them during that period. When they came out, they went
4 to stay with their mum initially, but he tells us, at
5 paragraph 40 over to page 11, that there was a social
6 worker who helped him and he managed to get a house in
7 Glasgow and he managed to get three of his children
8 staying with him but the youngest stayed with her
9 mother. He tells us sadly that he lost his youngest
10 child to suicide and he talks about his other children
11 and what they have done with their lives.

12 He then goes on, my Lady, from paragraph 42 to talk
13 about impact, and he says:

14 'I remember having nightmares after I left Rhu.
15 I would have nightmares about people shouting and
16 bawling, storms, then it would all quieten down. My
17 mother and father would argue in my dreams. They would
18 just start talking, then it would build up and build up
19 to them screaming and bawling and I'd be in the middle.
20 It would then calm down again and then it would all
21 start up again. I'd dream about getting a doing and
22 then it would stop; I'd wake up. I remember going out
23 of my own bed and into my mum's bed after these
24 nightmares. At that age, I didn't think it was because
25 I had been in Rhu but possibly getting beaten up could

1 have caused it.

2 'The big navy shed outside of the home was there for
3 years and years. When I was 13, I was touring Scotland
4 with the school. We went through Helensburgh and there
5 it was. I had always planned to go back and see the
6 home again. I am glad I didn't. It seems that abuse
7 went on and on there for years and years. I used to go
8 to Helensburgh regularly to do charity work. As soon as
9 I see the word "Helensburgh", it brings it all back and
10 makes me think of that place. It's just annoying.
11 Whether you like it or not, it's a part of your history
12 and it's the bad part of it.

13 'As I get older, my time at Rhu comes into my mind
14 more. I can't avoid it. It was just after the war.
15 Things were chaotic. Britain was still rationing things
16 until 1954. People were too busy trying to survive at
17 that time but there was no excuse whatsoever for what
18 they did to us in that home. There's no excuse for
19 battering weans with belts, or just being bad for the
20 sake of being bad. It's hard to think back to how
21 I felt when I was 3 and a half but I've never forgotten
22 it. It makes me feel that it's in my past and I can't
23 wipe it out. The memories of that place will be there
24 until the day I die. They're so ingrained, you just
25 can't wipe it out.

1 'I don't use the word "hate" but I know what hate
2 is. It's one of the ugliest words because of its
3 meaning. People say, "I don't like that, I hate that".
4 They don't know what they are saying. Hate really is
5 hate. It's the worst expression and it's the worst
6 emotion you can have. I hate that Matron. She's dead
7 and I still can't forgive her. There's nothing to
8 forgive and everything to hate. It's not going to
9 consume me. I think my experiences in Rhu made me more
10 lenient when I meet people. I don't hate anybody.
11 People get up your nose but I don't hate them. When
12 I moved to Castlemilk, I went to school in the Gorbals,
13 where I saw the racist side of people. There were guys
14 from India and I would talk away to them. I got
15 ostracised by the white guys. I never had those
16 prejudices. I react to people the way they react to me.

17 'I don't know how my experiences in Rhu affected the
18 rest of my life. It's made an impression on me, without
19 a doubt. Recently, I have been getting depressed but
20 I don't think it's because of what happened to me in
21 Rhu. I've never sought any help or support because of
22 what happened.'

23 Then he talks about the fact that, because of his
24 youngest daughter committing suicide, he doesn't like
25 psychiatrists.

1 He goes on at paragraph 46 to say:

2 'I had a good time at secondary school. There were
3 opportunities. I think my experiences at secondary
4 school had an influence on my life. The teachers in my
5 secondary school were great. However, everything in my
6 life relates to the time that I was in that place. The
7 memories of what happened there will stay with me all my
8 life. It didn't destroy me. If anything, you balance
9 things out. I didn't allow the negatives to soak in.'

10 'Frank' then talks about reporting of abuse from
11 paragraph 47:

12 'I don't know whether I spoke about what I had
13 experienced in Rhu when I got home to my parents.
14 I suppose I must have spoken to my brother and my mum
15 and dad about it. I can't imagine not telling my
16 parents what it was like. There was nothing they could
17 do about it. They were fighting the establishment and
18 it must have been hellish. As you get older, you start
19 keeping it to yourself. You don't want to be common
20 gossip. Nothing would come of me talking about it,
21 other than giving people something to talk about.

22 'I watched a documentary about Lagarie on the telly.
23 It was really sad. I believe it opened in 1949, when
24 I went in. The staff must have been realising the
25 freedom they had to do what they wanted with their

1 perversions. There were people in there who got it
2 worse than me. I said to myself, "Jesus, God, that's
3 not right". It was terrible. Sailors were going in to
4 abuse wee lassies. I don't know whether that happened
5 when I was there. I was only 3. There was a guy in the
6 documentary who just couldn't get away from it because
7 of what happened to his little sister. He was only 7 at
8 the time; what could he have done?

9 'I realised that I wasn't the only one who had bad
10 memories of that place but I have never been in touch
11 with anybody else who went there. The people who ran it
12 were supposed to be church goers. You couldn't make it
13 up. Their names have been vilified.'

14 He then goes on at paragraph 50 and says:

15 'After the documentary, a number was given on the
16 BBC to call Esther Rantzen. That was the first place
17 that I called, thinking I could talk about how bad the
18 place had been. It was a waste of time. It just told
19 me that I should phone the police and didn't give me any
20 other information. I have never been in touch with the
21 Sailors' Society. They were apologetic on that
22 documentary. Did they know? Did they turn a blind eye?
23 You never know. It's all about trust.

24 'I came forward to the Inquiry because I decided to
25 tell someone about the abuse I suffered from the matron.

1 It gives me satisfaction that there's another mark
2 against her name. I still hate her and that's not going
3 to change. She never got justice on this side of life
4 but I like to think that she will get justice after.
5 I do believe that you judge yourself and you can't
6 escape your own conscience. If there is a justice,
7 that's where it will come from. It's just not right,
8 you can't do that and die and be in the same room as
9 people who didn't live like that on earth'.

10 'Frank' then talks about records from paragraph 52
11 and he says:

12 'I've got a photo from the home in Rhu. I cut my
13 brother out of it. He turned out really naughty. When
14 my mother died, I didn't want my family and my grandkids
15 asking who he was. When I look at the photo now, I'm
16 sorry that I did that but it seemed like the right thing
17 to do at the time.'

18 He then talks about the fact that he is curious
19 about his records.

20 'Frank' then talks about lessons to be learned from
21 paragraph 54, and says:

22 'It's an aggravating phrase, "should have". It's in
23 the past tense and there's nothing you can do about it.
24 You can bring things forward and try and make people
25 aware of what happened. People need to listen to

1 children. The policeman who held me by the wrists
2 wasn't listening to me. I'll never forget that. We
3 were going back to get a hiding but he wasn't caring.
4 It seems that the police in Helensburgh knew about it
5 and did nothing. That's what makes it worse. The
6 people at the top set the level of society.'

7 He then says at the end of paragraph 55, in the last
8 few sentences:

9 'I'm giving my evidence to the Inquiry in the hope
10 that it is going to help it a bit. There's nobody to
11 charge but at least Rhu will be exposed. I hope
12 children's homes get decent people in to run them.'

13 And then 'Frank' has made the usual declaration at
14 the end of his statement and he signed it and it's dated
15 16 September 2020.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon will now have a read-in.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Thank you.

19 Mr Sheldon, are you ready?

20 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady.

21 'Susan' (read in)

22 MR SHELDON: This is the statement of 'Susan', and the
23 statement reference is WIT-1-000000329.

24 My Lady, 'Susan' seems to have been at Lagarie in
25 about 1956. She was born in 1946 and says she went

1 there aged around 10. She says that she initially lived
2 in the Partick area of Glasgow, staying with her mother,
3 father and a younger sister. There was also an older
4 brother who lived with her grandmother in the Highlands.

5 She says:

6 'I remember my childhood being normal, just the same
7 as everyone else. My father was away a lot as he was in
8 the Merchant Navy. When I was 10 years old, my mother
9 went into premature labour when she was pregnant with my
10 little brother. This was when me and my sister went
11 into care. I think it must have been because of my
12 mother having my little brother and my father being away
13 at sea.

14 'There was no explanation given to us about why we
15 were going into care. One of the neighbours came to our
16 house and drove me and my sister to Lagarie in his car.
17 Lagarie was run by the Sailors' Society. I think my
18 mother must have arranged it, as I have already said,
19 because my father was a sailor.

20 'I don't remember any social work or similar
21 involvement with my family before I went into care.

22 'When we arrived at the home it was dark.
23 I remember Lagarie being a big house in its own grounds.
24 Inside there was an echo when you spoke. There was no
25 explanation made to us about what was going to happen to

1 us. Even though I knew my mum was going to have a baby,
2 I didn't know at that time this was the reason why we
3 were at Lagarie.

4 'There was a woman who met us. I thought she was
5 a nun as she was wearing a big white sort of sheet thing
6 on her head. I now know that this was actually
7 the Matron. I was taken straight upstairs to
8 a dormitory and put to bed. I think that there were two
9 or three beds in the same room as me. I can't be
10 certain but I seem to remember that there was boys and
11 girls in the room with me. The bed was just the same as
12 at home, with a sheet on it. There was a sideboard in
13 the room as well. This had a crucifix on it.

14 '[My sister] wasn't in the same dormitory as me.
15 She must have been taken to a different room. Nobody
16 said anything to us about why we were put in separate
17 rooms.

18 'The only staff member that I remember was
19 the matron. I don't know her name. She was a big
20 woman. I would say that she was in her 30s but might
21 have looked a bit older. She had sharp features and
22 wore glasses. There was other male and female staff
23 members but I don't remember anything about them or any
24 of their names.

25 'I remember that the morning of the first day I was

1 at Lagarie I was wearing the same clothes as I had
2 arrived in. I can't remember if I had a bag of
3 belongings with me when I arrived.

4 'I was always up early in the morning but I can't
5 remember who it was that woke us up. Once I was
6 dressed, I would go to the bathroom to have a wash.
7 After this, I would go for breakfast.

8 'The dining room was downstairs on the ground floor.
9 It was a big room. There was a table that seemed to be
10 higher up on a platform. This is where the matron and
11 some of the staff sat.

12 'I don't remember if we were served our meals or if
13 we had to go and collect the food from a counter.

14 'All the children in the home had breakfast at the
15 same table. My sister didn't sit at the same table as
16 me. I did see her but at a table that was quite a bit
17 away from mine.

18 'The food was not nice. I can't say anything good
19 about it. It certainly wasn't something I looked
20 forward to. It was normally porridge or cereal for
21 breakfast. I also remember being given semolina and
22 prunes.

23 'There were things that I was given at mealtimes
24 that I didn't like. I didn't like the vegetables or
25 cabbage. If you didn't eat your meal, then whatever

1 staff member was on duty would tell you that you could
2 have nothing for the rest of the day. Whatever you left
3 would also be put in front of you the next day. This
4 was even though they knew you didn't like it. I was
5 never force fed my food.

6 'I sometimes saw some of the other children being
7 slapped on the back of the head at mealtimes. I don't
8 know why they were being slapped.

9 'The bathroom was on the same floor as the
10 dormitories. There was one bath in the bathroom and
11 a sink. I don't remember if there was more than one
12 sink. This was also where we went to wash in the
13 morning before breakfast.

14 'I might have been given some clothes at the home.
15 I don't remember being provided with a school uniform.

16 'In the afternoons, I would go out and play in the
17 grounds with the other children. I remember there being
18 what looked like a big dolls house we would play in.
19 There was also skipping ropes to play with.

20 'When I was outside playing, it seemed to be the
21 only time that I really got the chance to be with my
22 sister and speak with her.

23 'There was no issues when I was outside playing. It
24 was actually good to be there.

25 'I don't remember there being anyone outside

1 supervising the children. I would think that there must
2 have been someone watching us.

3 'After breakfast we would go to school. I don't
4 remember much about school. I think that some of the
5 children in my class might have been older than me.
6 I don't remember any of the teachers' names. I can't
7 say if it was the same teacher all the time or different
8 ones.

9 'I remember that there was a big unit in the
10 classroom with drawers. I had my own drawer where
11 I would put my school work into.

12 'I didn't pay much attention at school. I just
13 tried to keep my head down. I don't have any particular
14 good memories about school. I hated the place. I was
15 always just trying to think about the day that I would
16 leave the place.

17 'I don't remember any punishments at school. I was
18 always at the back of the class. The teacher
19 concentrated on the ones at the front.

20 'From what I remember, we didn't go back to school
21 after lunch.

22 'There was no healthcare at Lagarie. I have tried
23 to check my medical records but there is nothing for me,
24 either with the Sailors' Society or the local council.

25 'I don't remember anyone else needing medical

1 treatment. I didn't have any visits to the dentist when
2 I was at the home.

3 'Before I went into the home, I was a practising
4 Roman Catholic. This stopped when I went into care.
5 I wasn't given any religious instruction at Lagarie.
6 I didn't have to go to church on a Sunday.

7 'The only work we had to do at the home was tidy up
8 after ourselves at mealtimes. We didn't have to clean
9 our own room.

10 'I don't remember any Christmas parties at Lagarie.
11 I was only there four months, so I might have left
12 before Christmas. I didn't celebrate a birthday at the
13 home. I don't remember any of the other children having
14 a birthday celebrated.

15 'The only treats I received at the home was when the
16 staff came round with sweets. You were only allowed to
17 take a certain amount. This had to do you for the week.
18 I would put the sweets in my drawer in the classroom.

19 'I never had any visits from my family when I was in
20 the home. I hold a grudge against my family. I think
21 now that surely one of them could have taken me and my
22 sister in, rather than us having to go into care. At
23 that time we had a lot of family in Glasgow that could
24 have helped out.

25 'I never had any visits from anyone like a social

1 worker when I was in Lagarie.

2 'There was never any effort made for me to have time
3 with my sister while we were in care.

4 'I was never given any pocket money. I do remember
5 my mother gave me some money when I went into Lagarie.
6 This was taken off me when I arrived. I asked for the
7 money back when I left. I was told that I didn't have
8 any money. It was one of the staff members that said
9 this to me but I don't know who the staff member was.

10 'I was never taken to any other part of the grounds
11 by staff. I don't remember any other buildings in the
12 grounds. If there was, I never went to these buildings.

13 'I don't know if there was a handyman or gardener.

14 'None of the other children ever said anything to me
15 about being hit or punished by the staff.

16 'I think back now and maybe I was seen as a threat
17 to the staff. They might have thought I would have said
18 something to someone about what was happening to me.'

