

Wednesday, 21 January 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to the second day
4 this week in our case study hearings in Phase 10, in
5 which at the moment we're still focusing on Lagarie
6 Children's Home in Rhu, Dunbartonshire.

7 Now, we turn this morning back to some read-in
8 evidence, I think, and it looks like you're ready to go,
9 Mr Sheldon, is that right?

10 MR SHELDON: Yes, indeed, my Lady. The first read-in is
11 a witness who is anonymous and known as 'Jane'.

12 'Jane' (read in)

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR SHELDON: Her witness statement is at WIT-1-000000801.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR SHELDON: As is quite usual with the Lagarie applicants,
17 there are really no or very few records of her time
18 there.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes. That is striking.

20 MR SHELDON: It is striking.

21 LADY SMITH: We are very short of records for them.

22 MR SHELDON: We may explore some of that tomorrow, my Lady.
23 But it is striking. There are dates for 'Jane's' time,
24 fairly brief time at Rhu Primary School, as again with
25 some other applicants. It's [REDACTED] 1968 to [REDACTED] 1969.

1 But as my Lady will see from, or hear from her
2 statement, she seems to have gone to Lagarie as a very
3 young child, and obviously would only have gone to
4 primary school aged 5. So one can see just how young
5 she would have been, given those dates.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR SHELDON: She was born in 1963, so that works in terms of
8 the first date at Rhu Primary.

9 So, she gives some background, and indicates in
10 paragraphs 2 and 3 that there was quite a complicated
11 home life. She had a number of siblings, some with
12 different fathers. And at paragraph 4 explains that
13 when her mother was pregnant, she says that her parents'
14 marriage was more or less over. Her father had
15 an affair while her mother was pregnant with her, and to
16 add salt to the wound, the affair was with her mother's
17 aunt, who was only a couple of years older than her.

18 Taking matters short, and reading to paragraph 5,
19 it's clear that caused very serious problems in the
20 family, and particularly for 'Jane'. She says:

21 'When I was born, my mum didn't want me. In those
22 days, the father would go to register the birth. He
23 registered me [under the name of the aunt in question].
24 That was just another kick in the teeth to my mum. She
25 wanted to change my name completely, but by law

1 couldn't.

2 '[And] they told her that the only way that it could
3 be changed was if there'd been a wrong spelling.' And
4 they were able to change it slightly. 'Jane' says:

5 'I was a reminder of what happened when she was
6 pregnant. My mum had a continuous hatred of me that
7 lasted my whole life, even when I was an adult.'

8 Reading short again to paragraph 7, she says:

9 'I don't have any memories of being at home before
10 going into care. I believe that my mum and dad split up
11 when I was about 2. My first memories are of being in
12 the children's home in Rhu, which I now know to be
13 called Lagarie. Apparently my mother had a breakdown.
14 My father was in the Merchant Navy, so that was why we
15 got into Lagarie.

16 'I think I was maybe about 3 when I went into
17 Lagarie. We called it Rhu because it was in Rhu.
18 I might have been a bit younger. I know I was round
19 about that age because my first memory is of wondering
20 why they had put me in a cot. I knew that I shouldn't
21 have been in a cot, because I was too big for it. I was
22 in Lagarie with my three older siblings.

23 'I can remember going in the door to the home but
24 I don't know whether it was my first day. You would go
25 in the door and there was a big staircase coming round.

1 To your left, there was a nursery. To your right,
2 a dining room, which was a large front room with big
3 windows. I'm a bit confused about the layout because
4 I was kept downstairs for a lot of the time.'

5 She says:

6 'I can remember the lady in charge. [My older
7 sister] remembers the names of staff, and she's told me,
8 but I don't remember any names. The lady in charge was
9 called the matron. She was a big woman. She reminded
10 me of my grandmother, my nanny. She used to wear an old
11 nurse's hat that folded down at the back and sat up at
12 the front. She had a white collar with a brooch on it
13 and wore a big blue dress. I can't remember whether
14 there was a belt with it. I always remember her being
15 very no nonsense. You never saw her smile. There was
16 another member of staff at Lagarie. I didn't know it at
17 the time but she was **KER**. She was a wee
18 and meek kind of person. I don't remember any other
19 members of staff, other than a man who cut the grass.'

20 And that may be a reference to Skelton, my Lady, the
21 gardener.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would fit, wouldn't it?

23 MR SHELDON: She says:

24 'There were a lot of children in Lagarie, but I
25 don't know how many. I don't remember any of the

1 children being older than my brother. He would have
2 been 10 or 11, maybe younger. I think we were there for
3 about two years over the two spells. I do remember
4 going back. I think that's when I was put upstairs. It
5 may not have been, but that's how I think of it in my
6 child head.

7 'I stayed downstairs for much of the time that I was
8 in Lagarie. I was allowed upstairs at some point and
9 put into a bed beside my sister. My older brother and
10 sister might have been up another flight of stairs, but
11 I don't know.'

12 She says:

13 'I was the youngest, so I'm assuming that's why
14 I was downstairs initially.'

15 She says at paragraph 13:

16 'There were rows of beds in the dormitories.
17 I remember being told to get to bed, but I don't
18 remember what time it was. Before bedtime, the matron
19 would stand at the toilets. There were rows of sinks,
20 like in a school. It was dark, I think dark wood. You
21 weren't allowed to talk or laugh. If you laughed or
22 carried on, you would get it. It was very rigid. You
23 had to brush your teeth, do what you had to do and go to
24 bed. We weren't allowed to say goodnight to each other,
25 but we had to say goodnight to the matron.

1 'My sister was a bed-wetter right up until the age
2 of 16/17. I think it was when we went back to Lagarie
3 the second time that I was in the same bedroom as [her].
4 Because she kept wetting the bed, the matron wouldn't
5 allow her to have any blankets or sheets. She had to
6 lie on the rubber mat. I always remember the red rubber
7 mat. You can't forget it. My sister was lying there
8 with nothing on. She was just lying there in her
9 pyjamas on the red rubber mat. I had one blanket and
10 a sheet and I remember giving her either my blanket or
11 my sheet. One time, I got caught sharing my blankets
12 with [my sister]. I was pulled onto the landing and
13 then made to sleep with no blanket and sheets. We had
14 to make our beds, but I don't remember doing any other
15 chores.'

16 She says:

17 'I remember that the food wasn't good, I wouldn't
18 eat the porridge. I don't remember being given anything
19 else to eat at breakfast and the porridge was
20 disgusting. I would be forced to sit in the dining room
21 for the whole day because I wouldn't eat it. **KER**
22 **KER** would sit with me. Everybody else would
23 be away from the dining room and I would need to sit
24 there. I would stare out of the big windows.

25 **KER** would sit in a big chair or

1 desk doing stuff in big books. She would be made to sit
2 with me until I ate it. I never ate it. I would sit
3 there in the dark. I was there for the whole day.
4 I think I probably did eat it at some point, but I can't
5 remember eating it. I wouldn't get my lunch or dinner
6 until I ate my breakfast. I think other children would
7 come in for their meals and look at me. I was the bad
8 one.

9 'KER [REDACTED] was the nicer one of the two.
10 She used to beg me to eat my breakfast, she would say,
11 "Please just eat it. Come on, you will be able to get
12 out of here". I remember her begging me a lot.

13 'I don't really remember getting lunch or dinner at
14 Lagarie, I don't remember eating any food that
15 I enjoyed.'

16 And she says:

17 'I have no memory of bath time.'

18 And paragraph 21:

19 'I remember at the top of the stairs there was
20 a double door. You opened the top half of the door, but
21 the bottom half stayed shut. It opened into a cupboard.
22 It was like a linen cupboard and it had loads of shelves
23 with clothes and underwear in it. We had to stand there
24 and hand in our dirty clothes. KER [REDACTED]
25 would take bits and pieces off the shelves and give us

1 our clean clothes. The matron would check our dirty
2 clothes. If we had soiled our underwear, it wasn't
3 good. We would be punished for that. We would be
4 pulled aside in front of everybody.

5 'We just wore random clothes. We didn't have
6 a uniform. I don't think I had any clothes of my own.
7 I remember all the clothes that they gave me didn't fit.
8 They were too big.'

9 She says:

10 'I never went to school at Lagarie. I was the only
11 one who didn't go to school. My siblings went.
12 I remember thinking that I was big enough for school,
13 but I just didn't get sent.'

14 And, my Lady, as I say, there are some records of
15 a bit under a year at Rhu Primary, but she would have
16 been very young and just may not remember that.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes.

18 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 24:

19 'I would meet my siblings in the corridors, but we
20 weren't allowed to talk to each other or anything. It
21 was really quite strict. The time was very set.
22 I don't remember playtime. I remember being allowed out
23 onto the grounds. It was all grass. There was a brick
24 house, like a doll's house. We would go in and out of
25 that. I don't remember anything else, like toys. I do

1 have a photograph of me standing on top of the doll's
2 house. I'm holding a peg doll, which is literally made
3 of pegs. I can't remember a playroom or anything inside
4 the home.

5 'I remember that I had that peg doll. My sister
6 told me that my uncle and auntie gave it to me when they
7 came to visit. I think we had big boxes where we put
8 all our stuff. It wasn't in the bedroom or anything
9 like that. I remember it being very impersonal. It
10 wasn't a warm place. I remember the feeling of being
11 cold. Everything was cold at Lagarie.'

12 Paragraph 27, she says:

13 'We definitely said our prayers before dinner.
14 I don't think it was a particularly religious place.
15 I don't remember going to chapel or anything like that.

16 'I have no memories of birthdays at Lagarie.
17 I remember Santa would come and it was a big deal. The
18 tables would all be set up. We were allowed to make
19 a noise, talk and laugh. We had everything to eat in
20 abundance. We ate in the big dining room and the tables
21 were put together. I think it was the first time that
22 I had ever seen or eaten jelly. The home was decorated.
23 We did get a present for Christmas, but I can't remember
24 what I got. I remember it was stuff that we never
25 usually got and we were allowed to be happy.

1 'I can't remember any social work visits. Lots of
2 time would go by between visits. My mum came to visit
3 us twice.'

4 And she remembers her mother's hairdo, and she had
5 a leopard print for a coat on and a new man by that
6 stage.

7 At the end of that paragraph she says:

8 'Although I was unhappy in Rhu, I would rather have
9 been there than at home with my mum.'

10 She says:

11 'My uncle is 21 in the photograph of me with the peg
12 doll. He was holding on to me, making sure I didn't
13 fall from the roof of the doll's house. I'm really wee
14 in the picture. It was the day he got engaged to my
15 auntie. They had come up to visit us. They came to
16 visit us more than my mum did. I think they saw it as
17 a wee day out. I remember being out on the grass, but
18 I don't remember them taking us out anywhere.

19 'I remember that we weren't allowed to talk and
20 laugh unless somebody was coming into the home. We
21 would be putting on a show. Seamen would come over from
22 the submarines. I remember they would visit, but
23 I don't remember much more. I don't know where we went
24 or whether we were taken out of the home, I just
25 remember them being involved.'

1 And she says that she remembers a princess came to
2 visit and that her sister thought it was Princess
3 Margaret.

4 Paragraph 33:

5 'One night my brother woke us all up. I was wee,
6 but I don't know how old I was. He took us down the
7 stairs. He said that if he smashed something near the
8 front door, the door would open and we could run away.
9 I remember asking where we were going to go. We were
10 all holding hands. [My brother] smashed something and
11 then there was chaos afterwards. I remember the doors
12 did open, but we never got the chance to run away.
13 I don't know whether somebody opened the doors, but in
14 my brother's mind they would open automatically. It was
15 pandemonium. We were punished for trying to run away.
16 The matron put her fingers down our throat and
17 threatened that she would drop us over the stairs.
18 I don't think we tried to run away again.'

19 But she says, paragraph 34:

20 'There were boys and girls running away all the
21 time. They were caught on the motorway. They were
22 brought back. I remember a boy running away naked, and
23 being brought back. I can't remember his name.
24 Children were brought back to the home by the police.
25 I think the police must have known what was going on at

1 Lagarie.'

2 In relation to abuse at Lagarie, she says:

3 'The matron used to do things like pull you by the
4 scruff of your neck like a puppy. She would hold you
5 like that over the stairs and tell you that she was
6 going to let you go. She did something like that when
7 I was caught sharing my blankets with [my sister]. She
8 held me over the stairs and told me not to ever do it
9 again. [My sister] remembers that happening as well.
10 She remembers a lot more than me.

11 'If your clothes were soiled when she checked them,
12 the matron would stick her fingers down your throat.
13 I remember gagging constantly when she did that. It was
14 almost as if she liked it. Sometimes, the matron would
15 stick your toothbrush down your throat, or brush your
16 teeth really hard. Sometimes she would punish us by
17 skipping one of our meals.

18 'I saw the matron punish other children in the same
19 way. It happened all the time. It was every ten
20 minutes. Somebody was always getting something wrong or
21 doing something that she didn't like. It never
22 stopped.'

23 She says at paragraph 38:

24 'My brother was abused at Lagarie. He doesn't want
25 to be involved in reporting what happened at all, so

1 I don't want to go into the detail about what happened
2 to him. That hurts me more than anything that's
3 happened to me throughout all the times in the
4 children's homes. It kills me the most. My brother is
5 such a gentle person. He would never hurt anybody. He
6 took care of us as much as he could. It must have been
7 hard for him. He just can't even talk about it. It
8 just hurts me so much about [my brother].'

9 In relation to reporting, she says:

10 'I remember telling Mrs Hillhouse, our social
11 worker, that we weren't happy at Lagarie, and that they
12 were bad to us. I think I was older, so it might have
13 been the second time that I was in Lagarie. She didn't
14 ask me anything else. I think I was just seen as
15 a child. I don't remember telling anybody else what had
16 happened there.

17 'We were in Lagarie for about two years.
18 Apparently, we got home for about six months and then we
19 were put back in again. I don't have any memories of
20 those months at home. I've been told that we went back
21 to Lagarie for the second time because my mum wasn't
22 coping and the matron and KER were still there.
23 I don't have a sense of length of time when I was at
24 Lagarie.

25 'I don't remember leaving Lagarie for the first or

1 second time. I do remember moving to [a new house in
2 Possilpark when we left] and it was after we had come
3 out of the home for the last time. When we all got
4 home, I made my First Communion. I don't think we had
5 been home for very long so I must have been about 7 when
6 we left Lagarie.'

7 She says, paragraph 42, taking that short, that her
8 mother had another child after her, after 'Jane', and
9 she talks about the social worker, Mrs Hillhouse, again,
10 and she says:

11 'I hated her. She was always in the house. I hated
12 her. She knew my mum was abusing me and she didn't do
13 anything and I hated her because of that. In my mind
14 she was there to help us. I don't know whether anybody
15 told me that. She wasn't helping us. She would sit
16 with my mum, drinking cups of tea and having a laugh and
17 a joke. She didn't know that my mum had given me
18 a doing an hour before she came, or I'd be upstairs,
19 having been told not to come out of my room because
20 I had a black eye. I couldn't understand how everyone
21 that I thought would take care of me never did,
22 Mrs Hillhouse being one of them.'

23 And she says that:

24 'For as long as I can remember, my mum abused me.
25 My mum most definitely had mental health problems.

1 I didn't know that at the time, but looking back as
2 an adult I can see that she definitely did. She didn't
3 abuse my siblings, just me.'

4 And she says that her mother called her a 'bastard':

5 'That was how she'd address me in the house. She
6 would say things to my siblings like, "Go and tell that
7 bastard to get down here". I didn't have a good
8 upbringing.'

9 She says that they went in to care again because her
10 mother wasn't well again and they were in what's said to
11 be an unknown children's home in Glasgow when she was 7,
12 coming up for 8. And taking that very short, my Lady,

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
14
15

16 And we can move then to page 14, paragraph 60, and
17 she says:

18 'I think we were in that children's home for nearly
19 a year. I remember the woman in the home telling us in
20 the playroom that somebody was coming to get us.'

21 Reading short:

22 'I remember that I didn't want to go home. [My
23 sister] was saying, "We're going home", I was crying and
24 saying that I didn't want to. Mrs Hillhouse came to
25 take us back.'

1 She says that she went to a primary school in
2 Possilpark, and taking that short, she says:

3 'Even when I started school, my mum would keep me
4 off a lot of the time because I had injuries. It wasn't
5 until later in life that I got myself educated.

6 'When we came home from the second children's home,
7 the abuse from my mother got worse. It continued my
8 whole life. We didn't go into any other children's
9 homes.'

10 But she says, perhaps strikingly, my Lady:

11 'The abuse at Rhu was less frightening than the
12 abuse I got from my mum at home. I knew the Matron
13 would only stick her fingers down my throat for so long,
14 whereas I never knew what was going to happen at home
15 with my mum. She was very calculated. She wouldn't go
16 into frenzies or anything. She knew every step she was
17 going to take. I could read her very well because
18 I probably had to.'

19 She says, taking paragraph 63 short, that her mother
20 would make her wear secondhand clothes that the social
21 worker brought; and paragraph 64, she says another
22 sibling was born when she was about 11 or 12. And at
23 the foot of that page she says:

24 'My mum's boyfriends didn't really pay attention to
25 me. None of them tried to stop my mum doing what she

1 did to me and I remember, if [one particular boyfriend]
2 was there, she didn't do it as much. [And this
3 boyfriend] would get a fish supper for his tea on a
4 Friday. He would come home with a carrier bag full of
5 sweeties and empty it all over the floor. He was good
6 like that, but he was allowed to hit us with the belt if
7 we were getting chastised. He hit us all with the belt
8 for going up the canal, which we weren't allowed to do.'

9 Paragraph 65:

10 'When I was about 13, we all came home from school
11 and my mum announced that she had got married that day.
12 The wedding picture was up on top of the telly. That
13 was the last man that my mum was with when I was growing
14 up.'

15 She says:

16 'He didn't give a shit, he was quite happy as long
17 as he was getting his cans and fags in every night.'

18 Paragraph 66:

19 'You never [I think "knew"] what kind of mood my mum
20 would be in. She'd be behind the door and you would
21 suddenly get a massive slap or get kicked down the
22 stairs. I never answered her back. I never said no to
23 her. I would admit things that I hadn't even done. She
24 would batter me until I admitted them. She knew that if
25 I admitted things, it would stop her battering me.

1 I think she knew that I hadn't done those things. One
2 of the major things my mum would do was stop me from
3 washing. My mum wouldn't let me get washed, so
4 I wouldn't go to school. If she did let me go to
5 school, she wouldn't let me get washed. I couldn't wash
6 my hair. I would get ridiculed in school for having
7 greasy hair. It was almost as if she wanted to ridicule
8 me to every person.'

9 Taking paragraph 67 a little short, my Lady, she
10 says that she thinks her sister saved her life one day
11 when she was 15. Around the middle of the paragraph she
12 says she got the biggest hiding of her life from her
13 mother:

14 'I was lying on the floor and I couldn't understand
15 why I was all wet up my back. I didn't realise that
16 I was actually peeing myself. There were split-second
17 breaks when I would see my mum stop. She would turn the
18 racquet round [this is a badminton racquet] so she was
19 hitting me with the metal edge rather than the flat
20 part. I've always wanted to get a badminton racquet and
21 see how hard I would need to hit it to break it into
22 three pieces. It was in three pieces. I was supposed
23 to be using it for [a] competition.

24 'My sister had a toy telephone with a cord that you
25 pulled to make the eyes go up and down. I remember my

1 mother lifting that and putting it round my neck. She
2 was not letting go of it. I knew at that point that
3 I was going to die. She grabbed me by the neck and ran
4 towards the balcony door. She was ready to put me
5 through it. [My sister] ran in screaming, "That's
6 enough! Stop it". It was probably the last big doing
7 that my mum gave me. It was about four months before my
8 16th birthday.'

9 And she describes her injuries at paragraph 69, and
10 says that there was an occasion when her mother tried to
11 stop her going to school.

12 And paragraph 70:

13 'As soon as she said that to me, it was like a penny
14 dropping. I didn't know until that day that she wasn't
15 allowed to hit me like that. I realised that she wasn't
16 allowed to do that to me. I'd thought my whole life
17 that she was allowed to do that to me. That was the
18 very last time that she hit me.'

19 And she describes an incident where her mother,
20 I think fairly clearly, is trying to provoke matters,
21 and at paragraph 71 she says:

22 'She came at me. I flipped the whole kitchen table
23 up and jumped off the bench. I bolted up the stairs.
24 I could hear her coming up the stairs. I thought she
25 was going to kill me.'

1 And taking that short, she says on this occasion she
2 stood up to her mother. She says:

3 'It was the very first time I had ever stood up to
4 her and I left home [she says] a week later.'

5 Paragraph 72, and really for the next few
6 paragraphs, she describes trying to find a job.

7 Paragraph 73, she says she got a job doing seasonal work
8 in Aviemore. And although, at paragraph 74, her mother
9 again, I think, tried to denigrate her efforts to find
10 employment, she nevertheless went, and at paragraph 77
11 says at first she made beds in the hotel, and worked in
12 the bar:

13 'I couldn't understand [that], because I wasn't old
14 enough to drink. I didn't do anything like that when
15 I was growing up. I didn't do anything wrong. It was
16 just a no-no, because I couldn't afford to get into any
17 trouble. I was able to work there because it was
18 residents only. I stayed in Aviemore for about
19 six years and then I moved to Inverness. I would learn
20 another job, get bored and move on. I was always
21 moving.'

22 She says:

23 'There was a big gap when I didn't see my family for
24 a long, long time. For big chunks of my children's
25 lives they only occasionally saw any of my family. I've

1 only really been in touch with my siblings in the last
2 six or seven years. I couldn't cope with seeing my mum.
3 If there was a wedding or a party and my mum was there,
4 she could be at the opposite end of a room full of
5 a thousand people. I would still be sitting there so
6 uncomfortable, knowing that she was there.'

7 In paragraph 79:

8 'I found it hard to be in my sisters' company and
9 have them be positive about our mother. They would
10 admit and say that they knew what she had done to me,
11 but they would say that she was an old woman now, that
12 it was in the past and we were all grown up.'

13 At paragraph 80, she says that when she met her
14 husband:

15 'We travelled and lived abroad. I met him when
16 I was 17.'

17 And they lived in Italy and Greece and never settled
18 anywhere. Paragraph 81:

19 'I had three children under the age of 5 at one
20 point.'

21 And she says ultimately that her husband couldn't
22 cope and they separated.

23 Paragraph 82, she says that:

24 'I probably went crazy for about eight months,
25 partying, drinking and going with men.'

1 She was then aged 28:

2 'One day I got up and realised that I could waste my
3 children's heads the way mine had been wasted.
4 I decided that I was going to have to bring them up and
5 focus on them.'

6 And she then describes getting her children into
7 education. At paragraph 83, initially went to Women's
8 Initiative courses. Learned keyboard skills and
9 different things. And over the page, page 21, she says
10 she made extra money sewing, over and above the amount
11 she got from the social:

12 'I volunteered with special needs adults but
13 I didn't feel I had the special something that you need
14 to work with special needs.'

15 Paragraph 84, she went to college, and ultimately
16 became a medical secretary, working part-time with a GP
17 for almost ten years.

18 Paragraph 86. When her older sister turned 50:

19 'She got in touch with my oldest daughter on
20 Facebook and said that she'd like me to be at her 50th
21 [birthday].'

22 And she started to reconnect with her siblings. It
23 was a gradual process. And she talks about that gradual
24 process over the next few paragraphs.

25 And at paragraph 88, page 22, she says:

1 'It's as if I'm frozen inside. It was a struggle
2 because I was a mother and an adult and I knew myself,
3 but I would still go back to being that child every time
4 I saw my family. My youngest daughter doesn't like me
5 going to her aunt's [I think 'Jane's' older sister].
6 She knows that it puts me back and messes with my head,
7 my confidence goes away. My siblings will make a joke
8 out of things and be flippant. I can make it flippant,
9 but nobody else can.'

10 Paragraph 89:

11 'I have been on medication for depression for
12 30 years.'

13 And reading that short, she says, about the middle
14 of the paragraph:

15 'I would say that I didn't have depression. I was
16 just lazy, selfish. I just wanted to sleep and I didn't
17 care that my kids were just sitting watching the TV.
18 I would think it was me and that I was a horrible, and
19 a bad person. I wouldn't get washed, which was one of
20 the major things my mum used to do to me.'

21 And she says:

22 'My life's not been easy. When my depression was
23 really bad, I wouldn't go out for weeks on end.'

24 But she notes that she always managed to have the
25 kids ready and says that they've all done really well.

1 Page 23, in relation to reporting, she says that:

2 '[Her] sister and I found a website about people
3 getting together from the past.'

4 And it turns out that a woman they spoke to worked
5 in Lagarie and had left:

6 'She said she didn't remember us, but I don't know
7 whether she just said that. She said that she was there
8 for about eight months. She said that she had to leave
9 because she couldn't cope with the abuse that was going
10 on in Lagarie. She moved to another children's home to
11 work. She still lives in the Rhu area.'

12 In paragraph 92, she talks about the BBC Disclosure
13 programme and obtained the number for the Sailors'
14 Society and phoned them, and that's how it started. She
15 says:

16 'They never asked for any details of my experiences
17 in Lagarie. They asked for my details and then they
18 sent my daughter an email, confirming that they could
19 see that I'd been there. I had to send them ID and
20 confirmation of who I am. They offered to provide
21 therapy.

22 'I've never reported the abuse that I experienced as
23 a child. I've told my doctor a bit about it and I've
24 told my psychologist. Although I spoke to the Sailors'
25 Society, I didn't report the abuse at Lagarie to them.

1 Throughout our lives, my siblings and I always said that
2 we wanted someone to tell us why it happened. We will
3 never get justice for it now, because they are all dead.
4 Just telling someone and having them believe us is
5 important.

6 'When the Sailors' Society offered to pay for
7 therapy, I thought they might have been accepting
8 responsibility for what happened. I don't think they
9 have. Recently, a friend told me that a case had been
10 flung out because the Sailors' Society were accepting no
11 responsibility whatsoever. The Sailors' Society must
12 have known what was going on in the home. They must
13 have thought that they'd throw money at the home and
14 give the children a good Christmas and whatever else.
15 The police knew there were boys and girls running away
16 all the time and the police brought them back. There
17 are a multitude of people to blame; Sailors' Society,
18 social workers and police.'

19 In relation to impact, she says:

20 'I think my older siblings have it worse because
21 they remember more about Lagarie than me. We all looked
22 after each other. I know how much Lagarie has affected
23 my brother. My relationship with him is really good.
24 I am closest to him of all my siblings. I don't know
25 how much being in the home has affected me. I had such

1 a terrible upbringing anyway, so I just went from one
2 terrible place to another terrible place to another
3 terrible place. Because of that, it's hard for me to
4 say how much Lagarie affected me.'

5 And she talks about her schooling at paragraph 96,
6 and at paragraph 97 indicates, about halfway through
7 that paragraph, that she saw the TV programme with
8 a picture of [REDACTED] at Lagarie, and says:

9 'All my life, I've been terrified of [REDACTED].

10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] Then this
13 picture came up [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] with the matron. [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED] The matron is smiling in the picture, as
18 if she's like Mother Theresa. [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] Something must have happened on
20 that day for me to have such a fear of [REDACTED].'

21 She says, paragraph 98:

22 'I've been going to a therapist and the Sailors'
23 Society have been paying for it. When it all came out
24 about the abuse at Lagarie, they said they would offer
25 support. At that point, I was still waiting on

1 psychology from the NHS. I'd been waiting for
2 two years.'

