

Tuesday, 20 January 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of  
4 our case study hearings. We're now in the second week  
5 and, as we indicated at the end of last week, the plan  
6 today is to have two witnesses in person this morning  
7 before we move on to reading in some evidence this  
8 afternoon.

9 Now, I'm not aware of there being any problems, so  
10 Ms Forbes, I think the first witness is ready, is that  
11 right?

12 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, that's right, the first witness is  
13 an applicant who's anonymous and wishes to be known as  
14 'Anne'.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 'Anne' (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: 'Anne', thank you for coming along to the  
18 Inquiry premises this morning to help us with your  
19 evidence.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: I do, of course, already have your written  
22 evidence, that is evidence before me, before the  
23 Inquiry, already in place, and it's in the red folder  
24 that I see that you've found there on the desk.

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: But we would like to focus on some particular  
2 aspects of your evidence with you today.

3 A. Certainly.

4 LADY SMITH: And just hear from you in person about your  
5 past experiences.

6 Before I invite Ms Forbes to start the questioning  
7 that we'd like you to engage with, there are one or two  
8 things I want to say. And firstly, please understand  
9 I do know that what you've been asked to do here is  
10 difficult; you've come into a public place to talk about  
11 your own life, and in particular your own life when you  
12 were very young.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: And some things that happened that were not  
15 good. And however organised and ready you may feel to  
16 do that, I'm well aware that people can suddenly find it  
17 upsetting, or distressing. Please don't worry if that  
18 happens, or if you just want a break, because it all  
19 feels too much, we can do that, or if you just want to  
20 pause. If you don't understand our questions, that's  
21 our fault, not yours. So do speak up if we're not  
22 explaining things properly, because it really matters to  
23 me that we can engage as effectively and clearly as we  
24 can.

25 A. Yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: Have you got any questions at the moment?

2 A. No, I don't. Thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: Well, I'll hand over to Ms Forbes and she'll

4 take it from there.

5 Questions from Ms Forbes

6 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

7 Good morning, 'Anne'.

8 A. Good morning.

9 Q. The statement that you gave to the Inquiry and have

10 signed is in front of you in the red folder.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And it's also going to appear in front of you on the

13 screen. If I could ask you just first of all to turn to

14 the very last page of your statement, it's page 16.

15 A. Yes, I've actually done that.

16 Q. And it would be paragraph, I think it's paragraph 99,

17 and we can see that there's a declaration that's made at

18 paragraph 99 and it says:

19 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

20 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

21 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

22 true.'

23 And then you've signed that, and it's dated

24 20 January 2021?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And is that still the position?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. If you just want to go to the beginning of your  
4 statement again.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. You can have it in front of you and use it or it will  
7 appear on the screen, it's up to you.

8 A. Yes, I'll just use the screen.

9 Q. 'Anne', for our purposes, we give your statement  
10 a reference number, so just for the transcript, I'm  
11 going to read out what that is.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. It is WIT-1-000000605.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. So 'Anne', I'm just going to start by going over what  
16 you told us about your life before you went into care.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you tell us about that between paragraphs 2 and 15  
19 of your statement. I think first of all you say,  
20 'Anne', that you were born in 1963, is that right?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. And you tell us you were born in Dumbarton, is that  
23 right?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 Q. And you lived initially with your parents?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And you then had a brother who was about a year younger?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then later you had a sister who was seven years  
5 younger. And you tell us, 'Anne', about your parents'  
6 relationship at paragraph 4 --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- onwards, and I think you describe that that was  
9 a violent relationship, is that right?

10 A. Yeah, yeah, it was.

11 Q. And that was your father being violent towards your  
12 mother?

13 A. It was both; each other. To each other.

14 Q. And I think later on in life you say you understood your  
15 mother's background a little bit more because of her  
16 upbringing, but that wasn't something that you knew  
17 about when you were younger?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. I think, 'Anne', you tell us your dad was originally  
20 an electrician in the shipyards?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. And he did earn good money, is that right?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. But there were issues between him and your mum in  
25 relation to money and bills weren't getting paid?

1 A. Yeah, that's correct.

2 Q. And that caused clashes?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Yes. And I think you say that the way things worked out  
5 were that you would be with your dad quite often, is  
6 that right?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And your brother would be with your mum?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. I think you tell us that you started primary school in  
11 Dumbarton, this is at paragraph 7.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you enjoyed that, is that right?

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 Q. And I think you say you did well at school?

16 A. Yes, I did, aye.

17 Q. And you had friends there?

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. But there came a time, when you were 7, you say your dad  
20 left and joined the Merchant Navy?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And basically just never came back?

23 A. Yeah, yeah, basically, yeah.

24 Q. And this was not long after your sister had been born,  
25 in the [REDACTED]?

1 A. That's correct, she was 5 months old.

2 Q. And I think you say that after that -- or before that,  
3 sorry, you were often down at your dad's sister's house?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. But then when your father left, that side of the family,  
6 really, you were kept away from?

7 A. Yeah, sadly my mum, her way of dealing with things was,  
8 yeah, to cut herself off from everyone and blame  
9 everyone and keep us away, yeah.

10 Q. But I think you say, you describe yourself as being  
11 quite stubborn as a wee girl, is that right?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you said you'd still go and see your aunt and your  
14 cousin?

15 A. Yes, yes, uh-huh. I was at school with my cousin, we  
16 were best friends, really.

17 Q. And I think you say that's somebody that you are still  
18 in touch with now?

19 A. Yes, she's one of my best friends.

20 LADY SMITH: And that was somebody on your dad's side, his  
21 sister.

22 A. Yes, that's my dad's sister's daughter. There's only  
23 three weeks between us in age, so, yeah.

24 Q. I think you say academically, you've told us you did  
25 well at primary school?

1 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

2 Q. And that she was somebody who also did well --

3 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

4 Q. 'Anne', you describe yourself at paragraph 10 as being  
5 very strong-minded?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you say that although you didn't do anything bad as  
8 such, you were always getting into trouble for saying  
9 things?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. Speaking up?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And I think you say if you thought something wasn't  
14 quite right, you would speak up?

15 A. Yes, yeah.

16 Q. And you describe yourself as a 'challenging wee girl'?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. I'm sure I was regarded that way, yeah.

18 Q. But I think you explain you weren't like that outside?

19 A. No, no, I was quite quiet outside. It was just if, you  
20 know, I kinda, if I didn't like something, didn't agree  
21 with something, you know, I was always, maybe, too  
22 honest, and as a child that's not considered a good  
23 thing sometimes.

24 Q. And you tell us, 'Anne', that after your father left,  
25 your mother had quite a lot of different people in and

1 out of the house.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. She was drinking. And you say that she took overdoses?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And you and her would have a lot of fights?

6 A. Yes, yeah.

7 Q. And it seems that at some point, a social worker became

8 involved?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And was appointed. Do you know how that came about?

11 A. Erm, my understanding is that when my dad left, and my

12 mum, the people that she was friends with, kind of

13 encouraged or suggested that she go to social work, and,

14 you know, she was always kinda looking for sources to

15 get assistance, whether it be St Vincent de Paul's,

16 social work, whoever. You know, 'cause she wasn't very

17 good at maybe managing things, money, particularly.

18 Aye.

19 Q. Okay. So you think it was maybe from your mum that the

20 social work ended up getting involved?

21 A. Yeah, definitely, yeah, I'd be 99 per cent sure on that,

22 yeah.

23 Q. But you say that the social worker, who you name, this

24 is at paragraph 13, she was only in your house a couple

25 of times initially but you got to know her more over

1 the years?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. But importantly, you were never involved when you were  
4 younger with the Children's Panel system?

5 A. No, no, no.

6 Q. But she remained your social worker right up until you  
7 went to secondary school?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And I think then there was a change, there was another  
10 social worker?

11 A. Yes, it was Alistair Baird, yeah.

12 Q. 'Anne', you tell us at paragraph 14 that your mum had  
13 a medical condition, psoriasis?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that meant that she'd be in and out of hospital at  
16 times for treatment?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And this would be for a couple of weeks at a time?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And I think you explain that it was just before  
21 [REDACTED] 1970, so that would be the same year that your  
22 young sister was born, is that right?

23 A. Yes, uh-huh.

24 Q. Your mother was going into hospital for treatment and it  
25 was decided that you and your brother should go into

1           Lagarie House at Rhu?

2    A.   Yeah, yeah.

3    Q.   Now, I have just referred to it as Lagarie House. Did

4           you know it as that at the time?

5    A.   I just knew it as Lagarie.

6    Q.   Lagarie?

7    A.   That was what I knew it as, as a wee girl.

8    LADY SMITH: I've also heard other people just referring to

9           it as Rhu, because it was in Rhu.

10   A.   Yeah, yeah, that's right, uh-huh.

11   LADY SMITH: The same place?

12   A.   Yeah, yeah.

13   MS FORBES: So the way you pronounced it was Lagarie?

14   A.   Yeah.

15   Q.   That's the place you knew. But I think you say that

16           your young sister didn't go with you and your brother,

17           is that right?

18   A.   No, no.

19   Q.   On that occasion?

20   A.   Yeah.

21   Q.   On the first occasion?

22   A.   Uh-huh.

23   Q.   She went somewhere else?

24   A.   Yes, yeah.

25   Q.   For younger children?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And 'Anne', you say that nothing was explained properly  
3 to you at that time. You were just told it was  
4 happening?

5 A. Yeah, basically, yeah. Yeah.

6 Q. Did you know how long you were going to be there for  
7 when you first went?

8 A. No, I just remember the social worker taking us in her  
9 car and taking us there.

10 Q. Yes. You then go on, 'Anne', to tell us about your time  
11 at Lagarie House, and this is from paragraph 16, so I'm  
12 going to move now and talk to you about that.

13 Now, you haven't been able to see any records,  
14 I think, relating to your time there, is that right?

15 A. That's correct. I've been trying to dig and, you know,  
16 contacting to try and get archived records from  
17 Mitchell Library, but so far, nothing.

18 Q. And we haven't been able to get any records either. But  
19 I think you say, because of the dates and it being 1970,  
20 I think you would have been about 6, still, at that  
21 time?

22 A. About 7.

23 LADY SMITH: 7.

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 MS FORBES: Okay. And your brother would have been about 6?

1 A. Yes, aye.

2 Q. And you explain, 'Anne', that over the next four years,  
3 I think up until you were 11, you were in and out of  
4 Lagarie quite a few times?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that would be if your mum had to go into hospital,  
7 or if she couldn't cope?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. And each time would be for about a week or two, is that  
10 right?

11 A. Yeah, uh-huh. It would vary, but there was times when  
12 I was in on my own, it was maybe just for a few days.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. You know, and then she would get me back.

15 Q. I think you say that there were times when you were on  
16 your own and your brother would stay at home?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Is that right? And I think you explain a bit later that  
19 there was one occasion when your sister was there too?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But -- and she was about a toddler, she was a toddler at  
22 that time?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. But from your recollection, the last time you were there  
25 you were about 11 before you started Primary 7, is that

1 right?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. And you estimate that between the ages of 7 and 11, you

4 were probably there a couple of times a year?

5 A. Yeah, yeah, I think so.

6 Q. So is that as many as maybe eight times or so?

7 A. Probably, easily, yeah.

8 Q. Okay.

9 You explain, 'Anne', that Lagarie House is next to

10 the Ardencaple Hotel in Rhu?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh.

12 Q. And it's just across the road from a beach at the side

13 of a loch?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you describe the house to us, at paragraph 20, and

16 you say it was a big house set in grounds?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You tell us there were swings and a small Wendy house

19 type of building?

20 A. Yes, uh-huh, it was like a kinda wee stone building, but

21 it was like a wee kinda house, play house.

22 Q. And was that at the back of the house?

23 A. No, that was at the front. You come in the drive and go

24 up, the swings and all that were on the left-hand side,

25 and this kinda wee, stone Wendy house thing was on the

1 right-hand side.

2 Q. And you explain it being like a Wendy house, but this  
3 was something that had windows and an opening?

4 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

5 Q. But no door that closed?

6 A. No, no, it wasn't -- in case -- down -- it obviously had  
7 shelter, 'cause it had a roof on it, but it was just  
8 like a stone playhouse thing.

9 Q. And you tell us, 'Anne', that when you went into the  
10 front door of Lagarie House itself, there was a hall  
11 that led up to a big playroom at the back?

12 A. Yes, uh-huh.

13 Q. And you describe that playroom as having a carnival  
14 roundabout inside it?

15 A. Yeah, it was like horses, you know, one of these  
16 carousel things, uh-huh.

17 LADY SMITH: Some other people have mentioned that to me.  
18 How big was it, the roundabout?

19 A. Erm, well, obviously I was young, so it seemed big.  
20 Looking at the ones that are at fairgrounds, I don't  
21 know that it was as big as the ones that are outside  
22 where fairgrounds are built, but it was one with kinda  
23 horses that went round it.

24 LADY SMITH: So you could climb on it, could you?

25 A. Yes, yeah, yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 A. Well, I could, but I wasn't meant to. That's another  
3 story.

4 LADY SMITH: Theoretically.

5 MS FORBES: But you say, 'Anne', that never worked, that  
6 carousel, in the time that you were there?

7 A. I never seen it, I never, ever seen it moving.

8 Q. And you tell us, 'Anne', that there were stairs that led  
9 up from the right-hand side of the hall to dormitories  
10 that were upstairs?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. But the room for the smaller children, I think you've  
13 described them as 'wee tots', was on the ground floor to  
14 the left?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. And there was also a big dining room on the ground  
17 floor?

18 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

19 Q. In relation to staff, 'Anne', you tell us that the only  
20 staff you can remember are a woman who was nice?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And then the ones who were horrible?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And in relation to the ones who were horrible, you say  
25 there were two people in charge, is that right?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. And then separately a woman with dark hair, you  
3 remember?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And the gardener?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. So these are the four people that you're going to tell  
8 us about in your statement that you describe as being  
9 horrible, is that right?

10 A. (Nods)

11 Q. And you tell us you don't remember the rest of the  
12 staff?

13 A. No, not really, no.

14 Q. But there was an odd member of staff that would help out  
15 during the night, but most of the time it was just the  
16 woman in charge and the man in charge that would be  
17 there at night?

18 A. Yeah, yeah, that I can remember. Probably there was  
19 more, but I can only remember them.

20 Q. 'Anne', you go on to tell us about the man who was in  
21 charge at paragraph 23, and you say that you think he  
22 was some sort of minister?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. You go on to describe what he wore, and you say he wore  
25 a dog collar?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And is that what made you think he was some kind of  
3 minister?

4 A. Uh-huh, yeah, uh-huh.

5 Q. And then the other person in charge you say was an older  
6 woman with light hair, is that right?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. And you say you can't describe either of them, or the  
9 gardener, any more than that?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. But there was a woman who was nice that you remember,  
12 and you say that she was older, had glasses, and  
13 a purple rinse in her hair?

14 A. Yeah, I remember the lady with the purple hair, it was  
15 probably called a blue rinse back then.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, it was fashionable at the time, wasn't it?

17 A. Yes, yeah.

18 MS FORBES: You say you think she was a local woman who --

19 A. I think she was, uh-huh. I don't know why that's  
20 sticking in my head, but yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Do you remember generally whether the home got  
22 staff from the local village?

23 A. No, I don't, I don't.

24 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking you have the impression  
25 of there being other staff in addition to these

1 particular ones?

2 A. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh, but I think just -- probably it's  
3 just the ones that maybe affect you that stick out more,  
4 you know, than ... and everyone else kinda fades into  
5 the background, if that makes sense.

6 LADY SMITH: Very much so, thank you.

7 Ms Forbes.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady.

9 'Anne', you say that you thought there seemed to be  
10 quite a lot of children, and some of them would be from  
11 the same family?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So family groups?

14 A. Yes, yeah, uh-huh.

15 Q. And maybe quite large groups of five children in one  
16 family?

17 A. Yes, uh-huh. They seemed to be there a lot, you know,  
18 every time we were in and out, they always seemed to be  
19 there.

20 Q. So you wouldn't know how long they were there for in  
21 total, but --

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. -- from your recollection when you went it would be the  
24 same family groups that you would see?

25 A. Yeah, yeah, there was always people that I would

1 remember from the previous, uh-huh, always.

2 Q. But I think you say, 'Anne', that you never really made  
3 pals with anyone?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Was that because you were only there for a short time?

6 A. Partly. It was so weird, because I, I mean, even as  
7 a wee girl, was always so sociable and, you know, kinda  
8 thing, talked to everybody. But we just, we were quite,  
9 we were always frightened when we were there, and we  
10 didn't like going, and [REDACTED] would be crying, you know,  
11 I would not let anybody see me crying then. And we just  
12 never seemed to kinda get friendly with any groups, you  
13 know what I mean, get friendly as in pals and play with  
14 them.

15 LADY SMITH: What were you frightened of?

16 A. I don't know. It was just from the minute we went  
17 there, I think, you know, you get taken away fae your  
18 house, so you're into a strange environment right away.  
19 And then obviously it wasnae a very nice -- you know, it  
20 wasnae very often that people were nice to you, you  
21 know, it seemed to be more, you know, you get into  
22 trouble for crying, you get into trouble for breathing,  
23 playing, helping people with their homework and their  
24 reading and called a 'wee madam' and, you know, things  
25 like that. It was just ... you know, aye. And [REDACTED]

1           always was a bit kinda -- he would stand back from  
2           things, my brother, whereas I -- you know, and I just  
3           tended to be, you know, me and my brother were always  
4           kinda together.

5   MS FORBES: I think, 'Anne', you say, 'Lagarie was not  
6           a happy place'.

7   A. No, no.

8   Q. That's at paragraph 25. And you say you have no  
9           recollection of kids running about enjoying themselves?

10   A. No, I mean, we were all out when we weren't at school --  
11           we weren't at school when we were there, and sometimes  
12           we were taken out of school to get put there, and the  
13           older kids would all be at school during the day. So  
14           we'd be left to our own devices because we weren't,  
15           like, moved from Aitkenbar out to Rhu Primary. Erm, but  
16           I mean, yeah, when the schools weren't in, they were  
17           around, you know, the grounds. There were, you know,  
18           kids were all out. I just don't -- I think because we  
19           weren't really playing with people, and socialising for  
20           various reasons, I think that ... One of the times we  
21           were in, erm, we were accused of bringing head lice to  
22           the home, and everybody was told to keep away from us.  
23           So, you know, that was --

24   Q. That didn't help?

25   A. Aye.

1 Q. I think you say, 'Anne', it was quite a different  
2 environment from what you'd been used to, because you  
3 say you went from being out playing with your pals,  
4 going to school and enjoying yourself to -- the way  
5 you've described it at paragraph 25 is 'having to keep  
6 out of the road and being very unhappy'?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you saw being sent there as a punishment?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. I think you tell us that your heart sunk whenever you  
11 were told that you would be going back; yes?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. 'Anne', you tell us about the first day of arriving at  
14 Lagarie House at paragraph 26, and you say that you  
15 remember the social worker taking you there in a car,  
16 and it was you and your brother, and your brother was  
17 crying?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. When you arrived there. And I think you say some lady  
20 told you to get your brother to 'shut up'?

21 A. Stop crying, yeah, mm-hmm.

22 Q. Was that some lady, somebody from Lagarie House?

23 A. Yeah, it was once Mary Paterson went away, she was away,  
24 and [REDACTED] was crying.

25 Q. And you say you tried to console him --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- when that happened?

3 LADY SMITH: Are those the words you remember her using,  
4 'shut up', 'Get him to shut up'?

5 A. Yeah, yeah, that's sticking in my head, 'Get him to shut  
6 up'.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: So this was a place you hadn't been before.

9 A. No.

10 Q. You hadn't met any of the people there, and this was  
11 your first encounter with somebody from Lagarie House?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Do you remember how you felt when she said that to you?

14 A. I think I just was kinda, you know, cuddling [REDACTED], my  
15 brother, and just kinda ... I don't know.

16 LADY SMITH: You were about 7 years old.

17 A. Aye, he was just a little --

18 LADY SMITH: And so he'd be about 6 --

19 A. 6, yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: -- at that time. Yes.

21 MS FORBES: I think you go on, 'Anne', to tell us that you  
22 were in a dormitory upstairs with other girls. Were  
23 they girls your own age?

24 A. Erm, I think -- I think so. I think so.

25 Q. Okay. But [REDACTED] slept somewhere else?

1 A. Yeah, we weren't in the same -- we were used to -- at  
2 home we shared a bedroom, so it was kind of weird.

3 Q. So you were used to being together?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. And then you go to this strange place and you're  
6 separated?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you tell us, 'Anne', that when you would see your  
9 brother in the morning, he would tell you that he'd been  
10 crying during the night?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And how did that make you feel, when he was telling you  
13 that?

14 A. It was just, I think it's a big sister thing, you know,  
15 just saying, 'Oh, look it's fine', and all that, you  
16 know, whereas I had been crying as well, but I wasn't  
17 going to tell him that.

18 Q. So you would be crying during the night also?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. You go on, 'Anne', just to tell us about some of the  
21 routines and you say that you would get up, all get up  
22 and go for breakfast in the big dining room, and you  
23 think you might have just had to wash and dress  
24 yourselves beforehand?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And you say that you probably just got yourself up and  
2 tried to keep out of the road of everyone?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Why was that, was that to avoid coming to anyone's  
5 attention?

6 A. Yeah, and because as well, every time I maybe said  
7 something, or did something -- not every time, but  
8 often, you know, I'd get into trouble because I was  
9 doing something that I wasn't to do, and then, when all  
10 the kids were at school, we were told just to get out  
11 and play and keep out their way; that they were busy.

12 Q. So as you've explained, 'Anne', when you would go there,  
13 either on your own or with your brother, you wouldn't  
14 get to go to the local primary school?

15 A. No, no. If it wasn't during holiday time, we missed out  
16 on our education, we had those small gaps in our  
17 education.

18 Q. Yes, so the times that school was on, the other children  
19 would go away to the local primary school?

20 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

21 Q. And you and your brother would be left. But you say  
22 that you were just told to keep out of the way?

23 A. Yeah, there was little kids they used to put down for  
24 a nap and stuff, like, wee tots, but yeah, but [REDACTED] and  
25 I would be told just to keep out the road.

1 Q. And you would be told to go outside?

2 A. Yeah, go out and play and get out their way. They were  
3 busy.

4 Q. I think you say that you actually would just walk into  
5 Helensburgh?

6 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

7 Q. And back again, or sit in the Wendy house that you've  
8 told us about?

9 A. Yeah, uh-huh. [REDACTED] was always in there, he always sat  
10 in there, my brother.

11 Q. And you say sometimes you would sit on the swing  
12 outside, but he was always in the corner?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Inside the Wendy house. Is that the kind of lasting  
15 memory you have of him, in that Wendy house, sitting in  
16 the corner?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Would you have to be outside even if the weather was  
19 bad?

20 A. Yeah, 'cause I would go into that wee kind of Wendy  
21 house if it was raining or stuff, I would go in there  
22 and sit with my brother, but, erm, if it was dry I would  
23 usually sit on the swing.

24 Q. So even if it was cold, you'd have to be outside?

25 A. Yeah, yeah, mm-hmm.

1 Q. I take it this is something that you learned quite  
2 quickly when you arrived at Lagarie House, that that was  
3 what was expected, you were expected to be outside  
4 during the day?

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. Okay. 'Anne', you tell us about mealtimes and you say  
7 that everyone would eat in the dining room at the same  
8 time, but you can't remember much about it except that  
9 breakfast was porridge or cornflakes?

10 A. Yeah, uh-huh, and it was plastic plates of different  
11 colours.

12 Q. So plastic plates and plastic cups, I think?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, mm-hmm.

14 Q. But you explain, paragraph 33, that you were a fussy  
15 eater and no matter what you were given, you would  
16 probably have just turned your nose up at it?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But you don't remember any particular consequences as  
19 a result of not eating?

20 A. No, I don't -- I don't --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- remember.

23 Q. So you don't remember being punished for not eating?

24 A. Er, no, no, I don't remember.

25 Q. And I think you say that if you left anything you think

1 the plates were just taken away and you just didn't get  
2 anything else?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. Going on, 'Anne', you say that in relation to washing  
5 facilities, you don't remember there being showers or  
6 baths; it was just something that you don't have  
7 a memory of?

8 A. I don't have a memory of it, I just remember getting  
9 washed at a sink.

10 Q. Okay, so being washed at a sink is something that sticks  
11 in your mind?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And again you go on to explain a bit more, 'Anne', about  
14 leisure time from paragraph 36, about the fact that  
15 again, when the other kids were at school, you would be  
16 told to keep out of the way, and you'd be sent outside?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you'd rarely be allowed inside?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And you didn't have any money to spend if you went on  
21 your walk to Helensburgh --

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. -- and back?

24 A. We were young. I mean, we were kind of ages where I was  
25 7 up to about 11 and a half, 12-ish at the most. My

1 brother's a year younger, so, you know, we weren't used  
2 to having money anyway when we were kids, you know,  
3 other than if we'd get a penny for the shop, or  
4 something, but ...