19 She goes on to talk about abuse at Lagarie and says:

20 'One night when I was in bed, I felt a hand coming
21 under my sheets. I don't know if it was a male or
22 female. I thought they were checking if I had wet the
23 bed. I then felt the hand touch me intimately. I said
24 out loud that I would tell my mum. The hand went away
25 when I said this. This was the only time that this

1 happened to me.

2 'There was one trip we went on but I don't remember
3 where this was to. We walked from the home to where we
4 were going. This was when I ran away with my friend.
5 I don't remember her name other than [and she gives
6 a name but is not sure]. Me and [this girl] hid in
7 a chicken house. We obviously hadn't been missed.
8 There was no particular reason why I ran away other than
9 I hated the place and wanted to get away.

10 'I don't know how long we were away. It was dark
11 when someone found us and took us back to the home.
12 I don't remember who this was.

13 'When I got back to the home I was put in a room.
14 I was then given a hiding. I don't know who it was that
15 gave me the hiding. There might have been more than one
16 adult in the room. I was hit on the head and my back.
17 I don't remember how many times that I was hit. It was
18 really sore. I think that I was just hit by someone's
19 hand. I don't remember it being anything else other
20 than this. I was then put up to bed. I don't remember
21 any noticeable injuries. I think they were quite clever
22 this way. They knew where to hit you so as not to leave
23 a mark.

24 'I never saw what happened to [the other girl] when
25 we were taken back to the home. After this, I never saw

1 [her] again. I think that I might have been told that
2 she was taken back home by her parents.

3 'After I ran away I was a marked person. I would be
4 given a slap for nothing every day after this. The
5 staff were always picking on me. There was an incident
6 where I ate some liquorice. I don't remember the exact
7 circumstances but I was slapped for eating it.

8 'It would be different staff members who would hit
9 me, including the matron. I don't remember anything
10 specific about them.

11 'I think that when I ran away, it was around the
12 middle of my time at Lagarie.

13 'You would go for a bath every night. A staff
14 member would always be there. I don't think it was the
15 same member of staff each night. Everyone had to line
16 up, as there was only one bath. It was boys and girls
17 in the line. I don't know how many children were in the
18 line. Everyone was naked, waiting their turn in the
19 bath. I was always made to go last for a bath. I had
20 long curly hair at that time. By the time I reached the
21 bath, it would be freezing. It was the same water for
22 everyone. I always just wanted bath time to be over.
23 It was cold and I was self-conscious standing waiting
24 for my turn.

25 'One of the staff would wash you with carbolic soap.

1 The soap would be put in your mouth. It was done in
2 a way where they tried to make it look like they never
3 meant it.

4 'After my bath, I had to go to bed with my hair
5 still wet. This was when I started to wet the bed.
6 I had never done this before.

7 'When I started wetting the bed, I would be given
8 a slap at bath time. The matron or staff member
9 supervising would slap me and say about me wetting the
10 bed.

11 'There were rubber sheets on all the beds. The
12 staff would check your bed to see if you had wet it.
13 They pulled the covers back to see if it was wet.
14 I remember that the matron would threaten me about
15 wetting the bed. I can't remember what she said, it was
16 just a threatening manner that she had towards me. Even
17 if the matron wasn't there, she would be told by the
18 staff that I had wet the bed.

19 'I don't remember if anyone else wet their beds.

20 'The matron would always give me a slap on the back
21 of the head with her hand. It could be for anything but
22 I think for me it was mostly because I would answer her
23 back. I was never frightened to answer back. I did try
24 and keep myself to myself most of the time. I tried to
25 stay out of the way.

1 'I don't remember seeing anyone else being hit by
2 the matron. I asked my sister if she had ever seen
3 anything but she hadn't. My sister was very timid and
4 definitely wouldn't answer anyone back.

5 'I always thought that I was picked on by the staff.
6 They just didn't like me.

7 'I don't remember any other forms of discipline
8 other than the slaps that were given to me. I don't
9 remember the strap being used or seeing anyone being
10 given the strap.

11 'When I left Lagarie, there was no preparation.
12 I was just told one day that I was leaving. Myself and
13 [my sister] were handed our coats. [Our neighbour] came
14 back to the home for us. One of the staff members -- it
15 might have been the matron -- handed him a letter.
16 I have never seen the content of this letter. [He]
17 drove us back home. We left in the same clothes that we
18 had arrived in. I was relieved to be leaving Lagarie.
19 On the journey back home, I don't remember anything
20 being said.

21 'I don't remember [the neighbour] handing my mum the
22 letter when we arrived back home.'

23 She talks then about life after being in care and
24 says:

25 'Things were okay with my mother when I first

1 arrived back home. My baby brother was in the house.

2 He was tiny.'

3 I am just pausing, my Lady. It does seem as though

4 'Susan' must have been at Lagarie for less than a year

5 and she says she didn't have a birthday in the home.

6 LADY SMITH: That would fit.

7 MR SHELDON: So it would fit with what she says about her

8 baby brother.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MR SHELDON: 'When I was back home, I told my mother that I

11 didn't like Lagarie. This wasn't the first day that

12 I was back home but soon after. I told my mother about

13 what had happened to me but she didn't believe me. She

14 said I was a liar and gave me a beating. I was told

15 that my father could lose his job because of my lies.

16 My mother made me go and see the local priest for

17 confession about my lies. I felt really bad after this.

18 I thought that my mother would have believed me.

19 'I never told the priest what I had said to my

20 mother about Lagarie. My mother obviously had told him,

21 as the priest passed the buck to the nuns at my primary

22 school. This made my life a misery at school.

23 'I went back to the same primary, St Peter's in

24 Partick, that I had been in before going to Lagarie.

25 The school was run by the nuns. My schooling had been

1 that bad at Lagarie that I was cast aside when I went
2 back to my old school. I was continually punished by
3 the nuns, even though I had done nothing wrong. I could
4 be slapped and given the strap across the hands.
5 I believe that this was all because I had told my mother
6 about what had happened to me at Lagarie.

7 'Every day at school I was marked absent. This was
8 because I wouldn't answer to the name which the nuns
9 wanted to know me as. I was told that [that name] was
10 a saint's name and that this is what I should answer to,
11 but I always refused.

12 'Before I had gone to Lagarie, I had no real issues
13 at primary school. When I went back there, there was
14 a change in the nuns' attitude towards teaching me.
15 I think that there must have been something about me in
16 the letter that my mother had been given from the home.

17 'I lost interest in school. I started to think that
18 what my mother and the nuns thought about me must be
19 true and that I was a bad person.

20 'When I first arrived back home, I continued to wet
21 the bed. I don't remember how long this lasted for. It
22 just seemed that one morning I was okay and I didn't wet
23 the bed after this.

24 'I loved when my dad was home from sea. I was
25 a daddy's girl. I never said anything to him about what

1 had happened to me in Lagarie. I didn't see the point
2 in telling anyone else about Lagarie. I just thought
3 that no one would ever believe me.

4 'My sister was always treated differently from me.
5 I think that it was obvious that she was asked about
6 Lagarie by my mother. She never said anything about
7 what had happened there. I never discussed anything
8 with [her] about Lagarie. I didn't think there was any
9 point in talking about it with her.

10 'I have been married twice, the first time was when
11 I was only 16 or 17. My husband was a Protestant.
12 I was excommunicated from the Catholic Church because of
13 this. My first marriage didn't last long.

14 'I was married again and I have been with my second
15 husband for the last 48 years. I now have a large
16 family.

17 'For the majority of my adult life I ran my own cafe
18 business. I have never not worked.

19 'One of my biggest regrets is that my mother wasn't
20 still live when the BBC programme about Lagarie was
21 shown. I could have said to her that what had happened
22 to me was true all along.

23 'I have never gone back to Lagarie for a visit.'

24 In relation to impact, 'Susan' says:

25 'The time I spent at Lagarie affected my schooling.

1 I have never been able to write and put a letter
2 together. I have friends that live abroad but I could
3 never sit down and write a letter to them. Thankfully,
4 I'm able to use the internet to communicate with them.

5 'If I had a better education, I might have been able
6 to do more with my life.

7 'I have never had a lot of close friends. I don't
8 get involved with large groups of people. I think this
9 has a lot to do with what happened to me at Lagarie.

10 'My time at Lagarie definitely had an impact on my
11 relationship with my mother. My mother was always very
12 strict but, after I returned home, things were
13 different.

14 'I always try to keep Lagarie at the back of my
15 mind. If there is something on the television about
16 Lagarie, or children suffering abuse, then it brings it
17 back to me.

18 'After I saw the television programme about Lagarie,
19 I contacted the Sailors' Society by email.
20 Stuart Rivers then got in touch with me.

21 'I have provided a statement to the police about my
22 time at Lagarie. I have not had any recent update from
23 them.

24 'Stuart Rivers has told me that, after there was
25 a flood, a lot of the records from Lagarie were lost.

1 He said that my records must have been part of this as
2 there was none for my time at Lagarie.

3 'I am in the process of tracing my medical records
4 for the time that I was in care. I have located the
5 records for the 1960s but not the 1950s.'

6 She says that:

7 'Children should always be listened to. They
8 shouldn't be afraid to come forward and say if something
9 is wrong. I don't like to think of my children or
10 grandchildren wanting to say something and no one
11 listening.

12 'I hope that the Inquiry will ensure that the abuse
13 of children in care will stop. I feel better myself now
14 that everything appears to be in the open. It's a pity
15 my mother isn't here to see that and know that what I
16 said was true.

17 'People need to know what happened to children when
18 they were in care.

19 'I was offered counselling by Stuart Rivers from the
20 Sailors' Society. I declined this. I didn't see the
21 point in it.

22 'My daughter has told me about the government
23 compensation scheme for people who were in care as
24 a child. I have the forms for this but haven't filled
25 them in yet. I just think it's not worth it because

1 there are no records for me. I'm not a member of me of
2 any survivors groups.'

3 She says:

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

6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
7 true.'

8 'Susan' signed that statement in 2020.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 MR SHELDON: Now, my Lady --

11 LADY SMITH: What have we got next?

12 MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes certainly has another read-in.

13 LADY SMITH: Could we do a section of it just now? While
14 you are changing over, I was just thinking about
15 'Susan's' mother, and I suppose she was faced with
16 a situation where her husband had secure employment and
17 she was worried that if any criticism was made of the
18 Seamen's Mission, Lagarie, whatever you wanted to call
19 it, then they might take it out on him and he could lose
20 his job and that would be a disaster for the family.

21 MR SHELDON: That may be right, that may be right, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: The era that we were in at that stage.

23 MR SHELDON: Lagarie was clearly, as it were, a company
24 establishment.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. And people like her and these families

1 who needed somewhere to look after children for, for
2 example, maternity purposes, were using Lagarie; what
3 else was there?

4 MR SHELDON: Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Sorry. Ms Forbes.

7 'Charlotte' (read in)

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
9 who is anonymous and is known as 'Charlotte'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Charlotte's' statement is
12 WIT.001.002.9320.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Charlotte' was born in 1949 and she
15 tells us about her life before going into care between
16 paragraphs 2 and 4. She says she was born in Govan in
17 Glasgow and tells us about her parents. She says though
18 she doesn't remember her mother and she has only ever
19 seen one picture of her.

20 Her earliest memory is of being in an infirmary near
21 Govan with her identical twin sister, her younger
22 brother and her older sister, and she says they all had
23 scarlet fever.

24 However, the records that we have seen, my Lady,
25 talks about the children being in Belvidere Infectious

1 Diseases Hospital suffering from dysentery, and the
2 dates that we have for that are [REDACTED] 1952
3 to [REDACTED] 1952, so several months.

4 She then says that her memory is of being taken
5 straight from the hospital to Lagarie Children's Home.
6 She says, paragraph 4:

7 'My mother had left us, and my father, who was in
8 the navy, took all four of us to Lagarie.'

9 Again, however, I think from the records we have,
10 they were first put into Mugdock Home in Milngavie for
11 just under two months before being admitted to Lagarie,
12 and the date of admission to Lagarie is
13 [REDACTED] 1952.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 That was all of them at the same time?

16 MS FORBES: All of them, my Lady, yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: 'Charlotte' goes on to say at paragraph 4:

19 'I remember the day he took us.'

20 Referring to her father. She says:

21 'It was snowing, and I remember my dad took us into
22 the home and then he left.'

23 So I think from the dates we have, my Lady, she
24 would have been there from about age 3 and a half.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. Yes.

1 MS FORBES: And we know from the records she was there until
2 she was 13 and a half.

3 LADY SMITH: Wow.

4 MS FORBES: They were all there together and it was a period
5 of about 10 years.

6 My Lady, 'Charlotte' tells us about Lagarie from
7 paragraph 5. She says:

8 'It was a beautiful building, there was a big front
9 entrance with all these stairs going up and another
10 entrance with stairs at the back. You went in the front
11 door and there was a reception and the matron's office
12 on the ground floor. At the end of her office, there
13 was a big playroom, and past the office you went through
14 some doors and there was a television room and
15 a dispensary across from it. There was also a bedroom
16 on that floor with about three cots and a bathroom with
17 tiny little toilets and basins and a bath that looked
18 like a baby font.

19 'There were bedrooms on the middle floor and the
20 matron's bedroom was along a passageway on that floor
21 too. There was a spare bedroom where the matron's
22 family would sleep sometimes. There was another room
23 next to the matron's room where she would put you if she
24 thought you were naughty. There was a bathroom with
25 three baths right at the end of the passageway. There

1 was another set of stairs up to a tower where there were
2 more bedrooms. There was also a tiny room where the
3 matron's boyfriend would sometimes sleep. I think he
4 was the town clerk. I don't know anything about him.
5 I just remember people saying that the town clerk was
6 here.

7 'The matron, Miss Anne Millar, was in charge of the
8 home. She wore a uniform, like the ones nursing matrons
9 wore, which was navy with a white collar and a sort of
10 veil at the back of her head. She had whitish hair,
11 wore glasses and was very fat.

12 'I remember a lady called [REDACTED] who looked after
13 us. I would guess she was in her 30s. She had
14 a bedroom next to the room where we slept when we first
15 arrived. She was very nice. There were other members
16 of staff, not many, but I don't remember any names. The
17 cook was very nice.'

18 And she tells us that she lived near a little shop:

19 'There was a gardener called Mr Skelton. He lived
20 with his wife and daughter [and she names the daughter]
21 in a cottage just as you went [REDACTED] to Lagarie.'

22 'Charlotte' goes on to talk about the routine at
23 Lagarie from paragraph 10:

24 'Although I was only 2 ...'