3 And she talks a bit about that process but says, at
4 paragraph 99:

5 'I [didn't] get anything out of psychology. I can
6 sit and tell someone everything that's happened and it
7 doesn't make me feel any better. It doesn't make me
8 feel any worse either. It's still always going to be
9 there. I need to learn how to cope with it when I start
10 doubting myself and when I'm depressed. That's when it
11 all comes back up. I've had a few different diagnoses.
12 They do say that I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
13 relating to my childhood. I don't know which part of my
14 childhood it's from. All I can remember from the age of
15 0 to 16 is trauma. The Sailors' Society said that
16 I could find a different kind of therapist. My daughter
17 and I have looked into Eye Movement Desensitisation and
18 Reprogramming (EMDR) and I'd like to try that.'

19 She says:

20 'I have nightmares and flashbacks. I can have the
21 same nightmare three nights in a row. When I have
22 nightmares, that's when my sleep starts to go.'

23 And she says:

24 'There's so much self-hatred and doubt there. I've
25 had suicidal thoughts. I went into the psychiatric unit

1 at Langhill on a voluntary basis three and a half years
2 ago. I was frightened because I can get very close to
3 suicide. I think I was getting really close at that
4 time.

5 'I don't trust a lot of people. I keep my circle
6 very small. The friends I've got, I've had since my
7 oldest child was born. If I don't, I could risk them
8 hurting me again. I still hate social workers. When
9 they appointed a social worker to help me, I just didn't
10 trust her. I didn't want to tell her anything. I don't
11 believe social workers will be able to help me. I think
12 that's because of my experiences of Mrs Hillhouse.

13 'I accept what's happened in my life because it's
14 made me the person that I am. I was overly cautious
15 with my children and they weren't allowed to go anywhere
16 out of my sight. What happened to me as a child made me
17 the parent that I am. Would I have been such a good
18 parent if I hadn't experienced what I did? Who knows?'

19 She says that she's applied to get her records back
20 but hasn't received any yet:

21 'Future Pathways have told me that the records at
22 Lagarie were very minimal. The register just used first
23 names so even that was hard to find. They did call me
24 to tell me that they had found my name on the register.
25 I really don't know what that meant.'

1 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, she says:

2 'I think the whole system needs more monitoring from
3 wherever it starts. Everything should be checked.
4 There are children who have died under social work care.
5 I'm not saying that it's the social workers' fault, but
6 they've got to be more thorough. They can't just
7 believe what the parents are telling them. There was
8 nobody I could tell. Mrs Hillhouse was my mum's friend.

9 'I feel that speaking to the Inquiry is giving it
10 away in a sense. I'm passing it over. My hope would be
11 that they don't build children's homes any more.
12 I don't know whether that's realistic. I don't know how
13 many children there are out there who still need to go
14 into a children's home. I would like someone to say
15 that they believe me and that they're sorry. I'd like
16 it to be recognised and for it never to happen again.
17 I don't want another child walking about like [me].
18 That would be sad. That could have been my daughter.'

19 And she has made the usual declaration, my Lady, and
20 signed the statement in 2021.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

22 MR SHELDON: And I think now Ms Forbes has another read-in.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Ms Forbes, when you're ready.

25 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady. The next statement is

1 from an applicant who is anonymous and is known as
2 'Stella'.

3 'Stella' (read in)

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: And the reference for her statement is
6 WIT-1-000000737.

7 My Lady, 'Stella' tells us she was born in 1964 and
8 talks about life before going into care between
9 paragraphs 2 and 15. She says that she was born and
10 lived in Edinburgh with her parents, and she has two
11 older siblings, both girls. Sorry, three older siblings
12 who are all girls.

13 My Lady, I've got that wrong. Two older siblings
14 who are girls, one who is 10 months older than her and
15 one who is 7 years older. I do apologise, my Lady.

16 LADY SMITH: That's all right.

17 MS FORBES: She says that her father was a [REDACTED]
18 with the Merchant Navy and her mother was a teacher.
19 Her dad would be away at sea for long periods of time,
20 and she said that her mum wanted some support, and they
21 would go to her mother-in-law's, her mum's
22 mother-in-law's house.

23 Their family lived in Linlithgow and then moved to
24 her father's mother's house in Bathgate. And then she
25 thinks that they might have moved to her auntie's house

1 for a while, her father's sister, because she remembers
2 that it was from there they were all taken to Lagarie.

3 Her memories of early life, she says, are like
4 picture snapshots. She remembers being hit by a bus
5 when she was crossing the road, but thankfully only
6 skinned her knees. But she does have some memories from
7 being at home and she tells us about them at
8 paragraph 7, in particular her gran and her sense of
9 humour, and wanting a Scalextric for Christmas because
10 she wanted to be a boy. And she says that these were
11 just good, stable memories.

12 She can't remember going to primary school before
13 Lagarie, but remembers Sunday School. But then at
14 paragraph 9, 'Stella' says:

15 'I used to have a memory of my dad telling [and she
16 names her sisters] and myself that gran had died, but
17 [she says] I've since discovered ...'

18 From one of her sisters that it was actually her mum
19 that had died, and she says that her mum died when she
20 was 4, of pleurisy and pneumonia together, and her mum
21 was only 35.

22 She explains that what led to them going to Lagarie
23 was her gran then dying. She thinks, or she says her
24 dad was distraught, and she believes was ill for a while
25 after her mum died, and they were living with her gran,

1 but then she died, and then she thinks they lived with
2 her aunt for a while, but she's not sure.

3 She goes on to talk about the fact that her mum had
4 five sisters and, although her dad was at sea working,
5 she comments that not one of her mum's five sisters took
6 them in, which was a hammer blow.

7 At paragraph 12 'Stella' talks about the fact that
8 whatever happened in the families, there was a decision
9 made that her father was unable to care for them, and
10 nobody else seemed to want to step in. So all three of
11 the girls ended up going to Lagarie.

12 At paragraph 13, 'Stella' says:

13 'My father had to go to sea and work and there was
14 nobody that wanted to take the role of looking after us,
15 which is a devastating blow for three children at our
16 ages.'

17 And then she comments at the end of that paragraph:

18 'We were only at Lagarie for a year, which isn't
19 a long time.'

20 She says at paragraph 14 that she knows that her
21 father was in the Merchant Navy and that Lagarie House
22 was part of the British Sailors' Society and that might
23 be something to do with how they ended up at Lagarie.

24 Paragraph 15, 'Stella' says:

25 'I do wonder to this day why there wasn't something

1 on the East Coast, as that's where we grew up. Why did
2 they take us to the West Coast? Was it because it was
3 out the way, or because it was the British Sailors'
4 Society and my father paid for us to go there?'

5 She then goes on to talk about Lagarie House from
6 paragraph 16 onwards, and says:

7 'I went to Lagarie when I was 7 and I stayed there
8 for about a year. I don't know the exact dates.'

9 The only records we have, my Lady, for 'Stella' are
10 school records from Rhu Primary, which is a common
11 theme.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MS FORBES: And they show that she was admitted there on
14 [REDACTED] 1971, so that would have been part way
15 through a term, and then she left on [REDACTED] 1973, which
16 would have been the end of the school year. So that
17 would have been between the ages of 7 and 8 and
18 a half years or so, so she was there for about
19 18 months. All we really know is that she didn't come
20 back to that school at the end of the summer holidays to
21 start again, so we don't have exact dates.

22 LADY SMITH: So that indicates when she must have been at
23 Lagarie.

24 MS FORBES: Yes.

25 At paragraph 17, my Lady, she says:

1 'I remember arriving at the home and looking out the
2 window. We went up a big driveway and there was this
3 big old white turreted building. I have no memory of
4 anyone meeting us, but we did go in the main door and we
5 were taken into a dining room where all the kids were
6 sitting, having their dinner. I remember there was
7 a top table and other smaller tables with all the kids
8 sitting at them. There were maybe 25 or 30 kids, and
9 they were all staring at us. That's the snapshot that I
10 have got of us arriving at Lagarie, all those kids
11 staring at us and me in complete shock and horror
12 wondering who all these children were, and why we were
13 there.'

14 Then at paragraph 18, she gives a description of the
15 inside of Lagarie, and we've had a lot of that already,
16 my Lady.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes.

18 MS FORBES: So I'm not going to read that out.

19 Paragraph 19, she says:

20 'The children at Lagarie were aged from about 7 to
21 14, or thereabouts, and there was a nursery, so there
22 were babies as well.'

23 She then says her older sister, and names her, would
24 have been about the oldest there, because she was 14 or
25 15. And then she goes on to say there were other family

1 groups at Lagarie, and she talks about them.

2 At paragraph 20, she goes on to talk about staff and
3 says:

4 'Mr and Mrs Smith were in charge at Lagarie when we
5 first arrived there. From what I know now, the person
6 that was in charge at Lagarie before the Smiths wasn't
7 nice and something happened, so the Smiths took over.

8 'Mrs Smith was the matron in charge of the whole
9 home and Mr Smith was always looking after their own
10 children. She was a really lovely woman. She was
11 clever and kind and was a good surrogate. I saw no
12 badness at Lagarie when she was in charge and I suppose
13 you could say she made a horrible situation more
14 bearable for the children who were there.

15 'Mrs Smith was wonderful, she had thick dark hair,
16 she was kind and we all loved her. When she left, after
17 we had been there for about six months, many of the
18 children in that home were crying. I remember asking
19 an adult member of staff why they weren't crying and
20 they said, "We don't all show what we're feeling".
21 I clearly remember the day Mrs Smith left, I was holding
22 on to the stair bannister and crying. I was so upset
23 when she left.

24 'The Rev and Mrs Barrie, who was the matron, came to
25 Lagarie after Mrs Smith and were there when we left.

1 I didn't like Mrs Barrie and I don't actually think
2 Rev Barrie was a true reverend. I heard that from
3 Mrs Smith. She told us he had some certificate from the
4 United States that you paid money to get.

5 'I remember the day they arrived I had climbed up
6 a tree in the grounds of Lagarie to pick leaves to make
7 perfume. I had this idea that I could make and sell my
8 own perfume and save up enough money to leave the home.
9 I distinctly remember looking down and seeing the Rev
10 and Mrs Barrie skipping along the road, hand in hand.
11 They were in their 40s or something, and I just didn't
12 like that. It's a snapshot I have of the Barries being
13 together and I just had this feeling that I didn't like
14 them.

15 'Another member of staff I remember was PZF
16 who was from Helensburgh. She was connected to
17 something that happened to a boy at Lagarie that
18 I wasn't particularly happy about. In fact, I still
19 hate her for it. She caused the boy to get hit.

20 'It was when the Barries were at Lagarie and we were
21 all getting ready for school one morning. One of the
22 younger boys was all excited because he had won
23 a coconut at the circus the weekend before. He was
24 outside our room hitting the coconut off a cast iron
25 radiator to try and break it open. There was a crowd of

1 us watching him and laughing, but he ended up breaking
2 the radiator and water started coming out of it.

3 PZF was there and had been laughing at him with
4 everyone else, but then she disappeared and didn't come
5 back up. Mrs Barrie came back up, though, and we knew
6 instantly that we were all in trouble.

7 'Mrs Barrie came up to us and just hit that boy.
8 Everyone was so stunned that we couldn't speak. Another
9 staff member, Heather, was also there and she told to us
10 go to our rooms and get ready for school. Mrs Barrie
11 only hit him the once, she used the back of her hand and
12 hit him right across his face. It was awful and it was
13 in front of everyone. That was the first time I saw
14 Mrs Barrie hit anyone. She was so full of rage and
15 anger and hate, and that was towards a boy who was only
16 about 6 or 7 years old. I don't remember the boy's
17 name. I blame PZF. She told Mrs Barrie and she
18 caused the poor boy to get hit.

19 'I remember Heather working there. She is actually
20 a distant relative, she was quite friendly with my
21 sister. There must have been others working there as
22 well, I just can't remember them now. There was
23 possibly as many as six staff in total.'

24 'Stella' then talks at paragraph 29 about doing some
25 research through the National Library and discovering

1 that the Barries and another six names she knew of being
2 resident at Lagarie when she and her sisters were living
3 there.

4 She goes on at paragraph 30 to say that there were
5 cottages in the grounds where the Barries lived and
6 there was possibly a gardener's cottage as well.

7 She then, at paragraph 31, goes on to talk about
8 mornings and bedtime, and she says that she was in a big
9 dormitory first of all, and shared a big four-poster
10 type double bed with her sister, but there were other
11 kids in there with them and her eldest sister was
12 separate from them, because she was older. But later
13 all three sisters were in the same room. And she says
14 that her eldest sister had a double bed and she and her
15 other sister had bunk beds.

16 She thought, at paragraph 32, that the dorms were
17 mixed, but she says that her sister told her that they
18 weren't. She says at paragraph 32:

19 'I do have a memory of a boy sleepwalking and peeing
20 in the corner of the dorm on some white shelving.
21 I don't remember what happened about that.'

22 She goes on:

23 'I did start sleepwalking at Lagarie. I'm not sure
24 when that started. I'm not sure Mrs Smith knew about
25 that, but she would have been okay.'

1 She says her eldest sister has told her that she
2 found her once and stopped her and took her back to her
3 room.

4 She talks about the fact that there was a routine,
5 but she doesn't really remember getting up and washing,
6 going for breakfast. But she remembers getting the
7 minibus to and from school every day.

8 She goes on to talk about mealtimes and food from
9 paragraph 35:

10 'I remember the first time we had custard and
11 I asked why my custard had lumps in it. That was in the
12 dining room and there was a very obvious, uncomfortable
13 silence, but I wasn't punished for that.

14 'I only have vague memories of sitting, eating
15 meals. I can't say if it was good or bad. We had all
16 our meals in the dining room and there was a top table,
17 which is where the Smiths and then the Barries sat. It
18 was for top staff members and the matron.

19 'I do have a memory of sitting in the play area, not
20 the dining room, and having fish and chips, which was in
21 a light yellow batter. I'm fussy about the fish I eat
22 to this day and that was a disgusting smell. It was the
23 batter, not the fish, but I wouldn't eat that,
24 I remember that. I don't know why I was in the
25 playroom, because we didn't eat in there. Perhaps it

1 was as a punishment, having not eaten it in the dining
2 room. I really can't remember.'

3 At paragraph 38 she talks about having a uniform for
4 school, and she tells us what they wore for the primary
5 and the secondary.

6 She goes on to talk about leisure time from
7 paragraph 39, and says there was a play area within the
8 grounds, and the room that she ended up in together with
9 her sisters had a fire escape, a cast iron fire escape,
10 and they could climb out the window onto it. She says
11 that she has a photograph of her and her other sister
12 standing on the fire escape.

13 She also talks about there being a wooded area at
14 paragraph 40 and trees that they played on and an old
15 bashed up blue car, as well as a rope swing.

16 She talks about trips and holidays from paragraph 41
17 and she says:

18 'We did go on some trips. I remember going to
19 Faslane in our white minibus and we were taken onto the
20 submarines and hovercrafts and things. I remember there
21 were sweets laid out on all the beds in the submarine
22 for us.

23 'I also remember going camping to Arbroath.
24 I remember the smell of the "smokies", which I quite
25 liked. We were in tents and there were activities going

1 on, but I can't remember what they were.'

2 She then talks about, at paragraph 43, going to
3 visit the Smiths after they left. She says:

4 'We also went to visit the Smiths after they had
5 left Lagarie.'

6 She said she's spoken to her eldest sister about
7 that, who told her that they needed to get special
8 dispensation to go and visit them in Aberdeen, and they
9 travelled up there by train and they stayed at their
10 house. She thinks they were maybe there a weekend.

11 She talks about schooling from paragraph 44, and she
12 says:

13 'There was no schooling at Lagarie, [that] was
14 [just] purely for care.'

15 She went to Rhu Primary School and hated it there,
16 and talks about them arriving in a bus that had 'Lagarie
17 Children's Home' written on the side of it so everyone
18 knew where they were from.

19 She then talks about having an anxiety dream, at
20 paragraph 45, about a maths test and being taken to see
21 Mrs Smith. She goes on to talk more about that at
22 paragraph 46 and she says:

23 'I don't know who it was that took me to see
24 Mrs Smith, but I was taken to her office and I remember
25 she had a green desk lamp in her room. I sat in the

1 small seat on the left and I was crying and upset about
2 this maths test the next day, Mrs Smith wrote me a note
3 and then gave me a drink. I'm sure she gave me
4 something to calm me down and help get me to sleep.
5 I was only 6 years old so I don't know what the teachers
6 were thinking about, giving us maths tests at that age.'

7 And then she says she remembers giving that note to
8 the teacher the next day, and she presumes it was just
9 telling the teacher to leave her, as she couldn't cope.
10 And she says that Mrs Smith, this is at paragraph 47:

11 'Mrs Smith could read me, she understood me.'

12 At paragraph 48, she says she remembers a girl, who
13 she names, at Lagarie, who wet herself almost every day
14 at the primary school, and that she was traumatised and
15 stressed at being at Lagarie. She did it all the time
16 without warning.

17 She then goes on to talk about healthcare from
18 paragraph 49, and she talks about getting extractions at
19 the dentists and getting gas, and then being hyper when
20 she got back, running about the place, and she says at
21 paragraph 49:

22 'I remember that I saw a man in my room that day and
23 he was talking to someone else in the room.'

24 She goes on:

25 'I remember he was tall and was talking to someone

1 and he said "She's (or they've) been through a lot".
2 I can't remember any more, but I'm fairly sure that man
3 was the gardener. He might have just helped carry me up
4 the stairs having been to the dentist, I'm just not
5 sure.'

6 She then talks about an accident where she was hit
7 by the handle of the swing door, and she was checked, at
8 paragraph 51. And she doesn't ever remember having to
9 see a doctor, at paragraph 52.

10 She then goes on to talk about religious instruction
11 from paragraph 54 and says there was a church near
12 Lagarie that they went to twice every Sunday. She
13 didn't like it. She talks about the Barries being
14 religious, so that's what they did when they were there.
15 And the last few sentences of paragraph 54, she says:

16 'He was a reverend and we had to go to church. I'm
17 not sure if he ever did any preaching.'

18 At paragraph 55, she says she has a memory of
19 sitting in circles at Sunday School singing songs, which
20 she names, and she says she now hates those songs and
21 it's a trigger for her.

22 At paragraph 56, she talks about Christmas, and she
23 says:

24 'I remember Christmas one day and being in a plain
25 white room with glass doors. I can't place where that

1 room was at Lagarie. It was when Mrs Smith was there,
2 and I was given a hobby horse as a present. Actually,
3 that could have been a birthday or Christmas, I don't
4 know.

5 'I'm sure I remember a visit from Santa and wrapping
6 paper and opening lots of presents, but I can't be
7 definitive about that. I do remember playing with lots
8 of toys at Christmas time.'

9 In relation to visits, at paragraph 58, she thinks
10 that her dad came to visit them at Lagarie, and she also
11 believes her auntie did, because there's a photograph
12 that she took there, but that's the only visitors she
13 remembers.

14 At paragraph 59, she says she has no memory of
15 anyone from social work coming to speak to them, or
16 anyone in anywhere official.

17 At paragraph 60, she talks about running away and
18 she says:

19 'I know I wanted to escape from Lagarie, I wanted to
20 get money and go, that's why I was doing my perfume
21 thing, but I never actually ran away.

22 'I don't remember having any specific discipline
23 explained to us. It was just the fear and the shouting
24 from Mrs Barrie.'

25 And then she says that her sister, her eldest

1 sister, remembers Mrs Barrie smacking her for something
2 but she has no memory of that at all.

3 'Stella' then goes on to talk about abuse at Lagarie
4 from paragraph 62:

5 'The Barries were just cruel, nasty, horrible
6 people. I can't begin to describe how much fear there
7 was at Lagarie when it came to the Barries. The
8 Rev Barrie was quite a big fat bloke, he was balding on
9 top and had big blocky teeth. He sweat quite a lot and
10 had shiny skin. I have a memory of him smiling and
11 laughing.

12 'I have a strange memory of Rev Barrie from the
13 children's play area. There were a few children,
14 including myself, in the play area, where there was
15 a piano, waiting to go to church one Sunday. Rev Barrie
16 was with us and he was rolling about on the floor,
17 encouraging us to do the same. There was about six or
18 seven children all the same age and we started to roll
19 about on the floor with him. He was tickling us and
20 rolling around beside us and he was wearing a grey suit
21 and had his dog collar on. He always had his dog collar
22 on. At the time it was fun and was a game, but looking
23 back now I feel it was ridiculous and wonder what
24 exactly he was doing. You just don't do that sort of
25 stuff. That's the only snapshot I've got of that

1 incident.

2 'At nighttime Mrs Barrie would come into our room.'

3 She says that's where her and her two sisters were
4 sleeping, and she goes on:

5 'And she would shout [and she names her eldest
6 sister] at [her eldest sister]. She would shout
7 obscenities, swear at her and call her a "whore" and all
8 kind of things. I was awoken by the shouting and it
9 caused me no end of stress. I didn't know what the word
10 meant or why she was using that word, but she shouted
11 and swore at her on more than one occasion.'

12 She says then her eldest sister had to explain to
13 her what the word 'whore' meant. She goes on:

14 'I was so scared, I remember my heart hammering in
15 my chest. All I remember is having this feeling of fear
16 in my chest.'

17 She talks then at paragraph 65 about her sister
18 getting on with a member of staff there called Heather,
19 and she would sneak out and back to meet up with her at
20 night. And she thinks that maybe Mrs Barrie caught her,
21 or suspected her, and that that would have angered her,
22 but that she certainly didn't like her eldest sister.

23 At paragraph 66 she says:

24 'When Mrs Barrie shouted at [her] like that,
25 I always remember [and she names her sister] would speak

1 calmly and softly back to Mrs Barrie and then, when
2 Mrs Barrie had left the room, [she] would cry. I would
3 leave my bunk bed and tell [her] everything was all
4 right and give her a cuddle.

5 'A few years after I had left Lagarie, I remember
6 I was in the gym changing room at Hermitage Academy [and
7 she names another girl] with [another girl]. I don't
8 know if she was still at Lagarie then, but she was
9 certainly there when I left. I remember seeing this
10 awful burn mark on her neck and I asked what had
11 happened. She said "Mrs Barrie", but didn't say
12 anything else. I found out years later that [the girl]
13 had been running about in the dining room when
14 Mrs Barrie had been ladling out hot soup and there had
15 been an accident. I don't know exactly what happened to
16 cause the burn on [her] neck. We were led to believe it
17 was an accident, but of course I didn't know that when
18 [she] told me and I was thinking Mrs Barrie had done
19 something intentionally to [her]. There I was thinking
20 she was even more of an evil cow, but to this day
21 I don't know for sure what happened.

22 'I just remember being scared all the time at
23 Lagarie. There was a feeling of fear all the time. You
24 were told to stand still and shut up, both in school and
25 out of school, and it is that fear that's the most

1 encompassing part of everything.

2 'I have a memory of kicking someone when a group of
3 us were playing out the back. It was just kids fighting
4 but it was because of our accents. We were from the
5 east and we were with all these kids from Glasgow, who
6 couldn't understand us and thought we were posh. The
7 other kids thought we were snobs and were different and
8 it probably didn't help that we were all put together in
9 a room, but we had to be. I feel it made perfect sense
10 and there had to be a reason, but I don't know who made
11 that decision.

12 'When we went to visit Mr and Mrs Smith in Aberdeen,
13 [she names her eldest sister] and Mrs Smith talked.'

14 She says then that her eldest sister has told her
15 that she told Mrs Smith about the Barries and what was
16 happening, and then she goes on to say:

17 'And this is why I can't understand certain things
18 weren't done and why protocols weren't followed. People
19 must have known what the Barries were like.'

20 And she names her eldest sister and says:

21 '[She] discussed what was happening with Mrs Smith,
22 and Mrs Smith would have reported it.'

23 'Stella' then goes on to talk about leaving Lagarie
24 House from paragraph 71. She says that when her eldest
25 sister turned 16, they all left Lagarie, and her sister

1 said that she was taking her and her other sister with
2 her, and she says that's the best decision she's ever
3 made.

4 At paragraph 71, she says:

5 'We were desperate to get out of there and
6 I remember the day we left. The front door was a big
7 oak door and Mrs Barrie was standing in front of me by
8 that door. She asked me what I was looking forward to
9 the most when I leave and move into the town. I said
10 I was looking forward to the sweet shops.

11 'All the time I was looking at that front door
12 behind her and thinking, "Let me out, let me out, open
13 that door and let me out". That's such a vivid memory
14 for me.'

15 She then talks about life after care from
16 paragraph 73, and she tells us that her eldest sister
17 rented a flat to begin with in Helensburgh, she wanted
18 to keep the three of them together and she talks about
19 them being difficult times. They didn't have much
20 money, and they struggled to buy food, pay the rent and
21 electricity, and she remembers going to bed hungry and
22 eating basic food.

23 She tells us that her eldest sister was quite bright
24 and went to university, so they became sort of latchkey
25 kids and her eldest sister would travel to Glasgow for

1 university every day, and she and her other sister would
2 go to school, then play in the park until she came home.

3 But she explains that her sister couldn't cope
4 financially and there wasn't that much help available,
5 and she remembers them not having money for electricity.
6 So they agreed they had to get aunts out when they came
7 out to visit before it got dark, so they didn't see they
8 were struggling.

9 She remembers getting a visit from a social worker,
10 at paragraph 76, and the social worker leaving the flat
11 in tears. And she says that doesn't surprise her
12 because they had no electricity and they didn't have
13 enough food.

14 They ended up moving to a local housing estate in
15 Kirkmichael but she explains that, at her sister's age,
16 she couldn't manage a budget, go to university, hold
17 down a job and bring up two siblings, and she didn't
18 have any support.

19 She says, at paragraph 78, that their dad was still
20 working away for six months at a time. And she goes on
21 to explain at paragraph 79 how much she respects her
22 sister, but that she had to give up on her university
23 career to look after her and her other sister, and that
24 it must have been horrendous for her. And she remembers
25 waking up in the night and seeing her crying in the

1 hallway.

2 She talks at paragraph 81 about going to Hermitage
3 Primary and Hermitage Academy, and studying for O-Levels
4 by candlelight and not having enough food, and that the
5 situation was just not good for them.

6 There was an occasion she talks about at
7 paragraph 83, where there had been a mix-up and her
8 father was supposed to pick them up to give her eldest
9 sister a break, but he didn't. And the neighbours
10 contacted police and the social work, and social workers
11 attended. And she explains at paragraph 83 that her
12 sister was in hysterics, 'as she had this fear that we
13 might end up going back to Lagarie'.

14 But 'Stella' explains that she spoke to them and
15 explained that they were okay and they would go to
16 a neighbour's, which is what they did.

17 And at paragraph 84, she says she doesn't like to
18 talk about that, because it really put them in danger of
19 going back to Lagarie, and that her other sister was
20 crying and distraught about that prospect.

21 She says at paragraph 86 that she left school at
22 16 with two O-Levels and at that time she was already
23 working in a fish and chip shop. She says:

24 'The one thing about all three of us, we have always
25 worked.'

1 She says she left Helensburgh when she was 21. She
2 says that's because she was gay, and she says:

3 'It was like "Smalltown Boy", so I just had to go.'