5 Q. Yes. But that's not something you remember getting when  
6 you were at Lagarie House?

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. And the description you give, 'Anne', is really just  
9 this walk into town, having to wander around and come  
10 back again?

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. So it was quite a boring day for you and your brother?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Quite repetitive?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh, uh-huh.

16 Q. And you've explained already, 'Anne', that you enjoyed  
17 being at primary school?

18 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

19 Q. And you were good academically, so when you were there,  
20 you really missed out on that?

21 A. Yes, yeah.

22 Q. And as you've told us, 'Anne', you didn't really mix  
23 with the other children there, and you say that was  
24 something that was abnormal for you and your brother?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Because you were sociable children?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You explain, 'Anne', at paragraph 39 that you  
4 particularly liked reading?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And I think you've touched on this a little bit already.  
7 You say that you remember helping some of the other  
8 children to read when they came home from school, but  
9 you got into trouble for that?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. Can you remember what happened?

12 A. The woman slapped me.

13 Q. And this was just for you helping another child try to  
14 read?

15 A. Yeah, she said I was just a little madam, like, just  
16 obviously thought I -- kinda thought I was something.  
17 I don't know. But said I was a wee madam.

18 Q. And you say this was the woman in charge?

19 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

20 Q. I think there were some things that you got to do, and  
21 you tell us about that from paragraph 40. You think  
22 that it must have been at the weekends that sometimes  
23 you would go to the swimming baths?

24 A. Yeah, it was an outdoor pool in those days in  
25 Helensburgh, so I do remember us being taken there a few

1 times.

2 Q. And there was also a public park at the back of the  
3 hotel that we talked about?

4 A. Yeah, just, uh-huh, yeah, and I remember going there.

5 Q. Just really those two things; these trips to the park or  
6 the swimming, outside swimming baths?

7 A. Yeah, apart from there was -- I think it was [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED] we were there, I remember us being taken to  
9 a Christmas party. I think it was on a base. Faslane  
10 is quite near, I'm almost sure that's where it was.

11 Q. Yes, I think you tell us about that in a bit more detail  
12 a little bit later in your statement, 'Anne'.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So we'll come to that shortly. I think you say, though,  
15 that even though you missed out on school on these  
16 occasions that you would be sent to Lagarie House, when  
17 you went back, your impression was it didn't affect you  
18 academically, you were able to keep up; is that right?

19 A. Yeah, I've actually got all my report cards, believe it  
20 or not, from primary school, and academically there was  
21 never any issues, in terms of easily distracted and a  
22 chatterbox, which for someone to be, still be academic's  
23 maybe a bit strange, but yeah.

24 Q. But I think you make the point that whilst that was the  
25 case for you, it wasn't the case for your brother --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- and sister?

3 A. No, they weren't academic. Erm, I was. It's just, you  
4 know what it's like, siblings, we're all different.

5 Q. And thinking about healthcare, you tell us at  
6 paragraph 43 that you don't remember any times going to  
7 the doctor or dentist, but because you were there at  
8 Lagarie House for only short periods, that might have  
9 been why?

10 A. Yeah, I would imagine so.

11 Q. Yes. But you did have injuries, you say, whilst you  
12 were there, you say you had bruises?

13 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

14 Q. And you go on, I think, later in your statement to tell  
15 us about how that came to be. But the injuries that you  
16 had in the form of bruises, you didn't get seen by  
17 anybody in relation to that injury, did you?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. And then this is where you tell us, at paragraph 44,  
20 about you and your brother being accused of bringing  
21 nits into the house?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you say everybody had to get treated and you and  
24 your brother were said to be the cause of the nits, is  
25 that right?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. And you say that one of the women who worked there told  
3 the kids that?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And as a result of that, you tell us that the other  
6 children called you and your brother names?

7 A. (Nods)

8 Q. But do you remember having to be treated then for nits  
9 while you were there?

10 A. Er, no, no.

11 Q. Because I think you say you don't know whether you even  
12 had nits or not?

13 A. I don't, I honestly don't know. I mean, erm, at home,  
14 generally, that side of things, it was the ritual on  
15 a Sunday night, you know, with one of these bone combs,  
16 you always get checked and in school you get checked.  
17 In those days there was a school nurse and that was one  
18 of their roles, was to check.

19 LADY SMITH: It was, and to this day it is pretty common for  
20 young children to pass on nits to each other, because  
21 they huddle together and nits go from head to head, and  
22 it doesn't mean that you come from a dirty home.

23 A. Yeah, that's right.

24 MS FORBES: 'Anne', you make the point about religion, that  
25 it's not something that you've ever taken to,

1 church-wise, but the man and woman who ran Lagarie were  
2 quite church orientated?

3 A. Yes, uh-huh, I remember Bibles and stuff and them  
4 reading Bible stories, but they never -- we weren't  
5 taken to church while we were in there. Erm, I mean, at  
6 home, always went to Sunday School and all these things,  
7 but, like, there, I don't remember ever being taken out  
8 to anything like that.

9 Q. And you've already told us, 'Anne', that this -- the man  
10 who ran the place wore this dog collar sometimes?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. But you also say that you remember him often quoting the  
13 Bible and leading prayers?

14 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

15 Q. Would that be at some sort of assembly together?

16 A. In the dining room, I remember.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. In the dining room.

19 Q. So at mealtimes, or --

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. -- would that be separate?

22 A. I'm sure at mealtimes it was he said grace.

23 Q. Okay. And you then go on to tell us about the trip that  
24 you mentioned earlier, the trip you think was to Faslane  
25 Naval Base?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And you think this was a sort of Christmas party?

3 A. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh.

4 Q. You were all taken on a bus, is that right?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that was the only real outing that you remember when  
7 you were there?

8 A. Yeah, when we were there, aye.

9 LADY SMITH: And that was the American Navy that were  
10 organising that, is that right?

11 A. Yeah, I would imagine it would have been. You know, as  
12 you get older, you kinda learn all these things, like,  
13 'cause I'm local to the place, kinda.

14 MS FORBES: And at that party, 'Anne', you say you remember  
15 Santa being there?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. That you all got a wee present?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. But then when you got back to Lagarie, were you allowed  
20 to keep that present?

21 A. No, we were told to put them in where the carousel was,  
22 erm, and we would get them later. But, erm, I asked --  
23 we were going home, and I asked for our present, and she  
24 said she didn't know what I was talking about.

25 Q. So this is when you were going back home on one of the

1 occasions after this?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And who did you ask for your present?

4 A. It was the woman who always seemed to be kind of in  
5 charge during the day, that was always in and out, like,  
6 the playroom and -- she wore a uniform, but she was --  
7 you know, she was the one that seemed to be the, you  
8 know, during the day, was always, really, kinda strict.

9 Q. So this isn't the woman who is in charge with the man  
10 overall?

11 A. I think she was -- she seemed to be in charge.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Anyway, she appeared to be in charge.

14 Q. So when you're talking about that woman, that's the same  
15 woman that was running the place along with the man with  
16 the dog collar?

17 A. There was another woman as well --

18 Q. Right.

19 A. -- that wasn't very nice. There was, like, two. There  
20 was the one that seemed to be kind of in charge.

21 Q. Right?

22 A. But there was another woman that -- it was weird,  
23 because it was as if they ... there was another woman  
24 with that guy.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Erm, there was two women.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. There was two women. One seemed to be more kind of  
4 bossier than the other, but none of them were very nice.

5 Q. I think you explained earlier about the four people that  
6 were horrible there, and I think you said there was the  
7 woman in charge --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- with the man?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. And then there was another woman, and this woman had  
12 dark hair, is that right?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And is that the woman you're talking about there, the  
15 woman with dark hair or --

16 A. Yeah, the woman with dark hair.

17 Q. But you asked if you could get your present?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And she acted like she didn't know what you were talking  
20 about?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay. But you certainly didn't get it again?

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. Did you ever get to play with it after you were given it  
25 by Santa, when you got back to Lagarie House?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. So it was just put in that room with the carousel?

3 A. Yeah, uh-huh, just --

4 Q. And that's where it stayed?

5 A. -- they were all put in there and then that was the last  
6 I saw of it.

7 Q. So you've described that as being the playroom, I think,  
8 is that right?

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. But did you get to play in it?

11 A. Kind of. There was books and stuff and there was games  
12 but, erm ... I sometimes climbed on the carousel thing  
13 and got yanked off it.

14 Q. So you weren't allowed to sit on the horses on that  
15 carousel?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. You tell us, 'Anne', that whilst you were there,  
18 that the social worker you've told us about,  
19 Miss Paterson, she visited you there a couple of times,  
20 and you say she came once with another lady,  
21 a colleague?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And on that occasion she took you and your brother out  
24 for a picnic?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you say it was a sunny day, and you were sitting by  
2 the water?

3 A. Aye. I don't know where it was, I just remember her  
4 taking us out in the car. So I can only imagine that  
5 was maybe a time that we were in for a few weeks. Erm,  
6 but yeah, I do remember the nice weather and her taking  
7 us in the car and doing a picnic.

8 Q. And was that a nice thing that you remember doing?

9 A. I think it was just going through the motions, 'cause  
10 I know that, you know, as I say, I was a wee bit of  
11 a big mouth, a loud mouth, and, you know, I would, you  
12 know, tell tales to them.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. But nobody believed me.

15 Q. So when you went away on this picnic, were you telling  
16 the social worker and her colleague about what was going  
17 on --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- in Lagarie House? And how did they respond to you  
20 telling them about it, do you know?

21 A. They said to me just basically to stop telling tales.

22 Q. Stop telling tales?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. So was your impression that you weren't believed?

25 A. Yes, definitely wasn't believed.

1 Q. Apart from the social worker, 'Anne', you say that none  
2 of your family came to visit when you were there, and  
3 you say you found out, I think later on, from an aunt,  
4 that she said she didn't know where you were?

5 A. Yeah, uh-huh, because --

6 Q. Is that an aunt on your -- sorry, 'Anne'.

7 A. Sorry. Historically, before my dad left, I mean, my mum  
8 was in hospital because of her psoriasis and stuff, we  
9 would usually be between my gran and my aunt that I was  
10 really close to. There was always, you know, they would  
11 always be looking after us, helping my dad, whatever,  
12 you know. And, you know, as I got older, and we've all  
13 had conversations, that wouldn't have changed,  
14 regardless of the fact my dad had gone, but my mum was  
15 just so angry, so bitter, and her way of dealing with it  
16 all was to just, you know, kind of turn against  
17 everybody. And, like, a lot of families, you don't  
18 realise it's your kids that you're harming, but, you  
19 know, that's your only way of kinda getting back at,  
20 like, my dad, I suppose, 'cause she was angry.

21 Q. So because of that, it might be that your mum didn't  
22 tell any of your dad's side of the family?

23 A. No, she just cut all ties with them, and they all had --  
24 I mean, they were in and out of each other's house every  
25 day prior to all that. And even after my dad left, my

1 gran and my uncle would come down, maybe with a pot of  
2 soup or something, but my mum would just shut the door  
3 in their face. It was a shame, you know, it was just...  
4 aye.

5 Q. And you tell us, 'Anne', that you don't remember any  
6 official people -- apart from the social worker you tell  
7 us about, you don't remember any official people coming  
8 to inspect Lagarie House when you were there?

9 A. No, I don't, no. I've not got any knowledge of anything  
10 like that.

11 Q. And there was nobody asking you how you were getting on,  
12 apart from --

13 A. Just Mary Paterson.

14 Q. You go on to say, 'Anne', and as you've described, that  
15 you and your brother, apart from nighttime, when you  
16 were separated, you would be pretty much together all  
17 the time?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And there wasn't an issue about you spending time  
20 together. You weren't separated, for example, during  
21 the day?

22 A. No, definitely not. We were always together, [REDACTED] and  
23 I.

24 Q. And I think you say as well that other kids from the  
25 same family groups, they were together as well?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. So you saw that?

3 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh. I remember from folk that were outside,  
4 there was never any, that I was aware of, that, you  
5 know, people being kept away from other folk, that I'm  
6 aware of.

7 Q. And you've explained that you had this liking of reading  
8 books, but you weren't allowed to bring any in with you?

9 A. No. No, it was just whatever was there. I don't ever  
10 remember us going there with anything belonging to  
11 ourselves, I just don't remember that.

12 Q. You don't remember having any of your own personal  
13 possessions when you were there?

14 A. No, definitely not. I definitely don't remember that.

15 Q. But was there stuff for you to read there?

16 A. Yeah, there was --

17 Q. Was there a selection?

18 A. There was books and stuff in that big room with the  
19 carousel, there was stuff there.

20 Q. Were you allowed to go in there and help yourself to  
21 a book to read?

22 A. Well, usually if you were in there and you just took  
23 a book, you could sit and read it, it was ... but, just,  
24 as I say, I remember kids coming in with homework and  
25 reading and stuff, and we went to help, thinking ...

1 Q. But from what you've explained, 'Anne', would this  
2 opportunity to read a book be after the children would  
3 come back from school, because during the day --

4 A. Yeah, we were hardly ever inside, hardly ever would be  
5 inside during the day.

6 Q. I think, 'Anne', you say that there were a couple of  
7 times that you and your brother went into Helensburgh  
8 and you actually jumped on the train to Dumbarton?

9 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

10 Q. But just came straight back again?

11 A. We went up to our house one of the times, you know, and  
12 chapped on the door.

13 Q. But there was nobody there?

14 A. No.

15 Q. But you say, 'Anne', you wish you'd had the sense to go  
16 to your gran's, or somebody?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. Obviously, it's, you know, kinda,  
18 hindsight's a wonderful thing. But yeah, but at that  
19 age it just never occurred to us to do that.

20 Q. Was that on your father's side?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. And do you think that something might have happened if  
23 you'd spoken to them?

24 A. I definitely think so, yeah.

25 Q. But it wasn't noticed that you and your brother were

1           away on the train and had come back again?

2   A.  No, no.  Nobody ever, ever, when we went in, challenged  
3           us about where we had been.  I think it was just, you  
4           know, you were back for mealtimes.  Erm, but nobody ever  
5           said, 'Where have you two been?' or came out looking for  
6           us, or ... definitely not.  We were never missed.  Ever.

7   Q.  So it's not a case of they're keeping you on the  
8           grounds, safe there; you and your brother were really  
9           allowed to just go wherever you wanted to?

10  A.  Yeah, uh-huh.  And that's the horrifying thing, when  
11           I think of wee kids just walking about.  But then, even  
12           going on a train, two wee kiddies, you know, on their  
13           own?

14  LADY SMITH:  What did you do about a ticket, or did you just  
15           jump on the train without paying?

16  A.  Just went on without paying.  It was so, so much easier  
17           in those days to do that.

18  LADY SMITH:  Yes, and that walk from Lagarie to the town,  
19           that must have been getting on for two miles, is it?

20  A.  Yes, around two miles, aye.

21  LADY SMITH:  Each way?

22  A.  Yeah, mm-hmm.

23  LADY SMITH:  And you and your little brother did that  
24           regularly between, you were the ages of 7 to 11?

25  A.  Yeah.  At home, the walk from where we lived down to the

1 town centre was probably a similar distance, so -- or  
2 going to the swimming baths in Dumbarton. So it wasn't  
3 a distance that we wouldn't have been used to.

4 LADY SMITH: But maybe it was the difference when you were  
5 at home that a grown-up at home knew you were off  
6 to walk --

7 A. Aye, at that age we weren't on our own going down.

8 LADY SMITH: Whereas you're telling me that from Lagarie,  
9 you just walked off?

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: And nobody knew where you were.

12 A. No, we just went.

13 LADY SMITH: Right.

14 Ms Forbes.

15 MS FORBES: My Lady.

16 Was there a footpath between Lagarie House and  
17 Helensburgh?

18 A. No, it's just the main road. There was a drive. There  
19 was a side gate to Lagarie, erm, near, kinda, the  
20 garden, that you could get across the road over to the  
21 shore, if they took us over there. But no, we would  
22 just walk down the drive and it takes you just down the  
23 bottom of that road. And as I said, Ardencaple Hotel is  
24 literally on the opposite corner. That hotel is still  
25 there. And we just walked along the main road.

1 Q. The main road with cars --

2 A. Aye, where the Clyde is, so like, just, you know, the  
3 seafront.

4 Q. 'Anne', you go on to tell us that the staff at Lagarie  
5 were very strict, and that sometimes you would see kids  
6 sitting on a chair outside different rooms?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You say they were obviously being punished for  
9 something?

10 A. Yeah, I remember it. People, you know, saying that they  
11 were getting into trouble and they'd be sitting in  
12 a chair, down on the ground floor, they'd be sitting in  
13 a chair.

14 Q. So was this in the corridor, in the hallway?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. Did you ever get punished in that way?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You did. And what would you be asked to do, then, as  
19 that form of punishment?

20 A. I ... when we'd been at the Christmas party, and after  
21 it, apparently, like, my underwear, I'd obviously not  
22 wiped my bottom properly, so there was poo on the pants.  
23 So after that it was just a constant getting checked and  
24 called a dirty wee girl and ...

25 LADY SMITH: Where did that happen, the checking?

1 A. Erm, in this -- a room. They would take you into  
2 a room.

3 LADY SMITH: Who did the checking?

4 A. The man, he used to put me on his knee and -- he  
5 never --

6 LADY SMITH: The man who sometimes wore a dog collar?

7 A. Yes. He never actually touched me, but obviously now as  
8 an adult you think, you know, it's a bit dodgy, pulling  
9 a wee girl's pants down and checking front and back.  
10 They never did anything else to me.

11 MS FORBES: 'Anne', I think you tell us a little bit more  
12 about this. We'll go to paragraph 60, I think this is  
13 where you start to tell us about that. So if we go to  
14 that part of your statement, I think you've mentioned  
15 that this was the day after the Christmas party. The  
16 woman that ran Lagarie took you to the laundry room.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Because apparently you hadn't wiped your bottom  
19 properly?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And I think there was something like skid marks or  
22 something on your underwear?

23 A. Yes, uh-huh.

24 Q. And she said something to you down there; do you  
25 remember what that was?

1 A. Yeah, she just said I was a dirty little girl and I got  
2 smacked.

3 Q. How did she smack you?

4 A. It was across the legs.

5 Q. And was that with a hand?

6 A. Yes, yeah, that was with a hand.

7 Q. But then you say that after that incident you were  
8 always getting checked by the man?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Who you thought was the minister?

11 A. Every time -- every time we were in that place, I was  
12 kinda, a marked, wee girl, 'That's the one that poos her  
13 pants'.

14 Q. And that was from the ages of 7 to 11 --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- you explain. And he would take you away from the  
17 other children?

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. Would that be to a different room, or something?

20 A. Yes, it was a room off the corridor, off the main  
21 corridor, down on the ground floor.

22 Q. Was it always the same room?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. Do you know what that room was used for, or what it was?

25 A. No, I think it had a big desk or a big table in it.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. But it wasn't one that, like, kids were in or anything  
3 like that. It wasn't like a playroom or a dormitory, it  
4 wasn't a wee kind of nursery that the wee kind of  
5 babies, toddlers slept in. It was ...

6 Q. But when you were in that room with him, can you  
7 describe what he would do?

8 A. Yeah, erm, he would get a hold of me and put me across  
9 his knee, like face down, and pull my pants down, and  
10 then get me to turn round, and then he would tell me to  
11 pull my -- he'd put me back on my feet and tell me to  
12 pull my pants up, and go.

13 Q. So --

14 A. He said he was checking that I wasn't pooing my pants.

15 Q. So would he pull your pants down?

16 A. Yeah, he pulled them down, but he told me to pull them  
17 up.

18 Q. Okay. And you say that it would be over his knee and  
19 you'd be facing down?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. But then he would ask you to turn around?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. So you'd be facing towards him?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And then would you still have your pants down at that

1 point?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. And how often did he do that?

4 A. I'm not sure. It wouldn't have been every day. It  
5 wouldn't have. Definitely not been every day. But  
6 sometimes maybe only once when I was there, sometimes  
7 a couple of times, I think. It wasn't like day in, day  
8 out. It wasn't every day.

9 Q. And when he would take you away to do that, away from  
10 the other children, would he say where he was taking you  
11 or what he was going to do?

12 A. No, no. Quite often it was the woman would just shout  
13 'PTE [REDACTED]' -- that's my name.

14 Q. Don't worry.

15 A. Just shout my name and take me down the corridor.

16 Q. Okay. So would she be there sometimes, or involved in  
17 you going to be with him, to be checked?

18 A. She took me to the room, but I can't even remember if  
19 she stayed in the room.

20 Q. Okay. So you don't have a memory of somebody else being  
21 there with you and him when he was checking you?

22 A. No, no, I don't remember that.

23 Q. But is your recollection, 'Anne', that she certainly  
24 knew that that was something that was going on?

25 A. I honestly don't know. At that age, I wouldn't have had

1           any awareness of things like that.

2   Q.   And at the time when this would happen, how would it

3           make you feel?

4   A.   Upset, you know, I would always end up going to the

5           toilet and crying, but I think maybe more thinking that,

6           you know, anybody would think that I would do the toilet

7           in my pants. I think that was probably what would upset

8           me. 'Cause at that age I wouldn't have had any thinking

9           that it could be anything other than that.

10  Q.   So it was more the embarrassment of people thinking that

11          you might, you know --

12  A.   Yeah, yeah.

13  Q.   -- not wipe your bum properly or leave marks on your

14          pants that was an issue. But I think you say now, later

15          on in life, thinking back, those occasions, you have now

16          thought about how questionable that behaviour was?

17  A.   Oh, absolutely, uh-huh.

18  Q.   And whilst you make the point, 'Anne', that he didn't --

19          from your point of view, he didn't touch you --

20  A.   No.

21  Q.   -- inappropriately on your body when this was happening,

22          but looking back, I think is your view that that is

23          something that was completely inappropriate?

24  A.   Yeah, I would, I mean, if anybody told me that that was

25          happening to them I'd be -- you know, it would be alarm

1           bells and all the rest of it. I wouldn't just take that  
2           as being something and nothing, if somebody told me in  
3           this day and age that that was happening.

4    Q. And you weren't a very small child when you were there,  
5           the youngest was about -- you were about 7?

6    A. Yeah.

7    Q. And then this was happening right up until you were 11?

8    A. Yeah.

9    Q. You tell us, 'Anne', that every time you went back to  
10           Lagarie after that first occasion, when you were told  
11           that you'd left some marks on your pants, that you were  
12           told that you were the 'dirty wee girl that pooped her  
13           pants'?

14   A. Yeah.

15   Q. Who would say that to you?

16   A. The woman and the man.

17   Q. Okay.

18           Just going back slightly, 'Anne', in your statement,  
19           I think you talk about the fact that there were people,  
20           this is at paragraph 57, there were people at Lagarie  
21           who wet the bed. It wasn't a problem that you had.

22   A. No.

23   Q. But you were aware of them getting in a lot of trouble,  
24           and you say that you remember if you were woken in the  
25           morning and a member of staff found a child had wet

1           their bed, they were taken out of the dormitory?

2    A.   Yeah.

3    Q.   You say you don't know what the punishment was?

4    A.   No, but -- and I didn't always sleep well, but, you

5           know, often you would hear somebody crying and

6           screaming.

7    Q.   So you're saying, 'Anne', you didn't always sleep well.

8           So would this sometimes happen in the middle of the

9           night?

10   A.   Yeah, yeah.

11   Q.   Okay. You'd be aware of --

12   A.   I'd be aware of -- I'd hear, I'd hear kids screaming,

13           crying, yeah.

14   Q.   And you'd be aware of a child being taken out of the

15           dormitory and --

16   A.   Yeah, if it was the same room I was in, uh-huh, yeah.

17   Q.   Now, you've told us a little bit, 'Anne', about things

18           that happened to you, but this is a part of your

19           statement where you talk about abuse in general at

20           Lagarie House. This is from paragraph 58. You make the

21           point that all the staff were strict. I think you've

22           mentioned there was one lady who was nice, that you've

23           mentioned?

24   A.   Yeah, uh-huh.

25   Q.   But you say that you heard all of them shouting at kids,

1           and you saw staff pulling kids by the arm?

2   A.   Yeah, yeah, you'd get grabbed and ...

3   Q.   And what would you get grabbed for, what type of things?

4   A.   I don't know. It must have just been whatever

5           behaviours that weren't allowed, that I do recall. It

6           was just, it was very much, you know, you were kinda --

7           well, my perspective was that I kinda got to the stage

8           I was frightened to do anything, because you always

9           seemed to do the wrong thing or say the wrong thing.

10  Q.   And would you be grabbed in that way?

11  A.   Yeah, oh aye, I was actually grabbed by the hair of the

12           head a couple of times, never mind my arm, aye.

13  Q.   I think we'll talk about one of those occasions in just

14           a minute in your statement, 'Anne'. But in relation to

15           the staff and their behaviour, I think you tell us that

16           the woman that ran the place, this is the woman that ran

17           the place with the man with the dog collar?

18  A.   Yeah, uh-huh.

19  Q.   She was the worst?

20  A.   Yeah, yeah.

21  Q.   So that's your memory, that she was the worst offender?

22  A.   Yeah, uh-huh.

23  Q.   You go on to say that she was always hitting you?

24  A.   Yeah.

25  Q.   And all the other kids for just the slightest thing?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. And how would she hit you, 'Anne'?