25 I think we know from the records, my Lady, she was

1 slightly older than that. She says:

2 '... I have memories of my first day in Lagarie.
3 Probably because it was so scary. I remember the matron
4 putting me and my twin up on the sideboard and saying
5 that we were the first twins they'd ever had. She took
6 us to the bathroom on the ground floor to give us a bath
7 in the baby font. I remember her hitting us because we
8 couldn't climb up into it. We were just little and it
9 was too high. She was hitting us and we were screaming
10 and I remember wetting myself with fear.

11 'I remember going into a cot afterwards. Only me
12 and my twin were put into the room with cots.'

13 And she says she's not sure where her brother and
14 her sister went.

15 She then talks about mornings and sleeping
16 arrangements from paragraph 11. She says:

17 '[My twin] and I slept in cots in the bedroom on the
18 bottom floor at first. We'd get up in the morning, get
19 washed and dressed and then go to the dining room and
20 get porridge. The lady called [REDACTED] helped us to
21 get washed and dressed. She was very nice. She helped
22 us all the time. She used to take us to the little
23 bathroom where the baby font was to get washed.

24 'We weren't in the room at the bottom for long and
25 then we moved up to the middle level. I'm not really

1 sure what age we were when we moved upstairs. Maybe
2 about 4. I can't remember how many beds were in the
3 bedrooms upstairs. Between two and four, I think.
4 There were boys and girls in the rooms. You had
5 a little locker and a drawer where you could put your
6 pyjamas and other stuff, not that we had any other
7 personal belongings. I don't remember my twin being in
8 the same room as me when we moved upstairs.'

9 And she says she doesn't know where her other
10 siblings slept:

11 'I didn't wet the bed, but some children did and the
12 matron would come into the room in the morning and rub
13 their noses in the wet sheet. It was so distressing for
14 me to see this. I used to steal clean sheets from the
15 cupboard and change their beds. I would take the sheets
16 to the laundry and wash them myself when I was a bit
17 older. I just had this feeling of wanting to protect
18 the children. I wanted to help them whenever I saw them
19 in distress. I always wanted a nurse's outfit at
20 Christmas when I was young because I wanted to go into
21 nursing, so I think I had that instinct to help people.
22 Nobody stopped us from getting up at night to use the
23 toilet, but I think the children wet the bed from fear
24 more than anything.'

25 'Charlotte' then talks about food and mealtimes from

1 paragraph 14:

2 'All the children ate together in the dining room.
3 I think there were small tables for the little ones and
4 bigger ones for the older children. I remember babies
5 in high chairs as well. Matron sat by herself at
6 a great big round table. She had everything brought to
7 her on a silver tray. When you were older, you had to
8 carry the matron's tray through to her. She had a room
9 where all her special stuff was, and we had to put her
10 things on the silver tray and bring it into her.

11 'We mostly got porridge at breakfast. I think they
12 made it the night before, because it was very solid.
13 I ate it because I was hungry. I didn't like
14 vegetables. I found with vegetables like cabbage,
15 cauliflower, turnips and brussels sprouts, I would retch
16 as soon as I put them in my mouth. I used to put the
17 vegetables in a plastic bag and then flush them down the
18 toilet, or I would get my brother to eat them for me.
19 The fat on meat used to make me retch terribly as well.
20 That was another thing I'd try and hide, because you
21 weren't allowed to leave that on your plate.'

22 'Charlotte' then talks about bathing at
23 paragraph 16:

24 'When I moved up to the middle level, you'd get
25 a bath most nights. It was always the matron who would

1 give us a bath. For some reason, she always wanted to
2 do it. I don't remember how bath time was organised.
3 I just remember that she took us to the bathroom and
4 bathed us.

5 'There were three baths in the bathroom on the
6 middle floor. The matron would fill the bath with cold
7 water and force your head under the water. It was so
8 scary. You felt like you were going to die. She did
9 that to me and my twin. I would be standing in the
10 bathroom when it was my twin's turn and she would be
11 screaming and there was nothing I could do. I think
12 that was one of the worst things in my life. I don't
13 know why the matron did that to us. I think she got
14 pleasure from seeing us suffer.'

15 She then talks about school from paragraph 17:

16 'I went to Rhu Village Primary School up in
17 Manse Brae. We walked four times a day because we went
18 back to Lagarie at lunchtime. There were probably about
19 12 of us from Lagarie at the school. We all walked
20 together. I think it was about a 20-minute walk.

21 'Our uniform was a grey skirt and a white shirt.
22 The boys wore long trousers. We didn't have books. We
23 had chalk and a slate. I used to sit next to my twin,
24 but I didn't like her sitting next to me because she
25 always wanted to copy me.

1 'After primary school, I went to Hermitage Secondary
2 School. I think we walked there as well. We wore
3 a blazer, grey skirt, white shirt and a black tie with
4 a red stripe.

5 'In those days at school, they concentrated on the
6 brighter children. I remember if you weren't doing well
7 in primary school, you got put in the dunce's corner
8 with the dunce hat on. I don't remember ever doing
9 homework in the children's home or getting any help with
10 school work.'

11 'Charlotte' then talks about healthcare from
12 paragraph 21:

13 'Dr Campbell would always come if someone was ill.
14 He lived in Rhu. He came to give us vaccinations as
15 well, like polio shots. He tested our eyes too. He did
16 everything. We saw Dr Campbell in the little dispensary
17 next to the bathroom with the baby font.

18 'You got cod liver oil every day and a spoonful of
19 malt. They were good in that respect. I used to go
20 into the dispensary and shut the door and steal the malt
21 because I loved it so much.

22 'We always had to brush our teeth at night and I
23 remember we got tins of toothpaste which were pink or
24 blue. I have a memory of going to the dentist somewhere
25 in Helensburgh, I think, and being given gas in a chair

1 and then wakening up in a bed.

2 'The matron never explained anything to us about
3 what to do when we got our periods. She gave me a belt
4 with loops and a pad, but nobody in the home told me
5 what to do with it. I thought my periods came because
6 I had done something wrong. I ended up going to the
7 school nurse and asking her to show me what to do with
8 the belt and pad.'

9 She then talks about clothing from paragraph 25:

10 'Outside of school, we wore whatever they gave us to
11 wear. Whoever was looking after us would take clothes
12 out of the cupboards in the dormitories and give us what
13 we were to wear. You just put on what you were given.
14 You could be given something that somebody else had worn
15 the week before. You got a clean vest and pants, once
16 a week. The clothes went to the laundry once a week as
17 well. Sometimes my gran brought us pyjamas to wear.
18 I also remember my twin and I having lovely little coats
19 with a velvet trim when we were young. One was pink and
20 the other was blue. I remember being told that pink was
21 to make the boys wink and blue was to make them scowl.
22 I'd always say to my twin that she was to wear the one
23 that made them scowl. When I got older, I wanted my own
24 identity and hated being dressed the same as my twin.'

25 She then talks about leisure time from paragraph 26:

1 'When we weren't at school, we played in the
2 playroom or took the toys outside to play. I remember
3 playing with a doll's bath, pram, and pretend ironing
4 board. There were big woods next to the home, but
5 I didn't like to play there because I was too scared.
6 There was a room off the playroom with a great big
7 rocking horse, but you weren't allowed to play on that.
8 You could see the greenhouses in the garden through the
9 windows in that room.

10 'The gardener, Mr Skelton, used to stand in his
11 greenhouses and watch us when we were playing outside.
12 I used to make fun of his name and scare other kids by
13 saying, "Mr Skeleton is coming". My big sister was
14 friends with Mr Skelton's daughter. I think I went down
15 to his house once or twice and was offered a cup of tea,
16 but I didn't usually go down there because I knew it was
17 his quarters.

18 'The beach was just across the road and we would
19 sometimes go down there for a little while.
20 Unfortunately, because of the matron pushing my head
21 under the water in the bath, I was always scared of
22 going in the water.

23 'I went to the Brownies in Rhu village and then the
24 Guides and the Rangers as I got older. I was quite
25 small when I went to the Brownies. You got points for

1 learning things, like how to tie knots. That's how you
2 earned the brown uniform and yellow tie. When I was in
3 the Rangers they took you to a local home for
4 handicapped children and you helped to bath the
5 children.

6 'I remember when I was older a woman called
7 Mrs McLeod used to come in and teach us sewing and
8 knitting. She was quite old, wore glasses and had dark
9 hair. She was very nice. She lived in Rhu. She taught
10 us how to make a pinafore on the sewing machine, and we
11 knitted gloves, a cardigan and socks with grey wool.'

12 'Charlotte' then talks about chores from
13 paragraph 31:

14 'When we were older, we had to do the laundry. We
15 washed the sheets and hung them on the pulleys. The
16 matron wore great big bloomers down to her knees and my
17 twin and I had to wash them for her every week and hang
18 them up in her bathroom, which was off her bedroom. We
19 used to have a bit of fun with them. We'd throw them to
20 each other, both of us telling the other that it was
21 their turn to wash them. Sometimes we had to polish and
22 shine the floor with a cloth on a big square thing.

23 'They had rabbits in cages in the back and we had to
24 mix oatmeal with water and feed them. I tried it
25 one day and I loved it. So I used to give a spoonful to

1 the rabbit and a spoonful to me.'

2 She then talks about trips and holidays at
3 paragraph 33:

4 'We never got taken away on holiday. I never went
5 to stay at my gran's or anything like that. SNR
6 used to go on holiday and ██████████, Mrs KER ██████████, used
7 to come and look after us. She had a son ██████████
8 [who she names] who came and stayed too. Her husband
9 used to visit, but I don't think he stayed in the home.
10 RFP ██████████ and ██████████ were spoiled brats. They obviously
11 had everything they wanted and they treated us like
12 dirt. We used to say, "Here come the spoiled brats".

13 'There were great big bikes at the top of the
14 stairs, which were supposed to be for to us play on, but
15 we weren't allowed to ride them. One time, when the
16 matron went on holiday, I took a bike all the way down
17 the stairs and went for a ride round Rhu. I fell off
18 and hurt my knees and I remember thinking that this had
19 happened because I had stolen the bike. I only dared
20 take the bike when the matron wasn't there because you
21 felt you had freedom when she wasn't there.

22 'The company Westclox took us out for the day and
23 gave us all a watch. But the matron took them off us as
24 soon as we got in the door and we never saw them again.
25 I remember being so chuffed about getting a watch from

1 somebody I didn't know, and I was excited about learning
2 the time. I remember thinking that the matron was
3 probably going to give the watches to RFP and
4 [REDACTED]. We had to write a thank-you letter to Westclox
5 for taking us out for the day and giving us a watch.

6 'I remember going to a party at Faslane Naval Base.
7 We went there on a Royal Navy bus. I remember seeing
8 this big ship, the HMS Vanguard I think, and thinking
9 that it was so big it was going to fall on me.

10 'I also remember going to the theatre one time and
11 going to see a movie, "The Five Pennies". I remember
12 the movie because I was quite moved by it. We went for
13 a picnic once with the Matron, to Gourock I think, where
14 a man with a bald head and glasses had a place. That's
15 all I can remember about that day.

16 'I also remember when the Royal Family came to Rhu,
17 and we stood outside with our little flags waving.'

18 'Charlotte' then talks about birthday and
19 Christmases in paragraph 39. She says:

20 'I remember having birthday parties and blowing out
21 the candles on a cake. We didn't get birthday presents.

22 'We got cakes and sandwiches and sausage rolls at
23 Christmas. We got Christmas dinner, probably turkey,
24 but I was more interested in the cakes and other treats.
25 I used to stuff myself with meringues and cream cakes.

1 'I always wanted a nurse's outfit, a sweet shop and
2 a knitting kit at Christmas. You would get up in the
3 morning, all excited, and your presents with your name
4 on them would be laid out on the floor in the room where
5 the rocking horse was. You'd get sweets and an apple
6 and an orange as well. You more or less got what you
7 wanted, but unfortunately, if the matron decided she
8 wasn't happy with how you behaved, she took your sweets
9 and presents off you and you wouldn't see them again.
10 I found that very upsetting. Later on, when I was
11 older, I said to her that I didn't want anything if she
12 was going to take it away again.

13 'I remember one Christmas, Dr Campbell dressed as
14 Father Christmas and brought in the Christmas tree.
15 They had Christmas music playing and the matron was
16 asking us if we wanted to give Father Christmas a kiss.
17 I then heard him speak and I said I wasn't going to give
18 him a kiss because I knew he was Dr Campbell, not Father
19 Christmas.

20 'There was a woman next door to Lagarie who we
21 called Colonel Barge. I think we called her that
22 because her father was a colonel. She had beautiful red
23 hair. We used to go into her garden for Easter egg
24 hunting. You'd find the eggs and try and stuff what you
25 could down your throat, because you never got to keep

1 all the eggs you found. The matron would take them from
2 us. Somebody used to donate a beautiful big Easter egg
3 with flowers on it every year as well. I really took to
4 chocolate. I adored it.

5 'If you were very good, the matron would sometimes
6 say, "[REDACTED], go to the cupboard and bring out the
7 sweets for the children". When she was in a good mood,
8 she called me [and she names her sister] "[REDACTED]",
9 but that wasn't very often. She usually just called us
10 by our names. There was a locked cupboard with Mars
11 Bars, Milky Ways and all different things. These treats
12 were meant for us, but we didn't always get them. So
13 I used to fill my pockets with the chocolate bars and
14 hand them out to the other children on the way to
15 school. I don't know why the matron trusted me with the
16 keys. I knew it was stealing, but they were ours, and
17 the matron didn't give them to us very often.

18 'We used to get a digestive biscuit as a mid-morning
19 snack when we weren't at school. They were kept in
20 a brown box and were given out by the matron in the
21 morning.'

22 LADY SMITH: I think we can stop there for the lunch break
23 then and pick up again at 2 o'clock with this statement.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (1.03 pm)

1 (The luncheon adjournment)

2 (2.00 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, are you ready to carry on now with
4 that statement?

5 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Just for the record, we
7 had better confirm which one it is you're reading, thank
8 you.

9 MS FORBES: Yes. My Lady, I'm just going to continue with
10 'Charlotte's' statement and I'll read out the reference
11 again.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you, yes.

13 MS FORBES: WIT.001.002.9320.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, I had got to the part of her statement
16 where she starts to talk about religion, at
17 paragraph 46. She says:

18 'We walked to the church in the village every
19 Sunday. I wore a smart dress, gloves and a bonnet to
20 church. The Matron would sit in a seat just below the
21 pulpit. I think she belonged to the committee or
22 something like that. You got a penny to put into the
23 collection at church. It was the only money we saw,
24 apart from when my dad used to give us a half crown.'