4 She said this was something she hid from her
5 sisters, but she wanted to go back to Edinburgh. She
6 says she packed a rucksack, left the job she had at
7 a hotel at that point and went back to Edinburgh on
8 a train and ended up in a bedsit. And then later she
9 wrote to her eldest sister and told her she was gay.

10 Ultimately, both her sisters ended up moving to
11 Edinburgh, and she talks about the fact that at the time
12 of giving this statement, paragraph 89, she says that
13 she's living in her eldest sister's flat with her eldest
14 sister's son, and she says that they've lived in that
15 flat for 25 years now, and that her other sister has
16 a flat in Edinburgh as well.

17 She tells us at paragraph 90 about lots of different
18 jobs that she's done over the years, about training on
19 building sites, doing brick work, plastering, going to
20 college, then getting City & Guilds 1 and 2, and working
21 on building sites.

22 And then later, paragraph 91, she went on to do
23 an HNC in Architectural Conservation and then she did
24 her bachelor's in Heritage Conservation. She also tells
25 us about other different jobs that she has done, and

1 that she had been made redundant at one point, but was
2 currently working at the time of this statement.

3 She then tells us about impact from paragraph 93 and
4 says:

5 'I'm in my 50s now and I feel I don't deal with
6 things very well. I have been taught by [and she says
7 her eldest sister's name] and other members of the
8 family to always be polite and very well-mannered and
9 below the radar, well brought up and not a
10 "shouty-bawly". I expect people to behave as I would
11 treat them, and when they don't do that, I just try to
12 avoid them.'

13 She again talks about her family members not taking
14 them in and saying despite what happened, all three of
15 them have turned out really well. At the end of
16 paragraph 94 she says:

17 'We have good ethics, good basic human morality and
18 we are all decent people.'

19 She goes on:

20 'I don't remember wetting my bed at Lagarie, but
21 I do remember I wet the bed after we had moved out, and
22 [we] were living in our rented flat.'

23 And then she tells us that she would sometimes panic
24 and forget how to breathe, and at the end of that
25 paragraph she says:

1 'That was in the early days when we moved into the
2 flat and I link that to the trauma and fear factor.'

3 At paragraph 97, she talks about their home life and
4 schooling, and that it was never going to be the same
5 because of the trauma they'd had to deal with when they
6 were so young. She says at the end of that paragraph:

7 'Hitting kids shouldn't happen and those responsible
8 for our care had no right to do that.'

9 At paragraph 99, she says:

10 'I also have a fear of responsibility. If you are
11 in a good environment when you grow up, your first three
12 or four years are very important, then after that it's
13 things like images that you remember. I know it's done
14 damage to me personally because I can't cope with
15 certain things. I can't cope with kids being hit.
16 I can't cope with religion, it just doesn't exist for
17 me. I can't cope with cruelty in any form. I tell
18 people not to shout at me, because I walk away and cry.
19 There must have been shouting at some point in Lagarie.
20 I also have that feeling of fear when it comes to being
21 examined and tested. I hate that, my blood pressure and
22 heart rate go up.

23 'There was a woman called Sheila Lawson who
24 I believe worked at Lagarie that went on to teach
25 swimming at Hermitage Academy when I was there. She

1 failed me for a swimming test badge and I was so sure
2 that I was a good swimmer. We had to do a length and
3 a breadth and she failed me. I was the only one in the
4 class that failed. I could never understand why she
5 failed me, when I knew I was good. I never swam for
6 about five years after that, because I thought
7 I couldn't swim, and I hated her for that. Now, I have
8 no proof of it, and I don't even remember her from
9 Lagarie ...'

10 But she says, and she names another girl who's told
11 her that she did work there, and she says:

12 'I do wonder if she failed me because I had been at
13 Lagarie.'

14 She talks about having had relationships in the past
15 but she likes being on her own and, at paragraph 102,
16 says that she's had many jobs and all three of them are
17 the same, they've had different jobs and done different
18 things and they've never stayed in the one job, for
19 25 years.

20 At paragraph 104, she says that she has visited
21 Lagarie over the last 15 years or so and it's private
22 flats now. She says she doesn't dream about it or
23 anything like that, and that she's watched the
24 television programme about the abuse there, and she says
25 she knew the families that were involved. But she says

1 at paragraph 104:

2 'I had no idea of the level of abuse that was talked
3 about on that programme. I just wasn't aware of it.
4 The programme made me feel sick and I totally believe
5 the people that were abused, because the Barries were
6 like that. They could have gone from being slightly bad
7 to really bad, because they had total control.
8 Rev Barrie was obviously a touchy-feely person towards
9 children, and Mrs Barrie was an evil cow.

10 'Things did become much worse at Lagarie after we
11 left and we see that as a lucky escape. We have
12 discussed it since with [and she names her eldest
13 sister] and she does think we were being groomed and
14 that the Rev Barrie's behaviour was the start of things
15 to come. The Barries were predators and things went on
16 and then escalated.'

17 She says at paragraph 107 that she's getting
18 counselling at work, but that's for a problem she has
19 with a colleague, but she hasn't had any counselling in
20 relation to her childhood or her time at Lagarie.

21 At paragraph 110, she talks again about the fact
22 that they all remained friends with Mr and Mrs Smith
23 after they left, and she can't understand why nothing
24 was done about the Barries, because the authorities must
25 have known about them.

1 At paragraph 111 she again says that her sister told
2 Mrs Smith about the Barries after they'd left the home.

3 At paragraph 112 she says:

4 'I was questioned at Hermitage Primary and again at
5 Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh about being at Lagarie
6 when the Barries were running the place. I was taken
7 out of class and questioned about my time there.
8 I remember that, you don't forget things like that, and
9 I remember being so scared to talk about it to other
10 adults, so I just kept my mouth shut.'

11 And she gives us a bit more description about that
12 at paragraph 113, and says:

13 'I would not talk about it at all with them. My
14 understanding then was that I felt shame and fear and
15 I was automatically suspicious, worried, scared and
16 defensive.'

17 She then says that her and her siblings hadn't
18 spoken about it, but she does now hear stuff from her
19 sisters in recent times that she had never heard from
20 them before. And she says it was an element of fear, so
21 they just didn't talk about it. And she has never
22 reported anything to the police.

23 She says, at paragraph 115:

24 'At the time there was the fear thing, so there was
25 no way anyone was going to report the Barries for

1 anything.'

2 In relation to lessons to be learned, from
3 paragraph 117 she says:

4 'There has to be an understanding that safeguards
5 were not there at Lagarie. It should be known that
6 children suffered there, people did horrible things to
7 children there and that has to be known. There should
8 be a plaque or something at Lagarie so people know.

9 'There are so many more safeguards now than there
10 was in that day. We were, through no fault of our own,
11 taken from a very stable home life to a place where
12 things were completely different. You cannot quantify
13 that. It's such a shock to the system.

14 'Nowadays I hear of children that are taken into
15 care or made to live in a secure environment by their
16 parents, who are maybe working, but are able financially
17 to cope with raising a child, but don't want to. That
18 still goes on, and there was my sister, who had no such
19 choice, and never gave up and sacrificed her career for
20 her siblings.

21 'A lot of people treat children like commodities and
22 if they don't behave, they're just something that can be
23 passed on to someone else to look after. If people
24 can't look after children, then why have children?
25 I made the decision not to have a child because I didn't

1 want anything to happen to that child that was in the
2 least bit detrimental, in that it might pass something
3 on.'

4 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, at
5 paragraph 121, 'Stella' says:

6 'People have to realise that children's homes are
7 a place of fear for a lot of folk and bad things
8 happened. That has to be recognised, stood up and
9 addressed. There is no reason for that to happen.
10 Children are innocent up to whatever the legal age is.
11 They are baby little bits of putty, and you can mould
12 them and unmould them as you wish. You have control
13 over that, and this control in that situation was abuse.
14 It was abuse, manipulation, control and power, and it
15 was wrong.

16 'That abuse was by people that were in a position to
17 help and to understand how to bring up these children,
18 who were already probably damaged, and they just didn't
19 do it. It's such a simple thing, you just give them
20 love. You can spend a lifetime trying to undo that kind
21 of damage.

22 'I don't know who was responsible for the decisions
23 that were made surrounding us going into care, but there
24 are certain distant relations, on both my mother's and
25 father's side of the family, that I just cannot forgive

1 for it. I also can't forgive the authorities for not
2 stepping in at Lagarie. I never saw an inspector, there
3 was nothing, there was nobody to speak to and nobody did
4 a thing. There was no aftercare. My sister was left on
5 her own and I cannot forgive that.'

6 And then she talks about the fact that both she and
7 her sisters have approached the Inquiry to give
8 statements, and they've since spoken to each other about
9 their time in care and shared their memories. But these
10 have been the first times they've spoken about Lagarie
11 in such depth and it's been extremely difficult for all
12 of them and caused them pain, and that she still feels
13 angry about the situation and her sisters are the same.

14 At the end of paragraph 124 she says:

15 'We all feel Lagarie should be named and shamed, and
16 that the British Sailors' Society needs to be held
17 accountable.'

18 And then 'Stella' has made the usual declaration and
19 she's signed it, and it is dated 22 June 2021.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

21 Well, I think we should stop there for the morning
22 break and then we'll return to more evidence after that.

23 But before I rise, there's just one name that, of
24 course, you had to refer to in that statement and it's
25 the name PZF . She is protected by my

1 MR SHELDON: My Lady, as ever, of course, her statement, her
2 whole statement, is evidence before us, and we will no
3 doubt have regard to all of it. I will read some parts
4 of it short in the interests of time. It's quite a long
5 statement, and it's a long statement for good reason,
6 but I will read some parts a little short.

7 My Lady, 'Bette' was born in 1962. She says that
8 she was born and spent the first few years of her life
9 in Glasgow, one of six children. They lived in a very
10 small flat at first, just a room and a kitchen. Her
11 father worked for the Post Office and wasn't well paid.
12 She says, paragraph 3, that her mother was always tired
13 and unhappy:

14 'She resented being in the house all the time
15 looking after so many of us.'

16 And says that often her father would come home drunk
17 and he was violent and abusive, especially to her
18 mother, and he was angry at the children.

19 She says, paragraph 4:

20 'I know now, from my social work records, that the
21 police were often called to our house. I believe it was
22 because of drunken fights. A couple of times, the
23 children were removed and we were split up and went to
24 stay with various aunts or uncles.'

25 She says, paragraph 5:

1 'I did go to school when I was old enough. I would
2 have been 5. I went to [the local] Primary School.'

3 She says, aged 6, that her mother died, this is
4 paragraph 6, and says that:

5 'My father's drinking got worse. He invited his
6 friends round to our house several nights a week. The
7 younger children were put to bed, then me and [my
8 sister] entertained the men. We would pour their drink,
9 we sang and danced for them. We actually did
10 a striptease. They encouraged us to take our clothes
11 off. We did it because they gave us sweets and juice.
12 They may have given us alcohol. We ended up completely
13 naked. They never touched us. I think this was just
14 before my dad and these men joined the Merchant Navy.

15 'After my mum died, that was when the social work
16 department became involved with us. Because my dad was
17 spending all his money on alcohol, we were constantly
18 asking our neighbours for food. I think they must have
19 become concerned and contacted the social work
20 department.'

21 She says that:

22 'We were often out playing in the street at night
23 with no shoes on. My dad would tell us to get out of
24 the house and we had to walk the streets. I got caught
25 stealing from Galbraith supermarket. The man in the

1 shop was really good with us. He told us to come back
2 at closing time and he gave us bread.'

3 Paragraph 8:

4 'I suppose we were quite happy children who didn't
5 really know anything different. The social work
6 department eventually took us from that house and put us
7 in some sort of temporary home in Castlemilk.'

8 Taking that short, she says:

9 'It was a huge place and there were lots of other
10 children there. The staff wore uniforms. I presume
11 this place was run by the council. In this place, we
12 were clean and our bedsheets were clean. We were only
13 in there for a couple of nights and usually went back
14 home again. We came back and forth several times to
15 this place.

16 'We were subsequently all put in care, we were split
17 up.'

18 Her brother went to a baby home in Blairvadach, near
19 Helensburgh, and she and her sister went to foster
20 parents in Ruchazie in Glasgow.

21 And she tells us about life in foster care with the
22 couple. I'm going to take that very short, my Lady, but
23 in summary, she describes physical and emotional abuse,
24 serious emotional abuse, and indeed borderline sexual
25 abuse, which included humiliations, including being

1 forced to do chores while naked. And she also describes
2 being struck on the bare bottom and back with belts and
3 so on.

4 So if we move then to page 7, the foot of page 7,
5 'Bette' says:

6 'We were taken home to my dad by the social worker.
7 I think he wanted us back, but that wore off within
8 a few days. After that, he didn't seem to care that we
9 were there. He seemed annoyed that he had been lumbered
10 with us again. All my brothers and sisters ended up
11 back with my dad about the same time and I was pleased
12 to hear that [my brother and sister] had lovely foster
13 parents where they had been.

14 'My dad was drinking and being horrible to us, he
15 was calling us disgusting names, saying we were whores
16 just like our mother. We didn't know what that meant at
17 the time. We were looking after the wee ones again and
18 he was treating us badly.'

19 She says, taking that short:

20 'We went back to Castlemilk and that was good
21 because they had a playroom with plenty toys and we had
22 regular meals.'

23 But, she says:

24 'That was short lived and we went back to my dad's
25 house again.

1 'When we were at my dad's, he told us we were going
2 for a two-week holiday. A male social worker who
3 I hadn't seen before took us in the car with my dad.'

4 She says that she and her siblings were excited
5 'because we were going on a holiday'. This was in 1971,
6 she says, 'so I would have been 9'.

7 She then goes on to talk about her arrival at
8 Lagarie in Rhu, and she notes that that was funded by
9 a charity, the British and International Sailors'
10 Society:

11 'I later found out that we went there because my
12 father was a seaman and they are a charity set up to
13 help seafarers. My father must have approached them
14 first, and I think my dad contributed financially
15 towards our care.'

16 She then gives a fairly detailed description of the
17 building, and the interior of Lagarie and, as I've said,
18 my Lady, that, of course, is evidence before us, and
19 we've heard some material about the layout of Lagarie
20 already.

21 She does note at paragraph 37, page 9, that:

22 'There was a massive fancy staircase. Up the stairs
23 was a big glass stained window and a big fireplace in
24 the hall. There was a solid oak wooden box seat in
25 there. We used to hide in there when we were playing

1 hide and seek.'

2 And she talks about the first floor, the first floor
3 bedrooms, and notes, towards the end of that paragraph,
4 paragraph 38:

5 'On the same floor, there was a laundry cupboard
6 where the towels and bedding [were] stored. There was
7 a staircase beside that which led up to a toy store and
8 a clothing store.

9 'Up in the tower there was a room with six or seven
10 beds in it. There was barely a foot in distance between
11 each bed. There were only girls in this room.'

12 She says:

13 '[Two sisters] and I were in the same bedroom. We
14 were kept together as families [and] there were other
15 sisters in there [and] beside that room there was
16 a toilet.'

17 And she talks about some of the other families and
18 some of the other children in the various bedrooms in
19 the home. She notes that she thought the youngest
20 person in Lagarie was only about 18 months old.

21 She says, at paragraph 41:

22 'Mr and Mrs Smith were in charge when I arrived at
23 Lagarie. Mrs Smith was the matron. [They] lived in
24 a cottage within the grounds.'

25 She says:

1 'Mr Skelton was the gardener. The cottages were on
2 a little driveway, just outside the back door of Lagarie
3 House. Just off this driveway was a big outdoor
4 building used by Mr Skelton for storing tools, drying
5 out onions and things like that, and a garage used by
6 the Smiths.'

7 And she names some other members of staff.

8 She says at paragraph 42:

9 'The Smiths were lovely people. They had children
10 of their own. She was very good with all the children
11 and the staff liked her as well. Although it was
12 a religious organisation, we weren't forced to go to
13 church if we didn't want to. Mrs Smith was always there
14 or thereabouts if we needed her. Mr and Mrs Smith spent
15 most of their time in the office sorting out rosters and
16 menus. More often than not, it was the other staff who
17 actually looked after us. The Smiths were there
18 possibly one year or so. I have no idea why they left.'

19 She says, taking this short, that they were greeted
20 on arrival by the matron and the staff member [REDACTED],
21 who we've heard about, and she notes that her sister was
22 really excited. They looked round and they could just
23 see trees:

24 'There was woodland, there were bluebells and it was
25 like a fairytale. There were rose bushes, an orchard,

1 and vegetable gardens. It was huge and absolutely
2 stunning. It had a private front lawn and then, to cap
3 it all, there was a Wendy house, a slide and swings. We
4 thought it was unbelievable. [My sister] and I were
5 high-fiving each other.'

6 She says. She said then, paragraph 44, that she and
7 her sister were shown around the building:

8 'This had been sold to us as a holiday, but when
9 I saw the boot room, the kitchen and the laundry,
10 I started to get a bit suspicious. I knew it didn't
11 look like a hotel.

12 'We were then told to say goodbye to our dad.
13 I still didn't quite grasp what was happening. We were
14 then shown to our bedrooms, which were up in the tower
15 part at the top of the house.'

16 'Bette' then goes on to describe the morning
17 routine, getting up at around 7.00 and going down for
18 breakfast, and bed by 7.00 or 8.00. Bedtime according
19 to your age. She says that before breakfast they said
20 prayers, and everyone sat together. And she talks a bit
21 about the food, and says that:

22 'After breakfast we were given a play piece, maybe
23 an apple, or something like that, to take to school.'

24 And taking that short, in the evening, they would go
25 to dinner and were seated at tables 'with the rest of

1 our family'. All the brothers and sisters sat together,
2 although her younger brother, who was only 5, 'didn't
3 eat with us. I'm not sure [she says] where the young
4 ones ate'.

5 She says, paragraph 50:

6 'Generally, the food was nice. The menu varied. We
7 got lots of salad, vegetables and fruit. It was all
8 fresh. I think we got meat and two veg type of thing,
9 and we always had a glass of milk.'

10 She says that the menus were planned months in
11 advance, it was well organised, and at supper time they
12 got toast and hot chocolate:

13 'There were no issues if you didn't like any food.
14 If you didn't like something, quite often someone else
15 would eat it. Sometimes we swapped food. Any food left
16 over was scooped up and put in the wee pigs' bin and
17 that helped the animals. It got taken up to a farm
18 nearby.'

19 She said:

20 'We had baths in the morning. We weren't in
21 separate cubicles. In the girls' bathroom there were
22 two baths, no shower, three or four sinks and one
23 toilet. Sometimes I shared a bath with another girl.
24 I think the bath was filled up once and we took turns
25 getting in, using the same water. Sometimes I washed at

1 the sink. I didn't like sharing a bath. The staff
2 supervised us and hurried us up sometimes.

3 'The housemother dealt with our dirty clothes.
4 There was a laundry basket in the bedroom and we put our
5 shirts and underwear in there. The staff would deal
6 with that during the day while we were at school. When
7 we got back there would be a clean nightdress and
8 everything on our bed. We had a clean shirt on every
9 day. We would go to the clothing store when we needed
10 new clothes.

11 'We got home from school usually about 3.30. We got
12 changed out of our school clothes into play clothes and
13 then went in to the playroom.'

14 Taking that short, she says:

15 'There were tables and book cases and staff would
16 help you if you needed it. There was a playroom with
17 a blackboard. There were some dolls, but most had
18 missing or odd limbs. There weren't really any other
19 games for us to play. I used to read a lot. There were
20 a few books to read, but most were Christian books or
21 with religious stories. The playroom had a bay window.
22 I quite often sat there and looked out at the garden.'

23 She says they didn't go on any trips, holidays or
24 excursions when the Smiths were in charge.

25 She describes the walk to Rhu Primary and says:

1 'It wasn't far to walk and was good fun.'

2 They sometimes got the bus, only if the weather was
3 really bad. And when she was old enough, she moved from
4 Rhu Academy to Helensburgh Academy.

5 She talks a bit about healthcare but says there
6 wasn't a nurse or doctor within Lagarie and if they
7 needed to see someone, they would go to a surgery in
8 Rhu.

9 Paragraph 58:

10 'We only really went to church at Easter time, at
11 Christmas or if the Brownies had something on. We would
12 go to Rhu Parish Church. We weren't made to go at any
13 other time.

14 'We didn't really have any chores to do when the
15 Smiths were in charge. That changed when the Barries
16 arrived.

17 'We celebrated birthdays and Christmas at Lagarie.
18 The cook would always present whoever it was with
19 a birthday cake in the evening. We got a gift in the
20 morning and everyone sang "Happy Birthday". At
21 Christmas, there was a huge Christmas tree put up in the
22 hall and on the staircase was holly and berries. We had
23 a special Christmas dinner. We got gifts, which were
24 handed in from charities and other people just handing
25 them in.

1 'In all the time I was at Lagarie, my dad visited
2 four times. One time he took us out to a local
3 restaurant for a meal. One time he brought a lady
4 friend with him. I thought that was a bit strange.'

5 Paragraph 62:

6 'I think I saw a male social worker once or twice.
7 I might have been taken out with him in his car. He was
8 all of my siblings' social worker. When the Smiths were
9 there, there was nothing really to tell him. After the
10 Barries took over, I didn't know how I could put into
11 words what was going on. I was worried that if I told
12 anyone and I wasn't believed, then I would be left where
13 I was. I didn't trust the social worker or anyone else
14 enough to tell. After I left Lagarie, I never saw
15 a social worker again.

16 'Both myself and my sister wet our beds. That
17 wasn't a problem. The staff would just make comment
18 that we must have had too much milk, or that we should
19 have gone to the toilet before we went to bed. They
20 just cleaned the sheets. There was no fuss made. They
21 were more concerned than anything else.'

22 She says:

23 'I don't know why the Smiths left. Mr and
24 Mrs Barrie took over from the Smiths around 1971.
25 Mr William Ewart Barrie was a church reverend. He was

1 between 50 and 60 years old. He was bald and wore
2 glasses. He only had three front teeth. He wore his
3 dog collar nearly all the time. If not, he wore
4 a knitted mustard-coloured cardigan with wooden buttons.
5 He had his own regular Sunday evening services in the
6 congregational church in Helensburgh. He did the Sunday
7 morning service in the church in Rhu. Mrs Barrie became
8 our new matron, that is what we called her. Things
9 changed quite dramatically when they arrived. They
10 lived in a cottage in the grounds.'

11 She says that some of Mrs Barrie's relations also
12 ended up working in the home, and actually that in some
13 respects they were quite sweet. But she notes that
14 after, Mrs Barrie's sister and husband had become the
15 deputies, and she says, paragraph 65 that:

16 'After a while [they] left and a Mr GAD and his
17 wife moved in and they became SNR and
18 SNR respectively.'

19 She says Mr GAD came from boys' borstal at
20 Blantyre. And pausing there, my Lady, it seems it was
21 actually Calder House in Blantyre that Mr GAD came
22 from.

23 LADY SMITH: I see, thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: About which we have heard evidence.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR SHELDON: And which casts some light on some material
2 that comes later and we may hear about tomorrow.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

4 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 67, new routine:

5 'On the first day they took over, Mr and Mrs Barrie
6 were nice and pleasant. The next day there was
7 a meeting in the dining room. Everybody was there. The
8 Barries told us things were going to change. Some staff
9 were to become housemothers and be responsible for
10 a certain family. The housemothers apparently were
11 going to reward us for chores and give pocket money,
12 sweets, comics, or whatever. They would make sure that
13 we kept our rooms tidy.'

14 She says that she met the member of staff who became
15 her housemother at a church convention:

16 'She used to play her guitar and sing religious
17 songs. I had to go to her for things like sanitary
18 provisions. She had access to the keys that were kept
19 in the office. You couldn't just help yourself.

20 'The Barries also told us that we would be going to
21 church and join the choir. We thought that all sounded
22 fun and good. When I found out that we were getting
23 kitted out with kilts and jumpers, my views changed.'

24 Reading short, she said:

25 'I think it was mainly the older ones that were

1 chosen to be in the choir. I think they wanted the
2 older ones because some of the events that we went to
3 were in the evening and we travelled all over Scotland.
4 On Sunday mornings all the children and almost all the
5 staff would go to Rhu church.

6 'Mrs Barrie did a weekly inspection of our rooms.
7 The matron insisted that when she entered the room, that
8 we stand at the bottom of the bed, arms by our side. We
9 had to stare ahead and not speak unless she spoke to us.
10 If she opened a drawer and if something hadn't been
11 folded correctly, she shouted at us and pulled
12 everything out the drawer and told us to do it again.
13 There was a certain way that you had to make the bed,
14 with hospital corners. If it wasn't made correctly,
15 Mrs Barrie would strip the sheets off and you had to
16 make it again and again, until she was happy.

17 'You were only allowed certain things on your
18 dressing table. If there was too much on top and it was
19 cluttered, you were fined. Usually it was confiscated
20 and you had to buy it back with your pocket money.
21 Sometimes when you were punished you weren't given any
22 pocket money, so you couldn't buy things back. If you
23 couldn't buy it, they sold it to another child and this
24 caused so much tension.

25 'One of the only gifts I had been given was

1 a musical jewellery box. When you opened it,
2 a ballerina spun round. Mrs Barrie confiscated that
3 [and another child] bought it and I was fuming. With
4 the kids, there was a lot of fighting and squabbling.'

5 She says, paragraph 72:

6 'When the Barries came, we still sat as families at
7 the tables.'

8 And she says, paragraph 73:

9 'The staff used to do most of the cleaning and
10 tidying up. When the Barries came, we had to do all the
11 chores. I got put in the boot room, which was horrible.
12 I had to scrub, clean and polish. The other chores were
13 after dinner. Sometimes I had to clear the tables and
14 set them for the next meal. Sometimes I had to wash
15 dishes or put them away. I didn't do any chores like
16 this when the Smiths were there.

17 'You were never allowed to wear underwear to bed,
18 because obviously you had your pants on from the
19 morning, through school, so they went into the laundry
20 bag. Mrs Barrie said we weren't allowed to wear another
21 pair.

22 'Mrs Barrie's mum took my brother and another girl
23 out for day trips. I thought it wasn't fair that they
24 were getting taken out, but when they came back they
25 told us they had been mean to them. They didn't tell us

1 how. [My brother] seemed quite withdrawn after these
2 trips.

3 'I loved reading and they had an extensive library.
4 They had all the classics, like Charles Dickens. It was
5 absolutely brilliant. I sometimes took books up into
6 the woods and sat and read them there. Up in the woods
7 there was a wee place called the lover's seat. There
8 was also a big hammock that was built by the sailors
9 from Faslane.'

10 At paragraph 77:

11 'I think ██████ was the only member of staff that
12 in all her time at Lagarie never smacked a child or
13 barely raised her voice. At one point we all filled in
14 forms for Mrs Barrie. After that, there was something
15 implemented that meant if Mr or Mrs Barrie were to smack
16 a child, they had to have a witness or another member of
17 staff present. If there wasn't a member of staff
18 available, there had to be a disciplinary punishment,
19 rather than a physical one. They weren't allowed to
20 deprive you of food or anything like that. One time ██████
21 was the only member of staff on duty and I had done
22 something. She refused to be a witness, so I couldn't
23 get smacked. She just told the Barries that there was
24 no need.

25 'A lot of the staff tended to be straight out of

1 training, so they would only be about 19 or 20, and this
2 was very obvious when they first started. The Barries
3 rarely put on an act for anyone, they were just
4 themselves in a working environment. I appreciate in
5 a place like Lagarie you have to have some rules and
6 some structure in order to function effectively, because
7 there was so many kids. However, the rules that they
8 adhered to went way beyond anything that was permissible
9 chastisement. It was a level of cruelty.'