3 A. Usually her hands, but there was one time she used  
4 a stick. Or something. She hit me with something,  
5 anyway. But it was usually my, er ... it was usually my  
6 arms, my legs, that got smacked, but I got hit on the  
7 back. And as I say, I got pulled off that carousel  
8 thing. But she grabbed me -- my hair.

9 LADY SMITH: When she used a stick, what sort of stick was  
10 it?

11 A. I don't know. It was just something she hit me with.

12 LADY SMITH: Right.

13 A. I don't --

14 LADY SMITH: So you can't remember whether it was a walking  
15 stick or something else?

16 A. No, no.

17 LADY SMITH: It doesn't matter, don't worry.

18 A. I don't remember.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: Do you remember anything about that incident,  
21 'Anne'? Do you remember what had happened to have that  
22 come about?

23 A. I think I said something.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. It was obviously, maybe, came across as cheeky. I don't

1 know specifically what, but I think it was -- 'cause it  
2 was usually my mouth got me into trouble.

3 Q. Yes. And where did she hit you with the stick, where on  
4 your body?

5 A. She hit me on the bottom with it.

6 Q. Okay. And was it more than once?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. That must have been sore?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. But you say that's the only time she used an implement?

11 A. Yeah, so, uh-huh, most of the time it was her hand. I  
12 -- my mum could get quite violent at times, you know, if  
13 she was angry at us. And I, erm ... no matter how sore  
14 it was, I wouldn't cry. So even, like, in there, you  
15 know, I would ... I just -- I wouldn't cry.

16 Q. You'd keep it in?

17 A. And that can sometimes frustrate folk 'cause they think,  
18 you know, it was regarded as being defiant, you know?

19 Q. I think you told us before that you described yourself  
20 as being quite stubborn, and --

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. And was not crying, was that part of that?

23 A. Yeah, uh-huh, uh-huh.

24 Q. Not wanting to give in to them?

25 A. Aye. I was one of these wee kinda, maybe

1 self-righteous, you know, that's got to poke my nose in,  
2 stick up for everybody and ... you know.

3 Q. You tell us, 'Anne', about that instance on the carnival  
4 roundabout in the playroom and you say that that was  
5 a day when you and your brother were supposed to be  
6 outside, but she found you; this is the woman in charge?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Found you sitting on the carnival roundabout. What did  
9 she do to you when she found you there?

10 A. She shouted at me and she grabbed me abouts my hair, she  
11 grabbed me and just pulled me off.

12 Q. She pulled you off?

13 A. And then she was hitting me, uh-huh.

14 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you there, 'Anne'?

15 A. No, no, she just, she pulled me off, it was my hair, and  
16 then she was hitting me and telling me never to go on it  
17 again.

18 LADY SMITH: Did you have long hair?

19 A. Yeah, when I was wee, uh-huh, yeah.

20 MS FORBES: So she's pulled you off by your hair and then  
21 she hits you. Was this, again, with a hand?

22 A. Yeah, it was her hand, uh-huh.

23 Q. And you say this was across the head and body?

24 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

25 Q. You had injuries, you tell us?

1 A. Just bruises and -- I always had bruises. I was always  
2 dead clumsy. So it wasn't -- you know, it wasn't  
3 unusual for me to have bruises for whatever reason.

4 Q. But this all came about just because you were on that  
5 carousel?

6 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh, 'cause we weren't meant to go on it.

7 Q. And I suppose you weren't meant to be inside, either?

8 A. We weren't, no, no. They always told us just to keep  
9 out of their way, and go and play outside.

10 Q. You tell us about spending time with the gardener and,  
11 at paragraph 63, you explain that you've got a terrible  
12 phobia of snakes and worms and creepy crawlies?

13 A. Oh, aye.

14 Q. And that you were told a couple of times to go and pick  
15 gooseberries with the gardener, but that's not something  
16 you wanted to do because of the --

17 A. And I know it sounds pure random, but it was definitely  
18 gooseberries. I remember green things. I definitely  
19 remember it. I know it sounds so random, who grows  
20 gooseberries, but that's what we were told. That's what  
21 they had in that garden.

22 Q. But you say you didn't want to go?

23 A. No.

24 Q. But there were consequences because you didn't want to  
25 go; and what was that?

1 A. I'd get hit, shouted at.

2 Q. The way you've described it, 'Anne', is you say, 'I got  
3 battered by the woman in charge for that as well'?

4 A. Yeah, uh-huh, aye, 'cause it wasn't just like a slap,  
5 and, you know, 'Ah right, that's naughty', and 'Don't do  
6 that again'. It was like ... you know.

7 Q. So when you say 'battered', was this --

8 A. Well, just -- yeah, maybe it was the wrong word to use,  
9 yeah, just kinda hit.

10 Q. But is that how you describe it, it's hit more than  
11 once?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. This is just for not wanting to go to pick gooseberries?

14 A. Yeah. Because I hated any creepy crawlies and stuff,  
15 I didn't like ...

16 Q. But that -- you got punished for that?

17 A. I ran a mile if I saw a worm.

18 Q. There was a punishment for not wanting to do that?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. You tell us, 'Anne', about your brother, and the  
21 gardener, and this is something you've been told by your  
22 brother, I think, when he was little?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Did he tell you about this occasion with the gardener  
25 when you were at Lagarie House with him; is this when

1           you were young?

2    A.   Yeah, uh-huh.

3    Q.   And he told you that the gardener had taken him into the

4           garden shed?

5    A.   Uh-huh.

6    Q.   And what did he tell you happened?

7    A.   He said that he touched his 'wee man'.

8    Q.   And when he said to you about his 'wee man' being

9           touched?

10   A.   It was -- that's what, when we were young, that's what

11          he called his penis.

12   Q.   So that's what you thought he was taking about.

13                And what did you think when he told you that?

14   A.   I knew it was bad, but again, at that age you don't --

15          you would never have understood just, you know, how, you

16          know, it would -- what it really is, you know? At that

17          age, I wouldn't have understood that.

18   Q.   And it might be difficult to remember when, or how old

19          he was, but you say -- this was obviously during your

20          time when you were there between 7 and 11, and he was

21          a year younger, but do you know how young he was when

22          that happened, or when he told you about that?

23   A.   Possibly 7 or 8, ish.

24   Q.   Okay.

25   A.   It wasn't the first time we'd been there, but, you know,

1           it wouldn't have been kinda the last time we were there  
2           either.  If that makes sense.

3   Q.  So whilst you have said, 'Anne', you thought that was  
4           bad, but I think you explained you were still too young  
5           to really understand?

6   A.  Yeah, uh-huh.  I was only a year older than him, so, you  
7           know ...

8   Q.  And was that the only thing he ever told you that  
9           happened to him?

10  A.  Yes, yes.

11  Q.  But you tell us that you've since spoken to him about  
12           that, but it's not something he remembers now?

13  A.  No, he says he doesn't remember anything about when we  
14           were wee.

15  Q.  Okay.

16  A.  It's just different things over the years.  It's his way  
17           with a lot of things.  He kinda, I don't know,  
18           compartmentalises things, or just ... you know.

19  Q.  Okay.

20  A.  But I remember the most random things.  You know,  
21           even -- not all bad things, but ... I can't remember  
22           what I had for my dinner yesterday, but I remember  
23           something random from a lifetime ago.

24  Q.  Yes.  'Anne', you tell us that you remember telling the  
25           social worker who came to Lagarie about you being hit by

1 the woman in charge and about your brother being touched  
2 by the gardener?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But all that you remember happening was that you got in  
5 trouble when you got back to the house?

6 A. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh.

7 Q. And you say you were battered?

8 A. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh.

9 Q. And you say you even showed the social worker your  
10 bruises, but you say she didn't believe you?

11 A. Yeah, uh-huh. Just says, you know, just basically,  
12 because I was always -- always had bruises, because  
13 I was clumsy, when I was wee.

14 Q. But you remember that after telling her about these  
15 things, when you got back to the home, you were hauled  
16 into one of the rooms by the woman in charge, and you  
17 say that the man was there as well as the woman; is that  
18 right?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. He didn't hit you, but she did?

21 A. She did. She slapped me.

22 Q. And she was also saying things to you as well. What did  
23 she call you?

24 A. She called me defiant, and horrible, and lying, that  
25 I was lying, I was a horrible little girl, I was

1           defiant, because, you know, I kinda said, 'But you did'.  
2    Q.   And I think you say that when she hit you, it was a slap  
3           with an open hand across the face?  
4    A.   On the face.  
5    Q.   And it was more than once?  
6    A.   Yeah, yeah, on my legs, my backside. Just went to town  
7           on me that time.  
8    Q.   So you telling the social worker resulted in this  
9           assault on you?  
10   A.   Yeah.  
11   Q.   So something must have been said by the social worker  
12          when she went back?  
13   A.   Yeah.  
14   Q.   What did you think then, after that had happened, about  
15          telling people about what was going on?  
16   A.   I think I just -- I used to always think nobody liked  
17          me, erm, but I couldnae figure out why.  
18   Q.   It's not something that would encourage you to tell  
19          someone again, if that's your -- if that's what's going  
20          to happen; it's not likely to encourage you, is it?  
21   A.   Probably initially on a few occasions I would still  
22          have, when I think of the kind of wee girl I was,  
23          I would have probably still --  
24   Q.   Say something?  
25   A.   You know, I kinda open my big mouth and then get

1           consequences, so ...

2   Q.   But do you remember telling anyone again about what

3           happened?

4   A.   No.  No, no.  I remember saying to my mum when we were

5           home and saying I don't like it there, and they hit us,

6           and she's like, 'Don't tell lies'.

7   Q.   So she didn't believe you either?

8   A.   No.

9   Q.   'Anne', you explain that you remember the last time

10          being at Lagarie House was over the ████████ holidays

11          after a week or two, and you ended up being picked up by

12          a family, and being told you were going to be fostered;

13          is that right?

14   A.   Yeah, it was the social worker that took us to their

15          house.  It was a family.  They were nice people.  They

16          had four sons.  They were all that wee bit older than

17          us.  But they were dead nice, yeah.

18   Q.   And you tell us, 'Anne', about that time from

19          paragraph 70 of your statement.  You say that this was

20          a house in Greenock?

21   A.   Yes, yeah.

22   Q.   They were all very kind to you whilst you were there.

23          You were looked after well and included as part of the

24          family.

25   A.   Yeah.

1 Q. Bought new shoes. They took you to see your mum and  
2 other relatives?

3 A. Yeah, I remember them taking us to the Southern  
4 General Hospital, well, where the Queen Elizabeth is  
5 now. That was where my mum would be in when she had her  
6 psoriasis, 'cause, you know, in those days you were in  
7 hospital bandaged from head to toe. It was a kind of  
8 tar type treatment that was used, 'cause she was quite  
9 bad with it.

10 Q. And they took you out to swimming, to the outdoor pool?

11 A. Yeah, I think in Gourock.

12 Q. I think you describe it as almost like you were living  
13 at home but your friends weren't there?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And life was normal, and very different from being at  
16 Lagarie House?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. And you make the point, 'Anne', this is at paragraph 73,  
19 that looking back, you feel that if kids have to be  
20 placed anywhere, that that was the kind of environment  
21 you would want them in?

22 A. Definitely, definitely.

23 Q. And you were there for about four weeks, I think you  
24 say?

25 A. Yeah, about that, it was quite a while. It was most of

1 the [REDACTED].

2 Q. And then after that, you went back home again?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You then tell us, 'Anne', about life after being in  
5 care, and you say that, this is from paragraph 75  
6 onwards, you say you were happy to be going home. Life  
7 continued pretty much the same, but you were never in  
8 care again after that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. But life at home, you've described it as being chaos,  
11 and there was fighting with you and your mum, who was  
12 drinking more?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh, uh-huh. And I sort of looked after  
14 my brother and sister, you know, erm, and we just --  
15 I suppose you just, your environment, that's what you  
16 are used to, so that's what you ... but I, I was still,  
17 I still remained close and in contact with my gran on my  
18 dad's side, and one of my aunts in particular, I would  
19 stay there often, because my cousin and I, we were at  
20 school together, and I was always at my aunt's and my  
21 gran's. And, you know, they knew my mum was difficult,  
22 but my aunt would make sure she took me home. And she'd  
23 stay -- we stayed in that flat, two storeys up, so my  
24 aunt would always stay at the bottom until, you know,  
25 she heard my mum opening the door and I was in the

1 house. You know, despite, you know, the relationship  
2 that my mum had then kind of severed with them all.

3 I, you know, even my dad's -- my mum wasn't very  
4 good at letting my dad have contact. Now and again she  
5 would. By then he was out the Merchant Navy, he'd  
6 settled down in Barrow-in-Furness but he used to come up  
7 to Dumbarton all the time. He's remarried. My stepmum  
8 was from Dumbarton, and obviously he -- you know, so his  
9 family and my stepmum's family were in Dumbarton. So my  
10 cousin would tell me when my dad was going to be up so  
11 I would know when to go to my gran's to see him and  
12 stuff.

13 So aye, but we just kind of adapted to the way  
14 things were in the house. My mum was drinking, it  
15 affected her personality, and obviously money at times.  
16 The electricity would be cut off and stuff like that,  
17 you know. You know, it was just ... aye, you know, but  
18 I think you're just -- when an environment's your  
19 normal, you're just going with it.

20 Q. Yes. 'Anne', I think, though, despite all that, you  
21 tell us that, you know, you continued to do well at  
22 school and you managed to get three Highers, seven  
23 O Grades, you wanted to go to college to do teaching,  
24 but I think you explain that your mum wasn't working?

25 A. No.

1 Q. She was still drinking. And so you ended up taking  
2 a job?

3 A. Yeah, I got offered a job with the local authority and  
4 I took it.

5 Q. And I think you tell us you worked your way up?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. And we've got that there, the detail of that, and you  
8 were there with the council for, was it 39 years, is  
9 that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you took early retirement?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And that was in 2019?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But you explain, 'Anne', that adult life wasn't always  
16 easy, and your first marriage was difficult?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And I think you explain that there was abuse, and you  
19 tell us about that. But you made the decision to walk  
20 out?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Even though you had been with him since you were only  
23 17?

24 A. Yeah, uh-huh, 17.

25 Q. And you met your second husband, and I think you tell us

1 about your life together. And that you were, at the  
2 time of this statement anyway, you were working  
3 part-time, even though you were retired?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And you said that you and your husband are at a stage  
6 where you appreciate all you've got, and you don't take  
7 anything for granted?

8 A. Oh, absolutely. I've had a couple of health scares over  
9 the years, so, you know. And I think as well, when  
10 I was a younger woman I didn't cope easily with things,  
11 I had a temper, I just was always living in my nerves  
12 and stuff, erm, and then I took quite seriously ill in  
13 1996. And then I just, you know, your life just totally  
14 changes and you've got a totally different perspective  
15 and appreciation of things.

16 Q. Yes. And one of the things you tell us about, 'Anne',  
17 is that you became involved with the Children's Panel,  
18 and you say you did that for about 15 years?

19 A. Yeah, I was a Children's Panel member with [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED] Council, yeah, mm-hmm.

21 Q. And was that something that you felt you really wanted  
22 to be involved with?

23 A. Yeah. Obviously it's people from all walks of life.  
24 People that have maybe had challenging childhoods.  
25 People that have had very privileged lives as well.

1       It's a total mix.  Erm, but I just felt I was at a stage  
2       where in myself, you know, I was very at peace with life  
3       and I kinda hoped that I could maybe help somebody, even  
4       if you help one person.  And I also felt that I had  
5       a better understanding, you know, when you'd families  
6       coming in, 'cause sadly, in a lot of cases with  
7       Children's Panel it's -- there's family issues.  It  
8       isn't a child going to a Children's Panel because  
9       they've been bad, they've offended, they've not gone to  
10      school.  And if that's the case, there's usually other  
11      things going on in the background.

12             And I would get it, you know?  If it was, like,  
13      parents, or a parent with an addiction, or just them  
14      living a lifestyle that, you know, other folk would  
15      think, 'My God, how can people live like that?'  You  
16      know.  And I could relate, I thought, I could relate.

17   Q.  So because of your experience with your mother growing  
18      up and your experience in here --

19   A.  Partly, yeah.

20   Q.  -- you felt that that was something that you would be  
21      good at?  It'd be useful to be involved?

22   A.  Yeah, I just kind of -- aye.

23   Q.  And was it a good experience?

24   A.  Yeah, yeah, uh-huh.  I mean, obviously, I don't need to  
25      tell everyone in this room, some of the things you'll

1 have been privy to, but, erm, I mean it was hard, you  
2 know, it's a hard read when you get the reports in and  
3 things that have gone on.

4 But, er, I kinda enjoyed it, if that's the right  
5 word, I felt I got a lot out of it, and I always get  
6 good feedback, you know, because you always got sort of  
7 like observed every so often and stuff.

8 Yeah, I thought I kinda did okay. I seemed to get  
9 on with most people. People sometimes come in very  
10 angry, on the defence, whatever. Young people don't  
11 want to talk to you, or they're maybe a bit  
12 potty-mouthed, as well. But, you know, that didn't  
13 bother me, you know, it didn't -- if they act in a way  
14 that would make them worse, you know.

15 Q. So you felt that was something that you were able to  
16 deal with quite well?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, I thought so, aye.

18 Q. 'Anne', you have told us about the impact already in  
19 some ways, and you tell us about this from paragraph 86  
20 onwards, but one of the things that we haven't talked  
21 about yet is at paragraph 88 you say that for years you  
22 had terrible nightmares?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Which you think were a combination of both your time at  
25 Lagarie and the life at home with your mum?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Yes. And I think you say at paragraph 89, you feel like  
3 you are someone who needs to sort out everybody else's  
4 problems, and that might be because you felt you had no  
5 control over your own life as a child, and no control  
6 over being sent to Lagarie, and that means you have to  
7 have control now?

8 A. Yeah, I think there's a bit of that. I'm this sort of  
9 go-to in the family. But, you know, I cannae help  
10 myself but get myself involved with them all and, you  
11 know, to a point, rather than just say, right, there's  
12 a line. I am getting better, though. Older and wiser,  
13 finally.

14 Q. I think you say that has got better over the years, you  
15 have been able to deal with things. And I think,  
16 'Anne', you tell us that you did get some counselling.  
17 This is at paragraphs 92 and 93, but this really was in  
18 relation to your health problem that you had, but you  
19 explain that ultimately you ended up speaking about your  
20 childhood?

21 A. Yeah, yeah, uh-huh. Bizarre.

22 Q. That was you opening up then for the first time to  
23 someone about what had happened?

24 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

25 Q. And I think you say that it was after that counselling

1           that you decided to contact the Inquiry?

2   A.   Yeah.

3   Q.   But you'd never really spoken about what happened to you  
4       or reported it to anybody until you came to the Inquiry,  
5       is that right?

6   A.   That's correct.

7   Q.   And you tell us, 'Anne', about lessons to be learned or  
8       your hopes from paragraph 95 and you do explain, things  
9       are obviously very different now from what they were  
10      when you were young. You make the point that disclosure  
11      checks are only good for checking whether people have  
12      actually been caught doing something?

13  A.   To be perfectly honest, yeah, I know that maybe sounds  
14      a terrible thing to say, but -- you know, I'm not saying  
15      it's not important for disclosure checks and stuff, but  
16      sadly, you know, the blame game in life, you can only do  
17      as much as you can before you put someone in a certain  
18      position, and if they abuse that trust, it isn't always  
19      down to someone who has given them that job, or given  
20      them that position, you know? You can only do the  
21      checks that you can do, you know. At least there is  
22      something nowadays, it's better than nothing, but ...

23  Q.   Yes. I think you also say about organisations like Who  
24      Cares? and that there's people that can act as advocates  
25      for young people. And you make the point, 'Anne', that

1           you know that young people can say things that aren't  
2           true, just as adults can. But if somebody does raise  
3           a concern, that's now listened to and dealt with.

4   A. Yeah.

5   Q. And that that's important, that young people know, and  
6           are reassured, that there is somebody they can talk to?

7   A. Yeah, definitely.

8   Q. And you make the point that for you, in your experience,  
9           foster care was much better for a child than getting put  
10           into a unit or a home, but you explain that, you know,  
11           it depends on there being enough people to be able to do  
12           that?

13   A. Yeah, that's obviously, and I'm not saying that every  
14           foster placement -- I mean, there will be people that  
15           foster for their own reasons as well. But I think that  
16           type of environment, if it can't be with another,  
17           an external family member, I think that's better.  
18           I know children's units nowadays anyway, it isn't like  
19           in those days when I was a kid. There it was like  
20           dormitories, and kind of big dark, gloomy buildings. It  
21           was, you know, it's usually like houses knocked  
22           together, they have their own room. It's very different  
23           now, I know that. You know, it's so, so much better.

24   Q. Your experience was foster care for you was completely  
25           different from your experience in Lagarie House?

1 A. Yeah, it was a very positive experience, the foster  
2 care. Much as I still just wanted to be home, but  
3 that's not ... it wasn't on them, 'cause we were -- aye,  
4 they were dead nice and treated us nice.

5 Q. And one of the last things you say, 'Anne', is that  
6 you'd like to get these people who ran Lagarie in a room  
7 and ask them why they behaved the way they did?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You would like to know why they treated children that  
10 way. Is that how you feel?

11 A. Yeah. I just don't get it. I know things were  
12 different then and even, like, at home, parents  
13 chastising their kids, it was the norm for kids to get  
14 a good skelping and then some, at times. But it was  
15 different times, I know that, I accept that. But  
16 I still -- I just don't get how you could be horrible to  
17 wee kids, you know, just for the sake of being horrible  
18 to them. 'Cause when I look back, there was really  
19 nothing that I was doing that was that bad. So I'm  
20 quite sure it was the same with the other children in  
21 Lagarie.

22 Q. And as you have said, 'Anne', even though things were  
23 different back then, your impression is that the abuse  
24 that was being meted out to you wasn't justified; you  
25 weren't doing anything to deserve that type of



1 before I do that, I want to say something about a couple  
2 of identities of people who are protected by my  
3 General Restriction Order, and that means they can't be  
4 identified as having provided evidence to us outside  
5 this room. And there were a couple. At one point the  
6 witness herself used her own name, PTE [REDACTED], and on  
7 a number of occasions she used her brother's name, [REDACTED],  
8 but they mustn't be identified outside here.

9 Thank you very much. I'll stop now for the morning  
10 break.

11 (11.38 am)

12 (A short break)

13 (11.57 am)

14 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

15 MR SHELDON: My Lady, we'd hoped to have a witness in person  
16 now, but instead, we are just going to move straight to  
17 read-ins. And the read-in that I propose to take is  
18 that of 'Charles'.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Yes. And I take it you are about  
20 to give me the reference for the statement?

21 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, the statement reference is  
22 WIT.001.001.1180.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Yes, this is one of the two Lagarie statements that  
25 we didn't manage to clear last week, isn't it?

1 MR SHELDON: That's correct, my Lady. It's a longer one but  
2 I would hope to be able to finish it by lunchtime.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 'Charles' (read in)

5 MR SHELDON: My Lady, 'Charles' was born in 1957. Based on  
6 his school records, rather than Lagarie records, the  
7 dates suggest [REDACTED] 1962 to [REDACTED] 1967. But as  
8 I say, that is based on records from Rhu Primary, rather  
9 than --

10 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

11 MR SHELDON: -- the establishment's own records.

12 My Lady, at paragraph 2, 'Charles' indicates that he  
13 had changed his name because his given name had always  
14 been, as he puts it, his 'punishment' name, not only in  
15 the home, by which we think he means Lagarie:

16 '... but when I went back to live with my mother.  
17 It was the name used by the Matron [in Lagarie] ...  
18 every time she was about to abuse me.'

19 Reading short to paragraph 3, he says that he's  
20 married with three daughters. He's a full-time driving  
21 instructor now. While his mother remarried, he doesn't  
22 know much about his father, only that at some point when  
23 he was about 13 it seems that his father died. But he  
24 had been in the Merchant Navy:

25 '[And] that was how we [that is he and his siblings]

1 ended up in the home we were in.'

2 He talks a little bit about his siblings, and says:

3 'All five of us were in the same residential home  
4 together.'

5 He says, paragraph 5:

6 'I have no recollection of my time before I went  
7 into care. When I was 42, my mother told me I was put  
8 into care when I was born. She never told me why,  
9 except that she was a nurse at the time and, since my  
10 father had left, she was a single mum and nurses  
11 couldn't be a single mum. In other words, her career  
12 came before her five kids. I've been told I was in  
13 a convent school when I was born, but I have no  
14 recollection of this.'

15 He says he tried to find his name from the records  
16 for the convent in question, but they said they didn't  
17 have any records from 1947 onwards. He says:

18 'I think that is what has happened with some of  
19 these places. They've heard about all these inquests  
20 going on and are running scared.'