25 Moving to paragraph 48 then:

1 'I remember going into the garden when I was about 7
2 and praying to God and saying, "God, please get us out
3 of this home because I feel we've had enough". I only
4 had my faith to help us. I said I would give my life to
5 the Lord if he got us out of there. And I did give my
6 life to him.'

7 'Charlotte' continues in relation to visits and
8 inspections at paragraph 49:

9 'My dad came on the bus from Glasgow to visit us
10 whenever he could. He always wore a suit and he was
11 very smart. He was away from home a lot so he couldn't
12 always visit. He was in the navy at first and then he
13 went into building work when he left. He used to be
14 away from home for about six months at a time.

15 'My dad would take us out for tea and he'd give us
16 sweets and a half a crown so that we could buy something
17 when we went back to Lagarie. Matron would take the
18 sweets and money off us when we got back. So when I got
19 older I used to tell my dad not to give us anything to
20 take back. I'd say that we should just go out for tea
21 and eat as much as we could. He took us to sweet shops
22 or ice cream shops in Helensburgh and we'd run along the
23 beach and play in the bandstand.

24 'I never saw my mum. I remember asking the Matron
25 if she had ever heard from my mother, and she said no.

1 'My gran came to Lagarie once in a blue moon. She
2 didn't come to visit us. She came to visit the Matron,
3 and she always told the Matron to hit us if we were bad.
4 My gran told us that she said that to the Matron. She
5 wasn't a very loving person. My dad had six sisters but
6 none of them came to see us. I don't know why they were
7 never interested in us.

8 'As far as I know, no official visitors ever came to
9 Lagarie. There was no social worker or anybody like
10 that involved with us. Nobody came to inspect the place
11 or speak to us. Nobody ever came and asked me how I was
12 getting on there or how I was being treated.'

13 Moving then to paragraph 56 of 'Charlotte's'
14 statement, she starts to talk about abuse at Lagarie:

15 'The Matron was a terrible woman. I was petrified
16 of her. It's difficult to explain the fear we lived
17 with. Whenever you had to walk past her office, you
18 would tiptoe because you were so scared she would come
19 out. If she was in a good mood, she might take you into
20 her sitting room and sit with you for a few minutes, but
21 otherwise, you didn't want to go near her office or her
22 sitting room. You'd shiver when she walked past you
23 because you were so petrified.

24 'I don't think the Matron was normal. I think she
25 got pleasure from seeing us suffer. You got a hiding

1 whenever she felt you had done something wrong. She'd
2 hit you unnecessarily. You didn't always know what you
3 had done, or it would be for something small, like
4 dropping your Bible accidentally in church, or laughing
5 in church. She was always giving me a hiding. I'd say
6 it happened every couple of days. She would put me over
7 her knee and hit me on the bum with either the slipper
8 or the belt. She would hit me so hard that my bum would
9 be black and blue for ages. When she was very angry,
10 she would pull you by the hair and drag you down the
11 passage.

12 'I changed the penny I got for church for two
13 ha'pennies once, and put one ha'penny in the collection
14 and bought a gobstopper with the other. I remember
15 eating the gobstopper in the church and I got a hiding
16 for that. I felt guilty for the rest of my life for not
17 putting that ha'penny in the collection.

18 'I had to wear little round glasses to school when
19 I was young and the other children called me "four
20 eyes". I didn't want to wear the glasses, so I used to
21 hide them in the hedges and then I could never find them
22 when I went back for them. I did that quite often and
23 got a hiding from the Matron each time.

24 'She used to examine our shoes every week. If the
25 heels were down, she'd throw the shoes at you.

1 Unfortunately, I was very heavy on my feet so I often
2 got hit with the shoes. She used to say that she'd put
3 tackety boots on me, which were like army boots. When
4 I was a bit older, I'd be cheeky and say to her, "Do you
5 want to us fly in the air to school?" I don't know where
6 I got that from. She would just answer me with a smack.

7 'She used to look at me and say "You are the bold
8 one of the twins. You are as bold as brass". She
9 wanted to hurt me. And she would say that we would all
10 go to prison when we grew up. I used to think that
11 maybe I would go to prison for stealing the sweets.

12 'One of the other things she used to do was hit me
13 under the chin with her hand. I hated it when she did
14 that as it made me bite my tongue.

15 'Another horrible thing she used to do was stick her
16 two fingers down my throat to make me vomit. Why she
17 did that, I do not know. She'd also give you too much
18 syrup of figs and you'd have diarrhoea for a couple of
19 days.

20 'If you got one spot on your face, she would cut out
21 holes in a piece of gauze for your eyes, nose and mouth
22 and make you wear it on your face for a few days.
23 I didn't want to go about with that on my face, but
24 I wasn't allowed to take it off until she said so.
25 She'd say to me that I was to stay away from the rest of

1 the children because I was infected, or she'd say that
2 I had scabies. She'd sometimes put gentian violet all
3 over my face as well. I'd look like an idiot. I didn't
4 go out looking like that. I would stay in the home, but
5 the other children would see me. I found it very
6 upsetting.

7 'If you got lice in your hair at school, she would
8 bone-comb your hair, put stuff on it and then cut it
9 very short and tell you to stay away from the other
10 kids, or she'd stop you from going to school. I don't
11 know if she did these things to the other children.
12 I do know that it wasn't just me who got hidings, but
13 I am only telling the story of what happened to me.
14 I got upset if my twin got a hiding.'

15 She then talks about the fact that two others wanted
16 to run away one time and she told them not to because
17 they would be half-killed if they got caught.

18 She goes on:

19 'One night the Matron put me in the dormitory right
20 next to her room. I think I was about 7. I don't know
21 what I did, but I must have done something bad because
22 she came in during the night when I was sleeping and she
23 stripped my bed and made me stand at the bottom of the
24 bed. She didn't put the light on. Every time I got
25 back into bed, she made me get out again and stand at

1 the bottom. She did this the whole night until the next
2 morning. I asked her why she was doing it but she
3 didn't answer me. She didn't say a word about it the
4 next day. I think she was doing it to play with my
5 mind. It's only when you're older that you realise it
6 was psychological abuse. She wanted us to be scared of
7 her and we were.

8 'The Matron caught me putting my vegetables in
9 a plastic bag one day and she sat me at her big round
10 table and filled a bowl up with vegetables and made me
11 eat them. I was vomiting as I was eating, but she made
12 me carry on eating them, telling me that if I didn't eat
13 them, I'd get them for supper, and if I didn't eat them
14 at supper, I'd get them again for breakfast. She didn't
15 care that I was being sick. Unfortunately, it put me
16 off those vegetables for life.

17 'She used to cut our hair in a bowl cut every week.
18 She cut a bit of my ear off when I was about 7. I was
19 just sitting in the chair and I felt something warm
20 running down my face. I said to her that she'd cut my
21 ear and she gave me a slap on the head and said it was
22 my own fault for shaking. I told her it was her fault
23 for being scissor-happy and cutting our every hair every
24 single week. I still have the scar on my ear where she
25 cut me.

1 'When I was about 9 or 10 and was sleeping up on the
2 top floor, the Matron came to my bed one night and
3 pulled down the blankets and pyjamas and started
4 touching me down below. She said to me that I liked it
5 and I told her that I really didn't know what she meant.
6 I said to her that it wasn't nice and that I didn't want
7 her to do it. She touched me several times and then
8 eventually she stopped, probably because I said I didn't
9 want her to do it. I wasn't old enough to feel anything
10 sexually and I wasn't old enough to understand what she
11 was doing. The thing is, because you were treated like
12 that, you automatically felt that you had done something
13 wrong.

14 'When I look back now as an adult, I think the
15 Matron had a split personality. I found that when
16 a visitor came, she'd be very nice and she'd speak very
17 posh, but her personality changed as soon as the door
18 was shut. I feel that she should not have been in
19 charge of a children's home.

20 'I told my dad one time when he visited about how
21 the Matron was treating us, but he didn't speak to her
22 or do anything about it. He didn't say anything when
23 I told him. He might have felt a bit ashamed. It was
24 just the way it was in those days. My gran and my dad
25 didn't talk to us about how we were getting on in

1 Lagarie. Children were to be seen and not heard. If
2 an adult came into the room, you had to leave the room.
3 That's the way children were treated in those days.

4 'I couldn't understand why the other staff never
5 stuck up for us or reported it. It happened all the
6 time, so they must have known about it. You'd have to
7 be blind not to see it. They must have heard the
8 screaming as well. [REDACTED] and the cook were very
9 nice. [REDACTED] was very caring towards us and we
10 trusted her. She would give us a sweetie every now and
11 then and we'd always go to her if we were crying.

12 'I don't remember exactly how old I was when my
13 granny took the four of us out of Lagarie. I think
14 I was about 14. I don't know why we were taken out,
15 maybe it was just because we were older. I don't
16 remember finding out that we were leaving Lagarie.
17 I just know that we went to live in my granny's council
18 house in Cardonald.'

19 My Lady, from the records, it seems that her father
20 was asked to remove his children from the home because
21 he was no longer a seaman.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes, he'd left, hadn't he; he'd left the navy.

23 Yes.

24 MS FORBES: And the records show that 'Charlotte' and her
25 siblings went back with her father for a period before

1 he deserted them, and her grandmother looked after them
2 for a short period before they ended up back in care
3 again.

4 And she goes on to tell us a little bit about that
5 period from paragraph 74 and she says:

6 'My dad sometimes lived with my gran and sometimes
7 he'd be up at Fort William working.'

8 She goes on to say that her gran was abusive to her
9 twin, physically, and she says that she was stronger
10 than her twin and managed to contain her feelings. She
11 remembers going to secondary school for a short while
12 and that one day when she came home from school, about
13 a month or two after they'd moved in with her granny,
14 she saw her twin wasn't there, and when she asked where
15 she was, her granny said, 'She's the bad one, she has
16 gone to a mental home'.

17 And my Lady, the records reflect that she was sent
18 to Lennox Castle.

19 LADY SMITH: Lennox Castle, wasn't it, yes.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, she then goes on to say a couple of
21 days later, her granny put her and her brother in a van
22 and dropped them off at a home, she says, in either
23 Greenock or Gourrock. And then -- sorry, she dropped her
24 off at the home and then took her brother away, and she
25 doesn't know where he went, and she kept her sister

1 home -- at home with her because she was old enough to
2 work. And again, from the records, we know that she was
3 admitted to Lochgarry on [REDACTED] 1962, and on the
4 same date her brother went to Gryffe. And her twin
5 sister was already separated from her. So this seems to
6 be the period where the siblings are then separated.

7 LADY SMITH: Right.

8 MS FORBES: She states that she doesn't know the name of the
9 home she went to and she wasn't there for long. **Secondary**
10 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**. We know that
11 she was there until about -- it was [REDACTED] 1963, so
12 a period of a couple of months. And from the records,
13 my Lady, she then was discharged to her grandmother for
14 a period of time, and it was actually a period of about
15 seven months before her grandmother then, again, gave
16 her up and she was admitted to Dunclutha on
17 [REDACTED] 1964.

18 She stayed there until [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] 1964.
19 She then went to Eversley, which again we'll hear
20 a little bit about in this phase.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MS FORBES: Later.

23 She was there from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

24 She was in a remand home for a couple of days after
25 an incident in Eversley and then she was again

1 readmitted to Dunclutha in [REDACTED] 1964 until [REDACTED] 1964,
2 when she ended up in Langlands Park. And she was there
3 for about a year before being boarded out for a period,
4 then living with her grandmother, and then was recalled
5 a couple of occasions to Langlands Park over a couple of
6 years. And I think finally, in about [REDACTED] 1966, the
7 view of Langlands Park was that they could help her no
8 longer and she needed some residential psychiatric
9 treatment. But we don't have records to tell us really,
10 my Lady, what happened after that.

11 LADY SMITH: I see.

12 MS FORBES: She does remember, she tells us at paragraph 79,
13 going to some kind of reformatory place not far from
14 Helensburgh, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later and then
15 she talks about going to borstal for a couple of years
16 as well. But she doesn't seem to remember the names of
17 those places. But from the records we can see where she
18 was.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: She does comment that when she was in borstal,
21 the advice she was given was along the lines -- this is
22 at paragraph 79 -- was along the lines of:

23 'If they say kiss the floor, just do it. Do what
24 you have to do and you'll get out.'

25 She said:

1 'I did that and then I got out.'

2 She goes on to tell us that she had some live-in
3 jobs in the south of England, she talks about working
4 with handicapped children and people with epilepsy. She
5 got a job in a hotel near a naval base and started going
6 out with her husband, who was in the Royal Navy. She
7 got engaged when she was about 19 and married when she
8 was 21, and her daughter was born in 1973. And she
9 ended up living in naval quarters between Lagarie and
10 Helensburgh for a little while.

11 She goes on to tell us at paragraph 83 that she
12 ended up moving abroad and she remained there, after
13 that.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MS FORBES: And it would appear, from what we're told, my
16 Lady, that she lost contact with her siblings and her
17 parents for a very long period of time after that.

18 She goes on to tell us some more information about
19 impact from paragraph 84. She says:

20 'My time in Lagarie has affected me badly. It has
21 never left me. These things don't just go away. If
22 I ever wrote a book about Lagarie, I would call it
23 "A Stolen Childhood". That's how I feel about it.

24 'I didn't focus on my childhood once I got married
25 and had my children. You don't forget but you have to

1 be strong and move on with your life. I never really
2 spoke about it. I felt it was my burden to keep.
3 I told my husband little bits over the years, but he
4 didn't give a damn. Keeping it to myself and not being
5 able to speak to somebody was difficult. I used to
6 share small amounts of information with my children when
7 they were little because I couldn't share it with my
8 husband. But I would quickly realise that that was
9 inappropriate and I would change the subject. My way of
10 dealing with it was to write it all down and then
11 I ripped it up and put it in the bucket. It took me
12 about 35 years to be able to do that.'

13 Sadly, my Lady, she tells us that she has not had
14 a happy relationship and her husband is abusive towards
15 her and she does tell us some details about that.

16 She goes on at paragraph 88 to say:

17 'I think being in Lagarie had an impact on my
18 education as well. We didn't get any help with
19 schooling in the home. There was no extra tutoring at
20 home if you had a problem with spelling or anything like
21 that.'

22 She says she doesn't think her twin or her brother
23 can read or write. She says:

24 'That should have been detected by the Matron. Not
25 being able to read or write is a real disability in

1 life. It's embarrassing, really.

2 'From a very young age I wanted to go into nursing,
3 but nobody guided me or supported me to do that. There
4 was no nurturing in any of the homes. It was just
5 survival. I ended up working in a retirement home for
6 about 35 years and I loved it. I'm sure I could have
7 been a nursing sister. I cared for the old people as if
8 I was caring for myself. I believe that you must treat
9 somebody how you want to be treated yourself. That's
10 how it should have been in the children's home.