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

11 'It was only a few days after the Barries took over
12 that I realised that things had changed for the worse.
13 At meal times we weren't allowed to talk. We were in
14 the dining room, and after dinner we were sitting
15 silently for a minute before the chores were given out.
16 Even members of staff just sat there in silence.
17 Somebody must have done something they weren't supposed
18 to, maybe giggled. Mrs Barrie told us that we had to
19 sit for another half-hour in silence until she said we
20 could go. Just when that half-hour was nearly up,
21 someone made a noise. She made us sit for another
22 half-hour. I was there one time when we were made to
23 sit until it was time to go to bed. I was uncomfortable
24 and sore. We told Mrs Barrie we wanted to go to the
25 playroom, but she wouldn't listen. I was scared of her.

1 Her manner was frightening to a young child. Her voice
2 would send chills down your spine.

3 'One time, I saw her hit one of the children. He
4 was one of two brothers who were in there [and she names
5 them]. One was 3 and the other was 7. They were only
6 there for a few months. The older one was very
7 protective of the younger one. She slapped this child
8 who was three when he was in the high chair, slapped him
9 across the face. She did it after he spat his food out
10 because he didn't like it. She had the spoon in her
11 hand and tried to force-feed him. You could hear the
12 spoon clattering off his teeth. This wee boy was
13 screaming. His older brother came over and tried to
14 stop her and hit her, but Mrs Barrie just grabbed him
15 and dragged him out by the hair into the hall.
16 Mr Barrie appeared and joined in. I couldn't see what
17 was going on, but one was obviously holding him down and
18 the other was hitting him. The slap Mrs Barrie gave
19 this child was crazy. Other members of staff who were
20 there and would have seen the slap or the immediate
21 aftermath included [REDACTED] [and she names two other
22 members of staff who would have seen it].

23 'After seeing this, I realised that I had to be on
24 my best behaviour. Mrs Barrie just seemed so mean. She
25 had a softer side for certain people. Some of the older

1 girls were given certain privileges, like being allowed
2 into her sitting room to chat with her. They would be
3 given sweets and have a cup of tea. I know that the
4 girls actually felt uncomfortable, because they were
5 ostracised by the other girls when they came out.
6 Mrs Barrie didn't realise this would happen.'

7 Reading short to paragraph 82:

8 'I wet the bed sometimes if I was anxious. My
9 housemother was great, because she covered up for me.
10 When she was off duty, Mrs Barrie, the matron, was
11 always first in in the morning. She would remove the
12 sheet and wipe it all over me, smearing it on my face,
13 and rub it hard into my hair, then down my body. You
14 were not permitted to wash. She did this to several of
15 the kids. It actually made my situation worse. I used
16 to try and stay awake, but that never happened. I cut
17 down on my liquids, but it didn't work. I think it was
18 pure anxiety, and the more I thought about it, the more
19 I wet the bed.

20 'One time Mrs Barrie hit me and was rubbing me with
21 my wet sheet. She got so angry that she bit me on the
22 shoulder because I was struggling with her. I think she
23 just got frustrated, but at the same time I thought she
24 was mad. It left a teeth imprint on my shoulder.'

25 She showed it to her sisters, but no other staff

1 were present:

2 'Another time, I had an argument with one of the
3 girls [who she names, and she says] I told Mrs Barrie
4 that [this girl] had done something. Mrs Barrie gave
5 [the girl] a hiding with her Scholl slipper. She
6 whipped her back and bottom until it was glowing. When
7 Mrs Barrie left the room, the other girl threatened me,
8 so I shouted to Mrs Barrie. Mrs Barrie then turned on
9 me. She dragged me by the hair and started punching me.
10 She slapped me on the face and I fell back.

11 'Later that day I wasn't in a very good mood. I was
12 upset and didn't want my dinner. Mrs Barrie punished me
13 for not eating my dinner and put me in the laundry
14 cupboard. It was the height of a wardrobe with sliding
15 doors. In the room there was industrial machinery, like
16 a big washing machine, big dryer, a spinner, lots of
17 wellington boots and outdoor coats. When Mrs Barrie put
18 me in there, she said she would see how hungry I was in
19 a few hours. She locked me in. I had no idea how long
20 I was in there. At some point I shouted through a crack
21 in the door and some of the other children teased me,
22 saying they were eating their supper.

23 'It was [REDACTED] that let me out and she gave me
24 a hug. I was exhausted and she said she would help me
25 get ready for school. I told her I hadn't had my supper

1 yet, and that's when I realised I must have fallen
2 asleep and been in there all night. I don't remember
3 falling asleep, but I must have. I had a shower and got
4 ready for school. Mrs Barrie had forgotten all about
5 me.

6 'Mrs Barrie did things like this several times to me
7 for a punishment. Sometimes she refused to give me any
8 dinner and made me sit in the playroom. I was starving.
9 She would tell me how ashamed I should be for what I had
10 done. One time I was punished because I was slow
11 getting out when there was a fire drill. It was 3.00
12 am, and I was looking for my slippers. Mrs Barrie ran
13 in and she told me I was too slow to get out and I would
14 have been killed in the fire.

15 'Later, Mrs Barrie took me into the sitting room for
16 my punishment for being too slow at the fire drill. She
17 forced me to strip naked, then walloped me with a belt.
18 She whacked me on the breasts, slapping my back and on
19 my buttocks. She beat me like this often, but this was
20 the only time she asked me to strip naked. I thought it
21 was very odd. I got an impression, and a strange
22 feeling, that she was getting some satisfaction out of
23 it. Maybe it was the humiliation or intimidation that
24 she enjoyed.

25 'A few months after that, Mrs Barrie lined up all

1 the boys in the main hall and forced them to strip
2 naked. She did this because there was a game we used to
3 play called "kiss, cuddle or torture". Mrs Barrie found
4 out about it and told us that she would show us what
5 torture was. That is when she insisted that the boys
6 strip and got the girls to look at them. I refused, but
7 Mrs Barrie grabbed me by the hair and pulled me into the
8 hall. The boys were made to stand there for hours.
9 This was obviously really embarrassing for the older
10 boys. They weren't allowed to cover themselves. The
11 older boys would sometimes hold themselves, and the
12 matron would just slap them on the fingers with a ruler
13 and tell them to get their hands away. My brother was
14 there and he would have been 10. He just thought it was
15 funny. I was 14 and was embarrassed. She made some
16 other girls come and watch too.'

17 Again, she says there were several members of staff
18 who would have seen this.

19 Paragraph 91:

20 'After the Barries came, I was taken to the dentist.
21 I had an abscess. I complained to the Barries that
22 I had toothache. They ignored me until eventually
23 Mrs Barrie had to take me because my face was so swollen
24 and I was in too much pain to eat. I had to tell
25 Mrs Barrie that my teacher had told me that I had to go

1 to the dentist. She also gave me a note to give to
2 Mrs Barrie. We went to the dentist the next day. The
3 dentist was really cross that it had got to that stage
4 because he knew I must have been in absolute agony. As
5 far as he was concerned, it was neglect. I had to get
6 a tooth extracted. Mrs Barrie didn't even comfort me.
7 Afterwards, Mrs Barrie wanted to take me straight back
8 to school, but the dentist said that I wasn't to go back
9 to school for a few days.'

10 She describes getting some gifts from her father,
11 and in particular says that her father bought her
12 a watch as a gift, and says:

13 'Mrs Barrie took it off me and I never saw it
14 again.'

15 She then goes on to deal with abuse by Mr Barrie and
16 says:

17 'I would have been 8 or 9 when the abuse by
18 Mr Barrie started. He started off coming into our room
19 at night and would give me a kiss goodnight. It felt
20 kind of nice at first, because it was just like a dad
21 and you felt loved. We initially thought it was quite
22 sweet. He did this to all the girls. I saw him. My
23 bed was nearest the door, so he came to me first [and
24 then went to other girls in the dormitory].

25 'One time he leant over me and I kissed him

1 goodnight. He told me I didn't do it properly and he
2 told me to open my mouth. I did and he stuck his tongue
3 in my mouth. I gagged and spat at him. He immediately
4 punched me full force in the face. He did this in front
5 of the other girls in my room. My head ricocheted off
6 the headboard. My nose was bleeding. I thought I had
7 actually done something to my front teeth. Nobody in
8 the room moved to help me. He was shouting at me and
9 I remember that he left and I was still crying, holding
10 my face. [My sister] said it wasn't a very nice way to
11 show my appreciation. She said that I would end up back
12 at [the foster carers] if I did that again and she
13 wasn't going to go there with me. I went to the
14 bathroom and cleaned myself up. My teeth were fine, but
15 my face was swollen and my mouth was sore.

16 'The next night he came again and he said he would
17 show me how to kiss. I thought it was disgusting. He
18 had this gigantic gut and he pressed himself against me.
19 [My sister] said she and others had been kissing him for
20 ages like that. He didn't just do this in the bedroom.
21 Sometimes he took me out the room. Often he would come
22 into the bedroom and took different girls out. He would
23 rotate it. He took my sister out the bedroom quite
24 a lot.

25 'It progressed past kissing. The first night it

1 went past kissing he came into the bedroom and took me
2 out by the hand. I can't remember what he said to me.
3 He led me into the hall. It was pitch black. He took
4 me into the laundry room. The window above the sink
5 looks onto the back stairs, and if you look above, there
6 is a skylight. He shoved me up against the sink and
7 I didn't know what to do. I lost my balance and as
8 I turned round, he asked me if I wanted to see
9 something. He unzipped his trousers and pulled out his
10 penis. He asked me to touch it. I said I didn't want
11 to, so he grabbed me by the hair. I was struggling and
12 I was pushing at his legs, and then he pushed his penis
13 into my mouth and I couldn't move. I then felt
14 something warm in my mouth. It tasted disgusting.
15 I immediately vomited all over his trousers. He started
16 hitting me on the head.

17 'I felt something trickle down my leg and I realised
18 that I had wet myself. I slipped and landed on the
19 floor. I was crying and I was sick. He went into the
20 the dispensary, which was right behind the laundry.
21 I could hear him cursing and trying to get the paper
22 towels from the dispenser which was on the back of the
23 door. He was obviously trying to wipe his trousers. He
24 came back and I just stayed on the floor. He told me
25 I was disgusting, stared at me for a minute, then walked

1 away.

2 'I was crying and sobbing. I was sitting in my own
3 pee and I just felt completely worthless. I waited
4 until I heard the back door close and lock. It was very
5 distinctive. I felt like I was in hell. I tried to get
6 up a few times but my legs were wobbling. I remember
7 thinking I had to wash my nightie because if Matron
8 found out, she would be angry and do something to me.
9 I thought she would smell it, so I wanted to clean
10 myself and get rid of the smell. I went to bed and
11 I must have just cried myself to sleep. The next day
12 I just felt awful, and went into the dining room and
13 tried acting normal.

14 'The abuse by Mr Barrie happened on a regular basis.
15 It was relentless. It was either oral sex, anal sex or
16 vaginal sex. He never wore any protection and usually
17 would ejaculate inside me. Before he had sex with us,
18 he would ask if I was having my period and if we were,
19 he would do something else. [My sister] used to put red
20 felt pen on a sanitary towel. Sometimes he would want
21 me to touch him, and sometimes he would just do it
22 himself and make me watch. At first I felt quite sick,
23 but after a while it just seemed it was quite normal.
24 I ended up thinking that I just wanted him to hurry up
25 and get it over and done with. It usually didn't take

1 very long, maybe only a few minutes. One time I went
2 into the reading room where there were some chairs. He
3 told me to lean over the chair. He had anal sex with
4 me. Another time in there he wanted me to put on a show
5 because there was a small stage. I refused. I didn't
6 know what he meant by that. Maybe the other girls did
7 something for him.

8 'He constantly fondled me all the time, even in
9 front of other children. In the minibus he would start
10 off by tickling you. He would be laughing and you just
11 knew what was coming. There was usually a fight to get
12 in the back of minibus because everyone hated sitting
13 beside him. On one occasion, Mr Barrie was driving and
14 he started tickling me. He touched my breast, then
15 touched me between my legs. He put his hand right up my
16 skirt. I told him to "fuck off". [My sister] was
17 sitting beside me, and the minibus was packed. He
18 started slapping me in the face while he was driving.
19 At one point he actually punched me. I was trying to
20 avoid his blows, and he actually punched [my sister] in
21 the face by mistake.

22 'At one point, I felt something under my armpits and
23 it was two older boys, and they pulled me into the back
24 of the minibus. I was crying. When the minibus stopped
25 and we got out, [one of the boys] grabbed Mr Barrie by

1 the collar. He threatened him that if he touched me
2 again, he would choke him. [These boys] made sure I got
3 in the building. I thought it was wonderful, but Mr
4 Barrie was fly. He waited until the boys were at Sea
5 Cadets, Scouts or Cubs, and then he would target me.

6 'I used to go up to the woods and read books. One
7 of the boys sometimes came with me. He would watch out
8 and warn me if Mr Barrie was coming. We had a wee
9 hiding place. I remember one time I was up in the
10 hammock and [my sister] was in the car. I saw Mr Barrie
11 coming up the woods. I stayed where I was. He was
12 calling on us, but I kept quiet. [My sister] never let
13 on that I was up in the hammock when he went into the
14 passenger seat of the car. I was in the driver's seat.'

15 I think this is the wrecked car that 'Bette'
16 mentioned earlier.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes, with its wheels off, sitting in the woods
18 for the children to play in. Somebody said it was blue,
19 I think.

20 MR SHELDON: Sorry?

21 LADY SMITH: Somebody said it was blue.

22 MR SHELDON: I think that's right:

23 '[My sister] was in the driver's seat. She started
24 screaming, but I couldn't move. I couldn't see what was
25 going on. I never found out at the time what he did,

1 all [she] said was that he had really hurt her. Years
2 later, [she] told me what he did. She said that he
3 forced her to perform oral sex on him.

4 'At the end of the working day, Mrs Barrie usually
5 left to go back to her cottage first. He would stay in
6 his office attending to correspondence. His office was
7 right next to our bedroom, so I would always hear him
8 typing on an old manual typewriter. I hated it when the
9 noise stopped, because I knew he had finished and he
10 would make his way out and probably into our bedroom.
11 I would then listen out for him coming up the few front
12 steps towards our bedroom. The fourth step creaked. He
13 probably came into our bedroom three or four times every
14 week and took a different girl out each time. I have
15 been told he went into the boys' rooms as well
16 sometimes.

17 'Barrie played one girl off against each other.
18 I would see him at times. He would give some girls
19 extra pocket money. I saw him kissing [my older sister]
20 one time, it was on the lips. I think he did it
21 deliberately because he knew that I was watching. It
22 wasn't a snog, but a lingering kiss. I think it was
23 just for effect, because he knew that I had spotted him,
24 and the big hug was so that he could actually look at me
25 and smile.

1 'As he was kissing her, he stopped and he leaned
2 over her shoulder. He looked at me and then patted [my
3 sister] on her back. It sounds awful, but [she] and
4 some of the other girls would boast about what they got
5 from Mr Barrie for what they did for him. I know things
6 happened between Mr Barrie [and a number of other girls,
7 including her sisters]. They told me. He kissed the
8 girls a lot and we never thought anything of it. He
9 even did it in front of his wife. He did it when they
10 were sitting on his knee. In the reading room, there
11 was a big projector and we would be shown slides of
12 places we had been and sometimes during that a girl
13 would be sitting on Mr Barrie's knee.

14 'After a few months of going through the abuse most
15 nights, I decided that I wasn't doing it any more.
16 I told [my sister], but she said that I just have to get
17 on with it, everybody else was. She told me it was my
18 turn that night and I had to do it. When you saw the
19 other girls getting things, you did anything to get
20 these treats.

21 'Sometimes Mr Barrie punished you if you didn't do
22 what he wanted you to do. You wouldn't get privileges.
23 Sometimes, some children went on day trips and you would
24 be left behind. Matron made sure that you stayed in bed
25 and she would come and make sure that you had your eyes

1 closed and that you were sleeping. You wouldn't get any
2 food that day. After a while, I realised that it wasn't
3 worth it. I hated staying in and not getting pocket
4 money. I hated punishments. I ended up doing most of
5 the chores in the evening, like washing the dishes.
6 Mrs Barrie sometimes told me that I had to do it all and
7 I would be in the kitchen for hours until it was my
8 bedtime. It was relentless.

9 'There was one time at night when he shoved a stick
10 up my bottom. I was wearing my nightdress. He took me
11 out of my bed and told me to put on shoes and a coat
12 because we were going for a walk, and we went out.
13 Because we were going for a walk, I thought nothing was
14 going to happen and I was quite excited. We walked past
15 the Barries' cottage towards the woods and I thought
16 Mrs Barrie might hear us walking on the gravel.
17 Mr Barrie told me to walk on a paved section, then the
18 grass, until we were further up the road. We wandered
19 right around the orchard and I didn't actually feel
20 scared. I felt safe because I was outside and naively
21 thought we were just going for a walk.

22 'We went into the woods and went to where the
23 lover's seat was. He asked me to take my coat off and
24 lean over it. I refused and told him I didn't want to
25 and started crying. He warned me to stop. He grabbed

1 me and pushed me on that seat. It was freezing. He
2 kicked my legs open and at first I thought he was
3 actually going to go into my vagina, because I felt
4 something hard and it kept slipping in that direction.
5 I then felt the most excruciating pain in my bottom.

6 'Afterwards, we walked back to the building. When
7 he got back, he asked me if I wanted him to walk me to
8 my bed. I declined. I heard him lock the back door on
9 his way out and then just sat there for ages. I filled
10 the sink with cold water. I was bleeding from my
11 bottom. I hoisted myself up and sat in the cold water.
12 I was trying to pick little bits of stick and splinters
13 from my bottom. I realised then it must have been
14 a stick he put in me. One of the staff
15 had old-fashioned thick sanitary towels. I tore it open
16 and took out the inside, which was like cotton wool.
17 I cleaned myself as much as I could. I actually had to
18 feel inside my bottom to get little bits of wood out.

19 'The next morning I just wanted to tell someone, but
20 I couldn't. I went into his office with other girls to
21 get my dinner money. Mr Barrie told me to wait behind.
22 I could hear the other girls singing [my name and a song
23 about her and Mr Barrie up a tree]. He told me to shut
24 the door before he gave me my dinner money. He told me
25 that nothing happened last night, and if I told anyone,

1 he would do something really bad to me. I told him that
2 he had caused me some damage, but he just told me to
3 deal with it. After that night, I talked to my sister.
4 I told her that something happened but I didn't tell her
5 what. We sat and we planned to kill him. We discussed
6 stabbing him. I had planned to go into the kitchen and
7 get a knife. It obviously didn't go any further than
8 that. I also used to wish that he would drown or choke
9 to death.

10 'The incidents with Mr Barrie were unrelenting.
11 Even if you were still sore from the last time, he did
12 it to me, either the day or a couple of days before
13 [from the last time he did it to me]. He didn't care
14 and he did it again.

15 'I had injuries sometimes, but I was never taken to
16 the hospital. I had bleeding from my rectum and there
17 were other issues. I never got any medical treatment.
18 I wouldn't have been allowed if I had mentioned
19 anything. They wouldn't have brought a doctor in
20 because I think they would suspect. I should have been
21 taken to the doctors, but they wouldn't allow me to go.

22 'I made myself scarce a lot of the time and hid up
23 in the woods, especially if I knew Mr Barrie was looking
24 for me. The layout of Lagarie was such that you could
25 run up the front stairs and dodge that fourth squeaky

1 step and run up the stairs. I could hear him walking
2 along and I would sneak down the back stairs. I would
3 go out that door and then he would try and come in the
4 other way, and I think we were running round in circles.
5 I was laughing because he couldn't catch me and I could
6 tell he was in a rage. The next day [my sister] thanked
7 me, because Mr Barrie chose her to go with him because
8 he couldn't catch me. [She] said that I owed her one.
9 It was almost a laugh and a joke at first, what
10 Mr Barrie did to us. But then after a while we stopped
11 talking about it altogether. There developed an air of
12 despondency.

13 'One weekend I remember I was being punished and
14 didn't get any pocket money so there was no point in me
15 going into town with the other girls. I stayed behind
16 in the house. Mr Barrie called me into his office and
17 he was sitting in his chair. He asked me to give him
18 oral sex. A new staff member, Mr GAD, came in. No
19 one normally walked straight into that office without
20 knocking and being told to come in. Mr GAD was
21 a SNR, so he didn't knock. I was just
22 getting up after giving Mr Barrie oral sex when Mr GAD
23 came in. He must have seen, but I don't know if
24 Mr Barrie managed to zip himself quickly. Mr GAD
25 started talking to Mr Barrie, and then he was looking at

1 me, giving me dirty looks.

2 'I have no doubt that Mrs Barrie knew what was going
3 on with Mr Barrie and the girls. I think she was happy,
4 because I think it probably took the pressure off her,
5 as if he was getting some relief elsewhere. As a couple
6 there was no affection between them. It was cold,
7 actually. Even at Christmas or on her birthday, he
8 would give her a kiss. I remember one time Mrs Barrie
9 came in and caught me on Mr Barrie's knee. She never
10 said anything, just walked straight right out the door.
11 He tried to shove me off, but she was already out the
12 door. Later on, she just gave me a dirty look.

13 'When I was at Lagarie, Mrs Barrie asked everyone to
14 fill in a form. She wanted us to write down what we
15 thought about the members of the staff. We were told it
16 was to improve things.'

17 Just pausing briefly, my Lady, there is some support
18 for that in the documentation. There is a document,
19 SSS-000000512.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR SHELDON: It's a newspaper article but it refers to the
22 idea of a sort of feedback form, as it were. It arises
23 in a slightly different context and perhaps we will come
24 to that tomorrow.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR SHELDON: But it's there.

2 LADY SMITH: I have the reference, good.

3 MR SHELDON: 'We were told it was to improve things.

4 I wrote down honestly but very briefly what I thought.
5 Later that night, Mr Barrie called me into the office
6 and Mrs Barrie was there. She said she could not
7 believe the disgusting lies I had put on the form. She
8 picked up my paper, ripped it and put it in the bin.
9 She then slapped me on the face. I fell back and there
10 was a metal filing cabinet and I smacked my head off it.
11 I was lying on the floor, and when I opened my eyes
12 Mrs Barrie was kicking me. I started to struggle and
13 tried to punch her, because she was trying to get to my
14 face. I tried to grab her hands. Mr Barrie joined in.
15 It was absolutely crazy. He was hitting me with his
16 hands and feet. They didn't get my face, but at one
17 point Mr Barrie caught my nose with his foot and
18 I thought I had broken it. I crawled out the office and
19 I went into my bedroom. My sister later told me it was
20 my own fault.

21 'I think this was the most angry that I had ever
22 seen Mrs Barrie. I think that she was so angry because
23 she had read what I put on the form and this was the
24 first time that she had been aware of some of the stuff
25 that Mr Barrie had done. I think she was angry at him,

1 but she was directing her anger at me.

2 'I don't know who organised it, but my sister and
3 I had trips to a house in Musselburgh. We were told we
4 were going there as a treat. We were taken by Mr and
5 Mrs Barrie to this house and they dropped us off. We
6 travelled in their Volkswagen caravanette. It was
7 a young couple in their 20s or 30s and they didn't have
8 any children of their own. I can't remember their
9 names. At first I thought it would be great, because we
10 would get all the attention to ourselves. They had
11 a really nice house, took us to the park and had dinner.
12 After dinner, the woman took me upstairs to have a bath.
13 [My sister] was left with the woman's husband. I was
14 only 6, so I wasn't shy and I just stripped off. It was
15 a massive bubble bath. I jumped in the bath and she was
16 washing me with lots of soap. She was sponging down my
17 back, tummy and legs. She washed my hair and when she
18 was rinsing it, she said I had been a really good girl.

19 'All of a sudden her husband appeared naked and he
20 climbed in the bath. He pulled me, and turned me round
21 so I was facing the taps at the other end. He was
22 behind me at the back of the bath. His legs slipped
23 under mine and I ended up sitting on him and he was
24 holding my waist. His wife was holding my hands and I
25 felt the most awful pain in my bottom. I was screaming

1 because of the pain and she was telling me to "shh",
2 what a good girl I was, to be quiet and everything was
3 all right. It seemed to go on for a long time and then
4 he just got out of the bath. I thought I was going to
5 drown, because I fell back. I was still screaming, and
6 the woman just kept telling me to "ssh". I was sobbing
7 and my bottom was really sore. She washed me again and
8 had to actually lift me out of the bath because my legs
9 were shaking so much. I couldn't stand up. She lifted
10 me out the bath and dried me, put on my pyjamas and
11 brought me a hot drink. The next thing I remember was
12 waking up in the morning.

13 'When I went for my breakfast, the woman acted as if
14 nothing had happened. I tried to get [my older
15 sister's] attention but she wouldn't look at me. She
16 was just staring into her plate. I tried talking to
17 her, but she kept pushing me away. I asked her if she
18 had heard me the night before. She said that she had
19 heard me screaming. I told her that they were really
20 bad to me. She told me that she was fine. That day, we
21 did normal stuff with the woman. We played and went to
22 the park and went back to the house. That night exactly
23 the same thing happened again in the bath that had
24 happened the night before.

25 'At the end of that weekend, the Barries came and

1 picked us up. Mrs Barrie had a brief chat with the
2 couple. They were all smiles, and then we got in the
3 caravanette.'

4 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon, just pausing there, if this memory
5 is right, that the Musselburgh incidents were during
6 a period that she was at Lagarie, she can't have only
7 been 6, if your earlier dates were correct, because they
8 would only fit with her going to Lagarie when she was
9 about 9.

10 MR SHELDON: I think that's right, my Lady. I'm not sure
11 whether that's a failure of memory, as it were, or
12 simply a misprint.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR SHELDON: But I think my Lady must be right about that.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. I mean, I'm not suggesting she hasn't
16 given a very accurate and distressing description --

17 MR SHELDON: Yes, absolutely.

18 LADY SMITH: -- of something that happened in a house with
19 these people in Musselburgh, but whether it actually
20 related to the time she was in Lagarie is perhaps more
21 questionable.

22 MR SHELDON: Yes, certainly it would -- the type of thing
23 being described, I suppose, might fit with what she says
24 is happening in Lagarie as well.

25 LADY SMITH: In Lagarie, yes. Maybe she was actually a bit

1 older when she was in Musselburgh, and not just 6.

2 MR SHELDON: Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR SHELDON: This is paragraph 122:

5 'At the end of that weekend, the Barries came and
6 picked us up. Mrs Barrie had a brief chat with the
7 couple. They were all smiles and then we got into the
8 caravanette. The Barries never asked what we did when
9 we were there, or if we had a nice time. We were taken
10 back to their house in Musselburgh on two more
11 occasions, and we spent the weekends there. Exactly the
12 same thing happened to me every time that we were there.