21 In relation to Lagarie Children's Home, he says:

22 'The home opened in 1948 and closed in 1982. There  
23 are ledgers from Rhu Primary, which the police have,  
24 which show that me and my brothers and sisters were  
25 there from 1960-1967. It was run by the British

1 Sailors' Society at the time ... I know I was in the  
2 home from the age of 3 until I was 10. The Sailors'  
3 Society had this little booklet that described the home  
4 and made it out to be the most wonderful place in the  
5 world. Nothing could have been further from the truth.'

6 He says a little more about his search for records,  
7 and then at paragraph 9 indicates that:

8 'The home was funded by donations from charity, as  
9 well as donations from relatives of those children that  
10 resided there. You had to have family in the Merchant  
11 Navy to get in the home.'

12 My Lady, pausing there, that may have been the case  
13 at that time, but it does seem that at some point, local  
14 authorities also placed children at Lagarie.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

16 MR SHELDON: 'It not only took in long-term kids like us,  
17 but would also have kids in short-term if there were  
18 problems in a marriage or the parents were struggling.  
19 We were put in the home on a voluntary basis, ie it  
20 wasn't a court order of any sort that put us there.

21 'The home was run by the Matron, whose name was Ann  
22 Millar, and it was her that the Sailors' Society picked  
23 to be the Matron of the home. They apparently picked  
24 her because she was such a caring and loving person,  
25 which showed they didn't know her at all. She died

1           two years after we left the home and was replaced by  
2           a Reverend Barrie. From what I've heard, he was even  
3           worse than her.'

4           My Lady, pausing briefly again, it seems Ann Millar,  
5           or Annie Millar, which seems to have been her correct  
6           name.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR SHELDON: She died in 1977, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR SHELDON: 'Charles' goes on:

11           'I cannot remember much about the routine.  
12           I remember you got up and if you had clean hands you got  
13           breakfast. I can't even remember what the meals were  
14           like. Then it was school, back to the home at  
15           dinnertime, and if you had clean hands you got fed. It  
16           was then back to school for the afternoon, then back to  
17           the home at 4 pm, then dinner and bed at 6.30 pm.

18           'I am an atheist, because if there is a God, why did  
19           I go through what I did? We had to memorise all the  
20           books of the Bible every night and had to go to church  
21           every Sunday, which was a mile's walk there and back.

22           'There were between 30 and 40 kids from under 1 year  
23           to 16 years in the home, that we split into three types.  
24           There were the lifers, who we thought nobody cared  
25           about, which included us [that is he and his siblings

1 and another two families]. Then there were the  
2 weekenders, they would only be in for a week or so, and  
3 never got touched. Finally, there were the Matron's  
4 pets. You learned to say nothing to them as anything  
5 you said immediately got back to staff.

6 'You were put in the nursery until you turned 5,  
7 then you were put into the big rooms. There is  
8 an [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED] which I have to turn off every  
9 time I see it, because it shows a wee boy standing in  
10 a cot. That was me, and [another girl], crying our eyes  
11 out, but it didn't matter how often you cried, nobody  
12 came and you soon learned not to cry. I hear the phrase  
13 "Big boys don't cry", but I have only recently learned  
14 that crying is a great release. I'd lose the head if  
15 anybody ever said that phrase to my grandsons.

16 'The boys' dorm was separate from the girls', except  
17 in the upstairs dorm, where the older kids slept and it  
18 was mixed, with girls at one end and the boys at the  
19 other end.

20 'At the home you could stay outside on a summer  
21 day, but you would hide behind the swings because you  
22 couldn't be seen there. We had no toys, except that day  
23 somebody brought them for Christmas. We went to the  
24 cinema to see Born Free once, but that was the only trip  
25 I recall. I was also in the Cubs, but even there, the

1 Lagarie and the others wouldn't mix. Doctors, dentists  
2 and barbers came into the home to see us.

3 'The only chore I recall is my brother doing the  
4 shoes. My sister and [another girl] had to get up in  
5 the morning and serve tea to Matron, tidy her room, and  
6 at night clean her dirty knickers. If she was in a bad  
7 mood, they would get her dirty knickers rubbed in their  
8 faces. Although I don't recall Matron ever being out of  
9 the home, [my sister and this other girl] told me that  
10 one week a year they would go with Matron to Kirkcaldy,  
11 where she was originally from, and they were her  
12 personal slaves. They would clean her house, do her  
13 washing and anything else she told them to do.'

14 There is another girl that 'Charles' says:

15 '... used to be her personal slave until the judge  
16 gave her three years for running away. He actually  
17 called her a delinquent. Simply for running away? She  
18 only ran away because she was scared. [She] told us  
19 that the three years she spent inside was the cushiest  
20 time she ever had after being in the home. In prison  
21 she had her own room and got three beautiful meals a day  
22 and there were no beatings, no shouting.'

23 Pausing briefly, my Lady, it may be that this is  
24 a reference to a time in an approved school or something  
25 of that sort.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR SHELDON: But the use of language is striking in that  
3 regard.

4 LADY SMITH: It's very powerful, isn't it.

5 MR SHELDON: Yes. 'Charles' says:

6 'I don't remember my birthdays. There's even photos  
7 of me having a party when I turned 10 that I don't  
8 remember. All the photographs taken in that place were  
9 staged, because they were usually taken when people were  
10 visiting or for photos in the Sailors' Society magazine.  
11 They actually advertised it as going there for  
12 a holiday. Seriously? How the hell could they say that  
13 with that bitch running the place?

14 'I think we got visits from my mother once a month,  
15 if she could make it. It would have been on a Saturday  
16 or Sunday, though she wouldn't come if she was working.  
17 When she did come, we would sometimes just sit in the  
18 home or maybe walk into Helensburgh, I do remember going  
19 into Dino's cafe.

20 'There was no fun on these days. Though we had our  
21 freedom for a few hours, there was no real interaction  
22 between us. We could never tell our mother about the  
23 abuse that was going on, because if we said anything,  
24 we'd get battered by the Matron. That was enforced on  
25 us, especially us lifers, that if we said anything we

1 would get battered.'

2 He talks about other staff and he says:

3 'There were staff there other than Matron, but the  
4 only ones I remember is [REDACTED], who was always nice  
5 to us.'

6 That, I think, may be the [REDACTED] that I think 'Raymond'  
7 talked about on Day 571, I think it would be.

8 LADY SMITH: Day 571, yes, thank you.

9 MR SHELDON: 'She was always nice to us, and the gardener,  
10 Mr Skelton.'

11 Who he says later died:

12 'I remember one time I was playing at the windows,  
13 which were on the third floor. I was going out one  
14 window, along the ledge and in the next. I fell, but  
15 was so small my feet got caught in the gutters. [REDACTED]  
16 tied dressing gown cords and sheets together and rescued  
17 me. Not only did she not punish me, it's the first time  
18 I remember getting a cuddle.

19 'As nice as she was, we were too scared to tell even  
20 her what was happening to us. She is now dead. She had  
21 been a child there and when she turned 16 she stayed on  
22 as a member of staff. I think it's all she knew.  
23 I think the only reason that I remember [her] name is  
24 because she was so nice, the exact opposite of the  
25 others.

1           'There were no inspectors that I recall. There was  
2           the odd famous person who visited, but they were just  
3           photo opportunities. There was a garden fete every  
4           summer, it was all posh people that came to them, but  
5           Matron always warned us that if we were asked  
6           a question, we were to give "yes" and "no" answers,  
7           nothing else. You went to school, you said nothing.  
8           Even when we saw doctors, or dentists, we were too  
9           scared to tell them what was going on.'

10           In the next paragraph, my Lady, he contrasts modern  
11           dentistry and how it was in those days.

12           In relation to abuse, 'Charles' goes on to say:

13           'If I was to talk about all the abuse that we  
14           suffered in that home, it would take a book to tell it  
15           all as the abuse happened every day. It's probably  
16           easier to give you a number of examples.

17           'My first memory of abuse took place on the very  
18           first day when we arrived. I remember seeing this big  
19           house with a door that looked like something out of  
20           a Harry Potter film. When we arrived, I saw this woman  
21           with white hair and, being only 3, I ran to her shouting  
22           "Granny, Granny". Instead of getting the cuddle I was  
23           expecting, she whacked me across the face, sending me  
24           sprawling across the floor, saying, "I am not your  
25           granny, and you will never address me as Granny. I am

1 Matron".

2 'For years, I thought that maybe I had just imagined  
3 that and that it was a bad dream, because myself and my  
4 brothers and sisters never talked about our time in the  
5 home. However, a few years ago I was with [one of my  
6 brothers] when he was giving a statement to the police  
7 and he said his first recollection of the home was  
8 seeing his brother getting a smack on the face that sent  
9 him flying. I actually cried when I heard him say that,  
10 as I then realised I hadn't imagined it.

11 'I was in the nursery until I was 5 years old.  
12 That's when I became a "big boy" and was given a new  
13 uniform and shoes and went to Rhu Primary.

14 'I remember when I first went into the class, I went  
15 to the very back. We weren't liked at the school. We  
16 were scum, we were dirt. We were picked on because we  
17 weren't seen as normal because we were in care.  
18 I remember it was the first time I had ever seen  
19 plasticine.

20 'We were taken there by [REDACTED]. I think her name  
21 was [REDACTED], but we called her [REDACTED]. She worked at  
22 the home having formerly been there as a child. She was  
23 the nicest person you could meet. She was the only nice  
24 person I remember from the home. There was no minibus  
25 in those days and it was a mile walk to and from the

1 school. That meant four miles a day because you went  
2 home for lunch.'

3 I suppose at 5 years old, that's quite a big ask.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR SHELDON: 'Because I was a "big boy", I was moved to the  
6 dorm upstairs and on my first night I wet the bed.

7 A member of staff told me not to worry about it and that  
8 they would get the bed tidied up. I can't remember her  
9 name.

10 'I was at breakfast the next morning and everything  
11 seemed fine until I heard Matron shout [my name].  
12 I went over to her and she battered me. It was with her  
13 hands and fists. There are two things about that  
14 battering that stick in my mind. The first is that it  
15 started a pattern of every time she shouted my name,  
16 I knew I was going to get battered, hence the reason  
17 I have always thought of [that name] as my punishment  
18 name. The second is that it was one of the few  
19 occasions she didn't strip me of my clothes before  
20 battering me.

21 'After wetting the bed, I was moved to what was  
22 called the "pee the bed" room. There were about eight  
23 boys in that room. Once you were in the room, you were  
24 humiliated, especially when you got home from school and  
25 your sheets would be continually hung up on the fire

1           escape so as everybody knew you had wet the bed. The  
2           other kids didn't actually say anything because they  
3           were too scared.

4           'I was in that room till I was 10 and didn't stop  
5           wetting the bed till I was 15. I think I stopped  
6           because I wasn't scared to get out of bed anymore. In  
7           the home you would be terrified to get out of bed in  
8           case you got caught, because if you did, you got the  
9           living daylight's beaten out of you again.

10          'I remember on one occasion, I would be about 5 or  
11          6, when my mother brought in some clootie dumpling.  
12          I was starving and stuffed myself with it. The next  
13          morning, my bed was full of vomit and I had to sleep in  
14          the same unwashed sheets for four days. Wet the bed and  
15          they cleaned the sheets. Vomit in your bed and you  
16          slept in the vomit. You lived every day in that home in  
17          a state of fear. It was six or seven years of living  
18          hell.

19          'When I was 5, I went to the hospital to get  
20          a squint in my eye fixed. When I got back, Matron said,  
21          "so you hate your mum". She claimed I had told all the  
22          doctors and nurses that I hated my mother. I don't know  
23          if I did or not.

24          'One beating I remember happened when I was 6. We  
25          were told we were getting to watch TV, which was

1 a rarity and a real treat. The only things I remember  
2 ever seeing on TV were Winston Churchill's funeral and  
3 Celtic winning the European Cup. Anyway, we were told  
4 at supper to go and get washed and put our pyjamas and  
5 dressing gowns on and go to the big room. I couldn't  
6 find the cord for my dressing gown and tried to hide in  
7 the middle of the rest of the children, so as Matron  
8 wouldn't notice.

9 'However, I heard Matron shout [my name]. She then  
10 grabbed me and dragged me to her chair and she then  
11 stripped me naked in front of everybody and beat me  
12 black and blue with a stick. She beat me until she was  
13 simply too tired to continue. [So] then she just shoved  
14 me to the floor and told me to go up to my room and she  
15 didn't want to see me till the morning. I was black and  
16 blue all over.

17 'This was something she did to everybody to  
18 humiliate them. She would strip you naked in front of  
19 everybody else before battering you, even those who were  
20 older and going through puberty. When I look back,  
21 I realise that she not only abused us physically and  
22 emotionally, but also sexually, the way she would strip  
23 us all, either as punishment in itself or to beat us.

24 'The day after this battering, I was told to wear  
25 long trousers to hide the bruising. My mum actually

1           came to see me the next day and I couldn't even sit  
2           down. One of the reasons I roll my sleeves up to this  
3           day is to show I have no bruises.

4           'The beatings from the Matron were a daily  
5           occurrence. You could simply be walking past her and  
6           she would lash out with a slap or a punch. It was as if  
7           it was fun for her.

8           KER would visit now and again and  
9           she was just as bad. I remember one day we were in the  
10          laundry all standing in a line in our best clothes when  
11          Matron grabbed my arm and started to drag me towards one  
12          of the mangles. I was terrified, as I thought she was  
13          going to put my hand in the mangle. I was so scared  
14          I wet myself, I could see the trail of pee. Matron  
15          called me all the names you could think of and KER  
16          KER then arrived.

17          'We were then all stood in a line and Matron  
18          suddenly slapped me. Then her and KER took turns  
19          in slapping me and the boy standing next to me. It was  
20          only after they stopped slapping us that I realised that  
21          the boy beside me was my brother. After they stopped  
22          ... they just went about their business as if nothing  
23          had happened.

24          'When I left the home at the age of 10, my mother  
25          weighed me on a set of scales and I was only 3 stone in

1 weight because being deprived of food was a common  
2 punishment. If you had dirty nails, it was a slap and  
3 sent to bed with no food. It was not uncommon to go  
4 a whole day without any meals.

5 'When I was 9, there was an actress called Barbara  
6 Mullen who came in to visit on Christmas. We were woken  
7 up. We didn't know somebody was coming, but we were all  
8 dressed in our best clothes and taken downstairs. What  
9 we saw were big pillow cases with each of our names on  
10 them. There were toys and fruit and we stuffed our  
11 faces. I think it was the first time I had seen  
12 an orange. When we went back down the next day, we were  
13 all excited to be playing with the toys we had been  
14 given, but everything was gone. There wasn't even  
15 an orange peel on the floor and we never saw the toys  
16 again. Nothing was ever said about it, and that is the  
17 only Christmas I remember inside the home.

18 'Every night we were forced to use powdered tooth  
19 stuff to clean our teeth for 15 minutes. It was  
20 disgusting stuff.

21 'Bath time was a member of staff holding you in the  
22 water until they thought you were ready. I remember  
23 seeing a magazine that the Sailors' Society produced,  
24 and it had a photograph of a little boy in the bath, all  
25 smiling with soap in his hair, looking like he was

1           having a lovely time. That simply didn't happen.

2           'One time I was supposed to be meeting [one of my  
3           brothers], who had left to join the Merchant Navy by  
4           that time. He was going to be taking me to Glasgow to  
5           show me where we were going to live. The night before,  
6           I was taken by two members of staff to the bath, which  
7           was full to the brim with steaming hot water and would  
8           probably be what you would call a sauna bath these days.  
9           I was fully clothed at this time. They picked me up and  
10          put me into the water fully clothed and then held me  
11          under the water. They did this several times, then  
12          asked me, "Why are you doing that with your clothes on?"  
13          It was just a laugh to them. It was as if we were just  
14          toys to them. They then took my clothes off and  
15          scrubbed me. I don't remember their names, [but] they  
16          were female.

17          '[One of my brothers] was the Matron's personal  
18          punchbag. He was always at her side and she verbally  
19          abused him all day, and if somebody else wasn't  
20          available to be punched, then he got it. He got  
21          stripped and beaten every day.

22          'If a car came into the drive, you could see the  
23          lights reflecting on the ceiling. One night I saw this  
24          and got up to see who it was. I heard Matron shout,  
25          "Who's up?" and dashed back into bed. She came storming

1           into the room and got us all out of bed. She made us  
2           all strip and then stand there, asking who had got up  
3           out of bed. Nobody said anything. She left the dorm  
4           saying that she would be back and left us all standing  
5           there naked. It was freezing. When she came back, we  
6           still said nothing and she said she would deal with it  
7           in the morning. The next morning, I just remember being  
8           so relieved that she had forgotten what she had said the  
9           night before, because it was never mentioned again.

10           'I once saw [another of my brothers] being almost  
11           drowned. [He] had left by then, but came back for  
12           Halloween. He'd be 17 at this point. He was "dooking  
13           for apples" when Matron came over and held his head  
14           under the water until he fell unconscious. She didn't  
15           even panic, she just said, "He'll be fine". That was  
16           the sort of hold she had over us. [My brother] was  
17           easily strong enough to stand up to her, but he was  
18           simply too scared of her to do so.

19           'The Sailors' Society produced a magazine which had  
20           loads of photos of the home, of Matron, and even had  
21           pictures at one of my birthdays which also showed  
22           a birthday cake. I have no recollection of that. There  
23           was a picture that shows us all smiling, but if you look  
24           closely it's clear the smiles are false.

25           'My brother [the one that was particularly picked

1 on] has been an alcoholic ever since he left the home.

2 This is all down to what Matron did to us.'

3 And he says again:

4 'It was a living hell.'

5 'One time when I was 10, we were brought together  
6 and told my grandad had died. I was walking to the TV  
7 room and was crying. Matron said, "What are you crying  
8 for? The old bastard didn't even like you". I had  
9 never heard anyone swear before.

10 'Even though me and my brothers and sisters were in  
11 the home at the same time, that is the only time  
12 I remember us all being together at the same time. We  
13 were never allowed to be together as a unit. Ann Millar  
14 really wasn't a nice person, she was just pure evil.  
15 I still find it hard to believe that she was a midwife  
16 who brought children into the world and yet went on to  
17 destroy others.

18 'I have no friends because I learned in the home  
19 that you couldn't trust people. Even though I was in  
20 the army for 24 years, I just wouldn't let myself get  
21 close enough to people to make friends. I made  
22 acquaintances, but not friends.'

23 In the next paragraph he talks about making contact  
24 with some of the former residents via social media after  
25 being in the home and talks about a reunion, where he

1       says it's, 'probably the most amazing meeting I've had  
2       in my life' with these former residents.

3             But at paragraph 59, going back to Lagarie, I think,  
4       he says:

5             'There were swings and a slide in the grounds of the  
6       home and we knew if we hid behind the swings then staff  
7       in the home couldn't see us. We used to eat leaves  
8       because we were so hungry.'

9             And at paragraph 60 he says:

10            'There are so many things that were done to us in  
11       that home and, to a certain extent, some things that you  
12       would consider bad were almost a way of life to us. It  
13       would take forever to tell you everything that happened  
14       to us. For instance, I wouldn't count half the beatings  
15       we got as punishments. To us they were just beatings  
16       and that is what happened.

17            'Mr Skelton, what can I say about him? He was  
18       grooming me. I didn't understand this at the time. It  
19       was only years later when I spoke to my counsellor and  
20       she explained it to me. The first time I met him  
21       I would have been 5 or 6. I had a sore throat and  
22       couldn't go to school so I was in bed. He came in to  
23       bleed the radiator. He then noticed me and came over  
24       and sat on my bed and rubbed my hair and said I had  
25       lovely hair. I thought nothing of it at the time and in

1 fact thought, "This is a lovely guy. He really likes  
2 me".

3 'He used to take you into the shed and would put you  
4 between his legs while showing you how to shell peas.  
5 But his hands would be all over you, in your shorts and  
6 up your T-shirt. He used to love my hair.

7 'One of the worst beatings I got was when I got my  
8 hair cut really short. We used to have a barber come in  
9 to cut our hair. I told him Matron said I could get  
10 a crew cut. When Matron saw it she shouted "What the  
11 hell have you done?" and gave me one of the worst  
12 beatings ever. The strange thing is that it turned out  
13 to be the best beating I ever got, because after I got  
14 the crew cut, Skelton never came near me again. I think  
15 I was about 6 or 7 at this time.

16 'I think Skelton also abused my brother. I say that  
17 because about seven years ago [he] phoned me. He had  
18 clearly been drinking and asked me, "Do you remember the  
19 wee rubber bucket Skelton used to carry about?" This  
20 was a bucket Skelton used to carry about to bleed the  
21 radiators, but it also gave him the opportunity to be in  
22 the dorms. As soon as [my brother] asked me that,  
23 I hung up the phone on him and haven't spoken to him  
24 since. It just brought back all the memories about  
25 Skelton. It was as if he opened Pandora's box.

1           'We got a new pair of shoes every year, but you  
2 never got a pair that fitted properly. I think they  
3 were donated by Clarks shoe shop.

4           Paragraph 66:

5           'Another trait Matron had was bending your fingers  
6 back. She broke my sister's finger doing this. [My  
7 sister] wasn't taken to hospital. Matron dealt with it  
8 herself. People say, "It happened years ago. Get over  
9 it". If I could, I would. My first happy memory was at  
10 16 getting on the train to go to Harrogate to join the  
11 army.

12           'The room next to the "pee the bed" room was where  
13 there were toilets and a bath. One night I heard  
14 a voice calling "Is anybody out there? Come on in."  
15 I got up and went into the room and there was RFP  
16 RFP in a bubble bath. She was 14 or 15 and I was  
17 about 9. She told me to wash her with the facecloth and  
18 then she said not to bother with the facecloth. My hand  
19 was in places no child's hand should have been.  
20 I didn't understand what was going on. Eventually she  
21 said to stop and that I wasn't to tell either Matron or  
22 ... [about this incident].

23           'I reported that incident to the police but they  
24 said they couldn't do anything as she had been a minor  
25 at the time. I think a child of 10 these days would

1           have had more understanding about these things. It's  
2           strange when you look back and see how the generations  
3           have changed.'

4           He says:

5           'My brother and [another girl from the home] stole  
6           a rowing boat and rowed to Dumbarton. They then got  
7           a train to Glasgow and went to [the girl's] mum's house.  
8           The police came to the door and they got taken back to  
9           the home and got stripped and beaten shitless. They  
10          would have been in their mid teens. I don't know if  
11          I ran away from the home but I do remember somehow being  
12          in Woolworths in Helensburgh. I stole a creme egg and  
13          got caught by one of the shop staff who asked where  
14          I lived. When I told her, she just said "Put it in your  
15          pocket but get out." That was the best creme egg I ever  
16          ate. Some did run away and when they got caught they  
17          got the same treatment, stripped and beaten.

18          'I remember being in bed one night when I saw a man  
19          in a turban looking into the dorm. Some time later  
20          I was in Glasgow with my mother and I saw a man wearing  
21          a turban and I told her I had seen him before. My  
22          counsellor said I should point this out, because I don't  
23          know what he was doing there, but the light shining  
24          around his head was like a halo. Was he from the ...  
25          hotel next door? I don't know.'

1 Paragraph 72, he says:

2 'My mother decided she would not get us out of care  
3 until she could put a roof over our heads. She bought  
4 and paid for a flat in Glasgow. Even though all my  
5 grandparents were still alive, we were still put into  
6 care.

7 'We left the home in 1967, with the exception of [my  
8 older brother], who was in the Navy. Our mother was due  
9 to come to the home and get us. We all got up and  
10 dressed and gathered what I can only call our meagre  
11 belongings. From the window of the "pee the bed" room  
12 you could look to the bottom of the drive to the bus  
13 stop.'

14 And they ran back and forth to the window all day  
15 waiting for mother to arrive.

16 'All day the buses kept leaving but there was no  
17 sign of her. It was so disappointing. She showed up in  
18 the evening and it turned out that she had decided to do  
19 an extra shift at work rather than picking her children  
20 up in good time. When she did show up all I remember is  
21 walking down this big driveway with a group of strangers  
22 who were my brothers and sisters.

23 'Before my mother arrived Matron kept saying our  
24 mother wasn't coming because she didn't love us. She  
25 was a sadistic bitch who took any opportunity to hurt

1 us. In the late afternoon she said that it was clear  
2 our mother wasn't coming and didn't want us and that we  
3 should just unpack. I remember she didn't feed us that  
4 day, saying she didn't want us to be in the middle of a  
5 meal when our mother showed up. We were starving, but  
6 that wasn't anything unusual.

7 'We got the bus to Helensburgh and then the train to  
8 Glasgow. We went up three flights of stairs to the top  
9 flat. My first memory of my mother's house was seeing  
10 a big goose on the kitchen table. It terrified me and  
11 I ran out. I wet the bed in my mother's house that  
12 night and I remember it was the first time that I wet  
13 the bed that I wasn't humiliated. My mother simply  
14 stripped the bed and washed the sheets. Not a word was  
15 said about the fact I had wet the bed. Having said  
16 that, my mother was a bully.'

17 He said that his own wife 'brought our three  
18 daughters up and did it with love, hugs and kisses', but  
19 there was none of that in his mother's house.

20 'We saw her on a Friday and Saturday night and that  
21 was it. Work was her priority.'