11 'I'm scared of going into water and can't swim
12 because of what the Matron did to me when she was giving
13 me a bath.

14 'I have never been to see a counsellor to talk about
15 my experiences in Lagarie. The only person I've managed
16 to speak to is my daughter ... I trust her 100 per cent
17 and she has been understanding with me. She has been
18 amazing. I've got my faith as well. Not that I'm
19 holier than thou, but I do have strong faith and I speak
20 to the Lord.

21 'I feel that I have done extremely well and I have
22 enjoyed my life. I have accepted things. I have two
23 beautiful children and two beautiful grandchildren. My
24 girls are married and they are happy. That makes me
25 feel that I have done something good. I'm happy if my

1 children are happy. I'm proud of what I have achieved.
2 I feel that I've done the best I could with my life,
3 considering what I went through in childhood.'

4 And she says that she hadn't -- she then tells us,
5 my Lady, that she didn't see her dad again after she
6 moved abroad. She found out in 2002 when she finally
7 got in touch with her brother that her dad had died.
8 She said she has had to come to terms with her mum
9 leaving them. She says she didn't have any contact with
10 her siblings after she left her gran's. And then she
11 tells us about the fact that her brother was traced and
12 she came over to Scotland and met up with him and met
13 her sisters. And she talks about going to her brother's
14 birthday celebration, and that after that, they went to
15 Lagarie and saw that it had been made -- sorry,
16 'Lagarie', and saw that it had been made into flats.
17 This is at paragraph 96, where 'Charlotte' says:

18 'We sat on a chair outside. It was just our way of
19 trying to find some peace, get closure, so to speak.'

20 She goes on to tell us the difficulty she's had in
21 reconnecting with her sisters and the fact that they,
22 some of them, blame her for what happened when she was
23 younger. She doesn't understand why she's been blamed,
24 particularly for what happened to her twin, and she
25 thinks that her twin was affected badly by her time in

1 Lagarie, and that that's why she ended up having to go
2 into what she describes as a 'mental home'.

3 At paragraph 100 she says about her twin:

4 'She still hates the Matron to this day.'

5 She talks about records from paragraph 101 and says
6 she wrote to the Sailors' Society in 2002, telling them
7 what happened to her. And this is -- she says:

8 'I thought it might help other children if the
9 authorities knew about it. They wrote back saying that
10 the Matron was dead and would have to answer to God.
11 They referred to the abuse in their letter as
12 "so-called" abuse. I was very annoyed at that. I wrote
13 back saying that it wasn't "so-called", it was actual
14 abuse. I felt they were saying that I was making it up.
15 I swear on my life it's true.

16 'They were able to confirm that I had been a child
17 in Lagarie but they said that they had no records other
18 than information on my primary schooling. I feel sad
19 that I have very little information about my family or
20 me as a child. And I don't have any childhood pictures
21 of me or my brother and sisters. They had a little box
22 for people to donate money to the Sailors' Society, but
23 they never used it to pay for photographs of us as
24 children.'

25 She goes on to talk about speaking with a lawyer,

1 but states that she decided not to go through with that
2 and told them to close the file. And at the time of
3 giving this statement, she indicated she was going to
4 speak to the police.

5 LADY SMITH: Okay.

6 MS FORBES: In relation to lessons to be learned,

7 'Charlotte' says from paragraph 105:

8 'The reason I'm speaking to the Inquiry is to help
9 to make sure that what happened in Lagarie never happens
10 to another child. I'm also hoping that it helps bring
11 closure for me. You can be as strong as you like, but
12 it's a big burden to carry in life and talking about it
13 will hopefully bring me closure.

14 'I think when children go into a home, there should
15 be someone whose job it is to come in and talk to them
16 about how they are feeling, and how they are being
17 treated. I just wish that somebody had taken notice of
18 us in Lagarie. Nobody came in to see how we were being
19 treated or talk to us about how we were feeling, or ask
20 us if we were being abused or if we were scared. It's
21 like you were a number in a file. The Matron could
22 treat us however she wanted. She had so much control
23 over us. When I think back now, I'm sure she was crazed
24 by power. Even when I left Lagarie, and was sent to the
25 reformatory, nobody asked me what had happened to me.

1 'I think that people looking after children in
2 a children's home should nurture and help them to
3 achieve what they want to do when they grow up.
4 I received no guidance through my time in care to help
5 me do that.

6 'Another thing that's really important is that
7 children should learn about the changes that will happen
8 in their body as they grow up. I didn't know about
9 menstruation and thought that it happened because I'd
10 done something wrong.'

11 'Charlotte' has then made the usual declaration at
12 paragraph 109 and she has signed her statement, it's
13 dated 3 October 2019.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon now has a read-in.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Yes, Mr Sheldon, whenever you are ready.

18 'Gordon' (read in)

19 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is the statement of
20 'Gordon', and his statement's reference is
21 WIT.001.002.9260.

22 My Lady, in common with many, if not most, of the
23 applicants in relation to Lagarie, there are no records
24 for 'Gordon'. It appears, however, that he was at
25 Lagarie approximately between the years 1962 or 1963, to

1 1968/69, but only in the [REDACTED]; he says he was there
2 for six weeks every [REDACTED] during that period.

3 LADY SMITH: Oh right.

4 MR SHELDON: It may have been some form of respite, my Lady,
5 but that may appear from the terms of the statement.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

7 MR SHELDON: 'Gordon' was born in 1958. He contacted the
8 Inquiry after seeing the BBC programme about Lagarie.
9 And indeed contacted the BBC reporter, Mark Daly, and
10 'he told me to contact the Inquiry'.

11 He says in relation to his early life that he was
12 born in Kirkcaldy, the youngest of seven siblings. His
13 father was a sailor in the Merchant Navy who drowned
14 when his boat went down in 1959. He was then only six
15 months old:

16 'But I have since been told my mother wished I had
17 drowned at birth. That's why I hate my mother. I don't
18 even know if she's still alive.

19 'As a kid, life was terrible for me at home.
20 I wasn't close to any of my family. When I was growing
21 up, I used to get picked on and battered by my brothers.
22 Three of them would pick on me, hit me and batter me.
23 That was just because I was the youngest, that was it.
24 My life's been crap.

25 'I was picked on all the time and my mother didn't

1 want me. That's a hard thing to say. I kept running
2 away from home because of that. My life's not been
3 good. I've had some difficult times.

4 'I was actually put in a children's home in Aberdeen
5 because of all my running away. They couldn't control
6 me in there, so I was then moved to another place in
7 Edinburgh. Those two places were both after I'd been to
8 Lagarie.

9 'I remember --'

10 And he remembers going to primary school and high
11 school in Kirkcaldy, but he said:

12 'I never really went to school. I was always away
13 fishing.'

14 He goes on to say that:

15 'I went to Lagarie House every year for about six
16 weeks through the [REDACTED]. I first went when I was about
17 4 and I must have been about 10 or 11 when I stopped
18 going. I hated going there. It was called Lagarie but
19 all the kids called it Rhu.

20 'I can't remember if my older brothers and sisters
21 were there as well, but I know one of them was there.
22 We were always kept apart for some strange reason.

23 'I remember when you went in the drive there
24 were big rhododendron bushes at the front and then you
25 drove around the bend and there was the building. It

1 was a nice building. Massive. But what went on inside
2 wasn't nice. I've a lot of memories of that place but
3 they're all bad.

4 'It was run by the British Sailors' Society but
5 a matron was there who was in charge. I can't remember
6 her name.

7 'There was quite a few other staff there.
8 I remember one who I used to plead with to get me out of
9 there. She used to cuddle me all the time and she would
10 say she couldn't take me out. I can't remember her name
11 either. If I had photos, I could pick them all out,
12 especially the Matron.

13 'I don't know how many staff there were, I don't
14 know if they stayed there or not. When we got put up
15 the stair at night, we didn't see anyone. We heard
16 them, but I don't know who was staying there.

17 'I think there would be about 20-odd kids in there
18 at that time. They were about my age, up to about 7 or
19 8. It was boys and girls and some were just there for
20 the [REDACTED] like me, but there were others who were there
21 all year round.'

22 He remembers:

23 '... a pal of mine from there, who was my age and
24 was there all year round. I'd like to meet him again.

25 'There were three or four floors at Lagarie. On the

1 ground floor you had the dining room, the playroom and
2 a TV room, the bathrooms and the Matron's office.
3 I remember the Matron's office had dark panelling on the
4 walls, as my head got smashed off it quite a few times.

5 'It was all bedrooms and dormitories on the first,
6 second and third floors. I think there were rooms and
7 dormitories. There was maybe six or eight beds in each
8 dorm. To be honest, I'm not sure, but the boys and
9 girls were all in separate dorms.

10 'There was a tower at the front of the building. We
11 used to call it the small tower and I still have
12 nightmares about that tower.

13 'On my first day at Lagarie, I went with my mum and
14 my sister ... We got there and my mum said bye, and she
15 was away. I can't remember any of the rest of my
16 siblings being there.

17 'I remember we got a brown tag with our name on it
18 and that was tied to your jacket.

19 'I remember the Matron, she was about 40 or
20 something. She was heavy built. She had dark hair and
21 she sometimes wore specs. She was a nightmare. She's
22 dead now, which is unfortunate, as there's a few things
23 I'd like to say to her.

24 'SNR [REDACTED] was there every year I was there, except
25 one. One year there was SNR [REDACTED], perhaps the

1 usual one was [REDACTED].'

2 And my Lady, pausing, I think we saw from one of the
3 inspection reports that Miss Millar [REDACTED] at one
4 point.

5 LADY SMITH: Oh, yes. Yes.

6 MR SHELDON: And had been [REDACTED] for some time.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR SHELDON: So it may be that that's what had happened on
9 that occasion.

10 LADY SMITH: It could be.

11 MR SHELDON: He names SNR [REDACTED] and said:

12 'She wasn't as bad, but she would still give you
13 a slap.

14 'The children would all get woken in the morning by
15 whoever was on duty. It could be Matron or another
16 member of staff. They would come and wake us up and
17 we'd get washed, dressed, and go down for breakfast and
18 be outside playing.

19 'We would all go back in at lunchtime and wash our
20 hands and faces before lunch. Then after lunch we were
21 back outside again. I got on well with all the other
22 kids. I never had any hassle with any of them. It was
23 just the Matron.

24 'After tea, we would go and get a bath or shower and
25 then we would sit and watch TV until it was time to go

1 to bed. Bedtime was about 8 o'clock. Staff would take
2 you up, and it was into bed, settle down and lights out.
3 If there was any noise, Matron would come up and you
4 would get it.

5 'At night, you used to hear people walking along the
6 fire escape and down the metal stairs. It was adult
7 footsteps, not kids. Who were they and what were they
8 doing? That happened most weeks, sometimes two or three
9 times a week. I think all the boys were too scared to
10 talk about it. It was never spoken about by any of us.

11 'The fire escape stairs came right along the front
12 and zigzagged down past every room, so whoever it was
13 could have got into any of the bedrooms. I was
14 terrified by that and just stayed in bed.

15 'All the children had breakfast together in the
16 dining room. We could sit wherever we wanted. There
17 were cooks who made all the food and brought it to the
18 tables. We had the same food --'

19 Sorry, I think that should be:

20 'We had all the same food, but Matron, she had big
21 joints of beef.

22 'I remember we had porridge for breakfast every day
23 and it was horrible and lumpy. Matron was usually in
24 her office then, but there were staff there to help
25 clear up and then we would go outside to play.

1 'If you didn't like the food and didn't eat it, then
2 you didn't eat it, that was it. The food was put out
3 and you got nothing else if you didn't like it. No one
4 was force-fed or anything like that.

5 'I can't really remember much more about the food,
6 just the porridge. If it was a nice day, we sometimes
7 had a picnic on the grass. There was a slope and we
8 would roll down it, but if we got dirty, we would get
9 a slap from Matron.

10 'We washed in the toilets and bathrooms downstairs
11 on the ground floor. There were lots of sinks, baths
12 and showers. Boys and girls would all have showers or
13 baths on our own, but they were supervised. It was
14 different staff that would supervise us, it just
15 depended on who was on duty.

16 'Sometimes it was even the Matron, and if you
17 weren't quick enough in getting out the shower, she
18 would pull you out the shower all wet and smack you on
19 the backside with an open hand. That was sore and it
20 stung.

21 'When I was very young, some of the older kids would
22 give you a hand getting washed and showered because if
23 you weren't quick in getting dressed, the Matron would
24 be up and you didn't want to meet her or you'd get
25 a slap.

1 'I remember there was this big brick dolls' house
2 outside. It had a wasps' nest in it and I would upset
3 the nest every day. I got a hiding for that as well.
4 The Matron pulled me in and slapped me in the face and
5 on the back for that.

6 'We had a sandpit, a roundabout, a slide, two big
7 rocking horses and a big blue car that I used to love.
8 All the toys were kept in a big summerhouse they had
9 outside. I think the toys were all provided by the
10 British Sailors' Society.

11 'We also had a TV room. We were in there most
12 nights in our jammies until about 8 o'clock. We would
13 watch cartoons.'

14 If my Lady would just give me a moment.

15 My Lady, it's not in the list of documents for today
16 but just for reference purposes, there is a photograph,
17 SSS-000000626, which shows what I think may be the
18 summerhouse, with a group of children and what I think
19 we assume is the Matron.

20 LADY SMITH: Right. So that's SSS-000000626.

21 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, and it's perhaps instructive to
22 read that along with -- it goes along with an article,
23 I think in Chart & Compass again, and it's perhaps
24 interesting to read that along with SSS-000000621, which
25 we looked at with Mr Daly on Wednesday.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

2 MR SHELDON: 'Gordon' goes on:

3 'We didn't go on any trips or outings.'

4 This is paragraph 39:

5 'We had a minibus, but the furthest I remember going

6 was the beach across the road. I actually don't

7 remember ever going anywhere in the minibus.

8 'I was only at Lagarie during the [REDACTED] holidays,

9 so there was never any schooling.

10 'When [my sister] and I arrived at Lagarie, the

11 staff took our own clothes from us and gave us shorts

12 and T-shirts. It wasn't a uniform, just coloured shorts

13 and T-shirts. I don't think they were new. We got our

14 own clothes back when we went home.

15 'I didn't see a doctor or any nurse in all the times

16 I was at Lagarie. I did get beatings and a kicking from

17 the Matron once that really hurt my ribs, but I was

18 never seen by a doctor or anyone. I was just sent to my

19 bed.