13 'This couple in Musselburgh attended some of the
14 [conversations] that the choir attended, so I saw them
15 there. They would actually come up and talk to me.
16 They would say hello and ask what I'd been doing. It
17 was very strange, but I used to think that was normal
18 behaviour. Years after we left Lagarie, [my older
19 sister] told me that the couple in Musselburgh were only
20 interested in me and that nothing ever happened to her.
21 She said that she was screaming that night I was abused
22 in the bath because she heard me screaming. She said
23 she was locked in a room so she couldn't get out. I'm
24 sure [that she] wasn't harmed in any way by them. [She]
25 told me later that she had heard that the couple

1 actually wanted to have a couple of boys for the
2 weekend, but there were none. [My sister] thought they
3 picked on me because my hair and physique made me look
4 a bit more like a boy than she did.'

5 She then talks about abuse at church conventions.
6 She says:

7 'We were taken to various church conventions.
8 I went as part of the choir. Several were held in the
9 Tent Hall on Glasgow Green. There was another one near
10 Kelvin Hall. Kelvin Hall used to have major events
11 there too. We were taken in the minibus or the
12 caravanette because we wouldn't all fit in one vehicle.'

13 Reading that a little short, she says some people
14 who went to these conventions would come back to Lagarie
15 having been invited back by the Barries:

16 'At one of the religious conventions in Arbroath,
17 I remember helping MLV [REDACTED] put bibles out
18 before a service. MLV [REDACTED] was a naval
19 chaplain.'

20 And pausing again, briefly, my Lady, I think we saw
21 the document last Wednesday which suggests that he may
22 in fact have been a Sailors' Society chaplain.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR SHELDON: At the mission in Aberdeen at that time. But
25 we will come back to that, my Lady, at some stage.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

2 MR SHELDON: 'He sometimes wore his pastoral outfit and
3 sometimes his naval uniform. He had a [REDACTED] on his
4 neck.'

5 And she talks about another individual, a deputy
6 minister, and says:

7 'Mr Barrie took me there and left. When I was there
8 I needed the toilet. When I flushed the toilet I turned
9 round and MLV [REDACTED] was standing there
10 behind me. He squashed me against the toilet and put
11 his hand over my mouth. He pulled down my pants and
12 touched me. I was holding on to the cistern. He
13 sexually assaulted me and he hurt me. He made me
14 perform oral sex on him. I felt disappointed and let
15 down. He treated me like every other male did,
16 expecting me to do something of a sexual nature and if I
17 didn't, they took it forcefully. [My sister] later told
18 me that she had been abused by MLV [REDACTED] too. We
19 were in Arbroath for a couple of weeks, and this
20 happened several times with MLV [REDACTED] in the
21 church. On other occasions [this individual] abused me,
22 he anally raped me.'

23 She names another individual, a Mr GAB [REDACTED], and he
24 was a minister in the church in Rhu and he was often
25 inappropriate. He was very tall and 'Bette' says:

1 'He looked like Spock from Star Trek. Some other
2 children thought he looked like Dracula. He must have
3 been 6 feet 4, very thin, with hollow cheeks. Because
4 he wore a black robe he looked creepy. [He] would often
5 help out with the bibles and prayer books. I'm not sure
6 where it led to with other girls, but he would ask me
7 for a kiss. He didn't do anything other than ask for
8 a kiss. I didn't kiss him.

9 'We went to conventions in Arbroath quite often. We
10 saw the same people in Arbroath that we had seen in
11 Glasgow. It was at holiday time in the "Glasgow Fair
12 fortnight". These people came back and abused some of
13 the girls. I don't know who they were.'

14 And they targeted girls from a particular Lagarie
15 family.

16 'I'm sure it was with the permission of Mr and
17 Mrs Barrie, or we were identified to other people who
18 attended these conventions by them. It could be they
19 told these people what girls they may be interested in.
20 Sometimes I saw other girls being taken away, but I'm
21 not sure if anything happened with them. I can't
22 remember the names of any people who went to these
23 conventions, and if I did remember their names, I'm not
24 sure that what I was told was in fact their actual
25 names.'

1 Paragraph 130, she talks about abuse by other staff,
2 and she indicates -- and I'm taking this slightly short,
3 my Lady, but indicates that her housemother was having
4 at least an inappropriate relationship with one of the
5 boys in the home. She was 26 and this boy was 13 to 14.

6 And at paragraph 131 she says:

7 'There was another time [that] we were knocking on
8 her bedroom door ...'

9 This is ... (Pause)

10 Yes, I think it must be a reference to the
11 housemother's bedroom door, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: That would make sense, her bedroom door.

13 MR SHELDON: Yes:

14 'We were sure [she] was in there. Eventually we
15 went away, but [my sister] stayed as a lookout and told
16 me later that [this boy from Lagarie] came out of her
17 bedroom.'

18 And at paragraph 132, says that she also saw this
19 housemother with another boy from the home a couple of
20 times, and says at the end of that paragraph:

21 'They were hand in hand like a couple would be.'

22 She says:

23 'Mr GAD, SNR, never did
24 anything sexual but he was quite a brute and he was
25 cruel. He was physically a monster. He would just

1 batter or try to throttle the boys. One of his
2 favourite things was to give Chinese burns. They were
3 really sore. Sometimes he would give you a knuckle rap
4 across the head or pull your hair. One time he pulled
5 my hair. Mrs Barrie did the same thing. She actually
6 dragged me along a corridor by the hair.

7 'There was one time in the minibus, Mr GAD was
8 driving us back from church in Helensburgh. We were
9 coming down Sinclair Street and he said he was going to
10 take his foot off the pedals and let the minibus slide
11 into the water. We were terrified. I remember I was
12 sitting on the floor because there weren't enough seats.
13 We were all screaming. I told him he was crazy. He
14 would speed up and say we were going into the water. At
15 the last minute he would jerk the steering wheel. He
16 did it several times. I think the boys got wise to it,
17 and they started walking home from church. I think
18 eventually we told Mr Barrie about it. The Barries then
19 took a dislike to GAD-SPO.'

20 And pausing, my Lady, in fact the Barries in effect
21 seemed to have tried to get GAD-SPO sacked, and the
22 matter went to an industrial tribunal. We have a copy
23 of that, and we may look at some of that tomorrow.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR SHELDON: Ultimately, there were allegations against the

1 GAD-SPO of physical abuse, allegations which, in the
2 event, the tribunal did not accept. But they didn't
3 accept the Barries' version of events as to the
4 suitability of GAD-SPO for their employment.

5 But it certainly supports the view that the Barries
6 took a dislike of some sort, and for some reason, to the
7 GAD-SPO.

8 She says, paragraph 135:

9 'I saw other female staff members kissing the boys,
10 so it wasn't just Mr Barrie doing it. There was
11 a senior member of staff who had a well-known affair
12 with another girl in the home. Their relationship was
13 more than just holding hands. They were very intimate.'

14 Reading short, she says she was probably about 10 or
15 11 at that time, not any older, and this member of staff
16 was probably in his late 30s:

17 'They would often go up to the woods together.'

18 She says, again, reading short, that this girl had
19 obviously secured his affections:

20 'One day his wife must have got wind of it and was
21 enraged. She threw a Hoover over from the landing to
22 the floor below. I was told it was because she had
23 found out.'

24 She describes an incident in paragraph 136 where
25 this member of staff and the girl are seen lying in

1 a bed under covers, but she doesn't know what they were
2 wearing, and at the end of that paragraph says:

3 'I think Mrs Barrie got wind of some of the things
4 that were going on and not long after that, [the couple
5 in question] left.'

6 The staff couple left.

7 She says:

8 'At Lagarie there was a gardener called Skelton. He
9 had an apprentice.'

10 And she names the apprentice, and says:

11 'The apprentice was a really handsome guy. One
12 night there were several boys, one being my brother,
13 [and a boy from one of the other families, and] they
14 were with Skelton and [the apprentice].'

15 She says:

16 'Some of the boys were raped by them. I have been
17 told all this by one of the boys, who doesn't want to
18 come forward.'

19 Reading short, my Lady, to paragraph 138, she says
20 that:

21 'Mr Barrie preached sometimes up at the Faslane base
22 and we went to Christmas parties there. I went up with
23 the choir. The sailors who put that hammock up at
24 Lagarie were often seen in the home. They wore their
25 dark blue sailor's uniform and were always very smart.

1 They were all sailors from the Faslane base. Apparently
2 they came quite often. I think lots of things happened
3 to the boys in the tower. I know that the person who
4 told me this isn't going to come forward to the Inquiry.
5 I saw the sailors go up the stairs into the tower.
6 I saw one of the boys going up there with the sailors.
7 I never saw anything actually going on. Sailors came
8 into our bedroom too. I have seen a sailor [in the bed
9 of some of the other girls, including those of her
10 sisters]. I really don't know what went on. One got in
11 my bed and we kissed, but it didn't go any further
12 because I ran away.'

13 She then describes being taken to a well-known
14 children's programme with the choir, certainly then
15 well-known children's programme, and describes being
16 abused, molested, by the host of the show. And at
17 paragraph 140 says:

18 'I was abused year after year at Lagarie. I haven't
19 told you about every incident because it would take too
20 long. It happened so often to the point that it
21 actually became normal, and part and parcel of Lagarie.
22 There were members of staff who were aware of what was
23 going on and saw a lot of the incidents. They were too
24 frightened and intimidated by the Barries to say
25 anything or speak out.'

1 And she names some of the members of staff
2 concerned.

3 She goes on then to talk about leaving Lagarie, and
4 says that she didn't actually leave on her 16th birthday
5 and thinks she had to wait until [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]. I think the dates that I have suggested, my Lady,
7 would fit with that idea.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, yes.

9 MR SHELDON: She says:

10 'No one at Lagarie said goodbye or wished me well.'
11 And thinks her dad came and picked her up when she
12 left.

13 On reporting, she says:

14 'I tried to tell my dad what was going on in the
15 times that he visited. I didn't go into any details and
16 I just told him little bits. He wasn't interested and
17 told me that it was a nice place. I think I told him
18 twice. At the very beginning, when the Barries took
19 over, and then maybe a couple of years later, I told him
20 they weren't nice to us and he just didn't want to hear
21 it, he wasn't interested at all. It seemed as if he
22 came to visit out of obligation and nothing else.

23 'My [older] sister tried to broadcast what was going
24 on at Lagarie at one of the church conventions. We were
25 on stage at Tent Hall in Glasgow Green, there were loads

1 of famous preachers and evangelists. We got up to sing.
2 [My sister] was so brave. She announced to everyone
3 that bad things were happening to us. She didn't get
4 much else out because she was huckled off that stage.
5 Mr Barrie grabbed her, and then there was a woman, who
6 I don't know but was part of the convention, that helped
7 get [her] backstage.

8 ' [My sister] told me later that Mr Barrie battered
9 her and told her never to say anything like that again.
10 He told us both later on that night that no one was ever
11 going to believe us if we said anything. He told us to
12 remember where we came from and we would go back there.
13 He told us that we might have thought that we have got
14 it bad at Lagarie, but we should see some other places
15 and we should think ourselves lucky.

16 'One time Mrs Barrie came in and caught me on
17 Mr Barrie's knee.'

18 And I think this is the incident that she describes
19 earlier, my Lady, and she talks again about the chapter
20 where everyone at Lagarie was asked to fill in
21 a document. This is paragraph 146:

22 'We were in the dining room and we were given
23 a document and asked to write comments about members of
24 staff.'

25 Reading short, she says:

1 'Mrs Barrie said that we weren't to worry and we
2 could say what we liked, nothing was going to happen to
3 us. I didn't really know how these things worked as
4 a child. I naively assumed it was going to be signed,
5 sealed and delivered to the appropriate authority. Some
6 of the other members of staff were helping the young
7 ones fill in their forms.

8 'I wrote down exactly what was happening. I said
9 "Mr Barrie was disgusting and was raping the girls,
10 Mrs Barrie was constantly beating us. Sometimes we
11 would be deprived of food as a punishment". On that
12 form I made it very brief and did not mention anything
13 or go into detail. If I had said all the things
14 I wanted to say, I would have needed many more pages.
15 I felt at Lagarie that we were just put in there to be
16 abused and we were just constantly farmed out to
17 everyone. They all had a sexual motive and I was fed
18 up. I felt abandoned by my dad and abandoned by the
19 social worker as well, who we saw very rarely.
20 I couldn't bring myself to tell him some of the things
21 that were going on. I didn't feel I could tell him
22 I had a stick shoved up my bottom.

23 'I have certain friends that I confided in, what
24 went on at Lagarie, but no one in authority. Quite
25 a few of the teachers at Hermitage Academy went to the

1 [congregational] church [I think that should be] with
2 Mr Barrie and they were on first-name terms, so there
3 was no way I could tell them what he was doing. The
4 Barries were well known in Helensburgh, Rhu and further
5 afield, and they were well liked, so no one would have
6 believed me.

7 'When we ran away from Lagarie, the police picked us
8 up and took us back. One of the policemen told
9 [my sister] that we should be grateful that we had
10 a roof over our heads. I remember telling the police
11 that they were really horrible to us and that they were
12 beating us. It didn't make any difference and nothing
13 was done.'

14 My Lady, 'Bette' now goes on to talk about her life
15 after being in care and I propose to take that a little
16 short, if I may.

17 LADY SMITH: Certainly, yes.

18 MR SHELDON: But putting matters short, things were
19 extremely difficult for 'Bette'. After she left
20 Lagarie, she was initially left in a house in Glasgow
21 with two male friends of her father, and was left alone
22 there with them. She says nothing happened, but she was
23 frightened to go to sleep in case something did.

24 She was then living in a house with her father's
25 partner, 'Bette's' stepmother, and she says that the

1 house was filthy, and her stepmother was a drinker. She
2 had to share a bed with one of the stepmother's sons.
3 The stepmother used to slap and punch her, and when her
4 father came home he was violent to her as well.

5 She managed to get a place on a YTS scheme and
6 practised secretarial skills. And although, at
7 paragraph 153, she says that she was working and got
8 paid, but the stepmother took half of her money and this
9 meant she 'didn't have enough money for lunch when I was
10 at college'.

11 She says at no time when she was at her stepmother's
12 house did she ever see a social worker.

13 Paragraph 155, the stepmother accused her of
14 stealing and put her out of the house. And for a while
15 she was effectively homeless and they squatted, she and
16 her sister squatted in a flat in London. 'Bette' got
17 a job as a chambermaid, but her sister was still subject
18 to a court order and was discovered and taken back, in
19 this instance to Lagarie. 'Bette' lost her job and was
20 then back at a homeless shelter.

21 She got married. The marriage didn't work. Her
22 husband treated her badly and hit her, even when she was
23 pregnant, and the baby, sadly, was stillborn.

24 She then, at paragraph 160, met another man, who she
25 married. And at paragraph 162, says she went back to

1 secretarial college to continue studies, and got a job
2 in an office, and ultimately came back to Scotland, went
3 to university, and did degree courses in history and
4 psychology, and she lives in Glasgow with her partner.

5 In relation to impact, she says:

6 'I blame Lagarie and all the things that happened
7 there for all the things that impacted on my subsequent
8 life after I left care. All the other places and
9 incidents were fairly fleeting, but Lagarie has had
10 a long-term effect on my life. Lagarie doesn't define
11 me as an individual, but it is a very large part of who
12 I am and has had a huge effect on me and my children.

13 'For a long time after I left Lagarie, I tried to
14 forget about all the things that went on there. When
15 I left, I couldn't cook. No one had ever taught me.'

16 Reading short:

17 'I didn't know how to cook a proper meal.

18 'What happened to me at Lagarie has had an effect on
19 how I have brought up my two girls. I know that I was
20 overprotective of them. I never let them go anywhere
21 for a sleepover until they were 16, even with members of
22 my family. I found it very difficult to even trust
23 their dad when he was with the girls. If he got out of
24 bed through the night to go to the toilet or went for
25 a cigarette, I used to be right behind him. I would

1 wait with him until he was back in his bed. I [would]
2 never let him bath the girls. I would always do it. He
3 was a lovely, kind guy, but I couldn't relax when he was
4 with them. We never went out socialising together
5 because I couldn't trust anyone to look after my girls.

6 'I didn't even like leaving the girls at nursery.
7 I was worried that something may happen to them. I knew
8 that the staff were trained and qualified, but I still
9 couldn't be relaxed about it. From a very early age
10 I taught my girls about personal safety.'

11 Reading short:

12 'I have always taught my girls to be honest with me
13 and not to be afraid to tell me anything. I would have
14 loved to have got more qualifications at university, but
15 I was hindered when my girls were growing up because
16 I was too frightened to leave them with anybody else.
17 I had to be there for them. I didn't trust anyone.

18 'For a long time, I felt really guilty that
19 I pretended I was asleep when Mr Barrie came into our
20 bedroom through the night. I did this so that he didn't
21 pick me. As a consequence of this, he would take
22 another girl away. I told my sister that I felt guilty
23 about doing that. She told me not to be stupid, as she
24 did it too.'

25 She says:

1 'My relationship with my siblings was affected.
2 Most of us went our own way and when I went to London we
3 haven't really kept in touch. I didn't recognise my own
4 brother when I saw him recently. We never really acted
5 like a family. I have become closer to [one of my
6 sisters] in the last year. We have confided in each
7 other and have discussed Lagarie, but did not go into
8 any detail about the sex abuse. I can see that [she]
9 has been horrifically damaged by her time at Lagarie.
10 She has been admitted on several occasions to
11 a psychiatric unit. She has self-harmed and attempted
12 suicide on a number of occasions, as a result of
13 constant flashbacks from her time at Lagarie. She has
14 caused herself considerable injury.'

15 Paragraph 170:

16 'I only have a group of around 12 people who I would
17 class as friends and I trust. I generally don't trust
18 anybody who I don't know well. I find it very difficult
19 being in a big group of people and prefer being with
20 people I know. When I speak to people, I never go into
21 any detail about my past. I am very defensive and give
22 very limited information. In a way I felt embarrassed
23 and ashamed about what went on at Lagarie. I don't know
24 why, but I felt people would judge me. When I told some
25 people I was in Lagarie, they judged me, and obviously

1 thought that I was in Lagarie because of something I'd
2 done.'

3 My Lady, I'm conscious of the time.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR SHELDON: There's only perhaps five minutes of this to
6 go. I'm in my Lady's hands as to --

7 LADY SMITH: We should just finish it, because we've got
8 a witness starting at 2 o'clock.

9 MR SHELDON: Indeed, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: I think we just finish this.

11 MR SHELDON: Yes, press on.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

13 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 171:

14 'Because of the times Mrs Barrie used to pull my
15 hair, to this day I don't go to the hairdresser, I don't
16 let anyone touch my hair.

17 'I am not an affectionate person and am not
18 a tactile person. If someone cuddles me, I think back
19 to bad times at Lagarie. My partner hugs me. I don't
20 like it because I think it is going to lead to more.
21 I have always had issues over the years with intimacy
22 with my partner.'

23 She says:

24 'Luckily, he's been very understanding and patient
25 and has stood by me. He's a great support to me.'

1 And she says, really, that:

2 'I have no interest in intimacy and only do it for
3 my partner. This is a product of the unrelenting abuse
4 I suffered at Lagarie.

5 'When I'm in my house, I have to have every door
6 open. I think this is because I need to see the exit,
7 so I can get out quickly. I don't like having my back
8 to anything in a room because I like to see everything
9 in front of me. Even the toilet door is open all the
10 time, unless I need real privacy. Since Lagarie, I've
11 always had to sleep facing the door and the door is
12 always open.

13 'I think about my time at Lagarie every day. It can
14 be triggered by a smell, or if I see certain things.
15 I can't use lavender or certain scented soaps or
16 carbolic soap, they all make me think back to Lagarie.
17 I sometimes get very anxious for no apparent reason. In
18 the last few years my anxiety has really increased. At
19 some stage I did have suicidal ideation.'

20 But phoned a friend and was talked out of it.

21 'For years, I've been seeing a psychologist and
22 three years ago went through a series of tests and was
23 diagnosed with PTSD.'

24 She'd read an article about Lagarie and it brought
25 it all back:

1 '[That] really increased my anxiety levels.
2 Recently I've been having terrible dreams and nightmares
3 [relating to her time in Lagarie, and these include]
4 horrible dreams where Mr Barrie has been doing things,
5 and I have been shouting to my partner to help me. My
6 partner has told me that I wasn't shouting, but I felt
7 that I was awake and was shouting on him for help.'

8 In relation to treatment and support, paragraph 177,
9 she says:

10 'About ten years ago, I went to my GP with
11 depression and subsequently with anxiety. I've been
12 prescribed various tablets for my depression and
13 anxiety, and it has been changed several times. I'm
14 also on sleeping tablets. I first started seeing
15 a psychologist about five years ago. I'm currently
16 seeing a psychologist who I've been seeing for the last
17 year. I am going on an eight-week anxiety management
18 course.'

19 She was referred to a mental health charity and
20 hated the suggestion that she had mental health issues,
21 and:

22 'It was only recently that I accepted that in fact
23 I did. These were stifled for a while and I didn't do
24 anything about it.'

25 She says:

1 'In the last few years, my short-term memory has
2 been affected. I think this is because there has been
3 so much going on in my head.'

4 Paragraph 179:

5 'When I went to the psychiatric unit, they referred
6 me through the NHS to do art therapy. I now love
7 painting and use that as an escape.'

8 She says:

9 'I also got involved in music therapy which has been
10 paid for by Future Pathways. I use both of these
11 therapies a lot at difficult times.'

12 She says that she'd written to her former
13 housemother, and received a letter back saying that the
14 housemother had resented the fact that she, 'Bette', had
15 passed her details to the police:

16 'She said she was sorry if I felt like that, and she
17 always tried her best. She said I never went to her
18 with any issues, but she said she made it clear that she
19 was always free to sit down with me. She claimed that
20 she didn't know the Barries before she went to Lagarie
21 and in respect of training, she said she had been
22 trained before she got there.'

23 Reading short, my Lady, to paragraph 182, she talks
24 about the emergence of allegations publicly about
25 Lagarie, and the article in the Sunday Mail newspaper

1 which appeared in 2001. And she gave a comprehensive
2 statement to the police at that stage, but says that the
3 case was dropped because there was insufficient
4 evidence, and there was also mention of time bar being
5 an issue.

6 She says:

7 'About three years ago, the police visited me again
8 and asked for another statement. I am not sure why they
9 contacted me.'

10 And given the date of signature of the statement,
11 that would have been about 2016, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: 2016.

13 MR SHELDON: She says:

14 'I've never actually tried to get any of my records.
15 [A] journalist tried to get my records, but he said he
16 had found lots of paperwork for other individuals, but
17 all he could find for me was one photograph.'

18 On lessons, she says:

19 'I think things have moved forward. People are
20 listening more to children and believing them. Children
21 have more of a voice now than they used to. This is
22 improving the lives of children in care. I think
23 professionals need to look for signs of inappropriate
24 behaviour. I think they need to be aware of the signs
25 of child abuse and ask children the right questions.

1 I know there are good people out there who are
2 listening, and [we] are aware of what has gone on in the
3 past. This will all help to make it safer for children
4 in the future going into residential care.

5 'There need to be more safeguards implemented for
6 children in residential care, in particular, outlets for
7 children to go and talk to an adult in a safe place
8 where they can feel assured there will be no
9 repercussions. The nominated person may not necessarily
10 deal with what the child says, but as long as it didn't
11 get back to whoever the complaint was about.'

12 She says:

13 'When GAD-SPO were at Lagarie, something went on
14 involving the police and there [were] press.

15 'One day we came back from school and we were told
16 not to speak to the press.'

17 She says:

18 'The police never came to speak to me or any of the
19 other children.'

20 But this may be a reference again, my Lady, to
21 the --

22 LADY SMITH: To the tribunal case.

23 MR SHELDON: -- tribunal matter, yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR SHELDON: She says, paragraph 189, that she tried to

1 contact the foster carers that she'd had, and seems to
2 have got in touch with the female foster carer, who she
3 says in response started 'screaming awful abuse down the
4 phone':

5 'I was shaken and reverted back to a little child.
6 She told me never to call her number again. She hung
7 up, but I held the phone for ages. I was shocked, [and]
8 never attempted to ring her again.

9 'My sister [one of my sisters] had told me that
10 Mr Barrie forced her to have oral sex with him. Even
11 now when we see each other, we talk about the kids and
12 things that are going on. We never discuss what
13 happened to us at Lagarie.'

14 My Lady, reading short then to paragraph 193, in
15 relation to investigations, including investigations by
16 the press and the media into Lagarie, she says:

17 'I think it would be wonderful if they look at these
18 things that went on and get these people, shame them and
19 let them have to go through it. I have had to
20 repeatedly discuss this with the police [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED].'

22 She says, paragraph 194:

23 'I wrote a letter to Stuart Rivers from the British
24 Sailors' Society recently, in regards to his appearance
25 on the Disclosure documentary. I thought he was very

1 supercilious and was very dismissive. I told him that
2 it wasn't his place to say to people that he agreed or
3 disagreed with things, because it was only his opinion,
4 which was irrelevant. The very brief response that
5 I got back were words to the effect that I should
6 contact his lawyers.

7 'I then sent an email to John Sweeney, who I have
8 met a few times. John Sweeney used to be on the Board
9 of Governors for the In Care Survivors. I sent him
10 an email suggesting he watch the Disclosure documentary.
11 He replied to say he hadn't watched it, but knew about
12 it. He said that it's great that people are coming
13 forward and it might encourage other people to speak
14 out, if they know that they are going to be reassured,
15 that there are people looking after their interests and
16 that they are always in control. He said the more
17 people that we encourage to come forward [that]
18 strengthens our case. I told him that I was in control
19 and that I could stop this at any time. I am very aware
20 of that, but people might not be.

21 'With the help of others, I have managed to trace
22 every person who I remembered from being in Lagarie at
23 the same time, apart from [one].'

24 But she remembers Mr Barrie did things to this girl
25 as well, and she notes that this particular girl had

1 never had any visitors.

2 She says at paragraph 197:

3 'I am so pleased that we have had this chance to
4 talk about my experiences. I hope something comes of
5 everything I have said.'

6 And she has made the usual declaration, my Lady, and
7 the statement was signed in 2019.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 Well, I have three more names to add to my
10 General Restriction Order list, people who can't be
11 identified as mentioned in our evidence outside of this
12 room. It's GAD-SPO, or Mr GAD, MLV
13 MLV and a Mr GAB. I think that was everybody.

14 Well, I'll rise now, and maybe we can start again by
15 2.10. Thank you very much.

16 (1.15 pm)

17 (The luncheon adjournment)

18 (2.10 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

20 Now, Ms Forbes, I think we have a witness who's
21 ready for us, do we?

22 MS FORBES: We do, my Lady. The next witness is a witness
23 who's called Heather Le Sommer.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1 Heather Le Sommer (sworn)

2 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

3 I quite understand, we will retrieve your glasses
4 for you.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: The first question I hope is an easy one for
7 you. How would you like me to address you, use your
8 first name or your second name?

9 A. Yes please, first name.

10 LADY SMITH: First name?

11 A. Yes, Heather.

12 LADY SMITH: Heather. Well, the red folder in front of you,
13 which I hope you'll be able to read in a moment or two,
14 has got your written statement in it that you signed,
15 and that, of course, is already evidence before the
16 Inquiry before me, and I have been able to consider it
17 beforehand, which has been very helpful. Thank you very
18 much for providing that.

19 But, beyond that, thank you for coming along today
20 so that we can explore some aspects with you --

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: -- with you here, and maybe in a little more
23 detail.

24 Now, Heather, as we go through your evidence, we'll
25 be able to bring the statement up on screen, you'll see

1 it is there now as well. So you can use the document in
2 front of you, or the screen, or neither. It's up to you
3 whether you find them helpful.