22 At paragraph 77 and 78 he talks about being belted  
23 on the bare buttocks by his mother's lodger, who they  
24 later discovered was her lover.

25 And at 79 he says that this individual has since

1 died and he, 'Charles', had found out sometime in the  
2 1980s during a family argument that he, the lodger, had  
3 been raping 'Charles's' sister and 'I don't believe my  
4 mother didn't know what was going on'. And he talks  
5 about an incident where his mother lost the plot with  
6 the lodger and he was never allowed back to the house.

7 Paragraph 80, he says:

8 'For the first two years that we were in the flat  
9 [one of his sisters] had a terrible habit of biting me.  
10 My arms were covered in bruises. After two years  
11 I snapped and battered her over the head with the  
12 Hoover. The biting stopped. Life with my mother was  
13 nearly as bad as in the home. I can't say anything nice  
14 about my mother, except maybe she tried to be nice to  
15 her grandkids.'

16 He says:

17 'I got on well at school, especially in the first  
18 one in St George's Road. I was always the first to put  
19 my hand up but soon learned not to as I got constantly  
20 bullied because of it. I couldn't fight back against  
21 the bullies because I had never been allowed to  
22 retaliate in the home. I was easy pickings ... My  
23 brother ... was the same. I would go home with black  
24 eyes and probably got another slapping for getting  
25 a black eye. She [I think his mother] would never go to

1 the school and ask what was happening to me.

2 'I joined the army at 16 to get away from my  
3 mother.'

4 Reading on to paragraph 83 on impact, he says:

5 'The first time that life in the home affected me in  
6 later life was when I walked into the married quarters  
7 at my army base in [Northern Ireland]. I went upstairs  
8 to the bathroom and was ready to vomit because [my wife]  
9 had got a bar of carbolic soap. I just lost it and  
10 unfortunately took it out on her, asking her, "What the  
11 hell is that doing in the house?" This was because that  
12 was one of the ways [Ann Millar] used to punish us when  
13 she would put the bar of soap in our mouth, make us bite  
14 down on it and make us eat the flakes. It was only last  
15 year that I told [my wife] about Skelton and RFP  
16 RFP.

17 'It all became a big bubble when my army base was  
18 [attacked] in 1994. That was the first time I learned  
19 to cry, because it was a bubble bursting. It was unfair  
20 on my wife and kids, but that was everything suddenly  
21 coming back. As my wife ... will tell you I used to  
22 shout at the kids and get angry. I would never hit them  
23 but the whole situation caused me to be a different  
24 person. I would add though that I have always loved my  
25 children and grandchildren and we are a very loving

1 family. [My wife] will also tell you I have mellowed  
2 over the last few years. Myself and the kids get on  
3 really well.

4 'When I was in the army I never really had time to  
5 think about things in the past. The important thing was  
6 staying alive. But I have since learned that if you are  
7 in a traumatic experience, like getting blown up, it can  
8 cause previous trauma to come up. The problem is that  
9 since it came up in 1994, it's never gone away.'

10 He says that, towards the end of paragraph 86:

11 'Basically I was suffering from PTSD from both the  
12 mortar attack and recalling my time in the home.

13 'Another way it affected me was that I became extremely  
14 jealous of my grandsons and [I] just wish I could have  
15 had the wonderful childhood that they have. They are  
16 not spoilt but they have love and affection and I look  
17 at them and know that that was what I wanted as a child.  
18 It wasn't just the home that took my childhood from me,  
19 my mother and father are to blame as well.

20 'It's hard to believe that the simple act of my  
21 father walking out on us destroyed my childhood.'

22 Paragraph 89, he says:

23 'I don't have problems any more expressing my  
24 emotions. I learned as a kid that the sooner I stopped  
25 crying, the sooner Matron stopped hitting me.

1 I eventually learned not to cry and I stayed that way  
2 until only a few years ago. Now I can't stop crying and  
3 it's one of the greatest emotions we have. If anyone  
4 ever said to my grandsons "Big boys don't cry" ... I'd  
5 go through them.

6 'I get anxiety attacks and get depressed on the odd  
7 occasion and sometimes just want to be on my own. I was  
8 on antidepressants for six months from the medical  
9 officer and then when I went back to see him, he wanted  
10 to renew my prescription, but I told him I hadn't taken  
11 them for weeks. He chewed the head off me because  
12 apparently you were meant to come off these tablets  
13 slowly and not simply stop taking them. To be honest,  
14 I'm not even sure they helped me.'

15 Paragraph 91:

16 'Twice since I've been to Manchester in 2014  
17 I've thought about ending it all, and that's down to how  
18 the Sailors' Society has treated me. I had a gagging  
19 order put on me by them, but they didn't know how to  
20 respond to me because they knew I was telling the truth.  
21 I feel they are treating me now the same way they did  
22 50 years ago.'

23 He says:

24 'I have the support of my wife and counsellor and  
25 I have told [my wife] that I will never get that low

1           again. It was the most frightening experience that  
2           I have ever had. The chances are that if it wasn't for  
3           the support of [my wife] and counsellor, I wouldn't be  
4           here now.'

5           Over the page, paragraph 95, and bear with me just  
6           for a moment, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, certainly.

8 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 95, 'Charles' says:

9           'Trust remains an issue. I don't make friends.

10          'I remember the first time I got shot at was when we  
11          were setting up [a base in Northern Ireland] and they  
12          opened up with a machine gun. The way the army dealt  
13          with such things at that time was to say, "Right, into  
14          the bar, get a few drinks down your neck". Whether this  
15          was bravado or whatever, this meant you had no time to  
16          think of the incidents. You finished your drinks, went  
17          to bed and the next day you were back out.

18          'There was no "You're my best mate" sort of thing,  
19          it just didn't happen with me. These were my buddies,  
20          and I still believe in the buddy system, because you  
21          need to look after each other, but it doesn't mean you  
22          have to be friends. It doesn't mean you have to be best  
23          mates and drink with each other. I've never had  
24          a relationship with anybody like that, except [my wife].

25          'That is a definite impact of having been in care,

1 because in care, you didn't trust anybody. When I was  
2 younger, I would trust people because as a child, it's  
3 what you did. But then I didn't realise that they would  
4 go and clype on me and I would get a beating. I'm not  
5 saying that every beating was like the one I got over  
6 the dressing gown cord, but when an adult slaps you, it  
7 fucking hurts. It was worse than getting the belt at  
8 school.

9 'I've always allowed myself to be bullied because  
10 it's what happened to me in care. My teachers begged me  
11 to stay on at school but I couldn't, because I had to  
12 get away from the bullies. That's why I joined the  
13 army. Ironically, in the army, it was my accent as much  
14 as anything that protected me, because people were very  
15 wary of you if you had a Glaswegian accent.

16 'There are times I think about the home every day,  
17 especially when you see the idyllic Christmas lives on  
18 TV. I see them and think, "My childhood was never like  
19 that".'

20 Paragraph 102:

21 'I was always standoffish, which I think stopped me  
22 going further in the army. It was the same at school  
23 when I would rather sit at the back of the class. I was  
24 one of those kids who didn't want to be noticed. If  
25 I knew the answer to something, I was always one of the

1 first to put my hand up, but that was one of the reasons  
2 I got bullied, so I soon stopped that.'

3 Paragraph 103, he says:

4 'It was only after the mortar attack that I learned  
5 to stand up for myself.'

6 This is in Northern Ireland.

7 Over the page, paragraph 104:

8 'There are things that can trigger the memory of the  
9 attack, like somebody lighting a match, and you get the  
10 smell of sulphur. It's the same with my childhood.  
11 Things can trigger off the memories, like films or if  
12 I'm reading books.'

13 He then goes on, paragraph 106, to talk about  
14 disclosure, and says:

15 'The first person I told was my wife. She knew  
16 I was in care but it was only after we got married that  
17 I told her about the abuse.

18 'In 2001, I saw an article, [a newspaper article,  
19 about Lagarie] ... and I went cold. I threw the paper  
20 at my mother and said, "Now do you fucking believe me?"  
21 She said she hadn't known. I don't care what anybody  
22 says, you can't lock up your kids for seven years like  
23 that and not know about it. My mother destroyed all  
24 photos and documents of us as kids to forget about it.

25 'The newspaper article mentioned two people had been

1           abused in the home. The only member of staff mentioned  
2           was Ann Millar. After reading the article, I went to  
3           the [police] and told them about what had happened to me  
4           at the home. It was the police officer I spoke to on  
5           that occasion who put it to me that we had also suffered  
6           sexual abuse because of the way we used to be stripped  
7           naked. I had never thought of it that way before.

8           'The statement was sent to Scotland, then my brother  
9           gave a statement at Dumbarton Police office, but nothing  
10          happened, because everybody was dead.'

11          Paragraph 110, he says:

12          'Another person I have spoken to is my GP, which  
13          I have to do from time to time because I am a driving  
14          instructor. I felt as if there was a knot in my  
15          stomach, so anxious was I about the test I had to take.  
16          I did take the test and passed it, but the whole thing  
17          with the Sailors' Society has caused me a lot of undue  
18          anxiety.

19          'I want to be involved in this Inquiry to force  
20          those who were responsible for the abuse to me and  
21          others to own up and accept responsibility for what  
22          happened.'

23          And at paragraph 112, he talks about dealings with  
24          the Sailors' Society, saying:

25          'In 2014 [another former resident of Lagarie] phoned

1 the Sailors' Society and spoke to Stuart Rivers, the  
2 CEO. He said [REDACTED] had gone through it.  
3 [The former resident] thought this sounded good because  
4 he seemed to know what had been going on and that he was  
5 going to be sympathetic. He made arrangements to call  
6 her back, but he never did.'

7 And ultimately, after a further phone call,  
8 a meeting was arranged:

9 'By that time, several of us who had been at Lagarie  
10 had met through [social media].'

11 One of these other former residents phoned him back:

12 'And by then there were 14 of us complaining about  
13 the home. We all went to a meeting in Manchester in  
14 a church. Present were the CEO, Stuart Rivers, the  
15 chairperson, Alan Fishbecker, and a woman called [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED] for the Sailors' Society. I was suddenly made  
17 spokesperson and I was asked what we wanted out of the  
18 meeting. I said I wanted an apology, but not one of  
19 those apologies that was undermined by add-ons that  
20 lessened the effect. I wanted a proper apology.'

21 Paragraph 115:

22 'They then had individual meetings with all of us  
23 and we told them of our experiences in Lagarie. Alan  
24 Fishbecker couldn't believe that what we had to tell him  
25 had gone on. He said that they also ran old folks'

1 homes around the world and I said that he had better  
2 hope the old folk were getting treated better than we  
3 had.'

4 One of the other Sailors' Society representatives  
5 seems to have compared boarding school experiences with  
6 Lagarie, and 'Charles' says:

7 'This was just such an insult, as has been the whole  
8 way they have treated us since. They couldn't wait to  
9 get rid of us because I think they all had flights to  
10 catch.

11 'When we saw the copy of the so-called minutes of  
12 that meeting, they simply didn't represent what had been  
13 said. They actually had Ann Millar on the minutes  
14 asking questions ... Also they missed out so much.  
15 They also added things in.

16 'For instance, [they said that a particular girl]  
17 had had pubic lice but what she had said was that she  
18 had nits in her hair. They said she had nits in her  
19 knickers. When I got the minutes back, I thought I just  
20 couldn't do this anymore. I was disgusted by the way  
21 they were treating us. They had told us that this was  
22 all going to be done ... professionally, but they had  
23 twisted everything. For instance, where I had mentioned  
24 Skelton, they had added, "but no penetration had taken  
25 place". There had never been any mention of anything

1           like that happening, yet there it was in the minutes.

2           'After the meeting, the Sailors' Society offered me  
3           counselling, which to me meant they were accepting some  
4           sort of responsibility. They offered me three sessions,  
5           which horrified my counsellor who I was seeing because  
6           of chronic PTSD ... She couldn't believe that they  
7           honestly thought that three sessions would cure me and  
8           make me forget all about my childhood. In fact,  
9           two years on, my counsellor is now seeing me free of  
10          charge, because the Sailors' Society just dumped me.  
11          I did eventually get about 28 sessions paid for by them,  
12          but my counsellor can confirm that my counselling was  
13          nowhere near finished when the Sailors' Society dumped  
14          me.'

15          My Lady, 'Charles' goes on to say more about his  
16          dealings with the Sailors' Society and with Stuart  
17          Rivers and an individual called Paul Langham, and  
18          I don't propose --

19        LADY SMITH: If I remember rightly, Stuart Rivers featured  
20          in the documentary --

21        MR SHELDON: That's correct.

22        LADY SMITH: -- 'Suffer the Children', which we showed last  
23          week.

24        MR SHELDON: Yes.

25        LADY SMITH: But Paul Langham didn't; is that right?

1 MR SHELDON: No, he didn't, my Lady. Paul Langham appears  
2 to have been a consultant, an external consultant,  
3 engaged by the Sailors' Society to liaise with the  
4 survivors.

5 I don't propose to read all the detail of that from  
6 here, my Lady, but suffice to say that 'Charles' is  
7 highly critical of the Sailors' Society, of Langham, of  
8 Rivers, and the way they handled matters.

9 LADY SMITH: And Mr Daly referred to the strong concerns  
10 that he had learned of when he was doing his work with  
11 them, for the preparation of the documentary, didn't he?

12 MR SHELDON: Yes, indeed, and I hope, my Lady, that we will  
13 be able to look at at least some of that material with  
14 the Sailors' Society representatives on Thursday.

15 LADY SMITH: Thursday. Thank you.

16 MR SHELDON: At page 18, my Lady, 'Charles' goes on to talk  
17 about a telephone conversation following various  
18 meetings with the Sailors' Society, in which 'Charles'  
19 says -- this is paragraph 127 -- that the Sailors'  
20 Society, on 'Charles's' report of the matter, required  
21 that the transcript of the particular telephone  
22 conversation had to be confidential, and he says:

23 'They seem convinced that for some reason I am  
24 trying to set them up.'

25 And at paragraph 130 'Charles' says:

1           'It was after the telephone conversation that they  
2           stopped paying for my counselling. They told me they  
3           wanted me to thereafter get my counselling on the NHS,  
4           but when I gave them reasons as to why this wasn't  
5           possible, they simply dumped me. That was when my own  
6           counsellor said that we should finish the journey of my  
7           therapy together, and is why she sees me for nothing  
8           now. I see her periodically and have seen her eight  
9           times this year.'

10           He says:

11           'The Sailors' Society need to take responsibility  
12           for what happened. I know it wasn't those who were at  
13           the meeting, but the Society has to take responsibility.  
14           We did get an apology of sorts when they said "We  
15           apologise for what may have happened". I asked Stuart  
16           Rivers how he could apologise for something which they  
17           then say didn't happen, to which he replied, "Well, we  
18           felt we had to say something".'

19           'Charles' goes on:

20           'There are no records of our time in Lagarie.  
21           Having said that, I have been told by the Sailors'  
22           Society that they have no records of any kids who were  
23           in the home and on various occasions they have said that  
24           the records have simply been lost, got destroyed in  
25           a flood after they had been transferred to London, and

1 also that they were destroyed in a fire. All three  
2 can't be true. It was Stuart Rivers who told us this  
3 and that that was what he had been told.

4 'Paul Langham, as liaison officer, was supposed to  
5 try and find the records for us, but he passed the buck  
6 by saying that they weren't responsible for the  
7 day-to-day running of the home and that they weren't  
8 therefore responsible for the records, and he suggested  
9 that it would be a headquarters in Glasgow. He said  
10 that they would be the ones who dealt with the  
11 day-to-day running of the home. Apparently the Glasgow  
12 office went bankrupt in 1982 when they ran out of  
13 money.'

14 On lessons to be learned, 'Charles' says:

15 'I don't know what the vetting was back in those  
16 days, but the vetting process today sucks. If you  
17 haven't a criminal record, you can't get caught. This  
18 means that inappropriate people applying for jobs to  
19 work with children can do so, simply because they  
20 haven't been caught, regardless of what they have done.  
21 I think there should be a DNA bank so if people do  
22 commit crimes then they can be caught. All vetting of  
23 people should include them being thoroughly interviewed.  
24 It is insufficient to simply ask the police if a person  
25 has ever been charged with something.

1           'I believe that talking face to face with people  
2 allows you to learn a lot about them. I don't trust  
3 some people who get into my car, simply because I learn  
4 about them by talking to them.'

5           And over the page, my Lady, he says:

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

10 LADY SMITH: Now, it looks pretty clear that when, in  
11 paragraph 134, 'Charles' referred to the vetting process  
12 today, he is talking about the process carried out by  
13 Disclosure Scotland, and has the same criticisms of it  
14 as the previous witness.

15 MR SHELDON: Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Of course, what neither of them may be aware of  
17 is that if enhanced disclosure is sought and there is  
18 any information that the police have about the person  
19 that stops short of a conviction, but raises a question  
20 as to their suitability to work with children, that is  
21 there, and the person seeking the certificate will have  
22 to live with that.

23 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady.

24 LADY SMITH: Because they won't get a clearance, and so they  
25 won't be able to work with children.

1 MR SHELDON: Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: But there's no reason, I suppose, why 'Charles'  
3 or the previous witness would understand those nuances.

4 MR SHELDON: Well indeed, my Lady. Yes, and the system has  
5 developed over the last 20 years or so.

6 LADY SMITH: It has, but of course the point they make is it  
7 doesn't mean that somebody on whom the police have got  
8 nothing, to use a colloquialism, whether a conviction or  
9 other information, is going to be identified through  
10 that system.

11 MR SHELDON: Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: It's not perfect.

13 MR SHELDON: No, my Lady. And that is 'Charles's'  
14 statement.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Well, it's 12.50 pm now.  
16 So I think I will rise now and sit again at 2.00 pm when  
17 we'll go on to further evidence, thank you.

18 Oh, actually, one name before I rise, before  
19 I forget. In referring to 'Charles's' statement, there  
20 was one name used of a person who has the protection of  
21 my General Restriction Order, and that was [REDACTED], or  
22 [REDACTED]. She is not to be identified as referred  
23 to in our evidence outside this room.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (12.52 pm)

1 (The luncheon adjournment)

2 (2.00 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Now, Ms Forbes.

4 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady. The first read-in this  
5 afternoon is from an applicant who's anonymous, and is  
6 known as 'Lucy'.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 'Lucy' (read in)

9 MS FORBES: The reference is WIT-1-000000326.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Lucy' was born in 1955 and tells us  
12 about her life before going into care between paragraphs  
13 2 and 5. She was living with her parents in Edinburgh.  
14 She had a twin brother and a younger sister, who was  
15 about a year and a half younger than her. She had  
16 an older sister who was 11 years older, but she was  
17 never in care with the others.

18 She states that she was put into care in Edinburgh  
19 when she was about 4 years old and she doesn't remember  
20 much about life before then. She also doesn't remember  
21 much about her dad, because she says he was away at sea.

22 She tells us that when they were put into care, her  
23 father had her mother sectioned and gave up the house,  
24 and her mother was in hospital for a while, and then had  
25 nowhere to take them when she came out of hospital.

1           We do have some records, my Lady, for 'Lucy', and  
2           there is an entry stating that her mother was  
3           an alcoholic and was admitted to West House on [REDACTED]  
4           1963, after a breakdown. And the record states that --  
5           it says, 'Father is at sea with Merchant Navy and no  
6           relatives to help'.

7           She then talks about being placed in a children's  
8           home in Edinburgh, she thinks it was called The Priory.

9   LADY SMITH: Yes, there was a place called The Priory, in  
10          Canaan Lane.

11   MS FORBES: Yes. My Lady, we have, from the records,  
12          an account that states that she was admitted to what  
13          they call as Canaan Lodge; I don't know if that's the  
14          same place.

15   LADY SMITH: Yes, Canaan Lodge, it's just down Canaan Lane.

16   MS FORBES: And she was there on two separate occasions, so  
17          first on [REDACTED] 1962 for a short period of about  
18          a week, but then she was admitted again on [REDACTED]  
19          1963, which would accord with the record of her mother  
20          being admitted to West House and, apart from a short  
21          period where she went to hospital, she was in Canaan  
22          Lodge until [REDACTED] of -- just checking, my Lady. Sorry,  
23          [REDACTED] 1963.

24   LADY SMITH: Right.

25   MS FORBES: Sorry, that's the wrong date, I think. She was

1           there for seven years, my Lady, so it would have been --  
2           it's my fault, I put the wrong date in there, on my  
3           account. So it would be, I think 1970, but I can  
4           double-check that, my Lady.

5   LADY SMITH: Yes. So was The Priory in Edinburgh the first  
6           place that she was --

7   MS FORBES: Oh, my Lady, I'm really sorry.

8   LADY SMITH: I wonder if these dates are the right way round  
9           from the notes I've got.

10   MS FORBES: I completely misread my own notes. I put  
11           7 years. That was her age at the time, sorry. She  
12           wasn't there for that length of time. I think she was  
13           admitted on two separate occasions over a space of about  
14           14 months between the first and the second and,  
15           altogether, she was there for a period of about nine  
16           months.

17   LADY SMITH: Okay.

18   MS FORBES: So I think it would be 1964, the second time  
19           when she was released, [REDACTED] 1964, I think.

20   LADY SMITH: Right, so she would still be 8 at that time?

21   MS FORBES: I think it is 9.

22   LADY SMITH: On the way to being 9.

23   MS FORBES: Yes. I think it is my fault again, my Lady.  
24           I have the notes, she was admitted to Lagarie on  
25           [REDACTED] 1963, and that seems to be correct.

1 LADY SMITH: Right.

2 MS FORBES: So between 1962 and 1963 was the two occasions  
3 at Canaan Lodge.

4 LADY SMITH: Okay.

5 MS FORBES: I do apologise, it's me misreading my own notes.

6 LADY SMITH: That's all right.

7 MS FORBES: So she was --

8 LADY SMITH: So she then goes to Lagarie in Rhu in the  
9 [REDACTED] of 1963.

10 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: At which time she must have been about 7 years  
12 old.

13 MS FORBES: Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Not yet 8.

15 MS FORBES: She was there until [REDACTED] 1967, so she was  
16 about 11 and a half, so just under four years she spent  
17 there.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS FORBES: The only thing she says about Canaan Lodge is  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 she thinks she was there over a period of about  
22 two years, but I think we see it was about 14 months.  
23 So, going to the section of her statement where she  
24 deals with Lagarie, that's from paragraph 10 and she  
25 states:

1           'I vaguely remember being moved to Lagarie in Rhu.  
2           I have quite a distinct memory of a man who came in  
3           a naval uniform and took us to Rhu in a car. I had  
4           never met him before and no one had told us that we were  
5           moving, so it was a bit of a shock. All three of us ...  
6           went to Lagarie and I think that I was about 5 or  
7           6 years old at the time.'

8           But she was slightly older.

9   LADY SMITH: Yes.

10   MS FORBES: 'Lagarie House was a big mansion house within  
11           huge grounds. There was a wooded area at the back and  
12           there was a vegetable patch and fruit like gooseberries  
13           that you could pick. The house had a ground floor,  
14           a first floor and a second floor.

15           'Ann Millar was the Matron, and KER  
16           KER, worked there as well. I think that they  
17           both lived in the house. There were four or five other  
18           staff there but I don't really remember them.

19           'There were about 30 boys and girls in the home but  
20           there were sometimes more than that in the summertime.'

21           And she remembers a particular boy being there with  
22           his family and she names him.

23           She then talks about the routine from paragraph 14  
24           onwards:

25           'I remember arriving at this huge house and we

1        hadn't been in the place for five minutes when my sister  
2        ... called Matron "Granny" and the next thing I knew,  
3        [she] was on the other side of the room because Matron  
4        had slapped her so hard that she had thrown her across  
5        the room. [My sister] was about 4 years old and tiny.  
6        Matron told [her] that she should never call her Granny  
7        and that her name was Matron. I was horrified and  
8        terrified. The man who had dropped us off had left, so  
9        he wasn't there at that point. I don't remember if  
10       I was shown around after that.'

11       She then talks at paragraph 15 about the set-up for  
12       the bedrooms, and she said she shared a bedroom on the  
13       first floor and that there were boys and girls who  
14       shared rooms. She talks about getting up, dressing  
15       herself in the morning and going down for breakfast.  
16       Then at paragraph 17, she says:

17       'When I was a bit older, Mrs KER used to get me  
18       up early so that I could go down to the kitchen and help  
19       get the porridge ready. That was a treat because she  
20       gave me a slice of toast. Mrs KER was always  
21       really kind, but that experience was quite frightening  
22       because I was terrified that I would get caught.  
23       I worried that Matron might decide to go round the  
24       bedrooms early in the morning and I wouldn't be there.

25       'Sometimes Matron sent you to bed at 6 pm and other

1 times she would keep you up until 11 pm. She would send  
2 us all to bed at 6 pm in the summer if it took her  
3 fancy.

4 'There was a dining room at the front of the  
5 building on the ground floor. Matron had a grand table  
6 in front of the window, which she and Mrs KER used  
7 to sit at. There were long tables laid out in rows for  
8 the children and she could see us all from her table.  
9 There was no talking when you had a meal.