20 'I would have been at Lagarie over my birthday, but

21 I don't ever remember getting a cake or having my

22 birthday acknowledged in any way. I don't remember ever

23 celebrating a birthday as a child. I think the first

24 time was with my wife.

25 'I didn't get any visits from my family when I was

1 at Lagarie. When I was taken there, that was it, until
2 they came back to get me.

3 'If other children had visitors, they were never
4 allowed up the stairs. Visitors would sit with their
5 children in the TV room or sit outside on the grass.

6 'The Matron would bring them ice cream on these
7 fancy dishes. She was a completely different person
8 when other people were about.

9 'Whenever I arrived there, the Matron would come out
10 and give me a cuddle in front of my mother. When my mum
11 came back to get me, she was the same, totally different
12 from the evil woman we saw.

13 'I couldn't tell you if people inspected the place.
14 I know there were other people used to come in, but who
15 they were, I didn't know. They didn't speak to us, we
16 were outside playing or watching TV.

17 'There were toilets on every floor and you were
18 allowed to go to the toilet during the night, but if you
19 wet the bed, you would regret it in the morning. I wet
20 the bed in Lagarie, but I never wet the bed at home.

21 'Staff went round the beds in the morning. If
22 anybody was wet, or their bed was wet, the staff would
23 send the child to see Matron in her office. The bed
24 wouldn't get stripped then, you would have to get back
25 in it that night, as the beds were only changed every

1 week.

2 'You didn't get to change your pyjamas either. So
3 you would just take somebody else's. The rooms used to
4 smell because the sheets weren't getting changed.

5 'The routine was that you would be sent to see the
6 Matron if you wet the bed. Every staff member did that.
7 They told you to go and report to Matron and tell her
8 you had wet the bed.

9 'You would go down and stand outside her office
10 until she told you to get in. You would tell her you
11 had wet the bed and she would tell you to stand there.
12 She would then hit the side of your face with her hand.

13 'There was never anyone there to give you any help
14 if you wet the bed. Once you were up the stairs at
15 night, that was you until the next morning. You were
16 scared to get out of your bed.'

17 He goes on then to talk about abuse at Lagarie:

18 'The TV room was down the stairs and it had a kind
19 of stage. The Matron would sit on that stage in her big
20 chair eating her roast beef, and if you ever looked at
21 her the wrong way she would hit you, knocking you
22 halfway across the room.

23 'She sat up there and all the kids would sit on the
24 floor. The TV was up there as well so she was watching
25 the kids. If you looked at her the wrong way, she would

1 hit you with the back of her hand and that was sore.
2 She was wicked and evil. I hated that woman. I hated
3 that place.

4 'I used to plead with one of the cleaners to get me
5 out of there. I remember there were steps at the back
6 door that led to the laundry area and washing lines. At
7 the side, there were these rocks. I remember they were
8 the shape of a jeep and I would sit there with that
9 lady. She had long, blond, curly hair and she was
10 brilliant. She was there every day and she would see me
11 sitting crying and come over and cuddle me. I would sit
12 with her saying I didn't want to be there, I wanted out
13 of there. She was the only staff member who was kind to
14 me. She used to say I couldn't go and that she couldn't
15 take me out.

16 'If you weren't quick enough at getting dressed in
17 the mornings, Matron would knock you about. I've had
18 some beatings from her for things like that or for not
19 getting in for breakfast quick enough. She would hit me
20 with her hands on the face, on the legs, any place. She
21 even kicked me.

22 'I had my ribs kicked in by her once. My ribs still
23 stick out where that happened. I was put to bed and
24 nobody was allowed to come and see me. It was such
25 an evil place.

1 'If she caught you running in the corridors, she
2 would slap you. She would grab you, put you up against
3 the wall and slap you. That could happen three or four
4 times a day, to me and to others. Everyone was treated
5 the same.

6 'Matron's room was just across from the big bathroom
7 area where we washed and showered. Another of her
8 punishments was to give you a cold bath and stick
9 carbolic soap in your mouth. That happened to me a few
10 times and it happened to other kids too. Every day you
11 heard kids screaming.

12 'It could be for anything. She would take you out
13 the TV room, hit you and slap you and then stick you in
14 a cold bath. She would strip you naked and throw you in
15 the bath. She'd keep you in for a couple of minutes and
16 she would stand over you and hold you in. Then she
17 would stick the carbolic soap in your mouth. She would
18 be shouting at you to stop crying. The first time that
19 happened, I was only about 4 or 5.

20 'That happened all the time, not just to me, it
21 happened to other kids as well. It happened to me every
22 year I went there.

23 'Matron's office had dark panelling. The panelling
24 only went so far up, then it was glass at the top.
25 I was knocked off the panelling a few times.'

1 Sorry, I think that should be:

2 'I was knocked off the panelling a few times.
3 I would get taken down to Matron's office by a member of
4 staff and they would just leave me there. I would stand
5 there until the Matron shouted me in. When I went in,
6 I had to tell her why I'd been sent down. I knew I was
7 going to get punished.

8 'She would hit me and slap me and smash my head off
9 the panelling in that room. I had a bleeding nose and
10 a bleeding lip. It was unbelievable. Sometimes it
11 could be ... nothing, sometimes it could be for running
12 or being late or wetting the bed.

13 'When I was in there about my third year, I broke
14 the head off one of the rocking horses and chucked it in
15 the bushes. The Matron found out about it and I got
16 a beating from her for that.

17 'The next day, the gardener told me I was to go with
18 him to fix the horse. I only knew him as the gardener.
19 I didn't know his name or what he did at Lagarie House.
20 He took me into his shed and abused me. I was 6 years
21 old. I don't want to go into detail about it, but it
22 was sexual and there was penetration.

23 'The gardener abused me about four or five times in
24 that shed, every [REDACTED] after that, until I stopped
25 going. He also came up to my bedroom and took me out my

1 bed and up to the small tower. That happened twice and
2 he abused me there. That's why I hate that room and
3 that's why I have my nightmares.

4 'I can't remember there being any staff monitoring
5 the rooms at night. There was probably someone on the
6 ground floor but I can't remember.

7 'I didn't have any marks or bruises that could be
8 seen by other people. Not from the gardener or the
9 Matron. She was very clever and made us wear long
10 jumpers and trousers if we ever had any bruises. She
11 would also tell other staff that whoever it was had
12 fallen over or something like that. I had that a few
13 times.

14 'The gardener was about 30 years old, he wore grey
15 dungarees and he always wore a plain leather belt with
16 them. He was tall and he had a Scottish accent. I've
17 seen pictures of him and the Matron on the BBC programme
18 I watched online and I recognised both of them. I don't
19 know if he was named as an abuser, but I saw him and
20 I recognised him.

21 'The gardener said to me that if I ever told
22 anybody, I would never see my mother again. I thought
23 he meant that I would be kept there. I was terrified.

24 'I don't know if he took any other children into the
25 shed. Nobody would have spoken about those kind of

1 things in Lagarie. At the time I didn't speak about it.
2 I didn't tell my mum or any of my brothers or sisters.
3 I didn't hear anyone else speak about it either.

4 'When I was a bit older, I did tell my older brother
5 about it and he abused me as well. I was about 10.
6 When [he] died, I jumped into my car and drove straight
7 to the morgue in Dunfermline to make sure he was
8 actually dead.

9 'I never made any report to the police about any of
10 the abuse I suffered. I went on to stay with my older
11 sister for a few years after being in the home in
12 Edinburgh. I couldn't speak to her about anything.
13 I couldn't speak to anybody about it.

14 'I stopped going to Lagarie when I was about 11. It
15 was a horrible place, but living at home wasn't great
16 either.

17 'I had a terrible relationship with my mum and [my
18 brother] abused me. I wasn't treated like my brothers
19 and sisters because my mum didn't want me, so I kept
20 running away from home. I didn't go to school, I just
21 went away fishing with my uncles and cousins in
22 Kirkcaldy.

23 'I was staying away overnight in fields or just any
24 place I could sleep. I stayed with pals in Kirkcaldy
25 and I would get lifted by the police and taken back.

1 I wouldn't speak to the police. I didn't like them
2 either as they were the ones taking me back.

3 'I went to Oakbank School when I was about 12.
4 There was talk about me going to St Olive's in
5 Kirkcaldy, but I would have walked out of there, so they
6 decided to put me further away.

7 'I was placed at Oakbank by a children's panel. It
8 was because of my running away.

9 'I remember ... one of my social workers who was
10 from Kirkcaldy ...'

11 And she names a particular member of the Children's
12 Panel who was a teacher, and they were the ones that
13 took him to Edinburgh when he left Oakbank:

14 'The Children's Panel did ask me why I kept running
15 away from home but I didn't answer them. I was
16 stubborn. I didn't want to talk about my past. I was
17 scared, so I wasn't interested in what they were saying
18 to me.

19 'They eventually asked me if I wanted to end up in
20 a home and I said yes. That's how I ended up going to
21 Oakbank in Aberdeen.'

22 He says in relation to Oakbank:

23 'I loved it, it was brilliant. I was away from the
24 family, so I didn't get the beatings. I didn't want to
25 come home. Even when it was time for me to come out and

1 go home, I didn't want to.

2 'I was there for about two years. It was a school
3 for kids that had been misbehaving. It was a mixture of
4 boys and girls and the ages were from about 10 upwards.
5 I remember I did get schooling within the place.

6 'They didn't really discipline you at Oakbank. They
7 would keep you in your room, but they didn't beat me up
8 like my brothers did at home. It was a place that I had
9 no option about, but I did like it there.

10 'They couldn't control me at Oakbank and I kept
11 getting into trouble. I was getting too old anyway, so
12 I was moved to Edinburgh.'

13 He then spends time at Howdenhall, describes it as
14 Howdenhall Children's Centre, and says:

15 'I was moved to an assessment centre in Edinburgh at
16 Howdenhall. It was straight across the road from the
17 crematorium.

18 'I was at Howdenhall for about two or three years
19 until I was 16. After that, I just looked after myself.

20 'Howdenhall was secure like a prison. But
21 everything was very fair. There were a lot of wild kids
22 in there and there were always fights. If you got into
23 trouble or went fighting with other guys that were
24 there, they would put you in a room until you had calmed
25 down.

1 'I did get into fights and I was put in the room
2 quite a bit. There was a reinforced glass window in it
3 and I kicked that out one day. I was older at
4 Howdenhall and I was wilder. I didn't care about
5 anything.'

6 He then talks about life after being in care and
7 says:

8 'I was 16 when I came out of Howdenhall and I went
9 to stay with my older sister, who was in Kirkcaldy.
10 I got on great with her and I stayed with her for
11 a couple of years.

12 'I didn't go to high school. I used to head that
13 way in the morning but I never ended up there. I would
14 head off fishing. They tried at Oakbank and at
15 Howdenhall, but I wasn't interested. They basically
16 calmed you down and tried to straighten you out.

17 'I was a butcher's apprentice for a while but I got
18 the sack. I was a bit off the rails, I suppose. I got
19 a couple of other jobs after that. I was a forklift
20 driver and I worked in the tanning industry in Kinghorn
21 for a few years. Eventually I moved out of [my
22 sister's] house and got a flat in Kirkcaldy.'

23 He says that his sister died of cancer after he,
24 'Gordon', met his wife.

25 He says:

1 'I had a friend who was a chef on a ship and he
2 persuaded me to start working offshore. I couldn't boil
3 a kettle, but he got me out and taught me everything.
4 I became second chef on a ship and I loved it. And
5 that's when I met [my future wife]. She was involved in
6 cleaning a ship I was working on.

7 'I started seeing [his future wife, sold his flat]
8 and moved in with her and we got married.'

9 He says:

10 'We've been married now for 25 years.

11 'I'm now a long-distance lorry driver, but I'm stuck
12 in the office at the moment because of the aneurysm in
13 my head. That first happened about ten years ago.
14 I was in hospital for about three days but it
15 disappeared.

16 'I've had regular scans since then and now it's
17 back. If I watch what I'm doing, I'm okay, so I need to
18 keep calm, as stress and anxiety can affect me. That's
19 not easy. DVLA took my licence from me for a year,
20 which was why I was moved to work in the office, but
21 I do have my licence back now.'

22 He says in relation to the impact of his time in
23 care:

24 'I still have nightmares about the small tower at
25 Lagarie. In my nightmares, I'm walking up the stairs

1 towards the door and I have to wake myself up before
2 I get to the top and that door opens. I wake up
3 sweating. It's horrible.

4 'My older brother was always picking on me when he
5 came home from leave in the army. We were in the
6 Station Hotel in Kirkcaldy one night when he was home on
7 leave and he picked on me in there. That was the last
8 time he picked on me, as I lifted up a bar stool and hit
9 him across the back of the head.

10 'I'm very deep, I don't talk to people, and I think
11 that's what my problem is. I don't talk. I can go for
12 weeks without saying a word to [my wife]. For a few
13 years of our marriage I was not a nice person. I've
14 been aggressive, not physically towards people or
15 towards my wife, but I'm moody and I can just blow up.
16 We've nearly split up a few times because of the way
17 I am, and none of that's fair on her.

18 'My whole life I've been shut down and I keep myself
19 to myself. I'm even like that at work. If anyone comes
20 and sits next to me, I push them away. I hate people
21 coming near to me, I hate meeting people. I think it
22 all stems from my time in Lagarie House.

23 'I've always been very protective towards my two
24 stepdaughters, ever since [my wife and I] got together.
25 They were 9 and 11 at the time. Now I'm the same with

1 my grandchildren. They are 4, 7 and 13 now.

2 'My ribs stick out from where the Matron kicked me,
3 but that doesn't cause me any problems.

4 'I did have a drink problem and I'd say I was nearly
5 an alcoholic when I met my wife. She wouldn't tolerate
6 that because her dad was an alcoholic. It was the drink
7 or my wife, so I stopped drinking like that.

8 'I've never had any kind of counselling. I didn't
9 get anything like that at Oakbank or Howdenhall either.
10 I think I'm a bit old for it now, but I suppose it's
11 something I could consider.

12 'I don't speak about my time in care and then, when
13 the TV programme came out about Lagarie, I did finally
14 talk to my wife. I told her what had happened in the
15 past and I feel, since I've done that, things haven't
16 been as bad.

17 'I did make contact with Future Pathways and I was
18 referred to a doctor for an assessment. I had that
19 assessment over the phone a few weeks ago. That lasted
20 about an hour and the woman I spoke to told me I had
21 post-traumatic stress disorder. I'm still waiting to
22 hear from them about getting some counselling in Dundee.