4 Here we go. Here are your glasses, I think. Is
5 that what you're looking for?

6 A. Thank you, I forgot them.

7 LADY SMITH: Good.

8 Yes, Ms Forbes will be taking you to the end of the
9 statement in a few moments, but just before she does
10 that, a couple of other things I wanted to say.

11 I know that what we're asking you to do here isn't
12 easy, you are in a public place and we are asking you to
13 cast your mind back to things that happened in your life
14 when you were a young adult, and I know, from reading
15 your statement, that some of these are probably going to
16 be quite difficult to talk about in some ways.

17 You may get upset, it may just feel difficult at
18 times and you need a pause or a break. Don't hesitate
19 to tell me if that happens.

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Because I really want you to be as comfortable
22 as you possibly can, in what's not necessarily a very
23 comfortable situation to be in.

24 If you've got any questions at any time, don't
25 hesitate to ask, and we'll do our best to answer them.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Well, we can go back now to the front of your
3 statement, and you can have it in front of you. It will
4 be on the screen as well. You don't have to use either
5 of them, it's just whatever's easier for you.

6 Heather, we give your statement a reference number
7 just for our records, so I'm just going to read that
8 out, but that's not something for you to worry about.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. It's WIT-1-000001712.

11 Okay, so now we've got that out of the way, we can
12 have a look at your statement.

13 And I think first of all, Heather, that you tell us
14 you were born in 1953, is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And then you give us a little bit of background and you
17 say that you were born in Australia?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. To Scottish parents, is that -- yes?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And that you came back to Scotland, though, when you
22 were still a baby; only nine months old?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So you remained in Scotland, then, for much of your life
25 after that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You go on, Heather, to tell us about your employment
3 history from paragraph 3, so I'm just going to move to
4 that now. And I think you say you didn't have
5 qualifications when you left school, but later in life
6 you actually went and got a degree in sociology; is that
7 right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. But when you first left school, you went and worked in
10 Quarriers Homes, and that was with children as a nursery
11 nurse, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you did that for 18 months?

14 A. Thereabouts, yes.

15 Q. And then you say you went away to Switzerland?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. And got a job in a day nursery there, so again still
18 working with children; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then you tell us whilst you were there, you wrote to
21 Lagarie Children's Home in Rhu asking if they had any
22 vacancies?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that was because you wanted to come back to
25 Scotland; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you want to return to working with children in
3 care homes?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you tell us you received a reply, and we've got the
6 date, August 1971, from the matron there then, which was
7 Mrs Smith?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And she said she would give you an interview when you
10 came back to Scotland?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Just going over to paragraph 6, over the page, I think
13 you say then you returned to Scotland in January
14 or February of 1972. You were only 19 at that point.
15 And then shortly after, you went to Lagarie and you were
16 interviewed by the matron, Mrs Smith. Is that right?

17 A. I would have been 18. I was 19 in [REDACTED].

18 Q. Okay, so you were still 18 at that time?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. And during the interview, I think, or after the
21 interview, she told you that you'd got the job?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And was that to start as a nursery nurse?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And this was to replace a girl who was leaving in about

1 three weeks?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And so you've told us your start date then at Lagarie
4 was March 1972. And by that time, had you had your 19th
5 birthday?

6 A. I think it was [REDACTED], and my birthday is [REDACTED].

7 Q. Okay. [REDACTED]?

8 A. Yeah, [REDACTED].

9 Q. And that job as a nursery nurse at Lagarie came with
10 accommodation; you resided on the premises?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And later on in your statement, Heather, quite far down,
13 you tell us when you left.

14 So just to get an idea, you tell us you left
15 June 1973. So the period we're looking at is March 1972
16 to June 1973?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. So about 14 months, or so?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Or 15 months, something like that.

21 Heather, you go on then to tell us about your
22 experiences at Lagarie from paragraph 8. And we've
23 heard evidence already that Lagarie was a home for
24 children of employed sailors, and that was your
25 understanding?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So they would look after children if their parents were
3 at sea, or if they were going through difficult times,
4 or needed additional support?

5 A. Yes, but they had to be connected to seagoing.

6 Q. Okay. So that was the background to the home?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you tell us that it was predominantly primary aged
9 children from 5 to 12 when you were there, but there
10 were children as young as 3, is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And there was one girl who was of secondary age when you
13 were there, but that was unusual?

14 A. As far as I -- when I was there, there was no other
15 children of that age, and yes, I would say it was
16 unusual.

17 Q. Okay. And you tell us at paragraph 10, Heather, that
18 the children stayed in the home for the time they were
19 there; they didn't go away for holidays back home or for
20 Christmas or weekends?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And you point out they could stay for all of their
23 childhood, although some only stayed for a few years?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you tell us that when you arrived, the children and

1 the staff in the home referred to each other by their
2 first names?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think you tell us about the matron, Mrs Smith, in the
5 following paragraphs, but in relation to Mrs Smith, did
6 they call her that, or did they call her by her first
7 name?

8 A. No, it was always Mrs Smith.

9 Q. Mrs Smith. So she was the only one who was referred to
10 by her second name?

11 A. Known as 'Matron'.

12 Q. As 'Matron'. You tell us about the culture, Heather, at
13 paragraph 12, and you say that when you went for your
14 interview, you thought it was a lovely place?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I think from what you tell us you formed a very good
17 impression of the matron, Mrs Smith, who interviewed you
18 as well?

19 A. Very much so.

20 Q. And you describe her as being lovely, is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you say that continued after you were employed, as
23 well?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. So your first impression remained?

1 A. That is true.

2 Q. And you describe it on your arrival as being
3 a well-structured environment, but you point out that
4 that wasn't how it ended up?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And we will go on to see that there was a change in the
7 staff who were in charge of the home whilst you were
8 there, is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And that was a change from Mrs Smith; after a short
11 period of someone else caretaking, there was then Mr and
12 Mrs Barrie; is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You go on, Heather, to describe your role and your
15 recruitment at Lagarie from paragraph 13 and you tell us
16 about that interview with Mrs Smith and the fact that
17 she asked you about your time at Quarriers; is that
18 right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And you say that you had a discussion about the pros and
21 cons of the different set-ups in Quarriers and Lagarie?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you say she was particularly asking you about what
24 you thought about the children leaving Quarriers at 16,
25 and not having been outside that isolated community?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So it was quite a philosophical sort of interview, would
3 you describe it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And certainly, did you have some opinions about that?

6 A. It's -- yes, I'd never thought about it. It was --
7 Quarriers Homes was not far from Kilmacolm, and it was
8 lovely, and the buildings, it had its own -- I worked in
9 the hospital, it had its own hospital, post office,
10 shop, school. And she pointed out to me that being
11 brought up in that environment, and then having to leave
12 would -- what did I think about that. And I said I'd
13 never considered that. I just looked at it at that age
14 just purely as it was. But I had not considered the
15 effects of how those children would feel.

16 Q. So it seemed that she was interested in thinking about
17 the after-effects of care?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And obviously you were successful, because we know you
20 started there, and you tell us, at paragraph 14, there
21 were five other girls like you as nursery nurses, is
22 that right?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. But in charge was Mrs Smith; there was nobody in
25 between?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And you explain, Heather, your job was to look after the
3 children, get them ready for school, make sure they had
4 clean clothes and make sure the beds were made?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. And you explain that whilst Mrs Smith was matron, the
7 nursery staff would rotate around the different groups
8 of children, and I think you explain that Monday you'd
9 be working with the older boys or the older girls, and
10 the next day it would be the younger ones?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. And you make the point, Heather, that this meant that
13 you worked holistically with all the children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And did you feel that that worked well?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think you make the point you don't know if references
18 were obtained by Lagarie, but were you asked for
19 references?

20 A. I cannot remember.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. But they wouldn't have been able to get references from
23 Switzerland, because they didn't speak English, or write
24 English.

25 Q. But certainly Mrs Smith knew that you had worked at

1 Quarriers, because she discussed it with you, and she
2 obviously knew you worked in Switzerland in a day
3 nursery; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So she knew you had that experience?

6 A. Yes, and also because she wrote to me in Switzerland and
7 obviously my address.

8 Q. Yes. Heather, you go on to tell us about the layout and
9 structure of Lagarie, and we have heard a lot of
10 evidence about that already so I won't go through that
11 in any detail. But essentially there was a big main
12 building, there was a matron's cottage, and there was
13 another cottage where the gardener and his wife lived?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And your bedrooms, the nursery nurses' bedrooms, were
16 within the main building; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you say they were dotted about, so maybe on
19 different levels?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you tell us that there was a nursery on the ground
22 floor where the youngest children slept and the other
23 bedrooms were on the first floor?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I think you also tell us in the next paragraph,

1 paragraph 20, that the children slept in bedrooms with
2 four other children, and there were five bedrooms on the
3 first floor and two bedrooms in the tower area?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So this was a third floor, above the second floor, this
6 tower area?

7 A. Yeah, I had a bedroom there.

8 Q. Yes. And you say that had two bedrooms in there?

9 A. It had two rooms. Yes.

10 Q. And at the time you were there, Heather, the children
11 were allocated rooms according to their age, with
12 similar aged children placed together?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And Mrs Smith tried to keep siblings from the same --
15 siblings together?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. But, I think you say -- I think you talk about this
18 later in your statement a little bit, but you don't know
19 if that stayed the same when the Barries took over, but
20 it's not something you particularly have a good
21 recollection of?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. You tell us a little bit more, Heather, about the
24 matron, Mrs Smith, from paragraph 22, and you say she
25 was a highly trained Sister in the medical field, and

1 she lived there with her husband and two children; is
2 that right?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. And her husband wasn't really involved in the home?

5 A. No.

6 Q. But would sometimes drive the minibus?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You say Mrs Smith was someone who understood children,
9 and was very sympathetic towards them?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And you tell us, this is at paragraph 23, at the end:
12 'I would go so far as to say she was a very kind
13 human being and she was very child-centred.'

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You also describe her as being very modern in her views,
16 Heather. What was it about the way she went about
17 things that made you say that?

18 A. I would say that because of her attitude towards
19 childcare. For example, when we discussed the children
20 who were resident at Quarriers Homes, she pointed out
21 the negative side of -- it would not be helpful for
22 children to leave that environment and go straight into,
23 like, Glasgow, or somewhere like that.

24 Q. Okay. And you say that her way of working was very
25 relaxed, and I think you've already explained that the

1 children and the staff called each other by their first
2 names?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And everything was focused on the children?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. You make a comment about her refusing to have bus
7 coaches coming round the premises for people to look at
8 the home, as she insisted it wasn't a zoo. Was that
9 something that you were aware of potentially happening?

10 A. No, I remember her saying something. I don't know how
11 it cropped up, but what she just said was she wasn't
12 going to have coaches coming round and it wasn't a zoo.

13 Q. Okay.

14 LADY SMITH: Did she say anything about that sort of thing
15 happening at Quarriers?

16 A. No.

17 LADY SMITH: Just given she was interested in the Quarriers
18 experience?

19 A. She didn't ask me anything --

20 LADY SMITH: She didn't, right.

21 A. -- like that. But I do know, I don't know if it's on
22 here later on, I remembered a group of people coming
23 round, and I thought it was a coach when the Barries
24 were there. But I had a diary, and it actually wasn't.
25 It was the Helensburgh Bridge Club. But they were

1 looking for a venue.

2 LADY SMITH: I see, yes.

3 A. And my friend who's in the bridge club said, 'Yeah, but
4 they'd need to pay for it', meaning they wouldn't get
5 the room for nothing.

6 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, I can see that.

7 MS FORBES: Heather, you tell us that there were the six
8 nursery nurses, including you when you were there, and
9 you give us the names of the people that you worked
10 alongside. And you say that one of them, Sheila, was
11 only there for a short period of time, and somebody
12 called RDM took over from her.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So she replaced her?

15 A. Can I just say, I've got the name wrong on that.

16 LADY SMITH: Well, tell us what it is.

17 A. It wasn't Gardiner. It was Lawson.

18 MS FORBES: Right, okay, so Sheila Lawson.

19 A. Sheila, yes.

20 Q. That's fine.

21 You also say there were domestic staff who did the
22 cleaning, the cooks. The gardener we've mentioned.
23 You've named him there as 'Mr Skelton', and you said he
24 had an apprentice?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you think he was called [REDACTED]?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But you didn't see much of them?

4 A. No.

5 Q. They weren't inside the home very often?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And from your point of view, you think you had
8 sufficient staff to deal with the children, and you make
9 the point, you did not have children who were
10 challenging in the slightest?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. So this wasn't a home for difficult children who
13 couldn't --

14 A. Absolutely not.

15 Q. -- behave, or were running away all the time?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And that was your impression when you were there. Yes.
18 Now, I think you say you can't recall anyone leaving
19 Lagarie while Mrs Smith was matron there. Do you mean
20 children or do you mean staff-wise?

21 A. I meant staff.

22 Q. Right, okay.

23 A. But I do recall three sets of families leaving round
24 about, just coming up to the summer of 1973.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Three. So that was the families that --

2 LADY SMITH: So that was the same summer as you finished up?

3 A. Sorry?

4 LADY SMITH: The same summer as you finished up?

5 A. Yes, just before I left, I remember three families

6 leaving.

7 LADY SMITH: So it's three families. Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: You tell us about training, Heather, at

9 paragraph 29. You say there was no training at Lagarie

10 when you were there, although you did some shadowing

11 when you first started?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But it was informal, and really just other staff showing

14 you the ropes; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But there was always a member of staff on duty with you

17 that you could ask?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And again, there was no trial period and no appraisal

20 system when you were there?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And you make the point, when you were asked about policy

23 at paragraph 31, you say:

24 'I never saw anything like that in Lagarie.'

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. So there wasn't a folder somewhere of policies that you
2 had to read about how things went in the home?
3 A. No.
4 Q. You then go on to tell us, Heather, that there was
5 a change of matron whilst you were there. At
6 paragraph 32 you say that:
7 'Unfortunately, the Smiths left in August 1972.'
8 So that was the year that you started there, is that
9 right? After about maybe six months?
10 A. No, 1973.
11 Q. Oh, sorry, 1973 it is, okay.
12 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what was 1973?
13 A. Was when Mr and Mrs Smith left.
14 LADY SMITH: Oh right, so you'd had quite a long time
15 working with them by the time they left? Or was it
16 just -- I mean, that would still have been from March
17 to August.
18 A. No, I'm sorry, I'm confused, it was 1972.
19 LADY SMITH: Right, so you started in the March.
20 A. Yes. They left --
21 LADY SMITH: And you worked with the Smiths.
22 A. Until they left in the September -- the August.
23 LADY SMITH: By then, what sort of feel of the time you'd
24 been working with them had you got? Did it feel like
25 a good length of time you'd been with them?

1 A. It felt like a very good -- yes, and they were lovely
2 people.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes. You got to know them well?

4 A. I did indeed. In fact I visited Mrs Smith when I left
5 Lagarie.

6 LADY SMITH: Was that in Aberdeen, you did that?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 A. Cruden Bay.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes. So you worked together with them for
11 quite a wee while.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: And then they left and new people arrived. And
14 I think that's where Ms Forbes is going to take you
15 next.

16 A. Right.

17 LADY SMITH: Have I got that right?

18 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, yes, thank you.

19 I think you make the point that because Mrs Smith
20 had two young children, who were about 5 and 3, they
21 were starting to call her Mrs Smith?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Like the other children, instead of 'Mummy'. So you
24 think that's one of the reasons she left?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that something she told you?

2 A. She told me that.

3 Q. And you know it was August, because you talk about the
4 eldest girl of a family group, and you name her, who was
5 sitting her exams a few months before, and she received
6 eight O-Levels?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the Smiths took her out for a meal to celebrate?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But then that family group left shortly afterwards; is
11 that right?

12 A. That family group left.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes, and she'd have got her O-Level results in
14 the August.

15 A. That's why -- yes, that's why they took her out for the
16 meal, and then she left [REDACTED] of 1973; [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED].

18 LADY SMITH: Okay.

19 MS FORBES: And as we've already mentioned, Mrs Smith and
20 her family moved up to Cruden Bay in Aberdeen.

21 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

22 Q. But you point out that the staff and yourself were sad
23 that she'd left?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: What were people saying?

1 A. We were just upset that she was going, all the staff
2 were. In fact we all clubbed together and got her
3 a lovely Poppy China Coffee Set. She was wonderful.

4 MS FORBES: And you tell us, Heather, that when she left,
5 she gave you two letters addressed to a particular girl?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And told you to keep them safe for her, and then you put
8 them in a box and then later, a couple of years later,
9 found them and gave them to the girl. And her words to
10 you, Mrs Smith's words to you, were, 'She might not get
11 them otherwise'.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So she entrusted you with their safekeeping?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then after the Smiths left, there was another
16 matron, you say Miss or Mrs Jackson arrived and she was
17 there for about two weeks, and you describe it as
18 'holding the fort', is that right?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. But staff knew that someone was coming more
21 permanently --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- when she was there, but you didn't know who it would
24 be?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Heather, you then tell us about a couple who arrived,
2 Mr and Mrs Barrie. This is from paragraph 37. And you
3 say they arrived in the middle of September 1972.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. As the replacement. You didn't know, you say, anything
6 about them or what their background was?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And you point out that you always thought Mrs Barrie was
9 the matron and the boss?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But I think you tell us that you maybe found out later
12 that in actual fact, it was Mr Barrie who was ultimately
13 in charge?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. He was the superintendent, was he?

16 A. Yes. It was Mark Daly that told me that it was, I was
17 wrong, it was him who was the boss and employed as
18 superintendent.

19 Q. Okay. But that's not what you thought at the time,
20 that's not the impression you had?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. I think you say you thought because she was female she
23 was a replacement for Mrs Smith?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But you describe Mr Barrie, and you thought he was

1 a Church of Scotland minister, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And he always wore his dog collar, and you thought that

4 that was his job?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Again, Mr Smith, with Mrs Smith, had had his own

7 job; is that right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And your impression was that most of the staff thought

10 the same as you about that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us about the day they arrived, Heather, at

13 paragraph 38, that you were on duty and you remember

14 them coming in the front door.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How did they seem to you?

17 A. Not very friendly.

18 Q. Okay. And I think you point out they didn't introduce

19 themselves to staff?

20 A. No, there was no sort of someone saying, 'Here they are,

21 this is the staff', and we all met. They just come in

22 and, as far as I recall, no one was really introduced to

23 them.

24 Q. Okay. And you tell us you don't even know if they

25 introduced themselves to the children?

1 A. No, that's true.

2 Q. Yes. You tell us that day you came off your shift and
3 you went up to your bedroom, and that was in the tower
4 at that time, is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And one of the other nursery nurses you worked with came
7 and said 'Well?', meaning how are the new couple, and
8 you tell us what your reply was, and was that, 'I don't
9 know, but they're not like the Smiths'?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. So was that your immediate impression?

12 A. Immediate.

13 Q. That they were very different?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. They didn't appear very friendly or ... well, just that;
17 they didn't appear friendly.

18 Q. Okay. Heather, you say at paragraph 39 that things
19 changed dramatically after they arrived?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you say you'd go so far as to say that everything
22 changed?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you give us some examples of that. You say:
25 'The first thing that was obvious was their attitude

1 in general to both staff and children.'

2 And you've mentioned that they just didn't seem very
3 friendly. And you formed the impression that they
4 didn't seem like the type of people to be in the care
5 sector?

6 A. That's correct. Compared to the Smiths, to the Barries,
7 there was nothing really in common. And they just
8 didn't seem, as I said there, the type of people that
9 would be ... also, they were quite elderly.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Well, yeah.

12 Q. And you'd had experience, obviously, at Quarriers as
13 well, so were you comparing it to that background too,
14 comparing them to that?

15 A. Not at the time. I was comparing exactly how Lagarie
16 ran, and with Mr and Mrs Smith being there.

17 Q. Okay. And you say they never held any staff meetings to
18 communicate any changes --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- that they intended to make?

21 A. No.

22 Q. But certainly, they did make changes?

23 A. Everything changed.

24 LADY SMITH: Heather, would I be right in thinking nobody
25 from the charity, the Sailors' Society, came to tell the

1 staff what was happening, and to introduce the new
2 people to the staff?

3 A. That is correct. They just turned up one day.

4 LADY SMITH: And said, 'We're in charge now', or words to
5 that effect.

6 A. Yes. Well, they met, obviously, with the matron who was
7 there. She was quite elderly, but I think she was
8 an actual matron, if you understand.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 A. And that was just, she left and the Barries took over.

11 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm. So that was the woman who'd been
12 filling in in the interim --

13 A. Yes, about two or three weeks.

14 LADY SMITH: After the Smiths had gone.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS FORBES: And did the fill-in matron, the interim matron,
18 Miss or Mrs Jackson, did she leave the same day they
19 arrived?

20 A. I can't remember that.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I would assume so, because there was only the cottage.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. I cannot remember.

25 Q. Okay. You go on, Heather, to tell us about the changes

1 implemented by Mr and Mrs Barrie, and this is in
2 relation to, specifically about, ones that affected the
3 children. And at paragraph 41 you say:

4 'One of the first things they did was to have the
5 bed covers removed from the children's beds that matched
6 the furniture.'

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think you explain that the bed covers that had been
9 there matched the furniture which was within the
10 bedrooms?

11 A. Yes, they were pretty.

12 Q. But when you came on duty, you say not long after they
13 arrived, and you were in a bedroom, you noticed that
14 they were all away?

15 A. Yes. And I went round all the bedrooms.

16 Q. Yes. And they were all gone, in all the bedrooms?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you know where they had went?

19 A. No.

20 Q. But I think you found out from a member of staff that it
21 was Mrs Barrie who had had them removed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that's because she didn't like them?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And the replacements for those, you've described were

1 the 'old, harsh, jaggy, striped blankets' that had been
2 on the beds alongside the nice ones. Were these the
3 type of heavier blankets?

4 A. I tried to describe them. They were like the blankets
5 you would see in the films, like 'The Good, the Bad and
6 the Ugly', you know, the thick, striped, that sort of
7 thing, and she wanted them tucked under. I would say
8 that what was on top was more like a counterpane cover,
9 if -- that were nice.

10 Q. So the nice blankets went on top of that? Sorry, the
11 nice covers had been on top of that before?

12 A. Yeah. Yeah.

13 Q. So this was taking those away and just leaving the
14 blankets underneath?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. As you've described, she wanted them tucked in
17 a particular way and I think you say that meant them:
18 'It looked like a bed in a barracks after that.'

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was that what it made you think of?

21 A. That's exactly what it made me think of. Before, well,
22 there were children -- you know, they were just hanging
23 down, you'd put the counterpane on top, tuck it under
24 the pillow, and that was that. But she wanted it done,
25 folded in ... yeah.

1 Q. And you say, Heather, that the softness in the rooms all
2 went with those changes?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The next thing you talk about, Heather, at paragraph 42,
5 is she moved the older girls' bedroom to the tower.
6 I take it that had been on the second floor before, had
7 it?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So it was moved to the tower, and that was where your
10 bedroom was situated?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. And then she moved you from your room, and then you had
13 to share a room with another member of staff?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And up until that point, had you had to share a room
16 with another member of staff?

17 A. None of us shared a room.

18 Q. Okay, and I think you make the point in your statement
19 that there were plenty of rooms?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. There wasn't a need to be sharing for staff?

22 A. No.

23 Q. But you also tell us that your old room in the tower was
24 given to a new member of staff, called RDM ?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And she was allocated to look after the older girls?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So these changes meant the older girls were in the tower

4 in one room, and she was in the bedroom next to them?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us then at paragraph 43, Heather, that

7 something dawned on you years later, and I think we'll

8 come to talk about this in a little bit more detail

9 later in your statement.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. But that this move to the tower, when you thought back

12 on it years later and you heard about Mr Barrie and the

13 girls, you feel that that moving -- moving the older

14 girls up there and out of the way was a sinister move,

15 perhaps?

16 A. Years later, yes.

17 Q. Okay. But that's not anything you had a suspicion of at

18 the time, is it?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You go on, Heather, to say that the next change that

21 they made was that children and staff were banned from

22 using the front door and the main stairs?

23 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

24 Q. You could only use the back door and the rear stairs?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And were you told why that was?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: Why did you think it was?

5 A. I didn't actually think that -- I didn't see any good
6 reason why, but apparently they wanted to keep the front
7 nice because Lagarie's front door was pretty ornate.
8 And the staircase. It was a beautiful building, but we
9 could only -- but they were just saying just to use the
10 back door, and the back stairs.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay. But the children had previously gone in
12 and out at the front.

13 A. Absolutely, yes. When the Smiths were there, everything
14 was open. We could go out the front door, whatever
15 door.

16 MS FORBES: Yes. I think you say a little bit later in your
17 statement, Heather, that when the Smiths were there,
18 sometimes the children would be running up the front
19 stairs and maybe having a little bit of a carry on?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Yes. But that all went away --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- with the changes.

24 You tell us, Heather, that the television room,
25 which had a library and books, was locked after the

1 Barries' arrival?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And a restriction put on when it could be used?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. So that was a change to what had happened when Mrs Smith

6 was there?

7 A. Yes, it was only on their say-so. Before, the

8 television room would be opened, the children could go

9 in there, but the TV wasn't on all the time. But any

10 child would come and say, 'Heather, will you put on the

11 television?' and we'd go and put it on, you know. But

12 that changed with the Barries, that they could only have

13 it when they said so.

14 Q. Okay, so it used to be a room where the children could

15 go, look at the books, spend time in there and, as

16 you've said, ask if they wanted to put the television

17 on. But that all changed and it was locked up?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you tell us later, about -- when you're talking

20 about keys, that the keys were kept then with the

21 Barries; is that right?

22 A. Keys were originally in the staffroom. Downstairs.

23 Next to the off-duty. And there'd be keys for certain

24 places. And one day I came on shift and I thought

25 where -- I needed the key, I think, for the linen

1 cupboard. I thought, where have the keys gone? And one
2 of the -- someone said to me that Mrs Barrie had taken
3 them and put them in a drawer in the office, so we had
4 to go and ask, and she would ask why.

5 Q. Okay. And was that the same with the key for the
6 television room?

7 A. I can't remember.

8 Q. That's fine.

9 You make the point, Heather, that staff used to play
10 the radio and music from the staff office into the
11 playroom, but that was something that was stopped?

12 A. They had a couple of speakers in the playroom that had
13 been piped through from the radio in the office. You
14 could switch it, obviously, on and off, but that all
15 stopped.

16 Q. Okay. You tell us, Heather, that this girl that I think
17 we've talked about a little bit already, who was
18 studying for her Highers --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- that she was made to sit in the playroom to study?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. And I think you explain that this came about because
23 Mr and Mrs Barrie found out that a member -- another
24 member of staff, yourself, and I think two girls, of the
25 older girls from the home, had visited Mrs Smith in

1 a local hotel, and you say:

2 'They were fuming that we had visited.'

3 A. Yes, it was just at the bottom of the drive. The
4 Ardencaple Hotel. And Mrs Smith -- I actually checked
5 my diary before I come out -- was there on 5 and
6 6 March 1973, and there was several members of staff,
7 and [REDACTED], and we all went down to see
8 Mrs Smith at the hotel.

9 Q. Okay. And you say:

10 'Having her study in the playroom was punishment for
11 [her] visiting Mrs Smith.'

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you say:

14 'That to me just shows how vindictive and cruel they
15 could be.'

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Where had she been studying before?