10 'Breakfast was always porridge and the meals were  
11 the same every week, so every Sunday we had stew at  
12 lunchtime and at tea time we were given black ...'

13 'Pudding', I think that should say. Or, I don't  
14 know if 'black budding' is something different, I don't  
15 know. It says 'black budding'.

16 LADY SMITH: No, it must be black pudding.

17 MS FORBES: '... black pudding and sliced sausage.'

18 That makes sense.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would make sense.

20 MS FORBES: 'I couldn't eat it but you were made to, so  
21 I would try and sneak my food to someone else and  
22 sometimes I managed that. Matron would stand over you  
23 and sometimes she would force food down your throat. If  
24 you choked, then she would just keep trying to force the  
25 food into your mouth.

1           'Matron would sometimes come and take a child's meal  
2 away from them and then she would beat the child for no  
3 reason. She would beat them in front of the other  
4 children by slapping them, kicking them and pulling  
5 their hair. It was horrible. Mrs KER was there  
6 and she saw what was going on.

7           'I remember two small children who might have been  
8 brothers. Matron took against one of these boys so much  
9 that she would take his food away and give it to the  
10 other boy. The poor boy was hardly getting any food and  
11 they were only about 2 years old.

12           'I vaguely remember getting washed. I remember  
13 Matron coming to the bathroom and making you brush your  
14 teeth with soap, or flushing your head down a toilet.  
15 That happened to me regularly and I saw it happen to  
16 other children. She would pick on you for no reason.

17           'There were young women that were about 17 or  
18 18 years old and I remember them helping at bath time.  
19 I think they were just as frightened of Matron as we  
20 were.

21           'My mum brought us red, green and blue woolly tights  
22 in the winter and Matron was furious. She hated my mum.  
23 She made [my sister] and I wear our tights without  
24 a skirt and she sent us outside like that, but not to  
25 school.

1           'One of the teachers sent a letter to Matron asking  
2           for us to get cardigans because it was the end of the  
3           summer and we were still in cotton dresses with no  
4           cardigans. We were given cardigans after that, but  
5           I don't think Matron would have been happy about it.

6           'Shoes were a nightmare. You daren't let Matron  
7           know that there was a hole in the bottom of your shoe  
8           because she would go mad and beat you up as if it was  
9           your fault that you had a hole in your shoe. I do  
10          remember that there was a big box of shoes and all of  
11          the kids were trying to get shoes out of the box. We  
12          needed new shoes and we had to find ones that fitted,  
13          but we were all trying to get shoes at the same time, so  
14          it was mayhem.

15          'My mum used to buy us shoes, which would infuriate  
16          Matron, so we could only wear them when my mum was  
17          visiting.

18          'In the evening you would be in the sitting room  
19          until you were told to go to bed. There was no real  
20          bedtime, because bedtime was when Matron said it was.  
21          So that could be at 6 pm, 9 pm or 10 pm.

22          'Sometimes she would send you outside to play and it  
23          could be really cold but you didn't have a coat on.

24          'I went to Brownies in the village, but not very  
25          often.

1           'Sometimes on a Saturday she would send me and [my  
2 brother] to the shop in Helensburgh to get whatever she  
3 wanted for herself. [My brother] used to steal a packet  
4 of biscuits and I was terrified of being caught, because  
5 if we were taken back to the home by the police, then  
6 our lives wouldn't have been worth living. After he  
7 stole the biscuits, we would sit and stuff our faces  
8 because we were always hungry.

9           'One of the girls from school and her family took me  
10 away to Largs for a day at the beach and that was nice.

11           'One time the sailors came and took us to the  
12 funfair and then to the cinema and we got a box of  
13 chocolates. It was wonderful, but that didn't happen  
14 very often. I only remember going once, round about  
15 Christmas time.

16           'I remember being in a place near Coldstream.  
17 I think there were about four of us who went there and  
18 the woman that we stayed with had horses. I had never  
19 ridden a bicycle before in my life and I tried to ride  
20 one. We all went out one day and the kids were on their  
21 bicycles and she was on her horse. I remember falling  
22 off and I refused to get back on. The heavens opened  
23 and they all went on home. That was a nice place.

24 I don't know where she was, but Matron wasn't there.

25           'Another time, [my sister] and I went to a foster

1 home near the borders for a break. The woman had two  
2 small children and she was really kind. We used to do  
3 baking and different things.

4 'My dad took us on holiday for a week once, and the  
5 second week my mum took us to a holiday camp in  
6 Rothesay. On the way back on the ferry, I couldn't stop  
7 crying. I think that my mum should have realised that  
8 something was wrong. I didn't feel that I could tell my  
9 mum what was happening, but I shouldn't have had to say,  
10 she should have realised why I was so upset. She used  
11 to say to me as an adult that if she had known, then she  
12 would have done something about it. I have since learnt  
13 from my sister that Mrs KER warned my mum that she  
14 needed to get her children out of Lagarie. [My sister]  
15 told me that in 2020. I don't know how my mum reacted  
16 to that advice but my mum never took responsibility for  
17 anything and everything was always my dad's fault.

18 'We went to Rhu Primary School and I was ready to go  
19 to secondary school when we went to live with my mum.  
20 I liked my teacher at primary school, Mrs Burt. She was  
21 kind. A staff member from the home would walk us to a  
22 school and we walked back at lunchtimes. I can't  
23 remember if someone came to get us, but I think we  
24 walked back by ourselves.

25 'I had to go to the dentist on one occasion.

1 A member of staff brought me and she bought me an ice  
2 cream.'

3 I think that should say it would have been at the  
4 dentist in Helensburgh -- or:

5 'I would have been at the dentist in Helensburgh.

6 'The doctor used to come to the home one day a week.  
7 He would come into the dining room where there was  
8 complete silence because Matron was there and he would  
9 ask if everyone was all right. No one would say  
10 anything, because if you did, then Matron might send you  
11 to your bed without food for three or four days. That  
12 happened on a regular basis. The doctor never carried  
13 out routine health checks or weighed us.

14 'I developed stomach ulcers whilst I was there and  
15 it wasn't until my late teens that it was diagnosed and  
16 I was told that I have scarring from it. I didn't tell  
17 anyone about the pains in my stomach when I was at  
18 Lagarie and I never told the doctor. However, when  
19 I was later in foster care, the woman did call the  
20 doctor.

21 'I have a funny nail because my nail became infected  
22 and I didn't tell anyone about it until my finger turned  
23 yellow and then I had to tell the doctor. I had been  
24 sewing and a needle went into my nail. The doctor  
25 lanced my finger and bandaged it. It was septic, but

1 I wasn't given any painkillers that I can remember.

2 'One day, on the way back from school, I was knocked  
3 down while crossing the road and I fractured my pelvis.  
4 Matron came to see me in Accident and Emergencies.  
5 I remember her saying that I didn't have to call her  
6 Matron all the time. Her tone of voice was different  
7 when she was speaking to me in front of the hospital  
8 staff. The night that it happened, all I wanted was my  
9 mum and I remember asking for her, but I did have  
10 a nurse with me the whole time. I was in a lot of pain.

11 'I was in Vale of Leven Hospital for six weeks and  
12 my mum wasn't told that I was there for the first two  
13 weeks, until someone from the Sailors' Society  
14 eventually went and informed her. She phoned the home  
15 and asked if she could bring my brother and sister to  
16 visit me in hospital and she was told that she couldn't,  
17 because it wasn't a visiting day. So she was allowed to  
18 visit me, but she couldn't bring my siblings. My mum  
19 came to visit twice, but the Matron never came back  
20 after the day that it happened.'

21 And there is a record, my Lady, of 'Lucy' being in  
22 hospital, and it is dated 10 April 1964. I think she is  
23 8 and a half by this point.

24 LADY SMITH: Oh right.

25 MS FORBES: And it notes she had a cracked pelvis bone and

1           it was an accident after she stepped off the pavement on  
2           the way back to school. And the note also says that the  
3           mother, her mother, visited and complained that she  
4           didn't know that 'Lucy' was in hospital, but she was  
5           advised that the Leith representative of their office  
6           had contacted social work to check the address so that  
7           she could be advised, and apparently her mother had  
8           moved so they didn't have her up-to-date address. So it  
9           seems to accord with what she recollects about that.  
10          She seems to think, my Lady, she was about 9 years old,  
11          which is about correct.

12   LADY SMITH: Yes.

13   MS FORBES: She says, though, she wasn't in a children's  
14          ward, it was a ladies' ward, and at paragraph 45 she  
15          says:

16                'My time in hospital was one of the happiest times  
17                of my life. When I woke up on Easter Sunday, I had  
18                a mountain of chocolate eggs from all of the patients,  
19                doctors and nurses.'

20                'Lucy' talks about having to attend church in Rhu  
21                once a week and she talks about having to polish the  
22                children's shoes in the home every night after tea. But  
23                she doesn't know if other children had chores to do.

24          At paragraph 48 she says:

25                'One Christmas morning, Matron went absolutely mad

1       because I had been given two gifts that were the same.  
2       Matron took me into her office with my gifts and she  
3       destroyed every single one of them, and then beat the  
4       hell out of me. She punched me, kicked me, and pulled  
5       my hair. I was between 7 and 9 years old.

6               'I was given gifts from my mum, and you used to be  
7       given gifts from the sailors at Gairloch. I think the  
8       Sailors' Society might have had a fund for gifts.  
9       I remember getting gifts that were toys, but I can't  
10      remember playing with them. Matron had a cupboard in  
11      the hallway between the kitchen and the dining room that  
12      was full of toys that she had taken from kids.

13             'I never saw a birthday cake the whole time I was  
14      there, either for me or for anyone else.

15             'My mum was allowed to visit us every fourth Sunday,  
16      but she was never allowed into the home. She was  
17      allowed into the hallway just past the front door, where  
18      she sat on a bench to wait for us, and then we had the  
19      whole afternoon together. My mum always took us out and  
20      we did things like go to a cafe for a hot chocolate. In  
21      the wintertime there wasn't much to do, so we would sit  
22      in the waiting room at the train station in Helensburgh,  
23      because there was a big fire in there. My mum used to  
24      give us sweeties, which we would hide in our pockets and  
25      then later we would share them with other kids, which

1 I didn't mind, because some children had no visitors.  
2 We were lucky, my mum came every fourth Sunday and only  
3 missed one visit when she had the flu.

4 'My dad used to visit sometimes, and he would be  
5 allowed into the Matron's private sitting room on the  
6 ground floor where he was given tea and cakes, but my  
7 mum got nothing. Matron hated my mum and would call her  
8 a prostitute to me.

9 'My older sister came to visit us once with her  
10 first baby, who was in a pushchair. She took us out for  
11 a walk. She didn't really know what was going on and  
12 I have never spoken to her in depth about it, so she  
13 just knows it was horrible.'

14 And then she says at paragraph 54:

15 'An actress from "Doctor Finlay's Casebook" visited  
16 and I have a photo of that, but that was a one-off.'

17 'Lucy' goes on to say at paragraph 55:

18 '[My sister] and I were always kept separate. We  
19 weren't allowed to share a bedroom or sit at the same  
20 dining table. I wasn't allowed to be near [my brother]  
21 either. Sometimes we did speak when we were on our way  
22 to school, but around Matron we never spoke. When  
23 Matron was there, nobody spoke, so there would be  
24 complete silence around her. I still think to this day  
25 that that wasn't normal.

1           'My mum used to send us comics, but I told her not  
2           to send them anymore because it wasn't worth Matron  
3           going mad. She didn't like my mum giving us stuff.

4           'My brother tried to run away in a rowing boat but  
5           he didn't get too far and the gardener caught him. On  
6           the other side of the road was the shoreline. When [my  
7           brother] came back, he had been beaten up.

8           'The gardener raped my brother. [My brother] never  
9           spoke to me about being raped, but his wife told me that  
10          he had been raped on more than one occasion by the  
11          gardener. I was an adult when I found out and I was  
12          completely shocked and upset for him.

13          'The gardener lived alone in a gatehouse and  
14          I remember him, but not his name. He was mostly just in  
15          the gardens, and I remember seeing him in the grounds.  
16          He talked to the children but he never spoke to me.  
17          I was quite afraid of him, but I don't know why. He was  
18          there the whole time I was there.

19          'If you wet the bed, then you would be moved into  
20          a bedroom next to the bathroom, which the children  
21          called the wet room. The children knew that you were  
22          sent there because you wet the bed, and that's why it  
23          was called the wet room. You had to sleep on a rubber  
24          sheet with no pyjamas on and just a sheet and a blanket  
25          over you. There were about six or seven beds in the wet

1 room.

2 'When you got up in the morning, I think the staff  
3 that changed the bed would report back to Matron and if  
4 your bed was wet, then you had to go to the wet room the  
5 next night. I didn't wet the bed all the time, but when  
6 I did I would be put into the wet room. I think that  
7 happened to me about a dozen times over the years and it  
8 happened to other children as well. Matron or one of  
9 the staff that would tell you when you had to sleep  
10 there and sometimes she would keep you there for three  
11 or four days.

12 'I was raped when I was in the wet room. That was  
13 part of your punishment. I don't know who it was that  
14 raped me and it could have been a man or a boy. I was  
15 so frightened and I used to try and keep my eyes shut to  
16 try and pretend that it wasn't happening. That happened  
17 to me about five times when I was about 8 or 9 years  
18 old. I was in pain after that happened, but I would  
19 never have told anyone, so I couldn't get any medical  
20 help.

21 'I have briefly spoken to my sister about what  
22 happened and she experienced the same as me. She was  
23 raped as well and she doesn't know who it was either.

24 'I don't know if the Matron knew what was happening,  
25 but I don't think that she would have done anything

1 about it if she did know. The staff should have noticed  
2 that something had happened to me, but I think the young  
3 staff were just as scared of Matron as we were. They  
4 had the choice to stay or go, and we didn't.'

5 'Lucy' then talks about abuse at Lagarie from  
6 paragraph 65:

7 'Matron used to go with us to church, but there was  
8 an occasion when I was about 7 or 8 years old when she  
9 didn't go to church with us and I received a message  
10 saying that we were to leave church at half-time.

11 'Matron heard us all coming home, and she asked who  
12 had said that everyone was to come out of church early,  
13 so they all said that it was me.

14 'Matron sent for me and I had to go to her bedroom,  
15 which was on the same level of some of the children's  
16 bedrooms. She made me wash her, dress her, and then  
17 clean her room. But she was beating me the entire time.  
18 She stood in the bathroom completely undressed when  
19 I had to wash her. I filled the sink with hot water and  
20 I washed her all over, including her private parts, with  
21 a flannel. I wanted to die. I had to put her clothes  
22 on her and then clean her room thoroughly, moving all  
23 the furniture as I went.

24 'She was hitting me, kicking me, and pulling my hair  
25 while I was doing all of this and she was calling my

1 mother a prostitute and a whore. I didn't know what  
2 that meant at the time, but I understood that it wasn't  
3 very nice.

4 'Eventually she told me to go and get my hair  
5 combed, because she had been pulling it and it was  
6 a mess. I went to Mrs KER and I was very upset and  
7 crying. At lunchtime when we all sat down to eat,  
8 Mrs KER challenged Matron about what she had been  
9 saying to me and my heart sank. Matron came and took my  
10 food away and sent me up to my bed, so Mrs KER  
11 never had any say-so.

12 'Matron would line us up to comb our hair with  
13 a bone comb, which is a metal nit comb. Sometimes when  
14 she combed my hair, she did it really hard and if  
15 I flinched then she would do it even harder, which would  
16 sometimes make my scalp bleed. I didn't get any medical  
17 treatment for that and any marks were covered by my  
18 hair.

19 'Matron was clever and I never had any injuries that  
20 anyone would have been able to see. My injuries never  
21 required medical treatment and if they had, then I still  
22 wouldn't have told anyone.

23 'In the evening, Matron sat in a big armchair in the  
24 television room. Children didn't speak when she was in  
25 the room, so they sat and watched television. There

1           were a few of us that she used to make stand naked in  
2           the television room for hours at a time. She made  
3           children do that whenever she fancied it and there would  
4           be no specific reason for it. Three or four boys and  
5           girls were made to do it at a time and there would also  
6           be boys and girls in the room who were not having to do  
7           it and they would sit watching television. When she  
8           made me do that I felt humiliated and embarrassed. It  
9           was horrible, especially because I was about 8 or  
10          9 years old, so I was aware that there were differences  
11          between boys and girls. Eventually Matron would tell  
12          you to go to bed and that would bring it to an end.

13                 'There was a small toilet next to the sitting room  
14                 and sometimes, when you were made to stand naked, she  
15                 would put you into the toilet with the window wide open.  
16                 She would flush your head down the toilet and then she  
17                 would make you sit there until she told you that it was  
18                 okay to come out. It would be freezing cold. She was  
19                 very cruel.

20                 '[My sister] was a bit feisty, and she was put into  
21                 the toilet quite a lot. Sometimes she would answer back  
22                 and there would be big trouble. I think I was desperate  
23                 to be liked. I would see that happen to her and I felt  
24                 frightened and upset that I couldn't do anything to help  
25                 her.

1           'When she was sitting in her armchair in the  
2 evening, Matron would call you over and offer you  
3 sweets. She would have a Mars Bar in one hand, a Milky  
4 Way in the other. If you took the Mars Bar, then she  
5 called you greedy, and if you took the Milky Way, then  
6 she called you a liar, because she believed that you  
7 must have wanted the Mars Bar. You couldn't win.

8           'Sometimes it was a relief just to go to bed, but it  
9 wasn't really a relief because she would come round the  
10 bedrooms at night, when the kids were in their beds, and  
11 she would pick on someone for no reason. During the  
12 night, I would hear Matron shouting at someone and  
13 beating them up. While that was happening I would lie  
14 in my bed wishing that it was me, because then at least  
15 I would know that it wasn't [my brother] or [my sister]  
16 that were being beaten. That happened regularly. I was  
17 frightened, but we had no power and we were helpless.  
18 She picked on me and [my sister] more than others and  
19 I think the root cause of it all was that she hated our  
20 mother so much.

21           'Matron took me to pick gooseberries one day and  
22 I had a glass bowl. I was so frightened and nervous  
23 that I dropped the glass bowl. I was frightened around  
24 her all of the time. I was beaten for dropping the  
25 bowl.

1           'I went to Brownies in Rhu but I wasn't allowed to  
2 go very often. Matron would call me up to her big table  
3 in the dining room and tell me to do my homework in  
4 front of her. But I would be so scared and nervous that  
5 I wouldn't be able to do my homework, so she would say  
6 that I couldn't go to Brownies. I don't remember her  
7 ever asking about homework or checking our homework,  
8 other than when I was meant to be going to Brownies.

9           'Matron went into hospital at one point and it was  
10 like freedom. Mrs KER was SNR and it  
11 was like night and day. I didn't have the fear that  
12 I normally had when Matron was there. You could go out  
13 to play when you wanted. We were happy to chat and you  
14 could talk to other kids.

15           'I remember Mrs KER told me in confidence that  
16 I was going home to live with my mum and I was relieved.  
17 We were doing a play at school and I said to the teacher  
18 that I couldn't do it because we were going home on the  
19 date of the play. However, we never went home that day  
20 and, at church on Sunday, I was terrified that the  
21 teacher would say something to Matron about me going  
22 home, and then Matron would wonder how I knew about it  
23 and she would go mad but the teacher didn't say  
24 anything.

25           'I don't know if there was a legal requirement

1       keeping us at Lagarie, but my mum had to fight to get us  
2       home and she had to get a house, because she had stayed  
3       with my grandparents after she came out of [hospital].  
4       I remember someone who I think was called Miss Coutts  
5       and I think she might have been a children's welfare  
6       officer for the council. She was the one who helped my  
7       mum get us home, but I don't know when she became  
8       involved. [My brother] and I were in Lagarie until we  
9       were 12 and we were due to start secondary school. [My  
10      sister] was 10 and a half and still at primary school.

11       'We went home to my mum's house in Edinburgh and  
12      I think it was the sailor who first brought us to  
13      Lagarie who also brought us home. The Sailors' Society  
14      didn't have any involvement with us after we had left,  
15      and I didn't see my dad very often. It wasn't all a bed  
16      of roses going home. I had thought naively that it was  
17      going to be wonderful, but we weren't even home a year  
18      when we were placed in foster care in Aberdeenshire.'

19       'Lucy' then goes on from paragraph 82 to talk about  
20      time being at home, and she says it was pretty awful  
21      being at home. Her mum was a drinker and she was always  
22      trying to kill herself. She says that when she went  
23      home, during the night, she would have night terrors and  
24      be shouting and screaming and quite often she would be  
25      crying.

1           She talks about going to secondary school, but not  
2           getting on well at school, and she says that she was  
3           worried about keeping the family together. She'd be  
4           cleaning the house or cooking the tea, trying to make  
5           things right for her mum. And she talks about being  
6           consumed by anger and upset at that time. She doesn't  
7           remember what led to them being taken into foster care,  
8           but she thinks that her mum probably tried to kill  
9           herself. And she says she would often come home from  
10          school and see that she'd hurt herself in various ways.

11          And then 'Lucy' tells us about being in foster care  
12          between paragraphs 86 and 92. That wasn't read in  
13          during the Foster Care study, but it was part of the  
14          bundle.

15   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16   MS FORBES: 'Lucy' says that she was about 12 or 13 when she  
17          went into foster care and this was on a farm, and she  
18          tells us some of the details of that in the following  
19          paragraphs. She says she was only, probably, there for  
20          about six to eight weeks.

21          From paragraph 93, 'Lucy' talks about life after  
22          being in care and she says that she spent the rest of  
23          her childhood at home with her mum, but her mum  
24          continued to take attempts on her own life and was often  
25          taken away to hospital, but she doesn't think the local

1 authority were involved after she went back. She went  
2 back to school but failed all of her exams. And she  
3 talks about her mum treating her brother different from  
4 her and her sister. She talks about her sister trying  
5 to take her own life when she was about 14 and then what  
6 happened with her. And then she talks about the fact  
7 that she left to go and work down south as a nanny. Her  
8 mum was furious with her when that happened.

9 She then talks about being married at 20, but says  
10 it was a -- she was abused physically and emotionally  
11 but found the courage to leave him, and then she went to  
12 America, and didn't come back for six years. She says  
13 that was a good time for her, because she learnt to  
14 speak up for herself and, when she went there, her  
15 sister had also split up from her husband and by that  
16 time had moved to America, so they lived together with  
17 her sister's son.

18 She then talks about things that she's been doing in  
19 relation to making various things, and spending time  
20 making fidget mats for dementia patients, and the like.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MS FORBES: She goes on to tell us about impact from  
23 paragraph 98 and she says:

24 'I never felt good enough in Lagarie or at home and  
25 I never had any encouragement. When I was at home, my

1 mum never asked if I had done my homework. I was just  
2 skipping school to clean the house and one day I broke  
3 a bone in my foot and when my mum came home, I was  
4 sitting with a plaster cast on. I hadn't been able to  
5 phone her and ask her to take me to the hospital.'

6 She talks about visiting her dad a few times when  
7 she was working in England and he was living down there,  
8 but she really didn't know her dad that well and in  
9 a lot of ways he was a stranger. But she did tell him  
10 how they'd suffered abuse when they were in Lagarie, but  
11 didn't go into any detail.

12 She then tells us more about the difficulties in her  
13 family, and between her and her mother, and her  
14 grandmother, and the fact that when her father died she  
15 never went to his funeral. She talks about being angry  
16 with her mum, who continued to drink, but says that  
17 later in life they reconciled. And she states at  
18 paragraph 103:

19 'I'm glad that we reconciled because it would have  
20 been awful if she had died and I had still been angry  
21 and upset with her.'

22 At paragraph 104, 'Lucy' says:

23 'I have been depressed for most of my life and  
24 I think I was depressed while I was in Lagarie, but you  
25 weren't allowed to express your emotions or let anyone

1 see that you were upset. There was no one paying  
2 attention, so no one noticed how depressed I was.'

3 She talks about being prescribed antidepressants  
4 thereafter, in her statement, in her 30s, and being  
5 referred by her GP to counselling. And then she says  
6 that was the first time that she'd spoken about Lagarie.  
7 She spoke to the counsellor and she told the GP some of  
8 what happened and she told the counsellor about her  
9 experiences in Lagarie.

10 She talks about getting a nursing degree at  
11 university in her early 50s but after six months as  
12 a nurse, she says she had a breakdown and was diagnosed  
13 with bipolar disorder, and got electric shock treatment.

14 She tells us that she's tried to take her own life  
15 a few times over the years. She also, at paragraph 110,  
16 tells us she used to see a psychologist and a community  
17 psychiatric nurse, and she says she's a lot more stable  
18 now, at the time of this statement, because of  
19 medication. She says it's taken a long time but she  
20 feels she's finally on the right medication, which is  
21 antidepressants and anti-psychotics. She's found  
22 forming relationships difficult and she says she's not  
23 really had a relationship. She says for years she had  
24 panic attacks at night. This is at paragraph 113, she  
25 says:

1           'For years I had panic attacks at night and it was  
2           because I had been in bed at night and had been hearing  
3           children crying and screaming. I had flashbacks that  
4           I was walking about without a skirt on. It's better  
5           now.'