23 'I haven't asked the British Sailors' Society for
24 any of my records. I don't know what they would have.
25 I couldn't tell you what records there were. I only

1 ever saw the Matron writing. She was always writing
2 stuff in her office.

3 'I intend contacting the British Sailors' Society
4 again and obtaining whatever records I can from them.
5 I'm interested in knowing what records they actually
6 have.'

7 And pausing there, my Lady, the answer seems to be
8 almost none.

9 LADY SMITH: Nothing, yes.

10 MR SHELDON: In relation to lessons to be learned, he says:

11 'More staff in Lagarie would perhaps have prevented
12 things happening. It was not a nice place and I'll
13 never forget it. That can't happen again. Having
14 someone to talk to, someone you could trust, that would
15 have helped, and having more external involvement. The
16 Matron was always different when people were visiting,
17 so perhaps, regular visits or inspections would have
18 helped. Matron definitely ruled the roost, and I don't
19 think she was answerable to anyone.

20 'There was no contact with the social work at
21 Lagarie, I don't know if there should have been. There
22 was certainly no contact with my social worker after he
23 dropped me off at Howdenhall. That was it. I was
24 a nobody and I didn't receive support.

25 'There was never any preparation for life when

1 I left Howdenhall. I was just dropped off at
2 Kirkcaldy.'

3 He then says finally that after seeing the TV
4 programme on Lagarie, he contacted BSS to advise them of
5 his situation. And they wrote back and confirmed that
6 Lagarie was to be the subject of an investigation by the
7 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. They also said a number
8 of survivors from Lagarie had been in touch with them:

9 'The Sailors' Society thanked me for getting in
10 touch, as it was helping them get an understanding about
11 what happened at Lagarie ... They also said they
12 regretted that any child had been abused and they
13 apologised for any abuse that was suffered by children
14 who were in their care at the time. They also offered
15 to finance counselling for me.'

16 And he has then made the usual declaration and
17 signed the statement, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 Would that be a sensible point to have the afternoon
20 break, and then we can return to some more read-ins
21 after that.

22 MR SHELDON: Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 (3.03 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (3.11 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, where next?

3 'James' (read in)

4 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady. Yes, the next
5 statement is from an applicant, again who is anonymous,
6 and is known as 'James'.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is
9 WIT.001.002.8714.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: 'James' was born in 1953, and he tells us about
12 his life before going into care from paragraph 2
13 onwards. He says he was born in Glasgow, he lived with
14 his mother and father and four siblings. He says that
15 his father worked in the Post Office but was formerly
16 with the Royal Navy in the Second World War. And his
17 mother did little part-time jobs, and at that time money
18 was very tight.

19 He says he went into care when he was about 3 and
20 a half to 4 years old, and he says he remembers things
21 being very tough financially for the family, but that it
22 was a loving, caring family, and that there were close
23 family members as well as extended family, like aunties
24 and uncles, and it was very close-knit and they all
25 helped each other.

1 But he says at paragraph 5, his mother had a nervous
2 breakdown, which he says was primarily brought on by
3 financial worry. And he says that these struggles when
4 he was younger taught him the value of money and the
5 financial situation caused friction in his parents'
6 marriage, which led to arguments which were hard to hide
7 because they lived in a single end. And there were five
8 of them in one bedroom.

9 He says that things got so bad his mother had
10 a nervous breakdown and she was admitted to hospital and
11 sectioned.

12 Then after, at paragraph 8, he says due to that, his
13 older sister and himself had to go to the British
14 Sailors' Society Children's Home. He says at
15 paragraph 8:

16 'It's now called Lagarie. It wasn't known as that
17 at the time. Lagarie is an alien to me. It was called
18 the Sailors' Society Home. People collected for it in
19 those days. It was very well-known. There were little
20 stockings put up in shops and public bars and things and
21 people would contribute.'

22 He goes on at paragraph 9 to say:

23 'I remember vividly going into the home. It's
24 burned into my subconscious. I can't ever forget.
25 I have lived with this all my life. It's not something

1 you can forget. I believe the social work must have
2 been involved, but records seem to have gone missing or
3 have been removed. My dad had a social worker in the
4 Post Office ...'

5 And he names him. He says:

6 'He was employed by the Post Office as a social
7 worker. My mum had to meet him on numerous occasions
8 and I would go with her. That was a very traumatic time
9 for her, meeting this person. This was just before she
10 had the breakdown. He was a stern man. These were
11 difficult meetings because he would bring up the impact
12 it was having on my dad and his job. So there was a lot
13 of conflict. He wanted to know what was going on in the
14 family and telling mum how it was affecting dad. This
15 caused the rages in my dad when he found out about the
16 meetings. He didn't want that to happen because he was
17 worried that people he worked with would find out.'

18 He then tells us about what's titled the British
19 Sailors' Society Children's Home, in brackets, Lagarie,
20 from paragraph 10. It would appear, my Lady, we don't
21 have any records relating to 'James' to help with the
22 dates.

23 LADY SMITH: No.

24 MS FORBES: 'It is still a bit of a mystery how we ended up
25 at the Sailors' Society Home and I am still trying to

1 get to the bottom of it. My parents took us there. I'm
2 still trying to find out who facilitated the paperwork
3 and that side of it. I have done numerous subject
4 access requests and I have been unable to find out
5 anything about the records.

6 'We went to the home by bus. We arrived at this big
7 sort of country place in its own grounds. We'd never
8 seen anything like this before. I didn't know we were
9 going to stay. We thought we were going for a day
10 visit, an outing. My parents had kept this from us
11 until the last minute.

12 'The home was imposing. Nothing we were used to.
13 It was quite unsettling. When we came to the entrance,
14 and taken in, it was quite an unnerving experience
15 meeting the people. There was a nurse at the front
16 reception, from my recollection. She was wearing a blue
17 uniform with a bib and a little prim hat. That made me
18 unsettled because it was like a hospital. My older
19 sister was whispering that we were going to be staying
20 here for a while. It was going to be like a holiday.
21 She heard my mum and dad saying that. I was upset and
22 asked, "What about mum and dad? Where are they going to
23 be?" She told me it would just be us here for a while.
24 I started crying and clinging to my mum and she told me
25 that it was okay, that I won't be here long. She said

1 that they would pick us up and that I'll be all right,
2 no harm would come to me. She added that it's a nice
3 place and they would take care of us. That's what
4 I remember.

5 'The formalities that I can recollect were that it
6 was a reception area, and my mum and dad were
7 introducing themselves to the nurse, who was behind like
8 a reception desk. We were led into another room like
9 a waiting room and the Matron came to meet my mum and
10 dad. There was a discussion outwith our hearing. My
11 sister was getting unsettled and upset by this time. We
12 were introduced to the Matron. I didn't know her name
13 at that time. I found that out later. Her name was
14 Anne Millar. From what I remember of her, she was
15 a big, chunky woman. She was quite imposing and had
16 a dominating sort of personality. I remember thinking,
17 "I don't like this person". I got bad vibes. She was
18 very official. There was no warmth from her. My sister
19 didn't like her immediately either.

20 'Mum and dad didn't stay long, telling us they would
21 be back and that we were there for a holiday and not to
22 worry. They said they would be back shortly to see us
23 and that we would be staying here at this place. They
24 left and I was crying. My sister was trying to help me.
25 She was getting upset too. She had a stronger nature

1 than me. My parents kept looking back. I was calling
2 for them, and my dad was pulling at my mum's arm,
3 leading her away. She kept stopping and looking back
4 and I remember hoping that she was going to come back,
5 but my dad kept insisting and getting her to move along.
6 I was really upset and distressed and I couldn't be
7 pacified. At that time, we entered the home and there
8 was an immediate feeling of abandonment.

9 'The Matron and nurse were trying to calm me down,
10 telling me not to make a scene, but I wasn't to be
11 consoled. Abandonment and rejection was what I felt.
12 It's not a feeling I had experienced before. My mum had
13 made us sandwiches and a drink, but as soon as they left
14 the Matron took them from us.'

15 'James' then talks about his routine from
16 paragraph 16:

17 'We were taken down a corridor by the Matron into
18 a dormitory and shown our beds. There were rows and
19 rows of beds with a centre corridor. My sister and I
20 were in the same dormitory. It was like an army
21 barracks. There were scores of beds. I believe there
22 were other dormitories. It was such a big place.
23 I recall there were other children's belongings and
24 possessions in bedside lockers, but there were no other
25 children there at the time. They were out doing

1 activities.

2 'To me, it was frightening. I hadn't seen anything
3 like this before. This was an alien environment to what
4 I had experienced in the single end. This upset me even
5 more. I was very sensitive.

6 'We were put down early at night, frogmarched to our
7 dormitory by a nurse. It was around dusk. I believe we
8 went there in the springtime. It wasn't cold and
9 flowers were out. We were put down and you didn't feel
10 that tired.

11 'You were woken up early too by the nurses. The
12 Matron would be patrolling up and down. The nurses came
13 in and shouted, "It's time to get up". It was quite
14 harsh. You were told that the Matron would be coming to
15 inspect the dorm, so it had to be clean. The nurses
16 seemed to be frightened of the Matron. They would snap
17 at us and there was finger-wagging. There was no care
18 in the place. No warmth, no comfort, no nurturing. To
19 me, it was a sinister, fearful place for children who
20 weren't with their parents anymore. It was run in the
21 style of army barracks.

22 'I could do so much with regards to dressing myself,
23 and my sister helped with fiddly buttons and things. My
24 sister was in the bed next to me. I remember being very
25 dependent on [her]. There were other children who had

1 siblings there.'

2 He then talks about bed-wetting from paragraph 21:

3 'My first night was catastrophic. I wet the bed.
4 I woke up and I was absolutely soaking. It was the
5 first time I had ever done that. I was really upset
6 because it had never happened to me. My sister said
7 that they were going to be very angry with me because
8 I had wet the bed. She couldn't understand what I had
9 done. I couldn't either.'

10 He says he called her and he said to her:

11 'I don't know what I've done.'

12 He goes on:

13 'I was deeply embarrassed and I was upset and
14 I remember her saying, 'You'll need to get out of those
15 clothes'. I was in pyjamas that I had brought with me.
16 She was trying to get them off me and change them.

17 'A nurse came in and found me and the bed soaking.
18 She told my sister that she would have to tell the
19 Matron and she won't be happy, that she didn't like that
20 sort of thing. The Matron was summoned and she was
21 angry. She shouted at me, "Look at what you have done.
22 Do you know the work needed to clean that up? The bed
23 will have to be changed and the mattress removed. This
24 is causing us a lot of work". I remember that vividly.
25 She took [and he names his sister] and I to her study

1 and raged at us, shouting and swearing. She was like
2 the towering inferno. She said to my sister, "Your
3 brother should know better. He shouldn't be doing that
4 now. This is disgraceful". I couldn't understand why
5 she was so angry.'

6 He then goes on to talk about mealtimes and food at
7 paragraph 23:

8 'The food was very basic. It's hard to remember the
9 exact meals, but it was basic. We were always hungry,
10 we always felt we weren't getting enough, it was very
11 skimpy. Everybody ate together in the dining hall. You
12 would sit down and the nurses brought it to you on
13 plates and slapped it down in front of you. If you
14 didn't like it, you had to eat it because you were so
15 hungry. I remember them snapping at us to eat the food,
16 so you were forcing yourself to eat it.

17 'I don't recall us being washed. We had to clean
18 ourselves in wash handbasins. There were no baths.
19 There was soap and water. The boys and girls washed
20 together. I can't recall cleaning my teeth at all.'

21 He then tells us that he and his sister weren't at
22 school and that there may have been other children at
23 school, he doesn't know. And he says religion wasn't
24 a thing in the home to his memory, and he didn't have
25 any chores to do because of his age, but that perhaps

1 his sister did because she was -- seemed to be busy all
2 the time.

3 At paragraph 26 he says:

4 'I was in there for about four months. I had
5 a locker by my bed that had personal effects that you
6 had brought with you, a change of clothes, socks,
7 underwear, pyjamas, that sort of thing. I didn't get
8 pocket money.

9 'It's patchy what I remember during the day. There
10 were like activities in the home. It was like
11 a nursery, like a play area, and we would have so many
12 toys that we could play with. If it was a decent day,
13 we could go outside onto the front lawn and play with
14 activity toys, like little pull-along trains or cars and
15 tanks. The girls had dolls and prams and stuff to play
16 with. We didn't have our own toys. We would play games
17 like hide-and-seek or "peeever", which is hopscotch.

18 'If you'd been in trouble, like wetting the bed, you
19 couldn't play.'

20 And then he says that he and his sister were
21 isolated in their dormitory regularly if the matron was
22 angry with them. He goes on at paragraph 28 to talk
23 about that:

24 'Just the two of us, because we were what she called
25 troublemakers. The nurses came in periodically to make

1 sure we were still there. Sometimes we could go out.
2 The reception area was quite open but you weren't really
3 allowed to go there. It was out of bounds.

4 'It was a strict regime. You couldn't go beyond
5 boundaries outside the place. If you did, you would be
6 shouted at by the nurses who would then report it to the
7 Matron. That happened to us a few times. The nurses
8 would slap you on the leg, arm or head. If you
9 resisted, they would drag you in to where you should
10 have been. Then the Matron came and summoned us to her
11 study and we would be slapped on the head and arms by
12 her.

13 'In her study, the Matron had brandy, chocolates and
14 bananas. I remember smelling the alcohol from her
15 breath. When we were summoned in the evening, she was
16 drinking the stuff. She drank it a lot. Her face would
17 be beetroot red and her breath smelling of what my
18 sister told me was brandy. We would be standing or
19 sitting on the sofa. She would keep us there while she
20 was lecturing to us. She would have these rages, then
21 she would subside, then she would lecture us again and
22 get angry again. She couldn't control her temper at
23 all. She drank in the evening. She had a routine, and
24 if that routine was upset in any way, she would get
25 really angry.

1 'I can't remember my birthday being celebrated.
2 What I do remember is they had a carousel sort of thing
3 within the home, like hobby horses. That was a special
4 one-day sort of holiday event and the Matron was there.
5 I can't remember why it was. It was like a local
6 holiday, a local festival sort of thing. There were
7 pictures in a local newspaper and it was on a BBC
8 documentary. That sort of jogged my memory too.
9 I think there was a photographer there from the local
10 newspaper. I can't recall birthdays being celebrated.'

11 He said he didn't go on any trips when they were at
12 the home and he says he had no visitors whilst he was
13 there, and he can't remember anyone having visits and
14 didn't see any inspections. There was no healthcare.

15 At paragraph 34 he says:

16 'I'd had bruises and slap marks before from beatings
17 but I never received any medical treatment because there
18 were no witnesses.'