18 A. In her -- well, when Mrs Smith was there, in her
19 bedroom, in whatever room.

20 Q. Okay. So she was allowed to take herself away to
21 study --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- wherever she found, perhaps, a quiet place?

24 A. Yes, and I know that is absolutely true, because I met
25 with [REDACTED] last week and I said, 'Refresh my memory, why

1 was it Mrs -- you were told to sit in the playroom to
2 study for your Highers?' She said, 'Because I went down
3 with you guys to see Mrs Smith at the Ardencaple'. And
4 I went, 'I'm just clarifying that'.
5 Q. And I take it the playroom, given its name, was
6 somewhere that wasn't a suitable place to study for your
7 Highers?
8 A. Yeah, that's correct. It would be the younger children
9 who were there.
10 Q. You tell us, Heather, about Mr Barrie and some games
11 that he would play with the children?
12 A. Uh-huh.
13 Q. You describe it as a 'chase me, catch me' game with
14 sweets?
15 A. Yeah.
16 Q. What would he do?
17 A. Oh, he'd carry on with them and have the older children,
18 like, they'd chase him, you know, like a carry on sort
19 of thing. But there was just something ... I remember
20 thinking, 'I think he's just doing that to make me think
21 that he's popular, but I know different, I know he's
22 not'. It wasn't till later down the line that I thought
23 that could have been a different reason.
24 Q. Okay. And I think you say, knowing what you know now,
25 this is what you have learned --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- later on in life, that you think it may have been
3 something more sinister than just a game?

4 A. Yeah, because it was only really the older girls he paid
5 attention to. He didn't pay attention to the older
6 boys.

7 Q. And we've talked about the ages of the children that
8 were in Lagarie. I think you explained that really it
9 was up until about 12, but sometimes a little bit older,
10 but that was unusual. So when you're talking about the
11 older girls he was interested in, what sort of ages
12 would they have been?

13 A. They were all at primary school.

14 Q. Okay. You say, Heather, that the children definitely
15 noticed the changes with the arrival of the Barries.
16 And you would say as a group they became subdued?

17 A. Absolutely. Yes.

18 Q. So is that a good word to describe how you saw them?

19 A. That's a good word, because the atmosphere changed.

20 Q. Yes. And we've already mentioned that the carry on
21 about running up the stairs didn't happen, partly
22 because you weren't allowed to be on the front stairs
23 anymore, but was the atmosphere less jovial and playful
24 than it had been?

25 A. Without doubt.

1 Q. Yes. You tell us then, Heather, about changes that the
2 Barries made that impact staff from paragraph 50, and we
3 talked about the situation when Mr and Mrs Smith were
4 there, and how each day you might have a different group
5 of children to look after. But when the Barries came,
6 you tell us they changed that, and they allocated
7 members of staff to specific ages of children to look
8 after. So there wasn't this rota system around the
9 groups anymore?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And you were allocated the older boys?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you say RDM [REDACTED] was allocated the older
14 girls?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But again, you say older, but these were about 10 or 11?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And this was a significant change to the way that you'd
19 been working at the home, and the other members of staff
20 had been working?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you tell us that that was one of the main things
23 that annoyed you about the changes they made. And can
24 you tell us a bit more about that; what was it that you
25 didn't like?

1 A. Well, before, when we were with all the groups of
2 children, and the bedrooms, and then it was, 'Well,
3 that's not my group, that belongs to someone else'. And
4 the person who -- well, I know two -- used to get quite
5 snippy about interfering, if you like, because that was
6 their group of children.

7 Q. Okay. So staff members then didn't want other people
8 involved with their group?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. I think you also say, though, that one of the issues
11 with the new way of working was that children got very
12 used to and reliant upon one particular member of staff?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you tell us about a card that you have, given to you
15 by a child that was written to "Mummy"?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that's just an example of how attached you say the
18 children got.

19 And you explain that they had parents at sea for
20 a lot of the time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you've already told us they didn't go home for
23 Christmas, or holidays, and things like that?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. You go on then, Heather, to tell us about the key

1 situation at paragraph 52 and you say that:

2 'Staff were no longer allowed access to keys without
3 the Barries' permission. They took the keys which had
4 previously been in the staffroom and put them in their
5 office.'

6 And this meant you had no access to keys for the
7 clothes and linen cupboard and the sewing room?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And this was a particular issue, you tell us, because
10 some children in the home had issues with bed-wetting,
11 is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what that change meant was that if a child had wet
14 the bed, you would have to go and ask the Barries, or
15 Mrs Barrie, for access to the linen cupboard to be able
16 to change that, the bedding?

17 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

18 Q. And she would want to know why you wanted access?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So you'd have to tell her that a child had wet the bed.
21 Is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that wasn't the case when Mrs Smith was there?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And there was no issue with bed-wetting --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- when she was there?

3 A. No, no.

4 Q. But Mrs Barrie had a particular problem about children
5 wetting the bed, is that right?

6 A. Well, obviously she did by the way she treated the
7 children who had that accident.

8 Q. Yes. And you say that that is one of the things that
9 Mrs Barrie used to humiliate children?

10 A. Yes, in front of their peers.

11 Q. And you point out that there was no way of being
12 discreet about it after this change in the rules, about
13 the keys, because they would know; is that right?

14 A. Well, actually what I did was I took some sheets out of
15 the linen cupboard and put them in a drawer in my
16 bedroom and said to my boys, 'Anything happens, let me
17 know, and I'll change them'.

18 Q. Yes, I think you tell us about that a little bit later
19 in your statement. That was one of --

20 A. Oh, right, sorry.

21 Q. No, no, it's okay. Now that you've said it, we won't go
22 over it again, but that's one of the things that you
23 were able to do secretly to try to counteract --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- what she would do if she found out a child had wet

1 the bed, to try and protect them; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you point out that Mrs Barrie would walk about the

4 home with this great bunch of keys jangling about?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. And is that something that stays with you to today?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that reminds you of her?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say also, Heather, that Mr Barrie then completely

11 changed your off duty, and then he changed the hours you

12 worked?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You used to be 7.00 am till 3.00 pm during the day, but

15 then this was changed, extended to 5.00 pm?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And he would have you working ten days in a row and give

18 you two sets of days off back-to-back?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did it used to be the case that you would work five days

21 on and have a day off?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So in this new situation --

24 A. This was, he brought in, you'd have two days off for

25 that week, two days off for the next week, but you had

1 to work those ten days off, and if you were on a back
2 shift, and you finished at 10 o'clock at night, you were
3 still on call to 7 o'clock the next morning.

4 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I don't think I'm following that, I'm
5 sure it is my fault. So, say it's this week.

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 LADY SMITH: You could be working 7.00 am till 5.00 pm, so
8 that's 10-hour days. For how many days in a row?

9 A. It could be ten.

10 LADY SMITH: Could be ten.

11 A. Because you had two days off at the end.

12 LADY SMITH: Okay.

13 A. This would happen every six weeks. You had four days
14 off.

15 LADY SMITH: So if it was this week, I might have had Monday
16 and Tuesday off.

17 A. Wednesday, Thursday.

18 LADY SMITH: Wednesday I start at 7 o'clock in the morning
19 and then every day for the next ten days I do a ten-hour
20 shift.

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: And then I have another two days off?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Not four days?

25 A. You'd have to do the ten, because of your two days that

1 were put together.

2 LADY SMITH: I see, right. So that was more hours overall

3 than you were working before?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

6 MS FORBES: And you've just explained a little bit, Heather,

7 I think, that there was also this back shift, 2.00 pm

8 till 10.00 pm, but then you were also on call from 10.00

9 pm until 7.00 am the next morning. And one of the

10 changes was your first day off would be from 7.00 am,

11 and so you would be on call potentially from 10.00 pm

12 until 7.00 am the next morning?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. And that was on your first day off. So you might be

15 called out during the course of the night, and might be

16 quite tired during the first day.

17 A. Yeah. Well, we -- obviously you couldn't leave the

18 building if you finished at 10.00 pm; who would look

19 after the children? That's why we were resident.

20 Because we had to be there at night time.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, I don't know if this was a --

22 LADY SMITH: Would that be a good point to have a break?

23 I should have explained to you earlier, Heather,

24 I normally take a mid-afternoon break just for a short

25 while about now. We all get a breather and then come

1 back. Would that work for you?

2 A. Yes, of course.

3 LADY SMITH: Let's do that then.

4 (3.03 pm)

5 (A short break)

6 (3.12 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Heather, are you ready for us to carry on?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 Ms Forbes.

11 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

12 Heather, before the break we were talking about the

13 changes that the Barries had made in relation to the

14 staff. I think you go on to tell us they did some other

15 things. Paragraph 56, you say they restricted staff use

16 of the laundry facilities, so that was only to be used

17 at certain times; is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. But previously you'd been able to use it after your

20 shift?

21 A. It was opened all the time, yes.

22 Q. You also say that after shift, you and the other nursery

23 nurses would sit up, sometimes putting on face masks and

24 nail polish, but that was another thing that they tried

25 to stop? You also used to go out to discos?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you make the point that Mr Barrie, you don't think,
3 wanted that kind of person in the home. And you tell
4 us, Heather, that the only time you met him was when he
5 decided it was -- and you've put -- this is in inverted
6 commas in your statement -- 'a Christian children's home
7 and not a hotel for young ladies'?

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. Is that something he said?

10 A. He said to me? Yes.

11 Q. Yes, okay.

12 A. Before, we could come in whatever time, et cetera, and
13 he decided he was going to put a 10 o'clock curfew on
14 staff that were out, and his explanation was it was
15 'a Christian children's home and not a hotel for young
16 ladies'.

17 Q. And I think you tell us later in your statement,
18 Heather, that if you had finished perhaps at 7.00 pm,
19 and didn't go out until 7.30 pm, that that might mean
20 you would have to be in at 10.00 pm, so you didn't get
21 very long?

22 A. Well, if you're going out on an evening, you're going
23 out at 7.00 pm, 7.30 pm at night.

24 LADY SMITH: And then you've got to get to where you're
25 going, and then you've got to be back in before

1 10 o'clock.

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Not much time for fun.

4 A. No, I'm afraid not.

5 MS FORBES: And you're only 19 and 20 during this period as

6 well.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And were the other nursery nurses a similar sort of age

9 to you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. But you explain that that -- I think ultimately,

12 you explain later that that really was one of the main

13 reasons why you decided to leave?

14 A. One of the main reasons. Edith and I decided this.

15 Edith didn't really socialise in Helensburgh, she came

16 from Cumbernauld, I think, and she used to go home.

17 I had a lot of friends in Helensburgh, and of course

18 I socialised in Helensburgh.

19 Q. Yes. But you make the point that you think he wanted

20 rid of you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. You describe the Barries as running Lagarie like

23 a prison camp?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that the way, the best way to describe it?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: What do you mean by that? Tell me a bit more.

3 A. There wasn't any fun. It was very strict. It was very
4 regimented. Even looking at the children's bedrooms,
5 there was really no sort of softness in it, especially
6 the way the covers were tucked under. I think
7 a Scottish word I would use, they were like dour.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, I know exactly what you mean, thank you.

9 MS FORBES: And we've already talked about how restrictions
10 were put on using the front stairs and using the front
11 door, so very much staff and children weren't to be seen
12 in that area of the house either.

13 A. You could say that, yes.

14 Q. You tell us, Heather, about some staff changes that
15 happened after Mr and Mrs Barrie arrived. And you say
16 that two people left around the start of December?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. And you have a letter from one of them, Linda,
19 dated January 1973. And within that letter she says:
20 'For the first time in months I'm really happy. My
21 only regret is that I did not leave Lagarie sooner.
22 Many times I have thought about you all down there,
23 putting up with that detestable woman. I honestly don't
24 know how you can bear to work under the same roof as
25 her. I suppose you must be fonder of the children than

1 I was.'

2 And when she's saying 'that detestable woman', is

3 that Mrs Barrie she is referring to?

4 A. Absolutely.

5 Q. And you make the point she wasn't saying she didn't

6 care; she was just questioning why you put up with them?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say that the other individual that left, Carol,

9 she left without even having a job to go to?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And she told you that she'd been given a Brillo pad and

12 told to get down on her hands and knees and scrub the

13 dining room floor?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Because apparently the Barries wanted the polish taken

16 off the floor?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Do you know why?

19 A. Pardon?

20 LADY SMITH: Do you know why they wanted the polish taken

21 off the floor?

22 A. No. Before, in the big dining room with linoleum, the

23 domestics used to have this material that they'd mop on

24 and it dried to a high gloss, non-slip shine.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 A. For some reason they wanted it all taken off. I do not
2 know.

3 LADY SMITH: Was it anything to do with the cost of the
4 polish or the time it would take to put the polish on
5 the floor?

6 A. It wouldn't take long to mop it down.

7 LADY SMITH: Of course.

8 A. With, you know, one of the thingmy mops, mop it all
9 down, leave it to dry.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 A. No, I don't know why. But also the elder children were
12 involved in it.

13 LADY SMITH: This business of scrubbing the floor with
14 a Brillo pad?

15 A. Yes, to take the polish, the high shine off. It's the
16 only way you could, unless you got a sander, I would
17 think.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

19 MS FORBES: So instead of having somebody professional come
20 in with machinery, this was them asking the staff, and
21 you say the children, the older children, to do it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You tell us, Heather, that you found a note in your
24 possessions that was from Carol that said:
25 'Dish out the Christmas cards to my boys, my make-up

1 hasn't run yet.'

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that was because she had cards that she hadn't yet
4 given to her boys; is that right?

5 A. Well, I shared a room with Carol so I knew exactly how
6 she felt with what was going on, and I remember her
7 coming up into our bedroom and saying, 'I've had enough,
8 I am leaving, and this is the reason why', about the
9 Brillo pad. She left, and she came to pick some stuff
10 up. I think I was either out or on shift, and she left
11 a note to say to dish the Christmas cards out, because
12 she had the younger boys. Which I did.

13 LADY SMITH: Right. So does that look as though she had
14 originally thought she was going to be there at
15 Christmas, and so she'd got cards ready for the boys?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: And the comment she makes, 'My make-up hasn't
19 run yet', is that -- relates to her not having cried?

20 A. Because she was crying.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Yes. This hadn't been thought through. She didn't say,
23 'Well, you know, I'm going to leave', or it was just
24 spur of the moment, when she come up.

25 Q. Yes, and you say that after Carol left, you again were

1 moved into sharing a room with a staff member you didn't
2 know?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And we've talked about that not being the case when
5 Mrs Smith was there.

6 You tell us, Heather, that you obviously kept
7 a diary during that period.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And you've got some entries. One relates to you saying
10 'I will miss my old room', and that was January 1973?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And then another entry in January 1973, where you've
13 written, 'Work was easy, the atmosphere is awful'.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was that how the atmosphere was a lot of the time?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You tell us two staff came into replace Carol and Linda.
18 One was a girl called Karen and the other PZF .
19 And there was also a Miss Stewart employed as a depute
20 matron, so there was no depute matron before, is that
21 right?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And you describe this depute matron, Miss Stewart, as
24 Mrs Barrie's lapdog?

25 A. Yes, she did everything Mrs Barrie said, and she -- what

1 I mean by that, she didn't have a lot of control, or
2 power.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I was later told by PZF that Miss Stewart had
5 worked with the Barries in Barnardo's in Edinburgh.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And they'd brought her to work with them as a deputy.

8 Q. Okay. But certainly she did what she was told by the
9 Barries, without question?

10 A. Absolutely, yes.

11 Q. And you say RDM, who we mentioned earlier,
12 she took Sheila Lawson's position, I think you corrected
13 the surname?

14 A. It's Lawson, yes.

15 Q. And again you say you believe she came from Helensburgh,
16 and PZF's family came from the same town that the
17 Barries came from?

18 A. Yes, but they'd moved to Helensburgh. It was
19 Garelochhead they lived in, actually.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. It was a place in Ayrshire. PZF's dad was
22 in the police.

23 Q. And you say at the end of paragraph 65, Heather:
24 'They would shout at the children, which I didn't
25 like.'

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. When you say 'they', who did you mean? Because we've
3 just talked about RDM [REDACTED] and PZF [REDACTED]?

4 A. RDM [REDACTED] I know was shouting at -- didn't speak
5 very nicely to them.

6 Q. RDM [REDACTED]?

7 A. RDM [REDACTED].

8 Q. And does that relate to PZF [REDACTED] as well, or not?

9 A. No, it did not relate to her, because what she said to
10 me once was, 'You need to get your boys under control'.
11 LADY SMITH: Who said that?

12 A. PZF [REDACTED].

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS FORBES: I think you tell us, Heather, that you have seen
15 PZF [REDACTED] in recent times?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I think, just before you gave your statement, you
18 say you'd spoken to her about a week ago, at some point
19 during the process of you giving your statement. And
20 you told her that you were coming to meet with the
21 Inquiry and her words to you were, 'Nothing to do with
22 me, I wasn't in charge of the older girls, was I?'

23 A. Yes. That was to do with when I first -- that would be
24 20 November, if I remember, the first thing. And after
25 that. She did not want anything to do with it and was

1 very cross with me, because I explained to her that when
2 I met Mark Daly, I gave Mark Daly everyone's name that
3 I worked with. And she was not very happy about it
4 because she said, she didn't see any child being raped
5 and therefore, nothing to do with her; nor was she in
6 charge of the girls.

7 LADY SMITH: You said something about 20 November a minute
8 or two ago. Was that just last year, 2025?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

11 MS FORBES: And this reference to her not being in charge of
12 the older girls, was that all about the allegations that
13 you'd come to learn of about the older girls and sexual
14 abuse?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I think you tell us, Heather, that PZF said
17 that after you all left, the Barries converted the tower
18 into a flat?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And employed Mrs Barrie's sister and husband?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then you tell us that once they left, another couple
23 were employed, and apparently the man in that couple,
24 I think you say, was evil and made the children get down
25 on their hands and knees and scrub the floor with

1 a toothbrush. So is this something that you heard from
2 PZF when you spoke to her?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But this was after your time there?

5 A. Well after, yes.

6 Q. You don't know who these people were?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. You tell us, Heather, at paragraph 67:

9 'I believe PZF knows a lot more about the
10 goings on at Lagarie, but as I said, she apparently
11 thinks it has nothing to do with her.'

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you make the point that it frustrates you that
14 people like her are not approaching the Inquiry?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And did you think it was important to approach the
17 Inquiry, having worked at the home during that time?

18 A. I think it's your duty. If we couldn't do anything
19 about it when we were 19, and the opportunity arises for
20 you to try to do something about it, then you should,
21 and don't think twice about it.

22 Q. Yes, and you feel quite strongly about that, Heather?

23 A. Absolutely.

24 Q. Heather, just looking at some more things in your
25 statement, you talk about the children and say you

1 didn't know anything about them before they arrived at
2 Lagarie?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. There was no records or anything?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And sometimes they would come with parents, but that
7 wasn't the usual?

8 A. There was one set of parents came, but their children
9 stayed only for a couple of weeks. I never met any
10 parents or family of the children there.

11 Q. Okay. And if that wasn't usual, who would it be that
12 usually brought the children to Lagarie, can you
13 remember?

14 A. I cannot remember.

15 Q. Okay. But it wasn't family members?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. You tell us about routine, and you say they got
18 up just after 7.00 am and you got the children ready for
19 school and they had to be in bed by 9.00 pm at the
20 latest, the younger ones earlier. But there weren't
21 really any issues with things like that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You go on to tell us about food, which you say was okay.
24 And you didn't see any issues with the food, that you
25 can recall?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And in relation to clothes at paragraph 74, Heather, you
3 say:

4 'We provided the children with clothes at Lagarie
5 and they were washed in the home by laundry staff.'

6 So not by you as a nursery nurse, but by laundry
7 staff?

8 A. Yeah, there was someone in the laundry. They had
9 domestics, and some would help out in the kitchen and do
10 the corridors and the Hoovering and all that, and in the
11 laundry, you know.

12 Q. Did the children have their own clothes allocated to
13 them personally, or when they went into the laundry did
14 they just come back with anything?

15 A. No, they had clothes --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- that were allocated to them.

18 Q. So would that have their name on it or something?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. So you remember that?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. You tell us about the sleeping arrangements and that the
23 rooms had three or four other children in them, again
24 according to age, and siblings would be kept together,
25 you think, around the same age?

1 A. Yes, they would be kept together.

2 Q. And I think you say that you think that remained the
3 same way when the Barries arrived?

4 A. I think, also sex as well, the same gender, yes.

5 Q. But you make the point everyone had access to the
6 children's rooms?

7 A. (Nods)

8 Q. You tell us then in the next few paragraphs, 77 onwards,
9 and 78, about children washing and bathing, and you give
10 us the numbers of bathrooms, and we have that there, so
11 I'm not going to go through it.

12 But you say that most of the children were of an age
13 where they were capable of getting themselves washed,
14 apart from maybe their backs and hair?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that staff would run the baths and it was a case of
17 getting them in the bath, one after the other, and you
18 might help them in the way that you have described?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. But children then would get themselves dried and get
21 their pyjamas on.

22 When you say it was a case of getting them in the
23 bath, one after the other, would the bathwater be
24 changed in between or would --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. It would?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So they would get fresh water when you were there?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. Okay. You tell us about leisure time at paragraph 79,
6 and the children could play outside in the grounds for
7 the majority of the time. There were swings, we've
8 heard about a Wendy house and a chute at the back of the
9 grounds. Or, sorry, a chute, and at the back of the
10 grounds there was an area with rope swings.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And a climbing frame.

13 And they could play outside whenever they wanted, so
14 there wasn't a restriction on that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. You mention the playroom, and we have talked
17 about that. You say there was toys in there. Children
18 could play there. Were they allowed to play in the
19 playroom when they wanted to?

20 A. Yes, the playroom, I recall, the door was always open.

21 Q. Okay. So this wasn't like the television room where it
22 was locked?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Going forward, then, Heather, you mention day
25 trips out to have picnics at the park, which was near to

1 the home. But that would just be you, staff, walking
2 there with children and food from the kitchen?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But you don't remember any big trips away from the home?

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

6 Q. Just moving forward in your statement, Heather, to
7 paragraph 85, you talk about the school uniform that the
8 children wore and that the staff would press the
9 trousers and skirts and sponge down the blazers for
10 school on the Monday. Again, did they have their own
11 school uniforms with their names on it, or was this
12 something that was shared?

13 A. No, no, they had their own uniforms and we'd sponge down
14 the skirts and the trousers and press the blazer, and
15 obviously the shirts and everything else would have been
16 washed and ironed.

17 Q. Okay, but you weren't aware of any issues in relation to
18 the school?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Heather, you tell us about religious education from 88,
21 and you say that there was a church in Rhu, you would go
22 every Sunday when Mrs Smith was there. You'd then come
23 back and have Sunday dinner. But when the Barries took
24 over you would go to church in the morning, but then the
25 older girls would also go to the Baptist church at

1 night; is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. So they would go twice a day?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that was where Mr Barrie gave sermons, in the
6 Baptist church?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You make a reference to a comment that Mr Barrie made,
9 Heather, at paragraph 90.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you remember what that was?

12 A. Yes. I remember being in the hall and there was this
13 little boy, he'd be about 7, 8, and I remember Mr Barrie
14 sort of nudging me and going, 'Aye', kicks him with a
15 left foot, and I thought there's absolutely ...

16 Working at Lagarie, I never knew the staff's
17 religion, or children's religion. So that comment led
18 me to believe that what he was saying, he was referring
19 to that little boy being Catholic.

20 Q. Okay. And you --

21 LADY SMITH: Did that also mean, from what you say about the
22 church going, that no arrangements were made to enable
23 that little boy to go a Catholic church?

24 A. That is correct.

25 LADY SMITH: Okay. So they all had to go to the Church of

1 Scotland church and the Baptist church; is that correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Ms Forbes.

5 MS FORBES: My Lady.

6 Heather, you make the comment that he shouldn't

7 really have been saying things about other religions

8 when he was a religious man himself?

9 A. Of course.

10 Q. And you say:

11 'I believe his role of minister was just a cloak and

12 cover up, but unfortunately it gave him a lot of power

13 in the community too.'

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And why do you say that, Heather?

16 A. Because after hearing and listening to what the children

17 were -- the ██████████ children, and then it's all about

18 God and Jesus and everything, and I think, well -- and

19 obviously the influence in the community. As far as I'm

20 concerned, I believe the children.

21 Q. Are you pointing out, Heather, there, that the role of

22 a minister was a well-respected one in the community?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And it would be somebody that would be trusted within

25 the community?

1 A. Absolutely.

2 Q. You tell us, Heather, that the girls went on a Christian
3 trip with Mr Barrie and he asked you if you would swap
4 your days off to let RDM, the staff member we've
5 talked about, go. But you told him you didn't want to?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you say that was one of the occasions he gave you
8 ten days duty in a row?

9 A. That's when I had the four days off. So, he gave me the
10 ten days on the back shift, which meant I finished
11 10 o'clock at night, but was on call to 7 o'clock the
12 next morning.

13 Q. So did that mean, from what you're saying here, Heather,
14 that you didn't swap your day to let RDM go instead
15 of you?

16 A. No. I had everything organised.

17 Q. Okay. I'm just trying to understand, because I might
18 have got it wrong, I just want to understand it. Were
19 you given those ten days in a row on duty after you'd
20 said no?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. So was this a punishment, you thought?

23 A. Well, yes.

24 Q. Okay, I understand.

25 A. But it wasn't RDM who asked me. I remember I was

1 coming out the kitchen and he said to me RDM --
2 because that was, I was going to have the days off. And
3 he said to me, 'Right, RDM wants to swap with you',
4 and I said, 'No, I've got things organised'.
5 Q. So to understand, then, him giving you the ten days in
6 a row, did that mean that you couldn't go on the trip,
7 or did you go on the trip and then this was the
8 punishment?
9 A. I didn't go on the trip, I was working.
10 Q. Right, okay, so you were working.
11 A. Meaning I was in the home with other children.
12 Q. So because you said no, the shifts were given ten days
13 in a row and you didn't get to go on the day off that
14 you'd already --
15 A. No, I did.
16 Q. You did? Sorry, sorry. Okay.
17 A. I went.
18 Q. Right, it's my fault, it's totally my fault, Heather.
19 A. It's okay.
20 Q. I do apologise.
21 You tell us, Heather, that in relation to chores,
22 once the Barries arrived, that Mrs Barrie insisted the
23 children had to make their own beds in the way that
24 you've talked about, the kind of military, army style
25 way, tucking them in?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you say they also had to polish their own shoes?

3 A. Yes, they brought this in. It was like -- it says

4 there, 'as development', you know, make them more

5 independent. But they were primary school children.

6 Q. And this wasn't something they'd had to do before?

7 A. Absolutely not.

8 Q. And this is where, Heather, you mention the older girls

9 having to polish the floor. I think, is this

10 a reference to the dining room floor being scrubbed, but

11 after you had left?

12 A. It was to take off the polish.

13 Q. Right, that's fine.

14 You say, Heather, about visitors, that you don't

15 recall any child having a visitor while you were there?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. You say they could write home, though, and you don't

18 recall reading any of the letters that were sent by

19 children. Was that reading them before they were sent

20 out?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you know, Heather, were the children allowed to write

23 what they wanted in their letters?

24 A. I don't know. I don't know how many of the children

25 could write. There wasn't many.