6           She then tells us about being assaulted sexually in  
7           the community later in life and we have the details of  
8           that, when she was 15 and then when she was older.

9           In relation to reporting of abuse, she tells us at  
10          paragraph 117 that she spoke to police in 2001. She  
11          told them everything about what happened in Lagarie  
12          involving Ann Millar, but she didn't tell them about  
13          being assaulted in the wet room by the male. And she  
14          says that it was reported back to her that Ann Millar  
15          was dead. She received a letter from the police in 2004  
16          which stated that the investigation resulted in a report  
17          going to the Procurator Fiscal in Dumbarton, but that  
18          both people referred to in the report were deceased and  
19          that no criminal prosecutions were possible. She thinks  
20          one of the individuals they were referring to was Ann  
21          Millar.

22          She also has a letter dated June 2019, stating that  
23          an investigation was recently conducted into allegations  
24          of abuse at Lagarie, and she thinks that letter refers  
25          to the reports made by her and others.

1           She also has a letter from the Sailors' Society from  
2           2019, but she states that she hasn't contacted the  
3           Sailors' Society; it was the police that contacted them  
4           back in 2001.

5           She goes on to tell us in relation to records at  
6           paragraph 124, that she's been given photos of her. She  
7           says 'of us'; I assume that's her and her siblings.

8   LADY SMITH: Yes.

9   MS FORBES: At Lagarie, from the welfare officer at the  
10           Sailors' Society, and that's the photo that was taken  
11           during the summer with the actress. And she remembers  
12           the day that she came, and she gives some details about  
13           that.

14           In relation to lessons to be learned, 'Lucy' says  
15           from paragraph 126:

16           'I think it should be possible to go into a home and  
17           observe children and see how they behave. Are they  
18           happy and playing, or are they silent and frightened?  
19           I completely understand why children don't tell anyone  
20           what's happening to them, it's because they are too  
21           frightened.

22           'I think that if Lagarie had been assessed, then it  
23           would have been done by the Sailors' Society, and having  
24           looked at their newsletters, it appears that they  
25           thought that Ann Millar was an angel. I think it would

1           have to be an independent body that would have to do  
2           assessments. Ann Millar ran Lagarie how she wanted and  
3           she didn't need to answer to anyone. The kids were too  
4           frightened to say anything.

5           'If I had said anything, then it would have had to  
6           have been away from the home. If there had been  
7           an adult who had sat down with me and showed me some  
8           care and compassion, and if they had said that I could  
9           tell them anything and they would look after and support  
10          me, then I might have been able to say what was  
11          happening. But what would happen then? Would I have  
12          had to go back and face her? She would find out, so  
13          it's not easy.'

14          And then 'Lucy' has made the usual declaration at  
15          paragraph 129 and she's signed the statement that's  
16          dated 24 January 2020.

17   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18   MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon now has a read-in.

19   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20   MR SHELDON: (Pause) Sorry, my Lady.

21   LADY SMITH: That's all right.

22   MR SHELDON: And before I start reading 'Luke's' statement,  
23          and that's the next one to read, I should say that  
24          I misstated, or misspoke, this morning, when I gave, my  
25          Lady, Annie Millar's date of death.

1 LADY SMITH: You gave me a 1977 date, I think, didn't you.

2 MR SHELDON: Yes. The death certificate is dated  
3 22 November 1978.

4 LADY SMITH: 1978, thank you. It's not far out. And it  
5 still makes it very odd that her name appeared on  
6 a meeting minute from 2014.

7 MR SHELDON: Yes, it's a strange detail, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 'Luke' (read in)

10 MR SHELDON: Anyway, as I said a moment ago, the next  
11 statement is that of 'Luke'. 'Luke's' statement is  
12 numbered WIT.001.002.8973.

13 'Luke' was born in 1960. He tells us about his  
14 family life at paragraph 2, and he grew up with a number  
15 of siblings, and they lived in Aberdeen at first, where  
16 his father was a coalman, before ending up going to sea  
17 when he was 3 years old. And he remembers an occasion  
18 when he had run away, and his dad gave him a belting for  
19 doing so.

20 But he notes that, at paragraph 4, his father and  
21 mother had a difficult relationship and were falling out  
22 all the time. His father was a heavy drinker when he  
23 was at home, and when he was at sea, he thinks his  
24 mother ended up working as a prostitute, a sex worker.  
25 She was going on and off the boats all the time he was

1 away.

2 Eventually there was an incident where his father  
3 was put in jail, having assaulted his mother, and 'Luke'  
4 would have been 7 at that time.

5 The social work department became involved and he  
6 says, at paragraph 7, that they were taken to Lagarie in  
7 Rhu by their social worker, who he names, and he  
8 'remembers wondering why we couldn't go to a home in  
9 Aberdeen beside mum and dad.' He thought Lagarie was  
10 too far away, and he says, 'I didn't want to go.'

11 So at paragraph 8, he says:

12 'I was 8 years old when I went to Lagarie.'

13 Reading short, he says:

14 'The Matron's name was Ann Millar and she had her  
15 own room in the place. I don't remember any of the  
16 names of the other staff or how many there were. The  
17 only other staff I do remember is the gardener,  
18 Mr Skelton, and a lady who was KER.'

19 He describes Mr Skelton and says he stayed in  
20 a little cottage on the grounds, and says at  
21 paragraph 11:

22 'I'm not sure how many children there were, possibly  
23 around 40 and there were both boys and girls.'

24 He thinks the youngest would have been about 3 and  
25 the oldest about 11. He says that he doesn't remember

1 seeing any older children and doesn't remember any names  
2 of the other children.

3 He then goes on to say:

4 'It looked good when we arrived at Lagarie because  
5 I saw children playing on the swings and on the  
6 roundabout in the grounds. As soon as the social work  
7 department left, I went over and started to play with  
8 the other children. Our own clothes were then taken  
9 from us and we had to put on what the Matron gave us.

10 'I thought I was going to have a nice time at  
11 Lagarie, but from the next day on until I left, it was  
12 as if I was in hell. All you could hear, for the whole  
13 time I was there, was children crying and screaming.

14 'I slept in a dormitory near to the fire escape on  
15 the first floor with three other boys for the whole time  
16 I was at Lagarie, although different boys came and went  
17 while I stayed there. I think the girls slept in bigger  
18 dormitories with six or seven beds in them.'

19 He then talks about the morning routine, and at the  
20 foot of page 3 says:

21 'All the time we were supervised by either the  
22 Matron or KER .'

23 Paragraph 17:

24 'Once we were dressed, we had to make our beds and  
25 then stand beside them and wait until we were told to go

1 down for our breakfast.'

2 And he then describes the evening routine but notes  
3 at the end of paragraph 18:

4 'You couldn't do anything without the Matron  
5 watching.'

6 He says:

7 'We all washed in one big bathroom which had several  
8 sinks in it. We never all got in at once, but we would  
9 all be supervised by either the Matron or **KER**.  
10 If the Matron was supervising, she was always very  
11 authoritative and I just tried to stay out of the way,  
12 not catch her attention, and wash myself in the corner.  
13 I didn't like baths and I always got a shower. There  
14 were two or three small cubicles that were open at the  
15 front so that we could be supervised. The Matron was  
16 always standing there watching, making sure we were  
17 cleaning ourselves properly and telling us to make sure  
18 we were spotless.

19 'We all ate at one long table in the dining room.  
20 At every meal, we had to form a queue and help ourselves  
21 to whatever there was. Once we'd got our meal, we had  
22 to go back to the table and stand beside it until we  
23 were told to sit down and eat.

24 'For breakfast we had a small bowl of either corn  
25 flakes or Weetabix. We were never allowed a big bowl of

1           either. I don't remember getting anything other than  
2           cereal for breakfast, but it was okay. The rest of the  
3           meals were just bland and tasteless.'

4           And reading short to paragraph 23, he says:

5           'Lagarie House supplied our clothes and we always  
6           wore the same. It wasn't a uniform, just ordinary  
7           clothes, but we all wore a grey jumper and a grey  
8           T-shirt, black shoes, grey shorts, and grey or black  
9           socks. It was all secondhand stuff and I don't know how  
10          often we had to change them.'

11          He says:

12          'There was a roundabout in the dormitory that  
13          I slept in that had horses on it and we were allowed to  
14          play on it for a while after breakfast, but that was  
15          about it.'

16          That may be a reference to the carousel that we've  
17          heard about from other applicants, my Lady.

18   LADY SMITH: Yes, yes.

19   MR SHELDON: He says:

20          'There were no toys and we never got to play  
21          football or anything like that.

22          'I don't remember any trips or holidays and the only  
23          time we got to play was when our mum or dad were coming.  
24          It was just for show, and as soon as they went away, we  
25          were all told to get inside again. Even when the sun

1 was shining, we would rarely get outside.

2 'I do remember one time seeing some of the other  
3 kids playing outside while I stood inside watching them.  
4 I think I must have done something wrong, but I don't  
5 recall what it might have been. I was crying my eyes  
6 out because the Matron [he says], Mrs Millar, wouldn't  
7 let me go out.

8 'I don't remember anything about school at Lagarie,  
9 I don't even remember going to school while I was there,  
10 although I must have.'

11 And I should have said to my Lady that the records  
12 suggest that 'Luke' was at Lagarie from [REDACTED] 1968  
13 until [REDACTED] 1970, and so, as 'Luke' says, he certainly  
14 should have been going to school, given those dates.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, certainly.

16 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 28, page 5:

17 'Nobody came to see us and check on our health.  
18 I don't remember seeing a doctor or a nurse or  
19 a dentist, even for any injections we should have been  
20 getting.

21 'We never went to church or had any religious  
22 instruction. I used to pray at the side of my bed at  
23 night, but that was just for me, we weren't made to do  
24 so. I don't remember seeing anyone else praying.

25 'We all had to do the dishes, everybody took turns

1 to wash or dry all the dishes for the whole place and  
2 set the table. If somebody broke a dish, they would get  
3 a terrible hiding from the Matron. I never saw anyone  
4 getting a hiding, but they would be taken into the  
5 Matron's office and I heard the screaming and, although  
6 nobody ever said, I knew what was happening.

7 'We would get a present from our mum and dad for our  
8 birthdays, but there was nothing from the home. At  
9 Christmas, there was a tree and there would be presents  
10 under it, but again, only if our mum or dad had sent  
11 something. Even then, once Christmas was over, our toys  
12 were taken away and I never saw them again.

13 'I remember one Christmas, my dad gave me a little  
14 red three-wheeler bike. I remember having a go on it on  
15 the path outside but once Christmas was over, I never  
16 saw it again. I don't know what happened to it.

17 'There were no inspections that I was aware of.  
18 I can't even remember the social worker that dropped us  
19 off coming to see us.

20 'My parents would come and visit us when they had  
21 money to do so. They wouldn't come together. It would  
22 be my mum or dad separately. The Matron would tell us  
23 that they might be coming and I would cheer right up,  
24 but sometimes my dad wouldn't appear because he'd been  
25 drinking.

1           'They could come and visit any time they wanted but  
2           if they did, the Matron would always be there in case  
3           you said anything to them. We would see them in a room  
4           that was like a library, full of children's books and  
5           toys. We never got a chance to read those books or play  
6           with the toys, though, they were just for show.

7           'If anyone did come to see us, the Matron would give  
8           us sweeties not to say anything, and she would threaten  
9           us as well. She would tell me that if I said anything,  
10          I would be punished. I would promise her I wouldn't say  
11          a word and she would give me a sweet.

12          'Whenever my parents did come, I'd run after them  
13          crying my eyes out when they went away.

14          'Even though my brother and sisters were in Lagarie  
15          with me, we were never allowed to play together.  
16          I think I only saw my little sister once in all the time  
17          I was there.

18          'I felt like I was a dog in a cage at Lagarie, and  
19          I couldn't get out. But I did manage to run away once,  
20          bare naked, when I was 8 years old.

21          'I had been put in a cold bath by the Matron some  
22          time during the day and I'd had enough. I got out the  
23          fire escape and ran right down the lane, trying to get  
24          cars to stop and help me, but none would. Even though  
25          I was naked and crying my eyes out, nobody stopped.

1           'Eventually somebody from the home came with  
2           a blanket and took me back ... When I got back, I was  
3           thrown in a bath of cold water by the Matron again and  
4           she put soap on her fingers and shoved them down the  
5           back of my throat.

6           'After I ran away that one time, the fire escape  
7           door was always locked. I tried to run away a few more  
8           times but the door was never open again.

9           'The Matron, Mrs Millar, was a strict  
10          disciplinarian, we all had to polish our shoes, even at  
11          8 years old, and stand in a line while she inspected us.  
12          She would have a cane in her hand and if a kid's shoes  
13          weren't clean enough, she would hit them over the  
14          knuckles. That never happened to me, although I saw it  
15          happening to other boys. I always made sure my shoes  
16          were spotless and I kept my head down. I never got hit  
17          but I heard her telling other boys to hold their hands  
18          out and I saw her rap their knuckles with the cane.

19          'I didn't suffer from bed-wetting much of the time  
20          but it did happen occasionally. I was afraid to get out  
21          of my bed during the night in case the Matron heard me.  
22          Even if someone needed the toilet during the night, they  
23          weren't allowed.

24          'A lot of children did wet the bed and if they did,  
25          the Matron would take them for a cold bath when she

1 found out in the morning. I remember one little boy wet  
2 the bed a lot and I am sure he got the cane over his  
3 backside from the Matron for doing so. I [can't]  
4 remember the little boy's name, but I do remember seeing  
5 he had red marks on his backside afterwards, although he  
6 never spoke about it.

7 'I'm not sure what happened with the wet sheets, one  
8 of the staff must have taken them away and washed them.'

9 He then goes on to talk about abuse at Lagarie, and  
10 says:

11 'The physical, emotional and sexual abuse I suffered  
12 at Lagarie was constant. It was every day and it  
13 continued for the whole two and a half years I was  
14 there. There were times while I was there that I just  
15 wanted to kill myself. I felt as if I wasn't worth  
16 anything.

17 'The Matron, Mrs Millar, seemed to constantly want  
18 to hurt children for no reason that I was aware of. She  
19 was a very nasty woman.

20 'I don't know why she used to punish me, I didn't  
21 think I ever did anything wrong, but [she] would  
22 regularly pick me up by my ears and throw me in a bath  
23 of cold water. She was so forceful that the skin behind  
24 my ears was always cut and scabbed.

25 'She would do this at any time of the day or night.

1 I might be in my bed at night and I would hear the bath  
2 running and I know someone was going to get it. She  
3 would come into our room and pick up anybody and drag  
4 them away. I could never really sleep in case she came  
5 in and got me. I might have been lying in my bed for  
6 two hours or so and she would come in. I was always  
7 cowering, hoping it wasn't going to be me.

8 'I saw other kids getting dragged away, but a lot of  
9 the time it was me because I spent all my time crying.  
10 She would never say anything, just pull me out of bed  
11 and drag me away by the ears. There was never anyone  
12 else about in the bathroom when she did this, no other  
13 staff or children.

14 'Once I was in the bath, she would force my head  
15 back, put carbolic soap on her fingers and shove them  
16 down my throat. Then she would take me out of the bath  
17 and make me stand naked in the corner, freezing cold.  
18 If I wet myself while I was standing there, she would  
19 put me back in the cold bath again.

20 'Another thing Mrs Millar did was that she would sit  
21 me on the floor with my head between her thighs while  
22 she sat in a chair. I can still smell her. She would  
23 hold me with her thighs, tip my head back and put her  
24 fingers down my throat. Again, I don't know what  
25 I might have done wrong, I was only a little boy.

1           'I never saw her doing the same thing to any other  
2 children, but I would hear children screaming all the  
3 time. None of the other kids mentioned getting the same  
4 treatment from her, but I did see that my sister was  
5 covered in bruises one time. I didn't ask her about  
6 them so I don't know how she got them, but I saw them  
7 when she was playing outside one time.

8           'On one occasion, there was a fire and I got the  
9 blame for it. I think someone had set a mattress  
10 alight, but I don't know if the fire service were there.  
11 I never did it, but I got the blame and I got a hell of  
12 a battering from Mrs Millar for that. She dragged me  
13 into her office and hit me across the backside with her  
14 cane a lot of times, I don't remember how many times.

15           'Every time the Matron put me in the cold bath, she  
16 took me down to the potting shed afterwards and left me  
17 with Mr Skelton, the gardener. Mr Skelton abused me  
18 sexually almost every day for the entire two and  
19 a half years I was at Lagarie.

20           'I'll never forget that potting shed. It was low  
21 down and you had to go down steps to get into it.

22           'After the Matron left, Mr Skelton would come in.  
23 He would tell me to hold his penis but I refused.  
24 I didn't want to and I would keep on shouting "No, no",  
25 but he wouldn't stop. He would put me over the table

1           that was in there and he penetrated my backside. He  
2           ejaculated and I would scream, but nobody came to help  
3           me.

4           'When he finished, he would throw me on the floor  
5           and I would curl up and cry. Every time was much the  
6           same thing and it was so painful. I was often bleeding  
7           but I never told anyone about it and I never had any  
8           medical attention.

9           'I never saw any other boys being sexually abused by  
10          Mr Skelton, but it wasn't just me. I later learned that  
11          he abused other boys as well.'

12          On reporting, he says:

13          'I know that other boys were put in cold baths  
14          because the lads that were in my dormitory would tell me  
15          it had happened to them. We never spoke about what had  
16          happened any more than that though.

17          'I tried to tell my mum and dad when they came to  
18          visit what was going on, but I don't think they believed  
19          me. Even if they had, they couldn't have done anything  
20          anyway.

21          'I thought that my brother and sisters and I all  
22          left Lagarie at the same time in 1971, when I was about  
23          11. I've since learned from my records that they were  
24          actually in for about a year and a half longer, though.  
25          The Matron came and told me that we were all moving back

1 up to Aberdeen, and I was so pleased. It felt like  
2 a release and I was so happy.

3 '[My] mother came down to Lagarie and she wanted to  
4 confront the Matron and ask her why she was abusing us  
5 children, but she never did. Apparently she had heard  
6 about the Matron abusing children, because seemingly KER  
7 KER had told her what had been going on.  
8 I overheard my mum talking later on and she said KER  
9 KER had said something. I don't know what  
10 was said, but I know that my mum knew something.'

11 And he then says that someone who he thinks was from  
12 social work came to take them back to Aberdeen.

13 And when they got back to Aberdeen, they were put in  
14 another children's home, Rubislaw Den North, also known,  
15 I think, as the Aberlour Family Home, and he goes on to  
16 talk about his experiences at first, that and then  
17 another children's home, Craigielea, Secondary Institutions - to be pub  
18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
19

20 And at page 14, paragraph 82, on life after being in  
21 care, he says that the family moved to Montrose with his  
22 mother and stepfather, and when they got to Montrose:

23 'I got a job in KER Bonding Company and worked  
24 there for a couple of years. After that I worked in  
25 a biscuit factory that was also in Montrose and while

1 I was there, I studied courses for offshore safety  
2 ships.

3 'I got a job on an offshore safety ship and spent  
4 37 years, the rest of my working life, on the boats  
5 doing rescues for the oil rigs. I worked my way up to  
6 daughter-craft coxswain, although in all my time there  
7 was never a real emergency, we spent all our time  
8 training and practising. I loved it.'

9 He says that he's been married twice, his second  
10 marriage to someone who he says has made him very  
11 strong.

12 In relation to impact, he says:

13 'I don't have many friends. I find it difficult to  
14 trust anyone. I don't like crowds and I like to have my  
15 own space. I'm a very quiet person and I find it  
16 difficult to speak to anyone about anything other than  
17 simple things like football.

18 'Although I've been married twice, I feel that  
19 I can't have children because I was abused. I feel that  
20 mentally I'm not capable.

21 'I don't think I ever went to hospital while I was  
22 at Lagarie, but I've still got scars from the stitches  
23 behind my ears that I got from Mrs Millar constantly  
24 lifting me up by them. I don't remember when or where  
25 I got the stitches, or who gave me them, but my ears

1 still get sore and I have to go to my doctor to get  
2 an injection behind them for the pain. I've also still  
3 got marks on my gums from her fingernails as she forced  
4 her hands in my mouth.

5 'To this day, I don't like anything down my throat.  
6 I've had to say that to the hospital a few times when  
7 they wanted to put a camera down my throat.

8 'Lagarie House is constantly in my head. I can see  
9 the Matron and Mr Skelton, the gardener, clearly in my  
10 head. I wish I could get rid of the thoughts but  
11 I can't.

12 'While I was at sea, I felt like I could have jumped  
13 over the side of the boat into the water. I thought  
14 about killing myself many times but I don't have the  
15 nerve. I have stood at the edge of the boat in the  
16 dark, looked in the water and thought about jumping in,  
17 but I thought of my family and I couldn't.

18 'Even though I enjoyed my life at sea, I think my  
19 life could have been a lot better if it hadn't been for  
20 what I suffered at Lagarie. I lost my childhood.'

21 In relation to reporting, he says that his brother  
22 got the ball rolling and contacted a national newspaper  
23 in 1986, who printed the story, but not the whole thing.  
24 And after that, a police officer from Aberdeen came and  
25 spoke to him, and he thinks he gave a statement, but

1 doesn't think anything came of it. He says:

2 'I've never spoken to anybody else about what  
3 happened until [he] was contacted by [REDACTED] for their  
4 2018 investigation.'

5 And he says that he was put in touch with other  
6 people who'd been at Lagarie:

7 'And it was then that I found out other boys had  
8 also been sexually abused by Mr Skelton, the gardener.'

9 And he names one of them, and he says he was also  
10 told, this is paragraph 97, that:

11 'There'd been a police investigation while  
12 Mr Skelton was still alive, but for some reason nothing  
13 came of it. They could have had Mr Skelton in jail. It  
14 should have been followed through.

15 'I got my records when I was about 18 from Aberdeen  
16 Council. I wanted to have them, but I never looked at  
17 them. They just sat in a box.'

18 He says that he'd instructed solicitors to try to  
19 get compensation from the British Sailors' Society, and  
20 he says that a lot of what is written in his records has  
21 been blacked out.

22 He says that he's been assessed by a psychologist,  
23 who was sent by his solicitor, and was examined for the  
24 legal process.

25 And on lessons to be learned, he says:

1           'Staff who have children in their care should be  
2           trained to listen to children, and not abuse them. They  
3           should know not to discipline children for doing little  
4           things, like breaking a plate or whatever. They  
5           shouldn't make children feel inadequate, or put them  
6           down like I was.

7           'The British Sailors' Society should have been  
8           inspecting Lagarie House properly. I've never even had  
9           an apology from them. We've just had to live with it  
10          and it's too late now.

11          'I would like a face-to-face apology from the  
12          Sailors' Society. I want them to answer my questions,  
13          such as why didn't they come and help and why they  
14          didn't check up on the Matron. I want to know why I had  
15          to go through all the abuse.

16          'I know that child abuse is happening all over the  
17          world, but it needs to stop completely.'

18          And over the page, he's made the usual declaration,  
19          my Lady, and signed, his statement was signed in 2019.

20   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Sheldon. Well, we'll  
21          pause there for the afternoon break and then another  
22          read-in after that?

23   MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady.

24   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25   (3.07 pm)

1 (A short break)

2 (3.17 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, where next?

4 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
5 who's anonymous and called 'Libby'. The reference for  
6 'Libby's' statement is WIT.001.002.8229.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 'Libby' (read in)

9 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Libby' was born in 1958 and talks  
10 about her life before going into care from paragraph 2.  
11 She says she stayed with her family in a flat in  
12 Aberdeen, not in a very nice part of Aberdeen. The flat  
13 only had two bedrooms and she shared a bedroom with her  
14 brothers and sisters. She was the eldest of five  
15 siblings, and she had two brothers and two sisters. And  
16 she gives details about them in paragraph 3.

17 She says that she went to school while she was in  
18 Aberdeen, and she says her dad worked on the fishing  
19 boats so he was away at sea a lot and it was really only  
20 her mum who was at home.

21 Paragraph 6, 'Libby' says:

22 'I can't really remember much about what happened  
23 before I ended up in care. I remember that my mum and  
24 dad used to fight a lot. My dad was an alcoholic and he  
25 used to drink a lot when he came home. I don't recall

1           there being social workers involved whilst we were at  
2           home with our parents. The first time I recall a social  
3           worker being involved was when we were taken away.'

4           She says then she was about 8 or 9 years old and  
5           a social worker called Mrs Bruce came and took them all  
6           away, and she says at paragraph 8:

7           'We were all crying because we didn't want to go.  
8           I remember being told by Mrs Bruce that the reason we  
9           were being taken away was because my mum and dad  
10          couldn't cope. She took us all in her car that day  
11          right down to the children's home in Rhu. It felt like  
12          it was quite a long way to go.'

13       LADY SMITH: It would have been.

14       MS FORBES: Yes.

15          My Lady, we know that 'Libby' was admitted to  
16          Lagarie on [REDACTED] 1968 when she was 9 years old and  
17          she remained there until [REDACTED] 1971, when she would  
18          have been about 12 and a half. So she was there for  
19          three years and two months or so.