19 'James' then goes on to talk about abuse at the home
20 from paragraph 35:

21 'After the incident on the first night when I wet
22 the bed, I couldn't control my bladder. I kept wetting
23 the bed and wetting my clothes. My sister was saying to
24 me before I would go to sleep, "You mustn't wet the bed
25 or she will be really angry with you, we'll be in

1 trouble". It happened, and each time it happened, the
2 nurses would get angrier and the Matron would fly into
3 bigger rages. She would take me to her study and she
4 started hitting me. She hit me on the ear with her open
5 hand. I was stunned by this. I'd never been hit
6 before. I was shocked. She grabbed me roughly by the
7 scruff of the neck in her study and threw me on the
8 couch.

9 'There was only [my sister] and I there. [My
10 sister] would try to intervene and the matron would push
11 her away. She pointed her finger at my eye saying,
12 "Don't you ever do that again. You'll punished every
13 single time this happens". I remember her eyes were
14 bulging. I couldn't believe the hostility. I had been
15 changed into dry clothes when this happened. The more
16 she assaulted me and raged at me, the worse it happened.
17 I remember one occasion my sister threw herself in
18 between the matron and I when she was hitting me. She
19 repeatedly hit me on the head and arms and screamed at
20 me.

21 'One time my sister jumped in and the matron grabbed
22 her by the hair and dragged her into this cupboard and
23 locked her in there for a couple of hours. I was taken
24 out of the room and [my sister] was still in the
25 cupboard.

1 'I can't remember what was happening to the other
2 children. She individualised everyone. She kept it to
3 whoever. This happened every night. The harder I tried
4 to stop it, the more it was happening. I'd waken up and
5 the bed was flooded and my clothes were soaking. I'd be
6 crying because I knew what was coming. It happened
7 every time I wet the bed. The nurses took the sheets
8 away saying, "You've caused us more work". There was no
9 sympathy, no empathy.

10 'I remember up to about four nurses. I can't recall
11 their names. I didn't know the Matron's name then too.
12 She was only known as Matron. We were made to believe
13 it was our fault that we were there and there was no
14 sympathy. It was just cruel and barbaric. Every night
15 and morning, it was the same terrifying procedure.

16 'The punishments progressed from physical to one
17 time the Matron said to my sister, "Because your brother
18 keeps wetting the bed, you'll be getting no food today.
19 You're not getting any dinner today or breakfast in the
20 morning." We went the whole day with no food. We were
21 really hungry and asking the nurses for food. They
22 wouldn't give us any. I remember my sister started
23 stealing food from the Matron's office. I don't know
24 how she done it exactly. She was a tower of strength to
25 me in the home. Without her, I think I would have died

1 in that home. Under Matron's orders, we got no food and
2 her word was law in there. The nurses were frightened
3 of her. So we would go without food for like a day on,
4 day off, sort of thing. We did get water. There was
5 a sink in the dorm or the bathroom and you could drink
6 from that.

7 'I look back on the treatment I received as abuse.
8 There was corporal punishment in those days, but when it
9 crosses a line, where you're getting daily beatings,
10 kicked, punched, and hit over the head with a stool,
11 which I will go into later, it goes way beyond the lines
12 of corporal punishment. It was a brutal environment
13 where anything went. I heard other children being
14 shouted at and pulled and dragged, but I didn't see
15 anyone being treated like I was by the Matron. All the
16 staff were the same in their way. It was like a regime.
17 I don't recall any of them being kind. All I remember
18 is that it was a catalogue of daily abuse through
19 bed-wetting. It centred on me because of the
20 bed-wetting. The punishments would get worse as time
21 went on. The depravation and withdrawal of food would
22 get more extreme. The emotional, psychological and
23 physical abuse would heighten all the time.

24 'My sister and I ran away one day. The punishments
25 were so harsh, food was being withheld and [my sister]

1 said we have to go. She said she would find a way. We
2 tried a couple of times and failed because someone was
3 in the reception area. My sister told me we had to go
4 because the Matron hated me and the punishments were
5 getting worse for me.

6 'One day, there was no one in the reception area and
7 [my sister] told me to run as fast as I could. We ran
8 out over the lawn and down to the gate, which was open,
9 and we got out the grounds themselves. My sister took
10 me by the hand and we walked down this long road. My
11 next recollection is being at the docks. There were
12 little boats there, tied up, and we thought we could row
13 one to Glasgow. I was frightened. It was like the sea.
14 We were deliberating whether we should go down and get
15 into a boat. I thought we should try, because the home
16 was a hell hole, but [my sister] said we better not, we
17 could die, we could drown. She said we had better get
18 back to the home without being seen.

19 'We managed to get back. We sneaked along the side
20 of the bushes and waited a while until it eventually
21 went quiet. We darted into the hall but got caught by
22 a nurse, who said it would be reported to the Matron.
23 They didn't know we had run away and only found out when
24 we came through the door. We were taken to the study
25 and none of the nurses were allowed in. I was beaten

1 remorselessly by the Matron. I was punched and kicked.
2 I remember her saying. "How dare you do this to me".
3 She was screaming and f-ing and c-ing. She started
4 punching and kicking me. My sister came in between us
5 and she got beaten too. I remember putting my arm up to
6 protect myself and the Matron picked up a wooden stool
7 and hit me over the head with it. I fell to the ground
8 unconscious. I woke up dazed and my head was spinning
9 and so sore. My sister said, "You have a big egg on
10 your head". I was crying. There was a big swelling.

11 'I got no medical treatment at all. There was no
12 healthcare there. I'd had bruises and slap marks before
13 from beatings, but I never received any medical
14 treatment because there were no witnesses. No one else
15 saw what she was doing. It was always in her study, and
16 always out of sight from the other nurses, and when she
17 was drinking.

18 'After the assault, we were ordered to our beds.
19 I remember going to bed and I couldn't sleep that night
20 because of the pain. I lay on one side, then the other,
21 then lay on my back and I eventually got to sleep.
22 I kept feeling the lump on my head and I was frightened
23 and confused.

24 'After we ran away, when I was hit with the stool,
25 the lump was there for a number of days. This must have

1 happened near the end of the period we were staying
2 there because I remember my mum and dad came to take us
3 away and they saw it. They were shocked and asked the
4 Matron what had happened. She told them I had fallen
5 and hit my head on the side of the sofa. I didn't tell
6 them in front of the Matron. They were upset that
7 I hadn't had any medical help. My sister told them what
8 really happened when we left. They took me right to our
9 GP [and he names the GP].

10 'My parents just turned up at the home, noticed the
11 big lump and were really upset. They took me straight
12 to the GP. My mum had been discharged from Leverndale
13 Hospital.'

14 He names the GP:

15 '... who said the injury wasn't accidental and that
16 I had been struck violently with something on my head
17 and he was outraged when my sister told him what had
18 happened. He said he would report it and have a full
19 investigation and have the Matron dismissed from office.
20 I was hoping to see this in my medical records but they
21 are gone. Missing or removed. I don't know if anyone
22 spoke to my parents again about the incident or
23 investigation, but it seemed to be very much hushed up.
24 That's the impression I had in later years.'

25 'James' then talks about his life after being in

1 care and the impact. He says when he got home that
2 he -- one of his sisters was still in hospital and
3 unwell. But he says when he went back home, they were
4 staying in Glasgow and he says:

5 'That's where we were staying. I didn't go back
6 into a home after this and my family came together.
7 I didn't have a happy family life after being in the
8 home. It was never the same due to the head knock. It
9 caused some damage to my nervous system. I was getting
10 treated by the doctor after that for some kind of
11 nervous debility and inner tensions.

12 'I had a very troubled and disrupted childhood and
13 it was difficult to adjust to primary school, when ...
14 I just cried and cried the first few days. It was going
15 back into a regimented environment, and it reminded me
16 of the home. Any officialdom I had to deal with,
17 I couldn't cope. I've always felt there was some kind
18 of brain damage to my nervous system, because I was
19 never right after being hit with the stool. My parents
20 and grandparents said, "He's not the same child
21 anymore". I was known for hiding under the bed and not
22 coming out if a stranger came into the room.

23 'My bed-wetting stopped as soon as I went home and
24 back into the same, safe environment. It must have been
25 psychological. I had trouble throughout primary and

1 secondary.'

2 And he tells us which primary school he went to and
3 then high school. And he says:

4 'I had difficulty keeping up with the rest. I was
5 moved from class to class. My mum and dad would speak
6 to teachers to make special arrangements for me. It was
7 a terrible struggle for me. It still continues. It
8 never goes away.'

9 He then says that after he left school he worked for
10 a furniture firm making and delivering furniture, he got
11 an apprenticeship in horticulture, worked on the
12 gardening side at the Parks Department for a long period
13 of time. But he says that his work suffered, he found
14 it hard to mix with people and he always felt at
15 a disadvantage and not at the same level as others. And
16 he says it took a long time to come to terms with that.
17 At the end of paragraph 52, he says:

18 'I put all this down to my bad experiences in the
19 British Sailors' Society.'

20 He talks about getting into security, but says he
21 still suffered from this nervous debility and had to
22 withdraw from group situations, and he's been a loner
23 for most of his life.

24 At paragraph 53, he says:

25 'I've had flashbacks and nightmares about these

1 horrors that happened in the home. The abuse, beatings,
2 starvings, and being away from my parents at that
3 delicate age, and being hit by the stool.'

4 He says that he was examined for early retirement on
5 health grounds in 2001 and saw a doctor. He brought up
6 his time in the home and the doctor did a psychiatric
7 examination, and that he'd been off work for a number of
8 months due to his -- an anxiety state dating back to
9 childhood. And he says he's been taking medication,
10 an antidepressant, since 2001.

11 'James' goes on to say he's had counselling, and
12 with the counsellor, he covered the time when he was
13 abused in the home and the ramifications of that
14 throughout his childhood and into adult life. He was
15 referred by his GP for that counselling. And he says
16 that that person was a very good listener and linked
17 a lot of his problems to the bad experiences in his
18 early childhood at the children's home.

19 He tells us he has been married for 36 years at the
20 time of this statement and has three sons who at this
21 time were all in their 30s. And he says that he's
22 worked in Glasgow most of his life.

23 At paragraph 57 he says:

24 'Throughout all this trauma and abuse, the only
25 thing that has sustained me in life is my Christian

1 faith. I've said this to everyone I meet. I've said it
2 to my doctor. I've said it to the police. It's helped
3 where drugs have failed, where counselling has only just
4 touched the surface. It has revived me. To me, it is
5 important. It may be important to other people.

6 'It's had impact in a whole spectrum of ways. The
7 negative is always there. To this day, I'm still
8 getting counselling, still on antidepressants. It never
9 goes away. I don't think it's ever going to go away but
10 I am motivated to help other people.

11 'I was prompted to contact the Scottish Child Abuse
12 Inquiry ...'.

13 And he tells us when that was, the year before he
14 gave his statement:

15 '... through organisations like INCAS and Birthlink,
16 to help other people.'

17 He tells us at paragraph 60 that he spoke to police
18 and he also spoke to the Chief Executive Officer of the
19 British Sailors' Society, Stuart Rivers, who told him he
20 should report his abuse to the police. And he gave
21 a statement to the police and he says that at the time
22 of this statement, the police had been in touch again
23 and wanted to interview him again.

24 And he goes on to say in relation to records that
25 he'd spoken to Stuart Rivers, the CEO of the British

1 Sailors' Society, and he said that Stuart Rivers said to
2 him, this is at paragraph 61:

3 'Stuart Rivers said he wanted a better grasp of what
4 happened at the time, what happened to these children.'

5 And then he tells us that he asked him about his
6 records because that was important to him. And
7 Stuart Rivers told him he'd conducted a search and
8 couldn't find any records and that they just don't have
9 them.

10 At paragraph 62, he tells us, 'James' tells us that
11 Stuart Rivers said that at the time that 'James' and his
12 sister were at Lagarie, it was a Scottish committee that
13 were running the home for the British Sailors' Society
14 and they didn't really take it back from the Scottish
15 committee until 1970. He said there was collusion with
16 the social work and the home in relation to records and
17 they went missing. He didn't expand on the collusion.

18 And then he said he was contacted in 2018 by
19 Stuart Rivers, and he says that Stuart Rivers has since
20 resigned, in 2019.

21 He tells us that he went to his doctors to ask for
22 medical records but there's 11 years missing, including
23 his time at the Sailors' Society, and he doesn't know
24 why.

25 And his sister's records were missing from the same

1 period of time, and he's been in touch with Future
2 Pathways and Birthlink and he's been told nobody has
3 records for that period.

4 In relation to lessons to be learned, from
5 paragraph 64, he says:

6 'There should be more regular oversight into these
7 children's homes. There should be more CCTV, audio and
8 recording equipment installed in these places. People
9 should be properly vetted and psychologically tested.
10 There should be regular oversight and more supervision,
11 more accountability and more transparency.'

12 And at paragraph 65, 'James' says:

13 'I spoke to my family and news about Lagarie came
14 out in the press and I thought I should come forward.
15 This is why I contacted the Scottish Child Abuse
16 Inquiry, to see if I can help, rather than bottling it
17 up. I saw the merry-go-round and got the Matron's name
18 from the internet. I looked it up. I haven't watched
19 the BBC documentary. It would be too harrowing.'

20 At paragraph 67, he says:

21 'I had never known the home to be known as Lagarie,
22 it was always the Sailors' Society, and it seems to me
23 that they are trying to distance themselves from it.

24 'My sister ... and I were victims of criminal and
25 malicious neglect by the Matron, Anne Millar. This

1 neglect took the form of punishment and beatings,
2 withholding food, being left in urine-soaked pyjamas and
3 bedding all night, being subjected to emotional and
4 psychological stress and pressures, being made to feel
5 worthless, and ultimately, being deprived of necessary
6 and critical medical attention.

7 'The passage of time has led me to believe more and
8 more that my tormenter, Anne Millar, the Matron, was
9 a sadist who enjoyed inflicting pain on others.'

10 And he's made the usual declaration and 'James' has
11 signed it. I'm not sure of the date, my Lady, but it
12 might be September 2018? It's hard to make out.

13 LADY SMITH: Possibly 2019.

14 MS FORBES: Something like that, yes.

15 LADY SMITH: One or the other.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Well, I think that completes today's work,
19 doesn't it. It leaves with us a couple of read-ins but
20 I can see one in particular that's quite substantial and
21 no doubt we will fit those in appropriately next week;
22 is that right?

23 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, hopefully.

24 LADY SMITH: I say read-ins for this section, because I know
25 there will be others.

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