1 Q. Okay. And they didn't have telephone calls with family
2 members either?

3 A. I do not recall telephone calls.

4 Q. You do recall a visitor, Heather, when you were there,
5 a Mr Glover?

6 A. Glover.

7 Q. And you believe that he was from the British Sailors'
8 Society; is that right?

9 A. I now know he's from the British Sailors' Society.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Because the letter I had, the heading on it had a logo
12 and names, and his name was on as a part -- I think he
13 was a director, or someone important. On it.

14 Q. Okay. When you say the letter you had, what letter was
15 that?

16 A. That was the letter, the Lagarie headed letter, that
17 Mrs Smith sent to me when I was out in Switzerland.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Saying to contact her on my return.

20 Q. Okay. So you've since seen his name on that letter, and
21 you say that he visited the home when the Barries were
22 there, you think?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But he didn't speak to you and you don't think he spoke
25 to the children?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And you don't think he even walked around the home?

3 A. I don't think so.

4 Q. But, I think you make the point that you're unsure?

5 A. (Nods)

6 Q. You also talk about the bridge club that you mentioned
7 earlier?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And we know about that. This is something you say that
10 on reflection was a money-making scheme for the Barries?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. For the bridge club to rent this room in the home?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You mention, Heather, another incident at paragraph 101
15 which you say leads you to think that too. And you say
16 there was a donation of money left at the front door
17 before Christmas; this would have been 1972, is that
18 right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And this was to be used for new beds. I think you
21 explain later, the next paragraph, that you were ill
22 over Christmas that year, 1972?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you weren't in the home. But when you returned
25 after being sick in the January, you and another member

1 of staff had to wash all of the bed frames?

2 A. Edith. Yes.

3 Q. So secondhand bed frames?

4 A. From the mariners' homes, yes.

5 Q. So you don't know what that money was used for?

6 A. No.

7 Q. So it was supposed to be new beds?

8 A. Yeah, and I can't remember how much it was. It was in

9 a tin, but it was reported in the Helensburgh

10 Advertiser.

11 Q. Okay. So this was an anonymous donation?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But was it left with an instruction for new beds, or was

14 this --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- what it was to be allocated for?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Heather, you say you weren't at Lagarie for that

19 Christmas, but you say when you came back, you remember

20 asking Edith, who'd been working over the festive

21 period, how it had all gone?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And she told you, 'It was bloody awful'?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that the Barries had handed out black bin bags to

1 kids sitting in a circle with unwrapped presents within?

2 A. Yep. Yes.

3 Q. And you say that apparently once the Round Table had

4 left, they took the presents back off the children, the

5 Barries had, and put them in a cupboard?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Is that what you were told by Edith?

8 A. That's what I was told, and I was also told that by

9 [REDACTED].

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. One of the children.

12 Q. And you say:

13 'I thought to myself, why would anyone even do

14 that?'

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But you tell us you did see a Christmas tree in Lagarie

17 before you went off sick, just off the ornate stairs

18 from the front door?

19 A. Yes, there was a sort of pulpit.

20 Q. Okay.

21 Heather, just going forward in your statement to

22 discipline and punishment, from paragraph 107, you tell

23 us:

24 'When Mrs Smith was there, if a child misbehaved she

25 would talk to the child but she didn't dish out

1 punishments.'

2 Is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. But when the Barries arrived, you say Mrs Barrie shouted

5 and bawled at the children over anything?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. And you say:

8 'She would shout up the stairs, "Right youse girls",

9 in her broad Glaswegian accent.'

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you often wondered why she had to shout and bawl,

12 there was no need?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But she would shout for anything?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that was her personality?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You go on to tell us, Heather, that she would also

19 humiliate the kids if they'd wet the bed.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. And we've talked about the linen cupboard and the keys

22 and the fact that it would be locked. And you say that:

23 'If she knew what had happened ...'

24 You tell us at paragraph 109, you say:

25 '... she would wait for that child and she would

1 humiliate them in front of their peers. She would say,
2 "That's disgusting, you should be ashamed of yourself".'

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you saw that happening to two of your older boys?

5 A. Yes. At different times, yes.

6 Q. But you don't know how many times it happened to other
7 children?

8 A. No.

9 Q. This is when you tell us about you taking extra linen
10 secretly, so that you could change the sheets without
11 her knowing?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And you tell us you had concerns about how the Barries
14 were running the home when you were there, but you've
15 since learned from the BBC documentary about the sexual
16 abuse allegations?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 112 about an incident where
19 the girls that you've named there:

20 '... decided they were running away and went to
21 the marina with the intention of sailing on the Clyde to
22 get to Brazil or wherever their father was at the time
23 and were caught by the police.'

24 Now, is that something that you learned from the
25 documentary, Heather?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you didn't know about that from memory?

3 A. I didn't know. I'm trying to -- I would have remembered
4 that had I been there, I'm sure.

5 LADY SMITH: Did you know about children running away while
6 you were there?

7 A. No. But I knew the children.

8 LADY SMITH: Oh right, yes. About any children running away
9 at any time?

10 A. No.

11 LADY SMITH: Not just these ones? Thank you.

12 MS FORBES: You tell us, Heather, that you've since learned
13 from PZF [REDACTED] that she tried to report concerns she
14 had about the Barries to a couple from head office --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- who were filling in for the Barries, and she
17 apparently told them of her concerns and in particular
18 how Mrs Barrie treated the children. But that when the
19 Barries returned, she was hauled into the office by
20 Mr Barrie and reprimanded?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. So was that after your time there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Yes. So PZF [REDACTED] told you that she'd done that, but
25 that wasn't something that happened whilst you were

1 there?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And you say that you'd never told anyone about the

4 concerns you had about Lagarie after the Barries took

5 over. And I'll maybe come back to that part of your

6 statement later on, Heather.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. You tell us that children could come to you as staff if

9 there was an issue, and they did come to you with minor

10 issues, but nothing about abuse?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And you say that there wasn't anywhere to record

13 something like that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And apart from staff there, there was nowhere else for

16 children to go if there was a problem?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And for staff, there was nowhere that you would feel

19 confident that you were going to be listened to?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And you tell us, Heather, at paragraph 117, that you'd

22 spoken to one of the girls, a previous resident, and she

23 told you that the sexual abuse was going on when you,

24 Carol and Edith were working there. But she said there

25 was no one she could go to?

1 A. That's correct, that's what she said to me.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. That it had been going on, where I'd thought this had
4 all started when we had left.

5 Q. Yes. But it's not something you knew about when you
6 worked there?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You talk about abuse, then, Heather, from paragraph 118.
9 And at paragraph 119 you say:

10 'I did see abuse in Lagarie by Mrs Barrie. The
11 humiliation of the two boys after they'd wet the bed
12 [and you say] she called them stupid in front of their
13 peers.'

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. I think we have been over that; she said they were
16 disgusting, is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then you tell us about another incident at
19 paragraph 120, a violent incident that you witnessed
20 involving Mrs Barrie. What happened with that?

21 A. I was in bed. It would be 7.00 am, 7.30 am, and it was
22 early in the morning, and I heard this racket outside my
23 bedroom door. I was on the first floor. For a moment
24 I thought, right, I'll let -- oh, they're all going down
25 to breakfast. But it kept going on. So I got up,

1 opened my bedroom door and in the corridor was
2 a radiator at the top of the back stairs, and it's
3 spouting out water, and I learned that one of the
4 children had tried to crack a coconut on top of --
5 remember the old radiators? So they had a thingmy
6 coming out with a little screw. He tried to crack it on
7 that and broke the radiator, and there's water
8 everywhere.

9 Next thing I know, to my right is a swing door,
10 a white swing door, and Mrs Barrie came flying through
11 and took her hands like that (indicated) and whacked him
12 twice right down the side of that side of his face.

13 Q. And you are indicating there, Heather, an open palm.

14 A. Yes, open palm. Bang. Twice. And little [REDACTED] would
15 only be about 9.

16 Q. Okay. And you say, Heather, she didn't even say
17 anything to him?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And how was he after that happened?

20 A. They all went down the stairs.

21 Q. I think you make the point, Heather, at paragraph 120,
22 saying:

23 'He was stunned and just stood there.'

24 And you talk about the force of the hit as being
25 'one you might see between two adults'?

1 A. Yes. I was absolutely shocked by it. I still remember
2 it to this day.

3 Q. And you say that that was when you knew she was capable
4 of violence?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And not just shouting and bawling?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And it made you feel sick on seeing it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that the first time you'd seen her act in that way?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. I think you explain, Heather, you were the only
13 adult present by the time you got there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And there were a couple of kids there, and you don't
16 think that Mrs Barrie initially saw you?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But when she realised that you were there, she said to
19 you, 'You're not on duty'.

20 A. Mm-hmm. That's correct.

21 Q. And did you feel at that time you were able to say
22 anything, or do anything?

23 A. No. I thought, 'Good God, what is that about?' I'd
24 never, ever crossed my mind someone would ever do that
25 to a child. Especially in a children's home.

1 Q. So quite a shocking incident?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say, Heather, you never spoke to the boy about what
4 happened, and he wasn't in your group, but you say that
5 wasn't an excuse.

6 A. No, that's correct.

7 Q. He was in someone else's group before. I think Carol's
8 group, you say, but she'd left just before Christmas?

9 A. She has left.

10 Q. And you never spoke to Mrs Barrie about what happened?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And you say the only time you had a proper conversation
13 with her was when you had an argument about the off-duty
14 rota?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And there was also an issue, I think you say, that you
17 weren't allowed to be picked up or dropped off on the
18 grounds of Lagarie?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It had to be done outside the grounds. And that
21 impacted on you, and your fiancée used to drop you off;
22 is that right?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. You comment, Heather, at paragraph 125:
25 'How [could things] change in a place over such

1 a short time, and how an atmosphere could be so
2 crippling.'

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And you say there's been times over the years that
5 you've felt guilty?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. About knowing how Mrs Barrie was with the children and
8 the fact that she hit the boy?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. But you make the point, Heather:

11 'Who could I have gone to, especially when Mr Barrie
12 was a Church of Scotland minister, [and you say] and
13 I wore make-up and went to discos.'

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that how you felt at the time?

16 A. That's exactly how you would -- who would?

17 Q. Yes. He was a minister who had this trust in the
18 community, and you were only 19 or 20?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And would you have known who you could have gone to?

21 A. No. I didn't even know where Lagarie's head office was.
22 Meaning the Sailors' Society.

23 Q. Yes. You say, Heather, at paragraph 126:

24 '[You] can't be confident that if a child was being
25 abused at Lagarie that it would have come to light at

1 the time.'

2 You say that:

3 'There was no one really for a child to go to, apart

4 from [staff].'

5 Then you say:

6 'And then, who would we have gone to?'

7 And you make the point:

8 'We didn't even know anything about the British

9 Sailors' Society, or how to contact them.'

10 A. Yes, and also, I don't know if this'll come up, but when

11 I went to visit Mrs Smith up in Cruden Bay, she produced

12 a letter from the Sailors' Society. It had been

13 delivered to the Barries. The Barries thought it was

14 for them -- no, for Mrs Smith, and forward it up to

15 Cruden Bay. And really what it was about was Mr Barrie

16 was complaining about the staff, and the British

17 Sailors' Society recommended a change of staff. So I'm

18 assuming it was the four of us who were there.

19 Q. So this was after Mrs Smith had left, she'd got this

20 letter mistakenly forwarded to her?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And it was recommending that because of staff problems

23 they were having?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. The Barries should get to change the staff?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You say, Heather, that it annoys you to this day that
3 there were domestic staff at the home who were a lot
4 older and may well have known of the things that were
5 going on, but as far as you know they didn't say
6 anything?

7 A. No one wanted anything to do with this.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. What I mean by that was, they were married and had
10 grown-up children, and although we didn't observe, they
11 must have seen Mr Barrie carrying on with the children.
12 Maybe that should have rang a bell. That's what I was
13 wondering.

14 Q. Yes. At paragraph 130, Heather, you say you don't think
15 anything changed after you left, because PZF [REDACTED] has
16 spoken to you about stuff that went on in there after
17 you left.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you say, later in that paragraph, you say you're
20 specifically referring to her saying to you that:
21 'Mrs Barrie would leather "her" three or four times
22 a day and she was only 3, and as far as I know, PZF [REDACTED]
23 witnessed it.'

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. And you say:

1 'I am unsure which child she means, though.'

2 So just to clarify this part of your statement,
3 Heather, did PZF tell you that she saw Mrs Barrie
4 leather a young girl of only 3, three or four times
5 a day?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. But that's something that she told you; you
8 didn't see that yourself?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And again, you make reference to at some point the kids
11 being made to scrub floors with a toothbrush, and
12 I think again this is something you found out later?

13 A. Yeah, PZF told me that too.

14 Q. And this was after you were there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Heather, in relation to record keeping, you tell us, at
17 paragraph 132, there was two books when Mrs Smith was
18 there?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. You used to update the duty book, which would record
21 things like if shoes were polished and various other
22 things that you checked. And there was also an incident
23 book where you recorded if there had been any problems
24 with a child, if they'd fallen, if there had been
25 a wound or treatment given, and these entries would be

1 signed off; is that right?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. But that was at the time of Mrs Smith?

4 A. Yes, there was two books; there was a duty book, which
5 we would write out the things you had to do. Check the
6 shoes are polished. Make sure the bathroom's clean.
7 Physical things we had to do, and we would just tick and
8 initial.

9 The other book would be for if, as I said, a child
10 had fallen and what we did, et cetera, and we'd sign
11 that.

12 Q. Okay, and did that continue when the Barries were there?

13 A. I don't recall.

14 Q. Okay. You tell us about having to write a letter later
15 in life to solicitors, this is at paragraph 135, to
16 confirm that a family group was resident in the school
17 when you were there, and that's because there was no
18 records, is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. So that was you confirming as a member of staff that you
21 recall those children being there?

22 A. Yes. It was one child in particular.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And apparently there is no record, either at the
25 doctor's, the school, Lagarie, anywhere, of her

1 existence.

2 Q. Okay.

3 Heather, you say at paragraph 138 that since you
4 were there, you have been aware of police investigations
5 into Lagarie, and you say you saw that from the
6 newspapers. And you were aware of an investigation in
7 relation to Mrs Barrie and alleged abuse, but that it
8 had been dropped.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But you never gave a statement to the police about
11 Lagarie, is that right?

12 A. No, I'm going back years. It was reported, I think, in
13 the Helensburgh Advertiser.

14 Q. Okay. Were you ever contacted by the police, Heather?

15 A. No.

16 Q. About Lagarie?

17 A. No, never.

18 Q. Were you ever contacted by anyone from the Sailors'
19 Society?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Heather, if we go to a part of your statement where you
22 are talking about various staff members, and I think
23 you've been asked whether you have knowledge of them.
24 At paragraph 144, you talk about Norman Skelton and you
25 say he was the gardener. And that was for the whole

1 time you were there, is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. You say he was about the same age as the Barries, maybe
4 in his 50s or 60s?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you didn't see him interact with the children,
7 really, only him saying hello?

8 A. Not really, no.

9 Q. And you didn't see him discipline children or abuse
10 them?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Again, going forward to paragraph 150, you talk
13 about Bill Barrie, and this is the Mr Barrie you have
14 referred to in your statement, and you tell us that he
15 was the person you've referred to throughout as
16 Mr Barrie, and was the one of the that played the game
17 with the children with the sweets. You go on, Heather,
18 in that paragraph to tell us:

19 'I remember also the time when I saw him coming out
20 of the older girls' room in the tower.'

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. '[And] he said to me that he had been checking the girls
23 were sewing badges on their Guides uniform.'

24 Now, I just want to go forward to a part of your
25 statement at paragraph 185 just for a minute.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. Because you talk about that again there. So just so we
3 have all of the information about that, at
4 paragraph 185, which is page 30. Sorry, 185.
5 Paragraph 185. I don't know if I said the wrong number,
6 sorry.

7 I think you say here that when you were hearing from
8 Mark Daly about sexual abuse at Lagarie, it made you
9 remember a time --

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. -- and this is in relation to you, when you were in the
12 tower, when your bedroom was in the tower. Can you tell
13 us about that, what do you recall happening?

14 A. I remember him coming out the girls' bedroom. I never
15 said anything. He said to me, 'I'm just checking the
16 girls are sewing their badges on their Girl Guide
17 uniforms', and that was all.

18 Going up the tower, it was quite a tight semi
19 circle, you know, it was carpeted, it wasn't very
20 spacious, but that was an excuse. I didn't think much
21 about it.

22 Q. Okay. Had you seen him up there before?

23 A. No, because I wasn't up the tower any more.

24 Q. Okay. So was this a time, I'm just looking at the
25 paragraph, Heather, was this a time when you still had

1 your bedroom up there in the tower?

2 A. I must have had that up there.

3 Q. Okay. And you say you didn't think much of it at the

4 time, is that right, but once you'd spoken to Mark

5 Daly --

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. -- and you learned of the allegations of sexual abuse --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- that was something that stuck out to you?

10 A. Yes because there was no -- I saw no reason for the

11 older girls to be up there; they weren't there before.

12 Plus the fact that on the first floor the bedrooms were

13 all along, and [REDACTED], who's 15, shared

14 a bedroom with two of her siblings, and she would have

15 spotted him going out, in and out of bedrooms.

16 Q. Okay, so from what you're saying, then, Heather, did you

17 think putting the girls up there was getting --

18 A. Was isolating them.

19 Q. -- them out the way?

20 A. Yes, because the only reason you would go up there, was

21 one, if you were going to come up and see me, or the

22 girls. There was nothing else up there.

23 Q. Okay. Heather, I wanted to quickly show you

24 a photograph to see if we can see the tower rooms in it.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. It's INQ-0000001252.

2 A. I've got it.

3 Q. We've heard that this is a photograph of Lagarie House,
4 is that right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. And in that picture can you see the tower rooms on the
7 third floor?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And where are they?

10 A. Right, if you look at the fire escape.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Follow it up, right, and it looks as though there's
13 a balcony. That was my room. And the girls, well, it
14 wasn't that big, is behind it.

15 Q. Okay. So in this picture we can see that on the
16 right-hand side, there's a fire escape which goes up the
17 height of the building --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- up to the third floor?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And on the third floor there's a part of the building
22 with a pitched roof?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And there seems to be a bit of a balcony, or something,
25 in front of it, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And the fire escape goes down from there?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So that was your room?

5 A. That was my room there. Beneath that was the older
6 boys' bedroom.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And the one -- the windows on the bottom was the dining
9 room.

10 Q. Okay and you say that the older girls' bedroom was on
11 the other side of that room?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So out of sight on the other side of the pitched roof?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay.

16 If we just go back to your statement, then, on the
17 screen, and I think we were going over, I think, briefly
18 some of the people you remember from Lagarie, and if we
19 go to paragraph 161, this is where you talk about --
20 this is page 26, you talk about RDM [REDACTED], and you
21 say that this was the woman who took over from the
22 previous girl that was there, and she was the one that
23 got your room. You say you didn't like her at all.
24 I think you say that she was one of the people who used
25 to shout and bawl at the children?

1 A. Yeah, well, I'm going to be absolutely truthful, no
2 I did not, nor did I like PZF, and the reason
3 being because they did not seem to have the warmth or
4 personality to be positive in dealing with children.

5 Q. Okay. You talk about an occasion when RDM was
6 shouting at your group --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- one day to get in the dining room and you stepped
9 into the hall and said to her who did she think she was
10 talking to?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. But you say she was one of Mr Barrie's favourite girls?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And she was the one he wanted on that trip?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. You say that you saw her disciplining children, and she
17 would shout at them, but you never saw her lift her
18 hands?

19 A. No, I never saw her hitting any child, it was just --
20 and even talking to them was in a manner that wasn't
21 really very comforting, or nice.

22 Q. And then going forward, Heather, to where you talk about
23 PZF a little bit, this is paragraph 167, you say
24 your information is that she worked there for five years
25 and as far as you're concerned, she could tell the

1 Inquiry a lot about what went on in Lagarie.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. She had the younger girls, and you say that you found
4 her a cold character, not very empathetic, and very
5 matter of fact?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And not the type of person you would have thought would
8 go into childcare?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. When you say that, do you mean not the type of person
11 you think is suited to be in childcare?

12 A. Yes, right, maybe that's a better description.

13 Q. But that's what you thought of her, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You didn't think she should be working with children?

16 A. And I still think it.

17 Q. Okay, and you've mentioned the fact that she said to you
18 one day when you had been off that you needed to get
19 your boys under control.

20 But you never saw or heard of her abusing a child?

21 A. No.

22 Q. But this is the impression you formed of her, was the
23 cold character?

24 A. Well, I remember when she said to me I needed to get my
25 boys under control, they told me she was talking about

1 me behind my back, so they started to play up when it
2 was time for bed.

3 Q. You go on then to tell us, Heather, from paragraph 173
4 about leaving Lagarie, and we know that you left
5 in June 1973. We've talked about the reasons for that;
6 you say you were fed up and unhappy, and Mr Barrie had
7 imposed this curfew. And you think that all of these
8 changes and restrictions they put on the staff was to
9 get rid of you, essentially?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you and Edith left on the same day, and you just
12 told them that day that you were going and you left, is
13 that right?

14 A. (Nods)

15 Q. And you got a job round the corner at a local hotel?

16 A. No, round the loch.

17 Q. We've already talked about this letter that Mrs Smith
18 got in Aberdeen by accident, and this is paragraph 177,
19 and she told you that the letter said that the sender
20 was aware that they, the Barries, were having problems
21 with staff and the British Sailors' Society recommended
22 a change of staff, and you took that to mean the four of
23 you, so it looked like had you not left, you would have
24 been sacked anyway?

25 A. Yeah. Yes.

1 Q. Did you tell Mrs Smith when you saw her up in Aberdeen
2 what the Barries were like?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay, so she was somebody that you told about the state
5 of affairs in Lagarie?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you go on then to tell us, Heather, after you
8 left, you went on in your life, you got married and had
9 children.

10 And then you tell us about lessons that should be
11 learned, from paragraph 179, and you say:

12 'That people who are put in charge of these places
13 need to be scrutinised [and that] children also need to
14 have someone they can go to if things are not right.'

15 Is that how you see it?

16 A. And much more; I believe it's imperative that you have
17 trained staff, especially bringing out how to spot child
18 abuse; courses on it.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Paedophilia, all that sort of thing. You should be able
21 to -- I mean we do moving and handling, all that sort of
22 stuff, that should be a priority.

23 Q. Okay.

24 There is some more information, Heather, that you
25 tell us about your involvement with the BBC documentary

1 and Mark Daly, and we've been over quite a lot of that,
2 and it's in your statement, so I'm not going to go into
3 that in any detail.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. But paragraph 188, you say:

6 'I have been reminded that at the end of the
7 programme [this is the documentary] I said something
8 along the lines of "I couldn't stay there. I had no
9 idea what lay in store for these children".'

10 You say:

11 'I agree with that, and I didn't.'

12 And you say:

13 'That said, sexual abuse did not enter into my head
14 then.'

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. So that was not something that was on your radar at all
17 while you were there?

18 A. Absolutely not.

19 Q. Now, we've talked about the reasons why you didn't
20 report your concerns of what was going on when you were
21 there, Heather, and you've told us that you weren't
22 aware of any allegations of sexual abuse at the time.
23 Do you think that if you had been aware of sexual abuse
24 or sexual allegations, that that might have been
25 something that would have made you say something, or

1 not?

2 A. That would depends if I knew where to go to.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Because I've got to add, at the age of 19 why on earth

5 would I possibly think that somebody of 60 would be

6 sexually interested in primary school children?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Of course my parents warned me don't get into cars with

9 strange men, all that sort of stuff, but certainly not

10 that.

11 Q. So that wasn't something that you were even

12 contemplating as a possibility?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Thinking back now, what type of things do you think

15 would have made it easier for you to report the concerns

16 that you had about what you knew was going on in

17 Lagarie?

18 A. If you had somewhere that you could go to, and I know

19 for a fact that the Barries had been investigated by the

20 police. If the police aren't going to listen to you,

21 and you say, 'Look, I think this and that', and they

22 dismiss it, what are you to do?

23 Q. So this was the investigation you learned about later

24 on?

25 A. Later on, yes.

1 LADY SMITH: In referring to a man aged 60, I take it you're
2 referring to Mr Barrie?
3 A. (Nods)
4 LADY SMITH: Have you any idea what the age of Mrs Barrie
5 was? Was there a difference in age between them?
6 A. Yes. PZF told me. I think she was 30.
7 LADY SMITH: 30? 30-year difference?
8 A. 33, I think.
9 LADY SMITH: Right, and you say PZF told you that.
10 A. Yes.
11 LADY SMITH: Okay.
12 A. Because I didn't spot it.
13 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm. Thank you.
14 MS FORBES: When you say you didn't spot it, did she not
15 look a lot younger than him?
16 A. To be truthful, no.
17 Q. Okay, but you're aware that there was an age difference,
18 a significant difference?
19 A. It never crossed my mind. It was only when we spoke and
20 she said 'Well, you do know she was a lot younger',
21 I said, 'Really?'.
22 No.
23 LADY SMITH: What do you think she wanted you to take from
24 that? If she said something like 'Well, you do know she
25 was a lot younger', what was that about?

1 A. I don't know. We were having a conversation when I was
2 talking about that I believed the children and why on
3 earth would I think somebody of 60 would be interested
4 in primary school children. And she said to me, 'Of
5 course there's an age difference between ...' I never
6 spotted that. 'An age difference between him and her.
7 She was 30 odd'. I said really? She never looked 30.
8 She looked ...

9 LADY SMITH: Older?

10 A. I think if you looked at the photographs, you would see.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

12 MS FORBES: Well, Heather, I've asked you a lot of questions
13 and we've been through a lot today, I don't have any
14 more questions for you, but is there anything that you
15 want to say that I haven't asked you about or that you
16 haven't had a chance to say?

17 A. Just to emphasise that there should be courses for
18 people dealing with this that highlights how to educate
19 people and how to spot abuse. I know it wouldn't be
20 easy, but I think had we been given any instructions on
21 it, going back, we might have been able to have spotted
22 him isolating the girls, things like this. I knew
23 I didn't like him. The same way I knew I didn't like
24 Jimmy Savile, but I never knew why. Until, obviously
25 ...

1 MS FORBES: Thank you very much, Heather.

2 LADY SMITH: Heather, could I add my thanks for bearing with
3 us this afternoon. We've grilled you with many
4 questions. But it's been very helpful to hear from you
5 in person in addition to having your written statement.
6 I'm really grateful to you.

7 A. Thank you very much.

8 LADY SMITH: I am now able to let you go, and make your way
9 back for what I hope will be a quieter evening than
10 we've given you in the day.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 Now, there are some names of people that I want to
13 mention, people whose identities are protected by my
14 General Restriction Order. PZF [REDACTED] again,

15 RDM [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED], I think that was -- and [REDACTED], it was just
17 [REDACTED], yes. Yes, I haven't got the full name there.

18 And they mustn't be identified as referred to in our
19 evidence outside this room.

20 So moving on from that, and thinking about tomorrow
21 morning, what then?

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, we have two witnesses from the Sailors'
23 Society who are appearing as a panel together tomorrow
24 morning.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MS FORBES: Starting at 10.00.

2 LADY SMITH: 10 o'clock. Very well. Until then, thank you
3 very much.

4 (4.15 pm)

5 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

	PAGE
'Jane' (read in)	1
'Stella' (read in)	30
'Bette' (read in)	61
Heather Le Sommer (sworn)	128
Questions by Ms Forbes	130

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