20       LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

21       MS FORBES: 'Libby' then tells us about Lagarie House from  
22          paragraph 9 and says that:

23          'The British Sailors' Society ran the home. It was  
24          a seafarers' home for children whose fathers went to  
25          sea. I think that's maybe part of why we were put

1           there.'

2           Then she says that she was about 9 when she went  
3           there for maybe two or three years, and her brothers and  
4           sisters stayed with her throughout her time there.

5           And she talks about the number of children in Rhu,  
6           about 30 or 40 boys and girls, but more girls than boys,  
7           and quite a range of ages. Her youngest sister was 2,  
8           and she thinks the oldest children were maybe 14 or 15.

9           'Libby' then gives us the layout at paragraph 11,  
10          and we have that there. We've heard a lot about the  
11          layout, so I won't read that. And then at paragraph 12  
12          she says:

13          'The person who was in charge of Rhu was called Ann  
14          Miller, however we all just called her Matron. She's  
15          the only staff member that I remember the name of. Her  
16          name is the only name that stuck. She was quite big and  
17          looked quite an old woman to me. At the time, she  
18          looked about 60. Matron really was like a matron. She  
19          wore a uniform that comprised of a black dress with a  
20          collar and cuffs and a hat.

21          [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] in terms of seniority was  
22          either [REDACTED] KER [REDACTED] or was known as [REDACTED] KER [REDACTED]. I think they  
23          [REDACTED] who were on that level back then.  
24          I don't remember her proper name. I remember her being  
25          [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] in seniority. She

1 treated us the total opposite to the way that Matron  
2 treated us.

3 'There was a gardener at Rhu, I don't remember what  
4 he was called. I saw him about the grounds. He was  
5 a tall thin man with grey hair. He was about 70 when we  
6 were there.'

7 She then tells us that it was two brothers and  
8 a sister and her that were the ones taken into care, and  
9 that one of her sisters was never taken into care and  
10 was given to her father's auntie.

11 'Libby' goes on to talk about routine at Lagarie  
12 from paragraph 16 and says:

13 'I remember Mrs Bruce took us all into the building  
14 and then took us to see Matron. I didn't like the look  
15 of Matron when I first saw her. As soon as Mrs Bruce  
16 went away, we were put into old clothes and made to sit  
17 around a big table that they had in the place. Matron  
18 then took us into her office one by one and talked to  
19 us.

20 'It was always Matron that got us up. She would  
21 shout that it was time to get up in the mornings. We  
22 then got washed before we put on our rag clothes and  
23 went down for breakfast. After breakfast, we would go  
24 to school if it was a school day. I think the days when  
25 we weren't at school, or were on school holidays, we

1 just played outside. When we were dropped off back at  
2 the home after going to school, we would walk up the  
3 path through the gardens and go in. We would then be  
4 told to get out of our school uniform and into our rag  
5 clothes. You then had time to play until it was time  
6 for tea. I think after tea we were told to go to our  
7 dormitories and either get ready for bed or, if it was  
8 a bath night, had a bath before getting ready to go to  
9 bed.'

10 She then talks about the sleeping arrangements at  
11 paragraph 18 and talks about dormitories having five or  
12 six beds. That they weren't mixed gender, however the  
13 girls in them were all sorts of ages, and she says the  
14 youngest girl in her dorm would have been about 3 or 4  
15 and the oldest might have been about 12.

16 And she tells us a little bit more about what was in  
17 the room at paragraph 18.

18 Paragraph 19, she talks about washing and bathing,  
19 and says:

20 'There was a bathroom with just one bath in it. We  
21 normally only had baths in the evenings before school  
22 days. However, you could be in the bath more than that,  
23 because of bed-wetting. The bath water was always cold.  
24 There was never any hot water, bubbles or anything like  
25 that. All you had was carbolic soap, which wasn't very

1 nice.

2 'You always had your baths on your own. It was  
3 always Matron who supervised bath times. I never saw  
4 any of the other people who worked there supervising  
5 bath times. Whilst you were in the bath, Matron would  
6 stand there and say, "Wash yourself". Once you were  
7 finished, you were taken into your dormitory and someone  
8 else was picked out by Matron to then have their bath.  
9 I don't think the bath water was changed between  
10 children.

11 'We all ate downstairs in the dining room. I think  
12 we all sat around the same table. It was boys and girls  
13 sitting together. The only thing you got during any  
14 mealtime was cold porridge. It was horrible and grainy,  
15 there was nothing with it or on it. I don't even think  
16 you got milk in it. It was porridge and that was it.'

17 She doesn't remember having any chores, she says at  
18 paragraph 22, and she says that the clothes were  
19 provided by the home, and they were old clothes,  
20 essentially old rags that the staff used to call play  
21 clothes, and they wore a sort of school uniform to  
22 school. They weren't given any pocket money or treats,  
23 she says at paragraph 24, and she goes on to say:

24 'The only toy that I remember being able to keep was  
25 a wee doll that was given to me during a Christmas party

1 we went to in Faslane.'

2 And she says she didn't have any photos of her mum,  
3 or anyone else having anything like that. When she went  
4 to Hermitage Academy, which was the secondary school,  
5 she said that they had to get a bus there and back, and  
6 that school was actually okay. And she doesn't recall  
7 getting any homework.

8 In relation to leisure time, at paragraph 26,  
9 'Libby' says:

10 'You could play in the playroom or outside. Where  
11 you played depended on what Matron decided to do with  
12 you that day. It would depend on whether she had  
13 decided to pick on you that day. I remember that there  
14 was a rocking horse in the playroom. There were also  
15 some large building blocks and a dolly. There were  
16 maybe some books as well in the toy room. That's about  
17 all there was in the playroom. It was all shared  
18 between us. There was no television. They didn't put  
19 on any activities.

20 'Most of the time was spent running around outside,  
21 it got us out of the way of Matron. There were big  
22 massive gardens around the home. We were allowed to run  
23 around the whole of the gardens. I remember there was  
24 a little stone Wendy house [that she] played in.  
25 I don't remember there being anything else in the

1 gardens for us to play on, there were no swings or a  
2 roundabout or anything like that.'

3 She talks about going to Sunday School at  
4 paragraph 28 in a church that wasn't far away from the  
5 home and that they were all 'prettied up' when they went  
6 there.

7 She says at paragraph 29 that they weren't taken on  
8 any holidays or taken out swimming, but there was one  
9 time they had to go and sing for Princess Alexandra in  
10 Glasgow, and they took the bus there and back and they  
11 were 'prettied up' that day.

12 She doesn't recall birthdays being celebrated while  
13 she was in the home and she can't remember any parties  
14 or anything like that. She doesn't remember there being  
15 a tree at Christmas time and recalls it being bare in  
16 the home at Christmas. She doesn't remember the home  
17 giving them presents on Christmas Day or any parties in  
18 the home around Christmas.

19 At paragraph 32, she says:

20 'I remember one Christmas that an actor called  
21 Barbara Mullen came to visit. I remember another  
22 Christmas when we went to a Christmas party at a navy  
23 base in Faslane. There were sailors there. That was  
24 a good day out. We got given presents that we were  
25 allowed to keep. I was given a little doll type of

1 thing.'

2 She then talks about visits and inspections from  
3 paragraph 33, and says:

4 'I remember that we were told by Matron that we  
5 weren't to say anything when we had visitors. We didn't  
6 say anything, because we knew what would happen if we  
7 said something. We were all prettied up in nice clothes  
8 just before we had any visitors.'

9 She then talks about her mum coming to visit her at  
10 the home at paragraph 34 and her dad sometimes coming,  
11 but that she didn't get visits very often, and that her  
12 mum visited every three or four months. At paragraph 35  
13 she says:

14 'I don't remember anyone official coming to visit  
15 me. The only time I saw any social worker was when  
16 Mrs Bruce dropped us off at the start of our stay in the  
17 home and when she took us back.'

18 She goes on:

19 'I do remember some important people coming in, but  
20 I don't remember who they were. They came in to look at  
21 the home. We weren't allowed anywhere near those  
22 people. We weren't introduced to them. We were  
23 prettied up, made to go into the garden and kept out of  
24 their way. The people mostly stayed inside and looked  
25 around the home. I think at one point they came outside

1 and looked about. They didn't speak to us. They just  
2 had a look at us.'

3 And then she mentions at paragraph 37, Barbara  
4 Mullen from Dr Finlay's Casebook coming to visit the  
5 home and that they were prettied up for her visit and  
6 she brought toys with her, but after she left they never  
7 saw them again and they were put back into their rags  
8 when she left.

9 At paragraph 39, 'Libby' states that she can't  
10 remember being ill there, but she does remember having  
11 bruises, and being injured from the things Matron was  
12 doing. But she says she would just cover all of that  
13 up.

14 In relation to bed-wetting, at paragraph 40, 'Libby'  
15 says:

16 'I remember that I was really scared so I would wet  
17 the bed. Matron used to get up during the night and  
18 come over to my bed to check. If I had wet the bed, she  
19 would grab me by my hair, wake me up and then rub my  
20 face in the wet sheets. She would then take me into the  
21 bathroom, run a cold bath, and make me stand in it. It  
22 felt as if I was standing in the cold water for hours,  
23 but it probably wasn't as long as that. It was a long  
24 time though. I remember standing there shivering.  
25 After that, I would be made to get out, get dried and

1           then made to put my nightie on. I was then made to get  
2           back into my bed. The bed was still wet and I was made  
3           to lie in it. I don't remember anyone else wetting the  
4           bed, but there probably were others who did.

5           'I never tried to run away, but I know my brother  
6           did. He escaped down the fire escape. He would have  
7           only been about 7 or 8 at the time. He was bare naked  
8           when he ran away. He ended up running along what  
9           I thought at the time was a railway line. He got caught  
10          by the police and taken back to the home. He got  
11          punished for making such a nonsense. I presume it was  
12          Matron who punished him. I don't know what happened in  
13          terms of the punishment because he has never said to me  
14          what happened. I didn't see anyone else run away other  
15          than [him].'

16          'Libby' then talks about abuse at Lagarie from  
17          paragraph 42:

18          'It was just Matron who was bad. She was an evil,  
19          bad woman. As far as I remember, she was the only one  
20          that was bad to me. The other staff didn't do anything  
21          to us. In fact, all the other workers or houseparents  
22          were really nice. I remember people saying that they  
23          thought I was quite fond of Matron. I don't know why  
24          they thought that. The only reason I was the way I was  
25          around her was so that she wouldn't pick on me. Even

1           though I was only 8 or 9, I wasn't a silly girl.

2           'I think we were there to be seen and not heard.  
3           You weren't really aware of these sort of things when  
4           you were a child. I tried to be as best as I could.  
5           I would try to be good and do what she told me to do,  
6           but it wasn't enough. There was no rhyme or reason to  
7           why she picked on me. She would just do that. We  
8           didn't deserve to be treated the way she treated us.

9           'You were always on your own when Matron did things  
10          to you. There was never an occasion when she did  
11          something and there were four or five of us there, or  
12          another staff member present. She would do whatever she  
13          would do one at a time. She would pick on one person  
14          and systematically abuse them.

15          'When I went into Matron's office on the first day,  
16          she told me that the reason I was at the home was  
17          because my parents didn't want me. She told me that  
18          I was never going to leave. She also told me that  
19          nobody would ever want me and that nobody would ever  
20          love me. I was then told to do as I was told and not  
21          talk back. I was told that I shouldn't speak to anybody  
22          who came to the home from the authorities and had to  
23          behave myself. She then told me to go away and play  
24          with the other children outside. I think she then took  
25          in my brother and sister one at a time. I don't know

1           what she said to them. I presume that she told them the  
2           same sort of thing as she told me.

3           'Matron was a drinker. I think she drank gin. She  
4           used to keep the bottle down the side of her chair.  
5           I remember the awful smell of it in her office and on  
6           her breath. It stank like cleaning fluid. I remember  
7           her sitting in her office, smoking, drinking and  
8           listening to a song called "Six White Horses". She  
9           would play that song over and over again when she was  
10          smoking and drinking. I hate that song now. Whatever  
11          time it was she would be doing that, she would call me  
12          into her office. She would stub her cigarettes out on  
13          my arms in her office. She'd do that for no reason.  
14          I hadn't done anything wrong. Afterwards, she would  
15          make me wear long sleeve shirts so nobody could see what  
16          she had done. I remember picking the scabs because they  
17          were so sore.

18          'I remember Matron taking me into her office or her  
19          bedroom, where nobody else would see her. Sometimes she  
20          would take me on my own into one of the dormitories.  
21          She would make up some sort of story as to why I was  
22          being taken to wherever she took me. I remember telling  
23          her when she took me aside that I hadn't done anything.  
24          She would say in a very strong voice, "Yes, you did".  
25          She would then call me names, hit me, slap me and pull

1 my hair. She would use her hand, fist, rods and rulers  
2 to hit me. Whatever was in her road, she would pick up  
3 and use it to hit me with. She would hit me anywhere.  
4 The only place she wouldn't hit me was my face or my  
5 hands. She did that so she could deny what was  
6 happening. There would be no reason why she would treat  
7 me the way that she did. It wasn't as if it was as a  
8 punishment or anything, because I hadn't done what she  
9 said I had done.

10 'I remember wetting myself when she took me into  
11 rooms. I would do that because I was scared and knew  
12 that she would be hitting me. When that happened, she  
13 would ask me why I was wetting myself. I would say that  
14 it was because I was scared. She would then say that  
15 I deserved it. She would say bad things to me.

16 'If you didn't eat your porridge at a mealtime, then  
17 you got given it cold the next mealtime. If you didn't  
18 eat it at that mealtime, then you were force-fed it by  
19 Matron. She would take a spoonful, force it into my  
20 mouth and make me swallow it, even though I didn't want  
21 it. I remember choking and being sick. I would be  
22 throwing up the porridge. She wouldn't make you eat it  
23 if you were sick, but she did call you names. She would  
24 say you were a bad person for not eating your dinner or  
25 tea or whatever. She was always on her own when she did

1           that. There was never anybody else around. I'm sure  
2           she did the same thing with the other children.

3           'Matron had an upstairs food cupboard which was  
4           located just past her bedroom and near the fire escape  
5           door. She was the only one who had a key to the  
6           cupboard. She had lots of food and sweets in that  
7           cupboard. I remember that Matron would go into that  
8           cupboard and eat some of the stuff. She would later  
9           pick me to go and get the same item she had eaten. She  
10          would tell me to go and bring it to her, knowing that it  
11          wasn't there because she had eaten it. I would then get  
12          blamed for taking whatever it was. She would then stick  
13          her fingers down my throat, tell me I had taken whatever  
14          it was and hit me. I didn't see that happening to  
15          anyone else, but that happened to me. It was always  
16          done on my own.

17          'I would see Matron taking other children away by  
18          the wrist whilst we were playing. She'd grab them and  
19          pull them away. You would know from your own  
20          experiences that she was taking them away to do  
21          something like she did to me. I knew myself what was  
22          going on. When the child came back, they would have  
23          a sad face. You wouldn't ask what had happened, because  
24          they wouldn't tell you anyway.

25          'I remember my younger sister getting a cracked

1 skull from Matron. I can't really remember what  
2 happened. I think she just went up to Matron. I don't  
3 know why [my sister] approached Matron. Matron then  
4 threw [her] across a wooden floor. She flew across the  
5 floor like a rag doll. I think my sister hit her head  
6 on the bottom stair. I never saw an ambulance or  
7 anything after Matron did that to [her]. I have spoken  
8 to [my sister] about the incident. She says that she  
9 remembers getting a cracked skull, but she doesn't think  
10 it happened in the home. I told her that I saw that  
11 happening to her, and that is what happened.

12 'I wasn't sexually abused whilst I was in Rhu,  
13 however, I was told by my brother [and she names him]  
14 that the gardener used to sexually abuse the boys. My  
15 brother was one of those boys. He told me that Matron  
16 would take him into a shed that was in the garden and  
17 the gardener would sexually abuse him. That never  
18 happened to me.

19 'I did try to tell my mum about it when I was in  
20 care. I think I said something like, "That lady is  
21 hurting us". I think my mum asked me how she was  
22 hurting me. All I said was that she was hitting us.  
23 I never went into the details of what was happening.

24 'As far as I was led to believe by my mum, she then  
25 reported Matron. For some reason I always thought that

1 my mum reported it to a social worker. My mum led me to  
2 believe that as a result of that, Matron got the sack.  
3 I found out later on from my brother that Matron wasn't  
4 sacked, she was allowed to stay on at Rhu and look after  
5 children. I discovered from my brother that my mother  
6 had attacked Matron after hearing what had happened.  
7 I didn't know that at the time and didn't see that  
8 happening, however that is what he said had happened.

9 'It was shortly after reporting what happened to my  
10 mum that we were all removed from the home. We were put  
11 into the clothes that we'd arrived in. Then Mrs Bruce  
12 came down and took us out of Rhu in her car. Matron  
13 didn't say anything to us the day we were taken away.  
14 I don't know what was said between Matron and Mrs Bruce.  
15 At the time, I just thought we were getting moved to be  
16 nearer to our mum and dad. Mrs Bruce then took us to  
17 a children's home ...'

18 'Libby' then says she wasn't told why they were  
19 getting moved, and she didn't get to speak to anybody  
20 about what happened in her childhood, about what had  
21 happened at Rhu, and she didn't speak to any outside  
22 person about what happened.

23 She then tells us about being admitted to a home in  
24 Aberdeen, and we know from our records that she was  
25 admitted to Aberlour Trust on [REDACTED] 1971 and she was

1           there until [REDACTED] 1972. I think she was 12 years  
2           old the whole time. Or, sorry, she would have been 12,  
3           and she was there for 18 months, so she would have had  
4           a birthday while she was there.

5           She tells us about being there from paragraph 58 and

6           [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
7           [REDACTED]

8           She then talks about Craigielea in Aberdeen, and  
9           says that she stayed there with her brothers and her  
10          sister between the ages of about 11 and 16, but we know  
11          from our records, my Lady, she was admitted to  
12          Craigielea on [REDACTED] 1972.

13       LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

14       MS FORBES: And she was 14 then, and she stayed there until

15       [REDACTED] 1975, so she was nearly 17. She was there for  
16       just under three years. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17       [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to b that was the last place she was in  
18       care. And then she left, then became a nanny for a very  
19       short time.

20          And she tells us about her life after leaving care  
21          from paragraph 62. She says by this time, her parents  
22          had separated and her mother was living with someone  
23          else. She went to stay with her mother and she got  
24          a job as a waitress. Her mother, and then became her  
25          stepfather, moved to Montrose, she moved with them, and

1           then there was a time they moved abroad but she stayed  
2           with an auntie. But then when they moved back, she  
3           again moved back in with them.

4           She met her husband and was married by the age of  
5           18. She had twin daughters by the age of 20 and that  
6           marriage got abusive, and she gives us a lot of detail  
7           about that, it was physical and very serious sexual  
8           abuse she sustained and ultimately her husband was  
9           arrested.

10          Their house was repossessed and she had to go into  
11          a refuge, and then into a rundown council house. She  
12          talks about another relationship she had that didn't  
13          work out. By this time, she had four children and then  
14          ultimately she moved again to where her ex-husband was  
15          living, and then moved in with her mother and  
16          stepfather. She says that during this time, she was  
17          recovering from alcoholism.

18          She then goes on to talk about the impact from  
19          paragraph 71 and she says:

20                 'The way I was treated by Matron has totally messed  
21                 up the brain I have in my head. If I had known what  
22                 I know now about bleach, then I would have exchanged her  
23                 gin for bleach. I would have poisoned her. That's how  
24                 strongly I felt at the time about how she was treating  
25                 us. I remember everything as if it was yesterday. It

1 is embedded in my head. It's been there in my head for  
2 31 years. What happened in Rhu has totally messed my  
3 life up.

4 'I get emotional all the time about it. It doesn't  
5 matter who I'm talking to. I know that some people can  
6 hold in their emotions, but it is something that I can't  
7 do.'

8 She goes on to talk about her struggles with her  
9 emotions and she says at the end of paragraph 72:

10 'I feel that I am no good at anything and that  
11 nobody wants or loves me.'

12 She continues:

13 'It's ruined every relationship I've ever had. All  
14 I've ever wanted is to be loved. I don't want to be who  
15 I am. Every relationship I have been in has been  
16 destroyed and I can't but think that I have done that.  
17 I think all of that is an impact of what Matron said in  
18 Rhu.

19 'I still have the scars from Matron stubbing out her  
20 cigarettes on my arms. I hate porridge to this day  
21 because of my experience with porridge when I was in  
22 Rhu.'

23 She then tells us about her issues with alcohol, the  
24 fact that she's had panic attacks and suffers from  
25 depression. She talks about speaking to a counsellor

1 about what happened during her childhood and she goes on  
2 to say that she has mellowed a bit over the last  
3 30 years. She tries not to let it get to her, that she  
4 tries to show that she is a survivor, not a victim, for  
5 the sake of her own children and her sanity.

6 In relation to treatment and support, from  
7 paragraph 78, she's received help from her GP, and taken  
8 medication for mental health issues. She's seen the  
9 community psychiatric nurses and at this time of the  
10 statement, she was attending counselling with  
11 a psychiatrist. She got treatment for her alcoholism,  
12 which was very successful, and she says she drinks very  
13 little now.

14 She then has a section in her statement where  
15 'Libby' tells us about reporting of abuse after leaving  
16 care and she talks about speaking to someone from the  
17 newspaper, and gives us details about that, and being  
18 shown a photograph with the Matron in it. She talks  
19 about going to see a solicitor to bring a case against  
20 the Sailors' Society. She talks about being interviewed  
21 by the police between 2006 and 2008 and telling them  
22 what happened in Rhu, but that was the last she heard  
23 from the police and she never received an update.

24 She was interviewed by a psychologist in relation to  
25 the civil case, and she tells us about that, but she

1 only received criminal injuries compensation and never  
2 received any compensation from the Sailors' Society.

3 At paragraph 86, she says at the last few sentences:

4 'The Sailors' Society have never come forward to  
5 speak to me. They haven't written to me, apologised or  
6 compensated me for what happened at Rhu. Not once have  
7 they done any of those things.'

8 She then tells us about speaking to [REDACTED] in  
9 relation to [REDACTED], and she says she  
10 watched [REDACTED] and that was the last she was  
11 involved with that.

12 She tells us that she obtained social work records,  
13 at paragraph 88, and the only thing she remembers seeing  
14 after she received them was something in there like, it  
15 has her name, 'was very fond of the Matron'.

16 In relation to lessons to be learned, she says from  
17 paragraph 90:

18 'As far as I know, the Sailors' Society were never  
19 there whilst I was there. There should have been more  
20 visitations from higher-up people. There were people  
21 who came into the home but they didn't know what was  
22 happening with the children. They were just standing  
23 there looking at us. We were there and we were to be  
24 seen and not heard. We never had the opportunity to  
25 speak to any of them. Nobody asked us how we were

1 getting on or anything like that.'

2 And then she tells us that if a social worker had  
3 come to speak to her then she might have told them about  
4 what has happening, and she says there should have been  
5 people looking into the backgrounds of those looking  
6 after them, there should have been proper vetting.  
7 There should have been supervision of the people looking  
8 after them.

9 At paragraph 92 'Libby' says:

10 'Ann Miller was not a suitable person to be looking  
11 after us. She looked like an old woman to me. There  
12 shouldn't have been such an old woman in her role  
13 looking after so many children. I don't know how she  
14 was allowed to do the things she did.'

15 She talks about hearing about -- reading and hearing  
16 about issues with the home before she and her siblings  
17 went there, and that's something she discussed with her  
18 brother. And then she asks the question, paragraph 93:

19 'Had Ann Miller been vetted and removed, then it  
20 might not have been that bad to go to Rhu. We maybe  
21 would have never been abused.'

22 At paragraph 94, in relation to hopes for the  
23 Inquiry, she says:

24 'To me, abuse is abuse. It's abuse whether it's  
25 sexual, physical or whatever. Nobody should go through

1           what I went through. It still goes on today, though.  
2           The scars are still there. I hope the Inquiry makes  
3           a difference and helps to stop what happened to me  
4           happening to other children in the future.'

5                   And then she has made the usual declaration and  
6           she's signed that, and it's dated August 2019.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8                   Well, it is 3.50 pm, I don't think we're going to  
9           start another read-in just now, that's been good  
10          progress.

11                   What's the plan for tomorrow?

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, the plan for tomorrow is that we have  
13          a live witness in the afternoon, an 'other witness', as  
14          we call them, at 2 pm. But in the morning, we would  
15          have read-ins.

16 LADY SMITH: More read-ins, we'll do in the morning. Very  
17          well. Well, I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow  
18          morning. Thank you.

19 (3.49 pm)

20 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

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I N D E X

	PAGE
1	
2	
3	'Anne' (sworn) .....1
4	Questions from Ms Forbes .....3
5	'Charles' (read in) .....78
6	'Lucy' (read in) .....118
7	'Luke' (read in) .....149
8	'Libby' (read in) .....167
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

